

# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Gateway to College

Jefferson Dancers home for Spring  
Concert after winning scholarships

See story, Metro section inside

### Week in The Review

#### Porter Talks Blazer Buyout



Former Blazers guard Terry Porter arrived in Portland Tuesday to meet with potential investors interested in buying the team and the Rose Garden arena. He will meet with the mayor Wednesday. See story, page A3.

#### Quake's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sirens wailed through San Francisco at 5:12 a.m. Tuesday as residents marked the moment 100 years earlier when the Great Quake struck, shattering the city and touching off fires that burned for days. The 1906 disaster was one of the worst in U.S. history.

#### Lacrosse Players Charged

Two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested on rape charges Tuesday in a scandal that has rocked one of America's elite campuses and raised explosive questions of race, class and the privileged status of college athletes. See story, page A2.

#### Gas Prices Push Inflation

A big jump in gasoline prices pushed inflation at the wholesale level up in March at the fastest pace in three months, as oil prices above \$70 a barrel sent consumers a high-octane warning of expensive costs ahead.

#### Pointer Sister Remembered

The youngest member of the Pointer Sisters is being remembered after her death last week of cancer. June Pointer sang on the hits 'I'm So Excited,' 'Jump (For My Love)' and 'Fire.' She was 52. See story, page A6.

#### Minority Scores Omitted

States are helping public schools escape penalties by skirting the No Child Left Behind law that students of all races must show annual academic progress. Schools deliberately aren't counting the test scores of nearly 2 million students when they report progress by racial groups, an Associated Press computer analysis found.

#### Immigrant Bill Vetoed

Gov. Janet Napolitano vetoed a bill that would have criminalized the presence of illegal immigrants in Arizona, citing opposition from police agencies that want immigration arrests to remain the responsibility of the federal government.

## 'Fit to Be Fabulous'

### Ebony fashions hot styles for charities

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Ebony Fashion Fair Show "Fit to Be Fabulous" stops in Portland on Friday, April 21 celebrating new, varied and exciting designs in an event to raise scholarships for local African American women.

Fit to Be Fabulous is the world's largest traveling fashion show, featuring extravagant styles from high-profile designers around the globe.

The Portland Chapter of The Links, Inc. will sponsor the fair at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 8 p.m.

Twelve Ebony models, including two men, will showcase the glamorous and elegant designs of Givenchy and Oscar de la Renta, and black designers, including B. Michael and Tracy Reese. Fashion authority Eunice W. Johnson produces and directs the show.

Since the fashion fair's inception in 1958, Ebony has donated more than \$52 million to charitable donations.

continued ▼ on page A6



A Persian inspired print gown of silk chiffon is banded in gold beading and word with a contrasting gold-bordered stole is one of the many fashions to be featured at Friday's Ebony Fashion Fair benefiting local scholarships.

## Wide Open State Rep. Election

### May Primary sees competitive race

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Three north Portland residents are bringing their ideas for healthcare, jobs and education to voters in a competitive race for State Representative in an election that has no incumbent running.

Tina Kotek, Mark Kirchmeier and Jim Robison are vying for voters in the May 16 Democratic Primary in the heavily Democratic House District 44, encompassing most of north Portland from I-5 to St. John's. The winner will advance to the General Election in November.

#### Tina Kotek

Occupation-Policy director for Children First for Oregon.

Kotek lives in the Kenton neighborhood with her partner, Aimee.

She ran in a close race for House District 43 in 2004, the

adjacent state representative district where she used to reside in the nearby Woodlawn neighborhood.

Although she's never held public office, Kotek's passion is in state policy; her professional career includes significant bipartisan work in Salem, including the state's Medicaid Advisory Committee and Human Services Coalition of Oregon.

Kotek describes District 44 as one with two groups: veterans who've lived in the area for 40 or 50 years, and the newcomers.

"That kind of new and old creates an energy in the community," she said. "The state needs to look at affordable housing and how we can keep people in their homes."

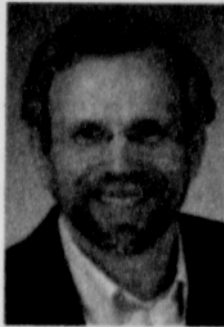
Kotek said the solutions come down to jobs and money to maintain a livable community.

"It's a challenge to keep the working-class tradition alive," she said. "We need lots of different things to live and work in north Portland."

Her advantage over Kirchmeier and Robison: "When you work for nonprofits you're not a Democrat or a Republican. My experience has been working in a bipartisan way. I don't think my opponents have come close."

For more information on Kotek's candidacy, visit [www.votetina.com](http://www.votetina.com).

#### Mark Kirchmeier



Mark Kirchmeier

Occupation - homebuilder and legislative assistant to State Rep. Gary Hansen; former staff assistant for Rep. Ron Wyden.

Kirchmeier lives with his wife and two children in University Park neighborhood. Schools, jobs and healthcare are his top priorities.

"Our best strategy to keep north and northeast Portland racially and ethnically diverse is to provide affordable housing," he said. "The best way is twofold - increase the supply of owner occupied homes and make sure agencies like the Portland Development Commission provides rent assistance and other assistance to keep housing prices low."

continued ▼ on page A6

## Students Raise Voices



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Faridhy Torrecilla raises her voice to support irrigation rights at a downtown rally. She was one of hundreds of local students who walked out of classes in an organized protest Friday.

### School walkout for immigration rights

Hundreds of local students walked out of Portland area classrooms, joining students from Southridge to Sandy,

to gather at the Southwest Park Blocks downtown in support of immigration rights.

The blocks by the Portland Art Museum were packed by noon Friday, mostly with students from high school but also elementary school, alongside police. Students from

Madison High School in northeast Portland were given permission to join the protest as a civics lesson.

The sea of protesters waved signs and listened to speakers who spoke so excitedly their English interpreters had a hard time keeping up.

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