

# METRO

The Portland Observer

**Minh Tran**  
Dance Troupe hosted  
by Portland State  
See page B3



SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Stop the Violence March

The third annual Stop the Violence March and Rally will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m., starting at Irving Park and ending at Alberta Park in northeast Portland. The march is sponsored by Senseless Violence Leads to Silence and the Asia Bell Committee Against Violence.

### Boxes for Babies

The Parcel Place, located on Fremont and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, will be collecting diapers and other baby supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The supplies will be shipped to the Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, which is housing approximately 650 hurricane victims. For more information, call 503-282-3172.

### Jefferson High Reunion

Jefferson High School will host its Class of 1955 reunion, celebrating 50 years since graduation, on Friday, Sept. 16 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Gateway Elks Lodge on 711 N.E. 100<sup>th</sup> Street. A no host bar with appetizers will be featured. For more information, call Hal Freitag at 503-243-2350.

### Children's Center Fund-raiser

Peninsula Children's Center will hold a benefit rummage sale on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 4720 N. Maryland Ave. Proceeds will go toward the center, which is north Portland's oldest and largest nonprofit provider of child care and family services. For more information, call 503-280-0534.

### Oregon Beach Cleanup

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Great Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. all along the Oregon Coast. Volunteers may check in at one of 42 meeting sites, pick up a litter bag and help clean up the beach. Participants are asked to bring gloves and sturdy shoes. For more information, visit [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or call 1-800-333-SOLV.

### Canine 101

"Problem Pooch" Canine 101 classes will offer an open discussion for new pet owners and adopters, or for those just curious, on why dogs do the things they do. The next class will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Oregon Humane Society on 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Suggested donation is \$10. Please leave pets at home. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit [www.oregon-humane.org](http://www.oregon-humane.org).

### Renters Rights Hotline

The community Alliance of Tenant is looking for volunteers to staff the Renters' Rights Hotline. The majority of callers are low-income families. This hotline enables renters to save money, protect their rights and to prevent homelessness. Volunteer training is on Sept. 24-25 during the afternoon. No experience is required. For more information, contact Sarah Buckley at 503-460-9702.

### Red Cross Teaches Safety

The American Red Cross offers a range of safety classes for crisis situations, from learning how to baby sit to performing CPR. The courses are intended for children aged 8 through adult. For more information visit [www.redcross-pdx.org](http://www.redcross-pdx.org).

# A Future Depends on It

## More parent participation encouraged

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lakeitha Elliott, president of King Elementary School's PTA and mother to a third grader, is hoping local parents will begin to put more effort into their children's education this school year. Their future depends on it.

"When you have a child, you want that child to be the best they can be. It's your responsibility to make sure that happens," she said.

Through an upcoming summit and volunteer pledges, Elliott and other members of the PTA are looking around to see who's willing to make a difference in the Jefferson cluster, which includes Beach, Boise Eliot, Chief Joseph, Faubion, Humboldt, King, Vernon and Woodlawn Elementary Schools; Ockley Green and Tubman Middle Schools; and Jefferson High School.

"We're looking at all of the schools because if one of the schools in the cluster is affected, then we're all affected," Elliott said.

One of the goals is to have 1,000 parents commit to 10 volunteer hours by the end of 2005, which not only helps out the staff in times of budget cuts, but also shows their kid that their education is a meaningful priority.

"I believe it really builds self esteem. My daughter knows her mother is involved in her school and knows that mom's going to be there and go on her field trips. It makes her feel good to know I'm involved," Elliott said.

Being a concerned parent doesn't have to mean going to every event. It can be as simple as sitting down for 15 minutes every night to read to



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Lakeitha Elliott, president of the PTA at King Elementary School, with her daughter Llondyn, who started third grade this year.

your child or allowing them a quiet, uninterrupted space to do their homework. It means talking to teachers and other parents. It

means asking how school went that day and getting a real answer.

Communication is important, because if

p.m. for parents, children and teachers to

continued ▼ on page B5

something's going wrong with the child's curriculum or behavior in class, a parent is the most integral person to help find a solution.

