



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### \$1 Million-a-day Fine to Union

A judge slapped a public transit union in New York City with a \$1 million-a-day fine for striking Tuesday. Commuters trudged through the freezing cold, rode bicycles and shared cabs as the city's bus and subway workers went on strike for the first time in more than 25 years.

### Williams Funeral Held

Hundreds of people attended a star-studded funeral Tuesday for executed killer Stanley Tookie Williams in the violence-wracked South Los Angeles section where he co-founded the Crips gang three decades ago. See story, page A2

### Bush Censure Proposed

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., called Tuesday for Congress to censure President Bush and Vice President Cheney, saying they misled lawmakers on the decision to go to war in Iraq. Conyers, the senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, also introduced resolutions creating a panel to investigate the Bush administration's handling of the Iraq war.

### Democrats Reject Wiretapping

Some Democrats say they never approved a domestic wiretapping program, undermining suggestions by President Bush and his senior advisers that the plan was fully vetted in a series of congressional briefings. See related story, page A2.

### Plane Wreck Investigated

Federal investigators searched for evidence Tuesday, hoping to explain why a seaplane broke apart and plunged into the ocean just off Miami Beach, Fla. killing all 20 people on board, including three infants. A fireball was seen at the time of the accident, leading to speculation there was an explosion on the plane.

### Girl May Be Frozen

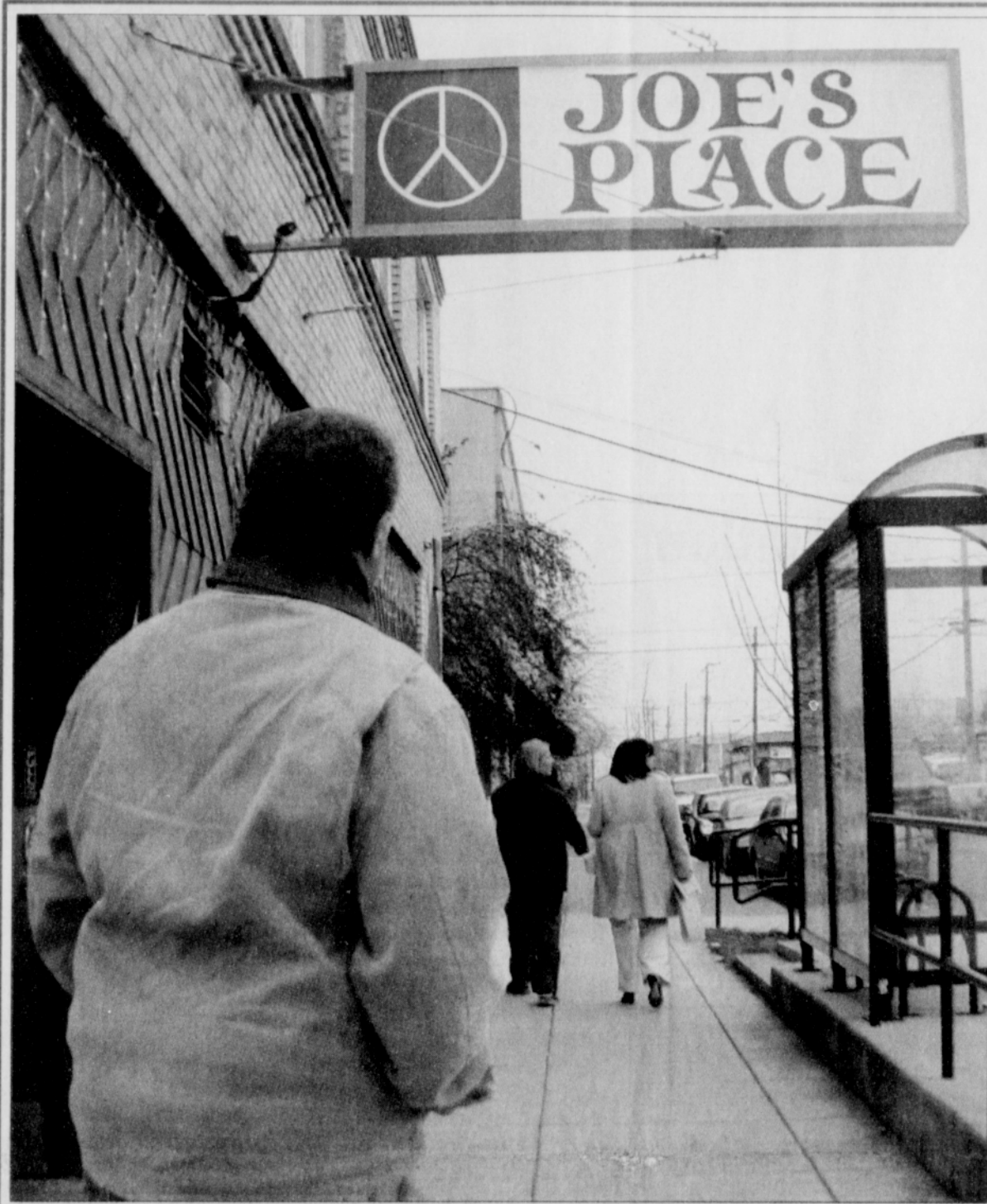
Searchers in Albany, Ind. following a tip from a man jailed for allegedly killing his wife and three young daughters have found a frozen body believed to be that of a 10-year-old girl last seen heading to a school bus stop earlier this month.

