

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Speaking up for Immigrant Justice

### Cardinal's plea: 'Make room' for newcomers

(AP) — Catholic leaders have launched a "Justice for Immigrants" campaign, appealing to President Bush and congressional leaders for a legalization program, sharply criticizing a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in December to tighten border controls.

When Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles last week called on Roman Catholic leaders to embrace immigrants regardless of legal status, he wasn't just reiterating the church's long tradition of reaching out to the downtrodden.

Mahony and other U.S. Catholic bishops are increasingly weighing into the debate over what to do about the roughly 11 million illegal immigrants living in the United States - a development that's being met with criticism from groups push-

ing for tougher immigration law enforcement.

Among other things, the bill - now before the Senate - would obligate churches and other social organizations to ask immigrants for legal documentation before providing assistance.

A handful of bishops have denounced it. Mahony, the leader of the nation's largest archdiocese, went a step further. He promised to defy it if it's passed into law.

"I would say to all priests, deacons and members of the church that we are not going to observe this law," Mahony said after an Ash Wednesday Mass calling on Catholics to "make room" for immigrants.

Church leaders say they are simply adhering to Catholic teachings



about compassion. But groups pushing for a crackdown on illegal immigration accuse them of trying to bolster their flock by catering to Hispanics, who comprise the majority of undocumented newcomers.

U.S. and Mexican bishops issued a statement on migration in 2003 saying that "more powerful economic nations, which have the ability to protect and feed their residents, have a stronger obligation to accommodate migration flows."

The bishops also said that nations were obligated to respect the dignity of migrants "regardless of their legal status."

Cardinal Roger Mahony marks the forehead of parishioners during Ash Wednesday services March 1 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. (AP photo)

## Thousands March for Immigrants in Portland

### Many protest positions of GOP candidates

(AP) — A boisterous but peaceful march of about 4,000 demonstrators opposed to pending stricter immigration legislation drummed and chanted through downtown Portland on Saturday, bringing together His-

panic organizations, labor unions, church and social groups.

They were opposed to pending legislation in Congress that would bring stiff increases in migration enforcement. They also protested the position of Ron

Saxton, the former Portland School Board member and attorney who is seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination in May's primary.

"Saxton, we pick your food," read some signs.

Saxton has said that as governor he would stop supplying state benefits and driver's licenses to people living in Oregon illegally and has pledged "zero tolerance."

His two GOP opponents have

aired views along the same lines.

The number of illegal immigrants in Oregon is not certain and probably varies by season. Some estimates put the number in the 150,000 range, part of an estimated 11 million in the nation.

Saturday's demonstrators paraded for an amnesty, similar to one granted in 1986, or other moves that would let them stay in the United States legally.

"The House bill, which passed

last year and is now in the Senate, would beef up border security with the help of local law enforcement and military technology and impose tougher penalties for smuggling and re-entry.

It makes drunken driving a deportable offense and make unlawful presence in the United States a felony.

It also would require all employers to submit Social Security numbers and other information

to a national data base to verify the legal status of workers.

Some predicted the bill in the Senate would make it a crime to help illegal immigrants or provide for them in church soup kitchens.

"A crime versus people is a crime versus God," said David Leslie, executive director of the Ecumenical Council of Oregon. "It undercuts what it means to be a part of a caring world."



### Identity Theft Suspect on Camera

Vancouver Police need help identifying this woman who presented a stolen credit card to make a purchase at Sears at the Vancouver Westfield Mall on Jan. 26. The photo was captured from surveillance video. The woman is a suspect in over \$50,000 in theft due to credit card fraud. Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Troy Price at 360-735-8826.



### CRIME STOPPERS Wanted Robbery Suspect

On Feb. 7, 20-year-old Robin Lamont Thompson, and another man, robbed two people at a house in the 4600 block of Southeast Taylor Street.

The victims were pistol-whipped, bound with duct tape, and one of them was shot when he tried to get away.

Thompson was indicted by a Multnomah County Grand Jury

and has outstanding warrants for multiple counts of robbery, assault, kidnapping and burglary with a total bail of \$287,000.

He is about 5'10", 150 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes and has long braids. He has lived in Northeast Portland, but his current address is unknown. Thompson should be considered armed and dangerous.

Detectives would like to identify the second man in these crimes.



Robin Lamont Thompson

He is described as a black male between 18 and 25-years-old with a stocky build. He is about 5'10" with short hair or even a shaved head.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony, and you may remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP (4357).

## Toxic Riverfront Restored

continued from Metro

and black hawthorn will emerge, with a lush understory of swamp rose, Oregon grape, red-flow-

ering currant and other native shrubs.

These plants and trees will provide food for native animals, and hopefully, peaceful natural

areas for people to enjoy as well.

Mikell O'Mealy, outreach coordinator with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, said the neighborhood volunteers were vital in making the plantings a success.

"A special thank to all of you who planted trees," she said.

Individuals and groups interested in touring the site this spring and summer to check on the trees and talk about potential future uses for the property are welcome to contact O'Mealy at 503-229-6590.



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## Teens Attack, Curfew Considered

(AP) — Police police said they are increasing patrols in northeast Portland after a couple riding their bicycles to a friend's house were

confronted and attacked by more than two dozen teenagers.

Jason Maxfield, 27, said he attempted to avoid the group on Northeast Garfield Avenue between Going and Skidmore streets by riding up the sidewalk, but he could not escape. Several rushed toward him and pushed him into a wall. He fell to the ground, and

when he looked up, found at least five young teens, ages 13 to 16.

"We need some bikes," they laughed and yelled.

Maxfield said when he reached to grab his bike, he was punched repeatedly in the face and head and kicked in the back and sides. After his wife, Julie, yelled for the group to leave, one boy waved what appeared to be a gun at her.

"We live in your neighborhood, please don't hurt us," Maxfield pleaded to the boys, who scattered

when a patrol car started to approach.

Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth said there have been similar cases reported recently, with groups of teens attacking bicyclists and pedestrians. He said police are considering special curfew crackdowns and other enforcement to address the problem.

Northeast Precinct Cmdr. Bret Smith thinks some of the incidents happen when teenagers leave an event and feel strength in numbers.

## Peninsula Little league 2006

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-15)

### Softball Program

Level Ages  
Minor 7-9  
Major 10-12  
Junior 13-15

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Level Ages  
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Major 10-12  
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Participation Fee - \$85.00 (per player) \$65 for T-ball  
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