



Black History Month and the American Experience



## Blasting Through Barriers

An advocate for students, community

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Algie Gatewood discovered long ago how powerful education could be. As president of Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, he has a passion for blasting through academic barriers, giving people a voice through attainable education found in community colleges.

He proudly emphasizes the Cascade's role in bridging educational gaps, but most passionately he'll attribute recent success to its excellent faculty, staff and students.

"I need to give credit where it's due," Gatewood said.

It would be easy for Gatewood to beam in the shadow of the new Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, one of five additions at Cascade in the past two years. Also, a one-third increase in capacity in state-of-the-art classrooms is no accomplishment to hide, especially since those classrooms benefit the surrounding north and northeast Portland neighborhoods.

Gatewood can quickly fire off these and a several other accomplishments, but while he champions the success of linking the community with the school, he's quick to praise everyone involved.

With Black History Month on campus and in front of the public's eye, the college leader looks back at his high school guidance counselor as a hero for showing him educational opportunities.

Gatewood believes important contributions aren't always high profile, and ordinary individuals fight daily against racism and other issues within the country's educational arenas.



PCC Cascade President Dr. Algie Gatewood strives to represent the diverse community surrounding his north Portland campus.

Gatewood's trip to PCC started years earlier, in his native North Carolina. In 1974 he began an educational career at a community college, developing programs to attract underrepresented and underemployed people, then helping them stay gainfully employed. He went on to work at the University of North Carolina, office of the president in the state education assistance authority as the director of health, education and welfare.

"I became very much involved in the community,"

he said. "Aiming to help people enjoy a better quality of life through education."

Gatewood moved to Oregon and returned to a community college in his current role, nearly two years ago. He is the second African American president at Cascade, and the college's third top black executive along with current PCC President Dr. Preston Pulliams. Gatewood upholds a mission to attract underrepresented minorities along with other students, and describes community colleges as the

"single greatest institutions of higher education."

Why community colleges, instead of, say, prestigious institutions?

"In a community college you have a much broader mix of students," he said.

"We're in the best position to respond to the higher educational needs of the community."

"This is why I'm in this biz."

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Dee Dee Bridgewater

## Jazz for All Ages

Portland Jazz Festival heats up local scene

The 2006 Portland Jazz Festival kicks off Friday, offering more than 100 events over the course of 10 days with world-class artists such as McCoy Tyner, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Eddie Palmieri, Bill Frisell, Nicholas Payton, plus Ravi Coltrane, Miguel Zenon, Stefon Harris and Susan Werner.

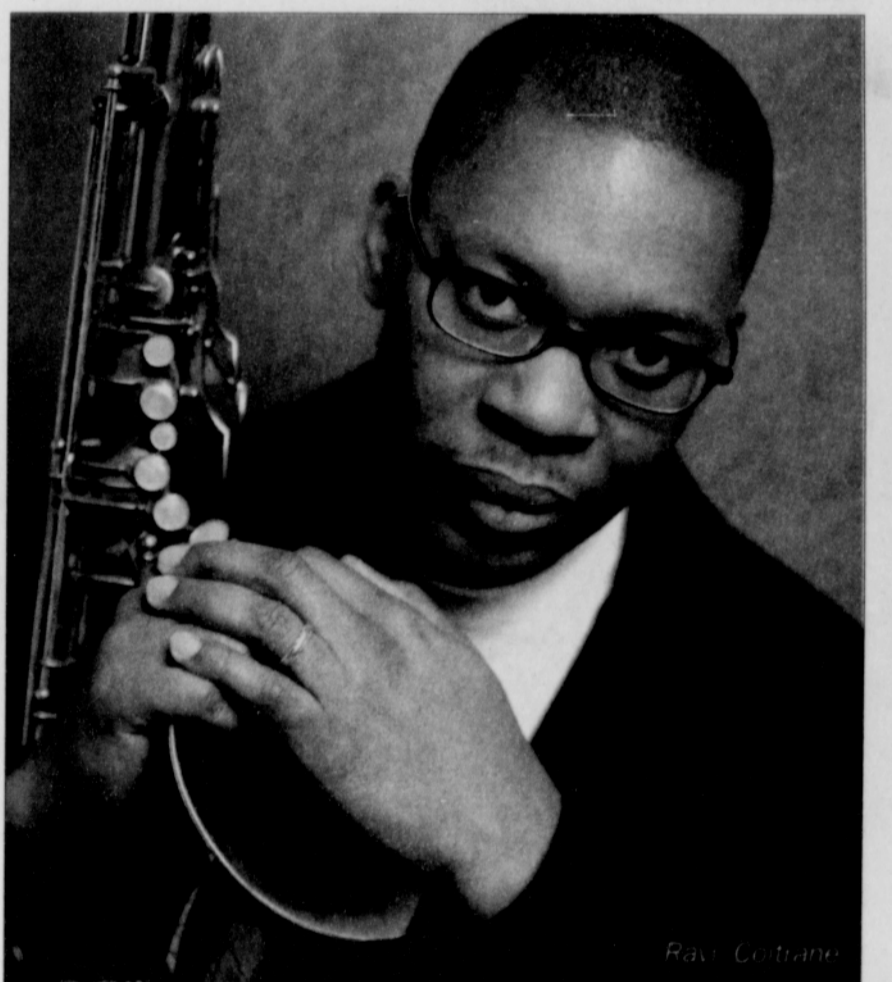
In addition to award-winning artists' performances, the festival offers dozens of free regional jazz showcases, educational outreach programs and partnered events, making jazz available for everyone young and old and on any budget.

