



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson students show their displeasure with proposed cuts to their north Portland school. One sign compares the possible cut of 26 teachers and staff at Jefferson High School to the proposed no cuts in staff at cross-town rival Lincoln High in southwest Portland.

## Jefferson Loses One-Third of Staff

continued ▲ from Front

creating our small school. We spent years moving in the direction we were moving in and building the framework for the model that we had. Without these funds it's difficult to implement it."

The anger and dismay among Jefferson was apparent when, at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, students and teachers began to file out through the halls in a walk-out protest.

A fire alarm went off, suspected to be a student's doing, and the main field became filled with youth screaming "No More Cuts! What? No More Cuts!"

"They're upset. It's a lousy situation. Some (teachers) have threatened to leave and follow the teachers that're leaving," said Rus Steinebach, a science instructor at Jefferson for 7 years. "The kids tend to be very loyal to the staff."

Sam Morton, a junior at Jefferson, held a large red sign stating "Stop breaking up my family." "It's ridiculous," Morton said.

*"When we heard they were cutting out teachers, it was devastating. There was already enough drama at Jefferson."*

—Angel Cobb, Jefferson High School student

"It's not even comparable to the other school cuts. Already our test scores aren't the best."

A huge mass of students joined together and marched twice around the perimeter of the school with unified shouts and homemade signs. One junior at the forefront was Angel Cobb, who helped stage the event.

"When we heard they were cutting out teachers, it was devastating. There was already enough drama at Jefferson," Cobb said. "We're livid. They're cutting our futures. They're more than teachers — this is a family, a community. It's more than just layoffs and cuts. If we don't stand up now it's just going to be another hole to fall through. We're tired of it."

Another junior, Stephanie Hughson, hoped the walk-out would make the point that "it's not just about Jefferson. It's about other schools, the nation."

The dedication of the teachers at Jefferson, she said, is above and beyond what's expected.

"We're here with them everyday. Our teachers are here from 6 in the morning to 10 at night — they care. They help us get through each day. A lot of people rely on them. They help support us where our families don't," Hughson said.

Principal Dashiell agrees.

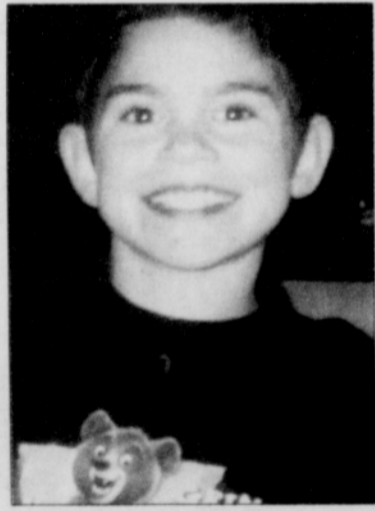
"These people are family," Dashiell said. "These are people that show up at your ball games, your dances, your plays, your community events."

## One Child Without a Family

Having just turned 10, Brian has watched other foster sisters and brothers get adopted. He is just one of many Oregon children waiting to find a permanent family.

Brian's foster mother and teacher describe him as being a very sweet boy. With a friendly and outgoing personality, he laughs easily. Brian is very open and trusting and gets along well with others. Brian has a unique passion for gardening and loves plants. How wonderful if he could find a family to support his "green thumb!"

Brian's cognitive delays require extra help and modifications at school in most areas. However, he is still inquisitive and eager to learn



Brian

new things. Like many children his age, he needs reminders to stay on task and plays most comfortably

with younger peers.

Brian has a lot of warmth and love to share with a family. Adoptive parents will need experience and education in working with special needs children in order to ensure that Brian maximizes his potential. He also has some siblings with whom he will want to maintain some contact.

There are 300 Oregon Children available for adoption through out the state, because of abuse and neglect.

For more information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent, contact the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 503-542-2392 or the Department of Human Services at 1-800-331-0503.

## Jefferson High School 10 Year Reunion

The Jefferson High School Class of 1995 is making plans for a 10-year reunion. The celebration has been scheduled for Saturday,

Aug. 20 with the exact time and location yet to be determined.

Class member Wendell Raiford is encouraging his classmates to

contact him about attending and making plans for the event.

He can be reached via email at [jenelley77@yahoo.com](mailto:jenelley77@yahoo.com)

## Gang Activity Creates Debate

continued ▲ from Front

der of Police, the nation's largest law enforcement union.

Opponents include the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch and others. They cite FBI findings that serious youth crime is declining, say states — not the federal government — can best address the gang problem and worry about long-term consequences for teenage offenders sent to adult prisons.