### Sunnis Reject Iraq Vote

Sunni Arabs alleged Tuesday that last week's parliamentary elections were fraudulent, especially in Baghdad province, and they said if the irregularities are not corrected, new balloting must be held in Iraq's largest electoral district.

### Officials Took Improper Gifts

About 20 state Treasury Department officials of New Jersey accepted golf outings, cigars, gourmet chocolates and other gifts from a contractor, then looked the other way as the company overcharged the State of New Jersey hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, a watchdog agency said Tuesday.



## End of an Era

Area residents try to image Alberta Street without Joe's Place, the popular African-American hangout with its peace sign out front at 1801 N.E. Alberta St. Owner Joe Benjamin, 72, is selling the business and retiring after 34 years. A special goodbye party is planned on New Year's Eve with the business changing hands on Jan. 3.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## School Uniforms for Jefferson Debated

Proposal one of many to make school a magnet

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Controversial initiatives could bring major changes to Jefferson High School.

The reforms, including school uniforms and separate academies for boys and girls, brought passionate responses when they were presented during a public meeting Thursday at Ockley Green Middle School.

The Portland School District, led by Superintendent Vicki Phillips and a community-based committee, formulated the plans in hopes of making Jefferson, as well as several feeder middle schools academically stronger, reversing a tide of declining enrollment.

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PHOTO BY ISALAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Support for school uniforms at Jefferson High School won praise from a local Spanish-speaking parent who made her views known with the assistance of Veronica Banuelos, an interpreter for Portland Public Schools, at a public meeting to discuss several proposed changes for the school.

## Devoted to a Lifetime of Goodwill

### Spirit Award for Geneva Jones

Geneva Jones, a local TV personality and former Pacific Power employee, was honored by her peers by becoming the first Geneva Jones Community Spirit Award recipient. She was given the award at a holiday gathering for local Pacific Power retirees.

Geneva was the high-profile face of Pacific Power for many years as "Polly Pacific" and as a member of the company's Community Relations Committee.

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Geneva Jones (front row, from left), Celeste Jones, Elizabeth Langston and Carol Jones; and Steve and Roman Jones (back row, from left) at a holiday gathering for local Pacific Power retirees.

## Drive Hammered - Get Nailed Holiday DUI Patrols Added

If you plan to drink and drive this holiday season, be forewarned: law enforcement officers in Oregon and Washington and scheduling extra DUI patrols.

In Vancouver, law enforcement from Clark County Sheriff Office, Vancouver Police Department, Battle Ground Police Department and La Center Police Department will have extra DUI officers on the roadways through Jan. 2.

The "Drive Hammered - Get Nailed" campaign is a joint effort between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, law enforcement and the Clark County DUI and Traffic Safety Task Force.

The Commission strongly encourages people to plan ahead, use designated drivers, stay in hotels, get taxis — do whatever it takes to make sure that the person behind the wheel is sober.

Drunk driving is the most frequently committed violent crime in America — and in Washington State it is the single largest cause of fatal collisions.

In 2003, there were 8,393 collisions in Washington that involved a drinking driver, resulting in 221 deaths.

The average blood alcohol level of people arrested for DUI is about .14. That's almost twice the legal limit of .08.

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