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Week in The Review

More Schools May Close

Portland School Superintendent Vicki Phillips could recommend the closure of between one and 14 schools to save money when a budget goes to the school board on April 4. The district closed schools last year because of a budget shortfall. There's no word yet on which schools are being considered for closure this year.

Mike Wallace to Retire

Mike Wallace, the hard-driving reporter who has been with "60 Minutes" since its start in 1968, said Tuesday he will retire as a regular correspondent on the show this spring. But the 87-year-old news legend plans to still do occasional reports for the show.



New Evidence Shows Beating

Prosecutors confirmed Tuesday that a 14-year-old Florida boy who was beaten by guards in a juvenile boot camp did not die of a blood disorder as a medical examiner initially ruled. Results from a second autopsy seem to indicate the 14-year-old African American died from a beating by guards.

Iraq Suffers Mass Casualties

Iraqi authorities discovered at least 87 men shot to death execution-style — as Iraq edged closer to open civil warfare. Twenty-nine of the bodies were dug out of a single grave Tuesday in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad. The bloodshed appeared to be retaliation for a bomb and mortar attack in the Sadr City slum that killed at least 58 people and wounded more than 200 two days earlier.

Al-Qaida Case Goes Forward

The judge in the Zacarias Mousaoui sentencing case decided Tuesday to allow the government to continue to seek the death penalty against the confessed al-Qaida conspirator, but also threw out key testimony for the prosecution, saying it had been riddled with "significant problems."

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Dam in Hawaii Bursts

A dam on the Hawaiian island of Kauai apparently failed Tuesday, sending torrents of water gushing from a reservoir to the Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard said. Seven people were reported missing. It has rained heavily across Kauai in the past few days.

More SAT Scoring Problems

The College Board disclosed Tuesday that an additional 1,600 SAT scores have not been rechecked from an exam in October that had scoring problems.

Mentor for the Next Generation

First woman governor stays involved

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregonians saw dramatic changes in the 1990s that have shaped much of the state's current political and cultural landscape.

From 1991 to 1995, Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts pushed ahead issues related to child advocacy, affordable housing, environmental and wildlife issues and government efficiency.

She possessed a politically rare flair for "leading by listening." That is, gathering opinions from thousands of Oregonians, resulting in her statewide taxation discussion — Conversation with Oregon.

Roberts served one term as governor, but she never left the political spotlight. More than 10 years after her tenure as the state's first and only woman governor, Roberts keeps a high profile: she's writing her second book, an autobiography, she speaks at several engagements each month, and she's involved with three volunteer projects at Portland State University, a school she attended and has had a long-term association with.

Roberts officially retired a year ago, but laughingly attributes her busy schedule to an inability to say no.

Having lived through the breakthrough era of women's rights, say-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Former Gov. Barbara Roberts, the first woman to hold Oregon's highest office, continues her life of advocating for future generations.

ing no and rejecting the status quo, was a defining characteristic of her generation.

Roberts stepped into the political arena as an unpaid lobbyist in 1969, on behalf of her autistic son, Mike, progressing to school board member, state representative and secretary of state. She then made history by succeeding Neil Goldschmidt as governor, with an administration known for its strong support of gay rights and appointment of women to state government positions.

"Women in my generation, and slightly younger, opened doors because we were very aware of the shortcomings in equality," Roberts said.

The last few generations have enjoyed the benefits of equality, but Roberts recognizes threats, like South Dakota's recent ban on abortion, as an example of its frailty.

"We may have failed to help the next generations understand what it is like to fight those battles," Roberts said.

She recalled the backlash of years past when the Equal Rights Amendment failed in many states, causing women to feel seriously rejected as citizens. But it followed an advance of women entering politics.

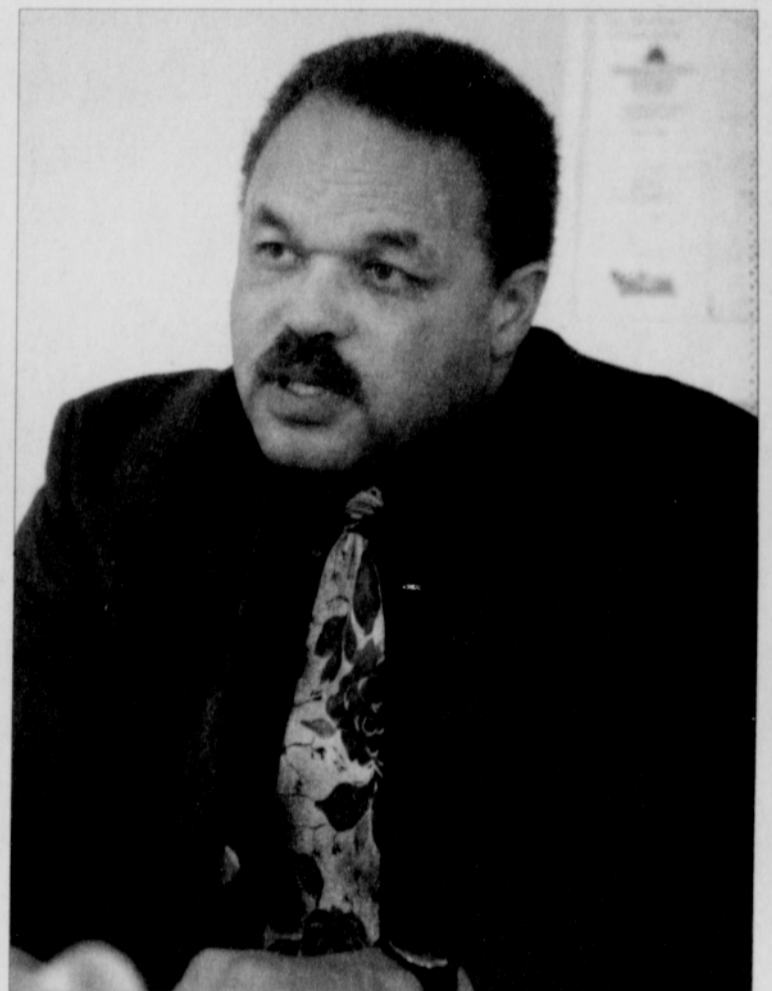
"If they couldn't get into the Constitution, they'd get into city council, the state legislature, and would seek other public office. It only takes one cause, one piece of anger, to make you political."

continued ▼ on page A5

Community Advocate to Decision Maker



Lew Frederick at age 3 next to his 103-year-old great-grandfather in Scotlandville, La., in 1954. His mother, father and sister are on the left. Frederick's grandmother (far right) founded what later became Missouri Head Start.



Better schools and healthcare are priorities for Lew Frederick in his campaign for county commissioner.

Lew Frederick joins county commissioner race

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lew Frederick has been a teacher, television reporter and public voice for Portland Public Schools. Now the longtime community advocate wants to make a difference in the seat of county government.

Frederick is in a competitive race for Multnomah County Commissioner in District 2, which includes north and northeast Portland. The incumbent Serena Cruz is vacating her seat due to term limits.

Frederick is confident that his experience in building relationships

enables him to know the right people and ask the right questions.

"I'm going to be out there," he said. "You have to show your face, you can't do it institutionally."

He sees healthcare, social justice, emergency preparedness and most importantly education as the serious issues in the race.

One of his concrete ideas for the betterment of educating local children is to put more political weight behind after-school programs like Schools Uniting Neighbors (SUN).

continued ▼ on page A5

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