



## Many Civil Rights Leaders Arrested in Bus Boycott

When threatened by legal action that first day she refused to take a seat at the back of the bus, Parks told the driver to "go on and have me arrested." As she sat in the front of the bus, refusing to give up her seat, Parks reportedly recalled Bible lessons teaching people to stand up for their rights as the children of Israel stood up to Pharaoh. The next year, in 1956, Rosa Parks (left), along with nearly 100 other people including (from left) attorney Fred Gray, Reverend Ralph Abernathy, Professor Jo Ann Robinson and Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were arrested for violating the bus segregation law. Montgomery's buses were integrated later that year.

## King's Dream of Economic Justice Unfulfilled

Gap between  
haves and have-  
nots too wide

BY KHAYA DARKO  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

America has come a long way in dealing with issues of poverty since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s battle for justice in the late 1960s.

However, there are still instances of extreme poverty and areas of the working poor, according to Dr. T. Allen Bethel of northeast Portland's Maranatha Church of God and president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance.

Low earnings for many people mean they don't have enough dollars



Dr. Rev. T. Allen Bethel of the Albina Ministerial Alliance says the economic justice wanted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has yet to be realized.

to take care of health or household expenses. The recent ravages of Hurricane Katrina exposed poverty in America even more.

Dr. Bethel says the gap between the haves and the have-nots is simply too wide.

Taking advantage of opportunities such as libraries, universities, Internet, and further resources, including higher education financing is not practical for many black families. Barriers hold back a lot of members of the African American community.

In generations past, the level of economic prosperity was often only so high, regardless of dreams, and people settled for whatever they have with a few exceptions. A constant barrage of frustration, injustice, barriers and despair broke the drive for

prosperity to many Americans.

"Even after college blacks still have doors shut in their faces compared to their white counterparts," said Dr. Bethel.

Today, many families cannot afford computers, even as prices drop. People live from paycheck to paycheck. Also the fear of technology and lack of proper guidance causes people to shy away after one or two mistakes, Dr. Bethel said.

There are African American leaders who are doing a great job given the circumstances and barriers they themselves face, Dr. Bethel said. But he encourages the community at large to communicate more with their senators and leaders and voice their con-

continued ▼ on page B9

# PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

*Portland State University is a nationally acclaimed leader in community-based learning.*

Teaching, research, diversity, and service from the cornerstone of Oregon's only public urban university. We offer more than 100 undergraduates, Master's and doctoral degrees, as well as graduate certificates, continuing education and distance learning programs.

The PSU campus is located along the tree-lined South Park Blocks of downtown Portland, in the heart of the city's population, economic, industrial, and cultural center. With a current enrollment of approximately 25,000 students, Portland State is Oregon's largest and most diverse university, serving more students and conferring more graduate degrees annually than any other university in the state.

PSU recognizes that diversity in faculty, staff, and student populations enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth, strengthens communities and the workplace, and enhances personal and professional opportunities. As a public university we strive for equity and social justice and to make our programs truly accessible to our diverse constituents.

Our University values campus diversity and demonstrates this in campus program and initiatives; we particularly encourage members of historically under-represented groups to apply for positions.

Portland State University invites you to view current openings on our website at [www.hrc.pdx.edu](http://www.hrc.pdx.edu).

Portland State University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity institution and, in keeping with the President's diversity initiative, welcomes applications from diverse candidates and candidates who support diversity.