"We have to learn to be advocates for our children," Elliott said. "We need to get people together and get them empowered."

With school closures and consistent transfers of students to schools outside their neighborhood, Elliott said parental involvement is more important than ever.

"It takes away from the sense of community. You can go down one block and they go to five different schools. I grew up in the neighborhood and with all the changes now, we don't have community as it is," Elliott said.

Elliott says she seems a dim future for the Jefferson cluster if Portland Public Schools has its way without anyone speaking out.

"I see Jefferson High School closing or becoming a charter school. I see the district going ahead with the 7 through 12 plan if the parents aren't involved. I see the students leaving the cluster," Elliott said.

Rose M. Murdoch, a fifth grade teacher at King Elementary School, reiterated the idea that when someone shows they care about school outside of the classroom, it makes all the difference.

"If a child knows and feels that their parent is involved, that's showing them that their education is important," Murdoch said. "I know parents are busy, but it's just taking a moment of the day to ask how school is. A lot of parents are single, working two or three jobs, trying to make ends meet. That's when we need to come together for support. It's the little things that count."

Murdoch is excited about the Parent, Community and Youth Summit, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
The Telephone Exchange Lofts on North Killingsworth Street have been purchased by Portland Community College.

## College Buys Killingsworth Lofts

A historic building on North Killingsworth Street has been purchased by Portland Community College.

The Telephone Exchange Lofts, a 9 unit multi-family building and its adjacent parking lot was purchased by the college July 1 for \$1.74 million, according to the Multnomah County

Assessor's office.

The purchase gives the college control of the entire north side of Killingsworth Street between North Michigan and Missouri Avenues and more than half of the property in the block, also bordered by North Church Street.

The properties are not included in the

current PCC Cascade Campus expansion underway and near completion.

Last year, the college purchased the Jockey Club Tavern for \$180,000 on the same block and then demolished the building. Two other single-family homes were purchased by PCC in 2002 and remain standing.

## Humanity Embraced at Global Festival

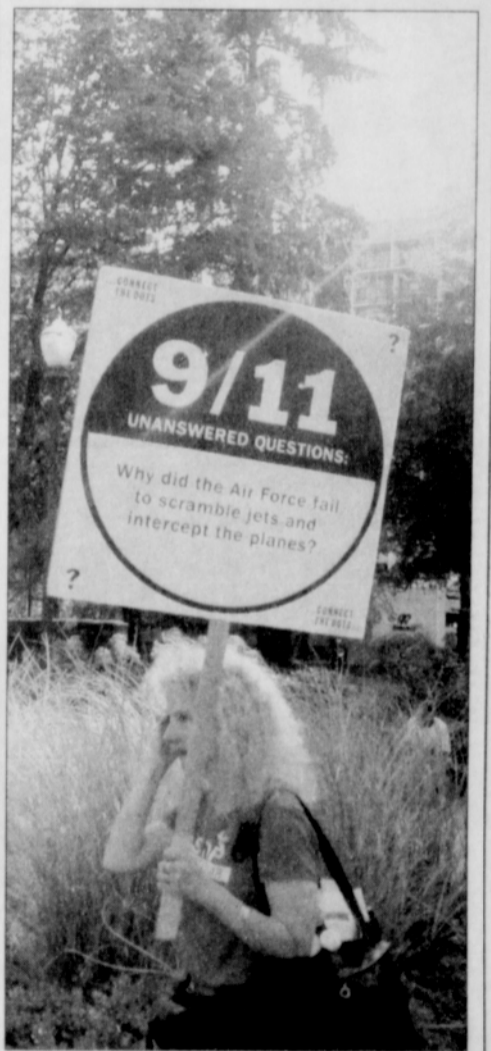


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Gail James questions U.S. military actions on Sept. 11, 2001 during Sunday's Global Portland Festival to promote peace and interracial unity. The second annual event was held at Holladay Park near Lloyd Center and sponsored by the Community Language and Culture Bank.

35  
years of  
community service