Jazz events happen around the clock from the jazz breakfasts and brunches to the midnight jam sessions. With artists everywhere, fans have opportunities for unique access. For example, you can hear Grammy award winning artists talk at jazz dialogues or listen to them testing their musical know-how at JazzTimes Before & After's. Other events include jazz workshops and free midnight jam sessions Friday and Saturday at Jake's Grill.

This year's festival honors jazz legend John Coltrane with a series of events Friday and Saturday titled, Chasin' the Trane: Remembering John Coltrane.

For the first time in three years, the Portland Jazz Festival will offer the Incredible Journey of

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Ravi Coltrane

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## Week in The Review

### Hotel Lodging Runs Out

A federal judge allowed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to stop paying for hotel rooms of about 12,000 evacuated families on Monday. This is the second wave of Hurricane Katrina evacuees to lose hotel lodging. FEMA chief R. David Paulison said they're doing the right thing for these people, but some said they had nowhere else to go. See story, page A2

### Jail Riots Hit LA

Hundreds of LA county jail inmates were being transferred to the state corrections system after racially motivated brawls last-

ing more than a week resulted in two inmate deaths. About 200 inmates have been moved out, with another 400 expected this week. See story, page A2

### Cheney Shoots Hunter

78-year-old Harry Whittington suffered a minor heart attack early Tuesday, after being accidentally shot by Vice President Dick Cheney on Saturday while hunting in Texas. Whittington had been moved from intensive care to a "step-down unit," but doctors performed a cardiac catheterization after lodged birdshot pellets caused an irregular heartbeat. See story, page A2

### New Orleans' Tulane Reopens

Tulane University Hospital, which sustained more than \$90 million in damage from Hurricane Katrina, reopened its ER,

five operating rooms and 63 beds Tuesday. The hospital also reopened an adult and a pediatric intensive care unit, a pharmacy and several cardiology labs, answering one of the city's most urgent needs.



Vice President, Dick Cheney

### Cartoon Protests Continue

Thousands rambled through two cities in Pakistan Tuesday, burning and vandalizing buildings, as protests over the recent publication of Prophet Muhammad caricatures in Europe and elsewhere. At

least two people were killed. Intelligence officials suspect Islamic militant groups incited the violence to undermine President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's U.S.-allied government.

### GM To Invest Millions

General Motors Corp. said Tuesday it will hire almost 300 workers and invest \$545 million in five Michigan plants. The state has lost an estimated 130,000 auto jobs in the past five years.

### U.S. Fights Censorship

The State Department announced plans on Tuesday for a campaign combating foreign governments' restriction of the Internet. State Department trade expert Josette Shiner spoke out against the use of technology to restrict access to political content.