

Black  
History  
Month

and the American Experience

Week in  
The Review

## PSU Attorney Named Judge



Gov. Ted Kulongowski named Portland State University attorney Adrienne Nelson to fill a vacancy on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. Nelson has led diversity efforts at PSU and was the attorney in charge of student legal and mediation services. See story, page A3

## Arab Takeovers Defended

Despite mounting opposition, President Bush said Tuesday that a deal allowing an Arab company to takeover six major U.S. seaports should go forward and that he would veto any congressional effort to stop it. "This transaction does not jeopardize in any way the security of the country," Bush said.

## Iraq Car Bomb Kills 22

A car bomb exploded Tuesday on a street packed with shoppers in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 22 people and wounding 28, police said.

## Louisiana Rebuilding Plan

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has outlined a \$7.5 billion plan to help Louisiana residents rebuild, repair or sell their hurricane-damaged homes, although uncertainties remain about whether Congress will provide the money and which state agency will distribute it. See story, page A2.

## Court Takes Abortion Case

The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will consider the constitutionality of banning a type of late-term abortion, teeing up a contentious issue for a court with two new members. See story, page B4.

## Hallucinogenic Tea Okay

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Tuesday that a small congregation in New Mexico may use hallucinogenic tea as part of a four-hour ritual intended to connect with God. Justices, in their first religious freedom decision under Chief Justice John Roberts, moved decisively to keep the government out of a church's religious practice.

## Property Law Upheld

The Oregon Supreme Court upheld a voter-approved property rights law Tuesday that requires governments to pay landowners for property value losses caused by regulations, or to waive the regulation and let the owner develop the property.



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Brian Thomas (center), Portland Rescue Mission New Life program chaplain, says his outreach to people visiting the downtown mission ties into the mayor's initiative to end homelessness in the next 10 years.

## Finding Rewards in Old Town

## Chaplain takes life-changing journey

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Another world exists on West Burnside in Portland's Old Town, where evidence of life on the street is visible but often ignored. The Portland Rescue Mission is at the center of that world, bridging the gap between an itinerant community and outsiders just passing by.

Brian Thomas, chaplain and intake coordinator for

the mission's New Life program, reaps as much benefit from the mission personally and spiritually as the scores of homeless who have been given a hot meal, shelter and another chance.

Thomas joined the Rescue Mission three years ago, giving up a successful sales career to focus on ministry and mentorship. He acknowledges that his intentional downward business mobility was a tough choice, but with the support of his family he overcame his need for a more material lifestyle.

The son of a pro wrestler, the younger Thomas is imposingly built with a barrel chest, with kind eyes and an enthusiastic nature to soften his image. He pos-

sesses a salesman persona and gift of gab, valuable tools sharpened from working in sales.

Before leaving his job with Xerox, Thomas began mentoring on the streets of Old Town. He eventually discovered the center of homeless activity under the Burnside Bridge, following a trail to the mission, a regular gathering place for area homeless people. Thomas began to mentor at the mission, establishing himself as someone homeless guests could relate to and trust. Soon he was invited to begin chaplainry training, and was eventually joined as a staff chaplain.

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PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An icon of soda fountain days gone by is preserved at an Oregon Historical Society exhibit, downtown. The lunch counter was salvaged from the former Newberry's store in the heart of the downtown retail center. Today, visitors to the exhibit can press a jukebox key and see a historical presentation about real Oregonians.

Where Black History Never Ends  
Museum spotlights Oregon's diversityBY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Black History Month never ends at the Oregon Historical Society where visitors can discover the role of African Americans and other minorities in Oregon dating back to 19th century.

The educational journey begins at the museum along downtown Portland's South Park Blocks or online at www.OHS.org.

The historical society has compiled a list of resources, cleverly mapped out and designed so as not to be exhaustive to museum visitors and web browsers. Oregon's minority history is dotted throughout the both sites, including The Oregon History Project.

Hundreds of documents make up the museum's online archives of digitized documents and artifacts, tracking the change in Oregon's landscape. The site is friendly for researchers, teachers and casual visitors, with an online learning center and interpretation aids.

Commerce, Climate &amp; Community: A History of Portland &amp; its People focuses on commerce, immigration,

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## Do We Need A Black History Month?

Actor Morgan Freeman stirred some controversy when he suggested that there shouldn't be a Black History Month because black history is American history. We asked students at Portland Community College's Cascade campus their opinion.

We should celebrate it because everybody else has a month.  
--Alisa Jordan, 18It's kind of bummish that we get one month and it's only 28 days. We should celebrate everyday, but maybe not as magnified.  
--Shamara Stevenson, 20It should be common for everyone to respect other races. It should be a normal thing.  
--Mark Yeckel, 19There are so many cultures to represent. I don't think there should be given months, it should be whenever.  
--Phaydra Mutch, 25It's nice to have a month set aside to remember everything they've gone through.  
--Josh Suprana, 18

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