If approved, it would move to the Senate where Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah have introduced a bill combining tough anti-gang measures

with new funding for crime prevention programs.

"We too want to do something about gang violence," said Angela Arboleda of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic civil rights organization. "But punitive measures that lock up youths with adults is not a smart approach."

Arboleda says that Forbes' measure — which the congressman has nicknamed "The Gangbusters Bill" — "is one of the worst bills we've ever seen."

According to Forbes, street gang membership in the United States has grown steadily to more than 750,000, outnumbering police officers. He said a federal approach is

needed because gangs like MS-13 — the Central American-influenced Mara Salvatrucha — have spread to many states.

"They're organized; they have a board of directors inside prison and outside prison," Forbes said. "Even while in prison, they recruit — teens, even down to elementary school."

Critics of the bill say state and local police agencies could escalate the fight against such gangs under existing laws. They also say the Bush administration and Congress have cut back social programs that could deter youths from joining gangs in the first place.

## Metro Promotes Composting

Metro's popular compost bin sale is coming to town, and organizers are preparing to distribute thousands of the popular shiny black Earth Machines.

The Earth Machine compost bins, which normally retail for about \$80, will be sold for \$35 at 10 locations Saturday, May 14, including the Portland Community College Cascade Campus in

north Portland.

Metro Council President David Bragdon says that the simple act of composting brings a number of benefits to the region and the environment.

"When people compost their yard debris and kitchen scraps, it saves the gas and oil that yard debris haulers would use to pick up those materials. Also, by using compost to build healthy soil for natural gar-

dening, people don't need to use pesticides and chemicals in their yards, which can harm beneficial bugs and wildlife habitat," he said.

For more information about the bin sale, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000. The Metro website at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) has directions to the sales sites and information on how to order a bin online.

## Are you a woman of a "certain age?"

Are you a African American woman between 35 and 55 years old?

Help us evaluate a program about sex and relationships!

**\$20 for your time**


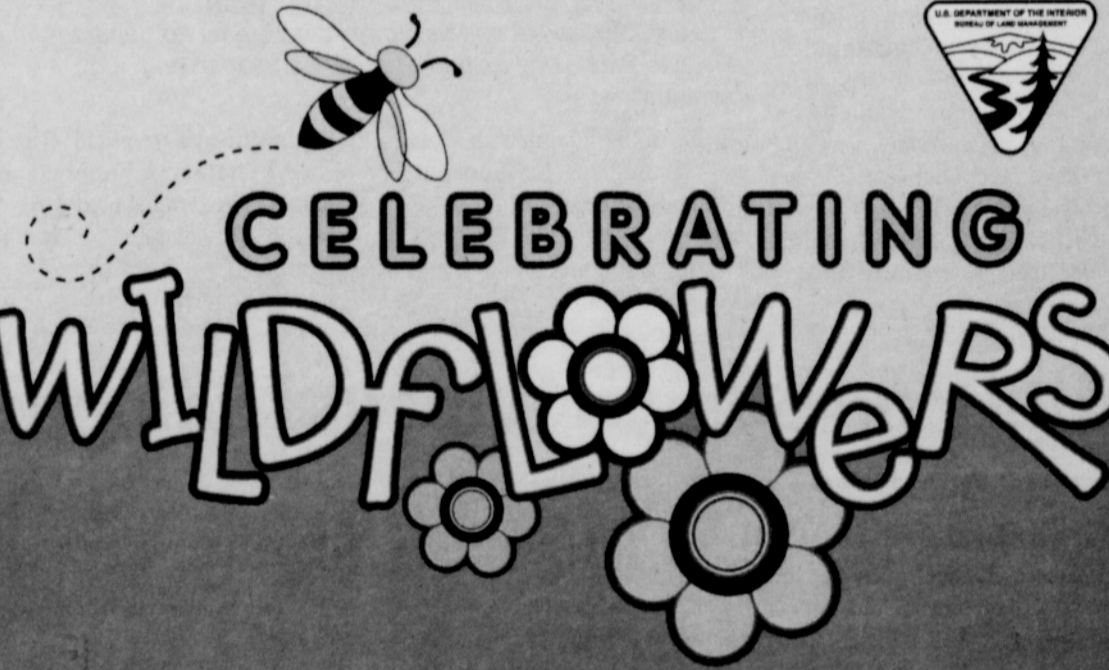
Fill out 2 surveys and try a new computer software program

For more information about this research study call:

**1-866-730-3211**



This research study is being conducted by the Oregon Center for Applied Science, Inc. with funding from the National Institutes of Health. There are no sales or mailing lists involved.

# CELEBRATING WILDFLOWERS

**Saturday, May 14**  
10 am - 3 pm

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