

50¢

36  
years of  
community service

'N-word' Condemned

Use of racial slur uttered  
by Michael Richards  
wanted stopped  
See story, page A2



Power & Passion

All-women dance  
troupe intensity  
See story, Metro section



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Pioneer Courthouse Square's 75-foot- Douglas Fir tree delights both children and adults celebrating the beginning of the holiday season. Also see image on page A2, inside.

PHOTO BY ISALAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Ministerial Alliance Focus Narrows

### Hands over social programs to SEI

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, the church leaders of Portland's African American community, has turned over part of its public service mission to Self Enhancement, Inc., the successful non-profit agency serving African American youth and families.

The AMA had a longstanding relationship with SEI before last month's merger.

Under the new exchange of responsibilities, the ministerial alliance will continue to focus on advocacy issues and SEI will oversee all social programs. Those services include case management, energy assistance, emergency shelters and childcare resources.



Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel

Leaders of the alliance said administrative costs for the social programs had become a burden for the organization, a coalition of African American pastors, ministers and clergy in more than 125 congregations of north and northeast Portland.

Alliance board president Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel said the group has found it more difficult to win financial support from larger agencies such as United Way because of the current economic conditions.

In the face of rising administrative costs, fewer dollars and more competitive contract bids, the AMA board's unanimous decision was designed to help the pastors group stay afloat, keep their programs alive and return to their roots of social advocacy.

"This will focus all our resources on recognizing justice in the community, instead of spending time raising money to keep administration of direct services," said Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, vice president of the board of directors.

Portland's black clergy originally formed the alliance in the 1960s to focus on social justice and spiritual development. The alliance has built a reputation for its support of combating issues concerning racism, poverty and police misconduct, while building community relationships, public education and family and youth advocacy.

For example, AMA was instrumental in changes within Portland Police Bureau policy, following the alliance's investigations into the 2003 death of Kendra James and the 2004 death of James Jahar Perez.

Haynes said the alliance will broaden its advocacy focus to include Portland Public

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## Easier Access for Morning After Pill

### 'Plan B' restrictions lifted

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Women over the age of 18 no longer need a doctor's prescription for what is known as the morning after emergency contraception pill.

The drug has been rolling out to local pharmacies as a non-prescription item in the past couple of weeks, since being approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in August.

Not to be confused with the abortion pill RU-486, Plan B can be taken up to 72 hours after intercourse to lower the risk of pregnancy up to 89 percent.

The pill, manufactured by Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc., comes in a single, two-pill dose that costs around \$40 according to a sampling of independent and corporate pharmacies in the Portland area. Men may also purchase plan B.

The FDA first approved the contraception for prescription use in 1999. Barr filed an application for non-prescription use in 2003, and the FDA has since struggled with political groups advocating for over-the-counter availability, and religious groups heralding it as an abortion measure.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America,

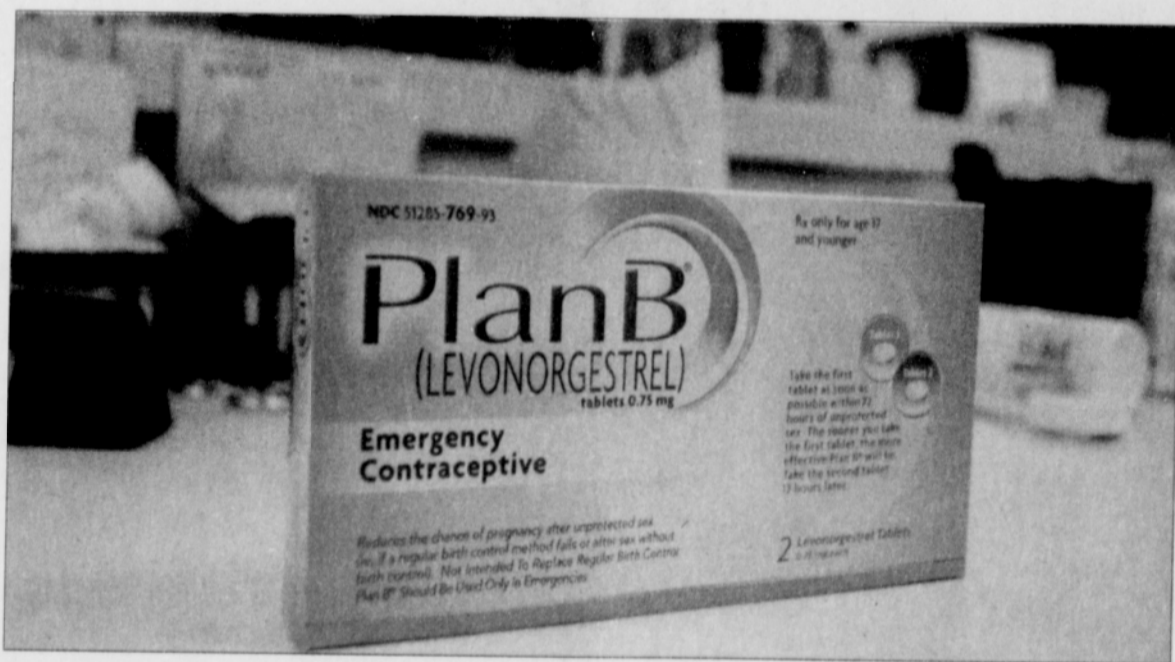


PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The emergency contraceptive known as "Plan B" is now available without a prescription at local pharmacies.

the reproductive health center and advocacy group, has hailed easier access to Plan B as a victory, but have issued a written statement taking issue with the prescription requirement for girls younger than 18 years of age.

The FDA ruled that girls 17 and younger still will

need a prescription to buy the pills — a compromise for groups in support of the 3 million annual unplanned pregnancies that occur in the nation.

Ken Hatch, owner and pharmacist of Ainsworth

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## Week in The Review



Sean Bell

### Police Volley Kills Man

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg met Tuesday with the family of a man killed outside a strip club on his wedding day by a barrage of police gunfire. The 50-bullet volley was likened to a "firing squad" by the Rev. Al Sharpton. See story, page A2.



Alcee Hastings

### Boot Camp Guards Charged

Seven former juvenile boot camp guards from Florida and a nurse have been charged with aggravated manslaughter in the death of an African American boy whose rough handling by the guards was videotaped, a special prosecutor said Tuesday.

### Hastings Brushed Aside

House Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi passed over Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla. Tuesday for the chairmanship of the Intelligence Committee. Hastings was supported by members of the Congressional Black Caucus. But critics pointed out that he had been impeached when he was a federal judge.

Visiting Estonia, President Bush has again rejected assertions that civil war has broken out in Iraq. Bush also vowed not to pull U.S. troops out "until the mission is complete," despite intense pressure to change course.



China Arnold

### Mother Charged in Death

A mother was arrested on suspicion of murdering her newborn daughter by microwaving the baby

in an oven. China Arnold, 26, was jailed in Ohio Monday on a charge of aggravated murder, more than a year after she brought her dead month-old baby to a hospital with high-heat internal injuries.

### Face Transplant Success Cited

A year after a Frenchwoman received the world's first partial face transplant, doctors say the operation was a success and she is gaining more and more sensitivity and facial mobility. In a new photo, the patient is almost smiling and appears to have better control over her face.



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