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special edition

Setting Record Straight

Mariah Taylor's messy  
and ongoing dispute spills  
onto the street  
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# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Portland Earthquake

A magnitude 2.6 earthquake at 9:34 p.m. Sunday gave thousands of Portland-area residents a brief jolt. The epicenter was near Colonel Summers Park at Southeast 17th Avenue and Taylor Street. It was the third small quake in the last 17 months in southeast Portland. The others were near Laurelhurst Park at Southeast 39th and Stark.

### Rain Brings Flooding

A warm-weather storm pounded Oregon Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, flooding rivers, closing roads and driving some people from their homes. The so-called 'Pineapple Express' is expected to dump more rain through Wednesday.

### Senator Visits Jefferson



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., met with about 100 students at Jefferson High School in north Portland Thursday.

The Q&A session focused on current events, including Iraq, Congressional corruption scandals and the future of the Internet. Wyden also encouraged young people to vote.

### Saddam Calls for Truce

A somber and subdued Saddam Hussein called on Iraqis to "forgive, reconcile and shake hands" as he returned to court Tuesday for his Kurdish genocide trial two days after being sentenced to death in a separate case.

### Scandal Dooms Evangelical

Rev. Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals and a White House advisor, agreed to resign Saturday after his New Life Church's investigative board recommended removal, saying the Colorado Springs pastor was guilty 'of sexually immoral conduct'.



### US Fails to Stop Leftist

Critics say the U.S. failed in efforts to stop former Sandinista president Daniel Ortega from a second term. Many view it as a sign of America's waning influence in Central and Latin America.

### Chris Rock Divorce?

Chris Rock has joked you can either be "married and bored, or single and lonely," and it appears he's opted to try the solitary life. TMZ.com says the comedian, 41, has started divorce proceedings against Malaak Compton-Rock.



## Jobs and Social Justice

### New Seasons puts priority on locals

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Step into any New Seasons Market and you'll be pleased to find a neighborhood identity relative to each store's location.

It is no accident the Portland grocery chain has earned accolades as being a refreshing source of equal opportunity employment and providing family wage jobs to local residents in a field where similar markets fall short.

Brian Rohter, New Seasons chief executive officer and co-founder, has built a reputation with a philosophy favoring non-exclusivity in the workplace.

"We're aware many members of our community don't get a fair shot of a decent job with living wages and health benefits, and we make a concerted effort to reach out to them," said Rohter, who has been awarded several awards for equal opportunity employment and social justice.

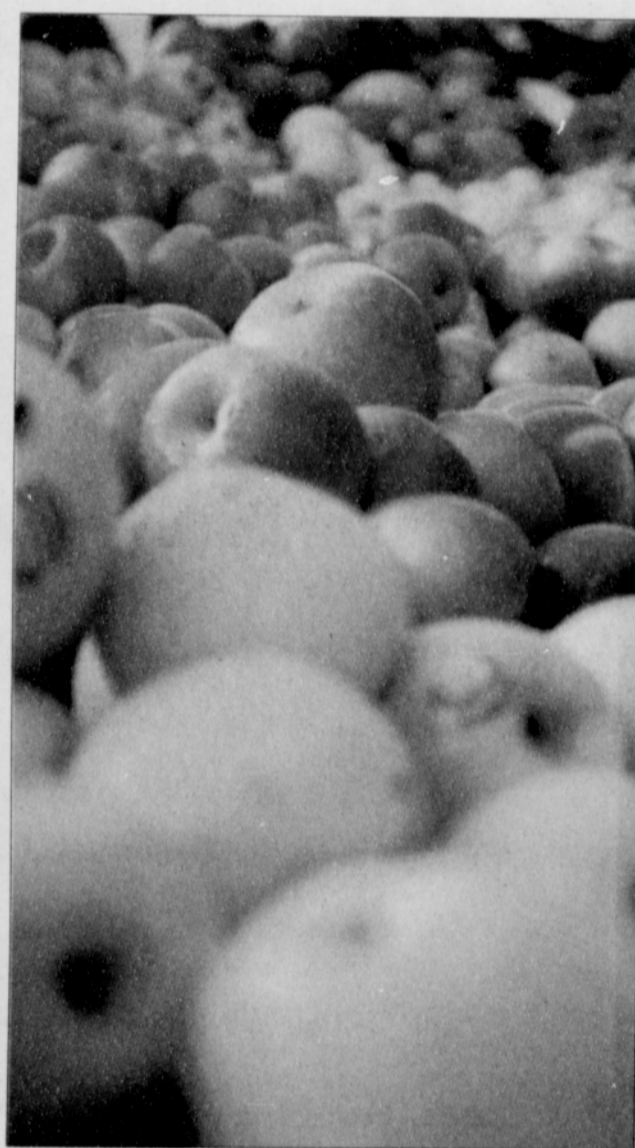
Rohter opened New Seasons with partners Chuck Eggert and Stan Amy after leaving the natural grocery chain Nature's, which soon became part of the national Wild Oats grocery chain.

Together they have built a network of eight stores dotting the Portland area, with a Clackamas County store opening next fall in Happy Valley.

New Seasons stands apart from other grocers for two reasons: its blend of healthy and locally grown foods, and an innovative work environment that offers more than the typical, no-frills se-



New Seasons Markets CEO Brian Rohter (above) has built a small empire of grocery stores, attracting shoppers because of its locality and employees because of a diverse and welcoming culture.



Fresh produce at New Seasons Markets is often from local growers.

PHOTOS BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

lection of retail jobs. Employees start at a minimum of \$9 per hour with health benefits for part-time and full-time workers.

It's a win-win situation for the com-

pany and community since customer services stays high and turnover is low. The company has no plans to alter the business model.

"We plan on staying local," Rohter

said. "Leaving the Portland area would change how we do business."

Rohter personally greets all new em-

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## Great Expectations for Grant Youth

PHOTO BY MARK  
WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND  
OBSERVER



PSU's Rahel Yared (left) and educator Mark Jackson prepare for Thursday's student empowerment conference at Grant High in northeast Portland with its focus on racial, cultural and academic identity.

### Empowerment conference goes beyond the classroom

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Grant High School teacher Mark Jackson was young, African American studies narrowly focused on "Martin, Malcolm and Parks," the big three civil rights leaders of our time.

"Throw in civil rights and slavery," he said. "The curriculum taught me I was 3/5 of a person."

Now, as a teacher of African American history, Jackson is working with the citywide student mentoring organization REAP, Inc. (Reaching and Empowering All People) to offer black students at Grant High School a daylong conference with a focus on racial, cultural and academic identity.

The "Challenge 2006: African American Student Conference" takes place at

the northeast Portland school on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The goal is to support high levels of success for Grant's black population while encouraging their futures as life long learners. Stereotypes of achievement gaps reinforced by society and even faculty will be challenged.

"We've found students feel alienated in predominantly white classrooms," Jackson said. "There's a tendency to shy away from challenging oneself."

This is the second year REAP will bring together Grant students, parents and invited guests. African American

leaders helping this year are Sen. Avel Gordly, Multnomah County Judge Adrienne Nelson, Dr. Dalton Miller-Jones of the Oregon Board of Higher Education, author Dr. Joy Leary, members of the Portland Trail Blazers and other business professionals.

The students will engage with representatives from 35 professions, including a surgeon, Nike executive and news reporter, and a range of panelists in non-profit, education and government fields. The generous amount of experience

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