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Unpredictable Tour

Jamie Foxx at the  
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See Arts &  
Entertainment, Section C



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'  
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## Week in The Review

### Church Fire a Mystery

There's still no cause found for a Feb. 5 fire that destroyed Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in northeast Portland. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agent Colene Domenche said Tuesday that she was not sure when results from the Oregon State Police Crime Lab will be known.

### Tobacco Award Lost

The U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday threw out a \$79.5 million punitive damages award to a smoker's widow, an African-American woman from Portland. The ruling was a victory for Philip Morris. See story, page A2.

### Britney Enters Rehab

Britney Spears entered rehab Tuesday after a bizarre weekend that included shaving her head and getting a new tattoo. Spears' manager, Larry Rudolph, told People magazine's Web site that Spears, 25, had voluntarily checked herself into an undisclosed treatment facility.

### Rescued from Mt. Hood

Thanks to a high-tech electronic gadget and a big warm dog named Velvet, three climbers rescued Monday after a harrowing fall and a night in the wind and cold high on Mount Hood are expected to be fine.

### Hardaway Apologizes

Former NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway apologized again Sunday for his anti-gay remarks, acknowledging he made a major mistake by saying "I hate gay people" when asked how he would react to having a gay teammate. See story, page B6.

### West Wins All-Star Game

Kobe Bryant and the West high rollers lit up the Vegas Strip with their own version of Showtime, romping past LeBron James and the East 153-132 in the NBA All-Star game Sunday. See story, page B6.

### Chicken Joins Recall List

The drumroll for tainted food continued Monday with a nationwide recall of Oscar Mayer chicken breast strips for bacterial contamination. The chicken product joins recalls in recent days for fresh and selected jars of organic baby food, cantaloupe and peanut butter. Check the website fda.gov for daily updates.

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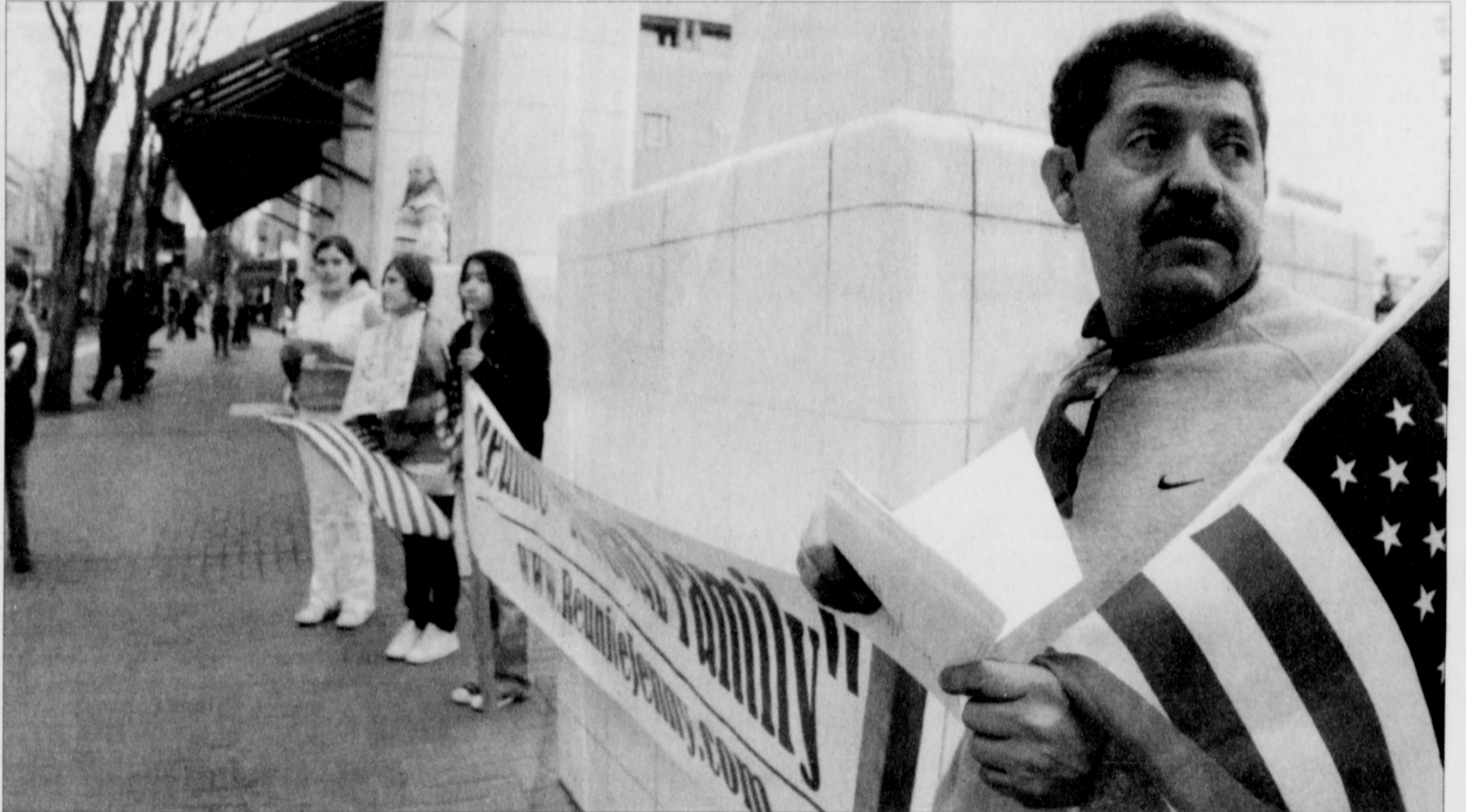


PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Jenny Diaz and her father Luis Sr. hold a banner in a rally to reunite their family during a demonstration at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The Diaz family was split apart last fall when Luis' wife and their two children were deported back to their native Guatemala.

## Family Split by Deportation

Immigration issue  
brings Portland  
lawmaker to table

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A family split apart by deportation has caught the attention of State Sen. Avel Gordly, a local African American lawmaker who has sponsored two resolutions to keep American children from becoming separated from their non-citizen parents.

The immigration issue has dramatically

affected the life of 12-year-old Jenny Diaz, the youngest child of a family who settled in the Portland area after fleeing Guatemala in the early 1990s.

Born and raised in Beaverton, Jenny is the only U.S. citizen in her family of five that has thrived in their suburban community. Jenny was forced to say goodbye to her mother, brother and sister in October, after a long battle for citizenship meant deportation back to Guatemala.

Her mother Irma, 40, brother Luis Jr., 21, and her sister Monica,

20, were escorted back to a country they fled out of fear, following death threats Luis Sr. received after he helped form a workplace union. When Luis arrived in the U.S. without documents in 1991 he immediately applied for political asylum, but it took 15 years for his application to be considered. It was denied just over a year ago.



Sen. Avel Gordly

Last May, a Portland immigration judge denied another asylum claim because too much time had passed and too many changes had occurred in Guatemala since 1991. His current claim

requests permanent residence based on the length of time he had been in this country, and the hardship his daughter would face if he were deported.

U.S. Rep. David Wu, D-Ore. lost his appeal for a federal law that would have authorized the family to remain together while Luis litigated his appeal. Still, Jenny and her father have not given up hope, and supporters recently formed the ad-hoc Jenny Diaz Reunite My Family Foundation. With help from Sen. Gordly their case stands a better chance of raising its profile statewide.

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## Market Removes Tobacco Ads

Example set  
for other stores

African American health advocates found troubling results regarding tobacco advertising when a local survey of 100 stores revealed an average of nearly 17 cigarette and other tobacco-related ads per store.

The African American Tobacco Prevention and Education Network's Youth Coalition observed more than 1,671 advertisements, with almost two-thirds placed at children's eye level.

Now the coalition is encouraging retailers to remove such ads.

On Friday, Charles Bedford, owner of Going Street Market, 4601 N. Williams Ave., lent his efforts to the campaign. He was joined by several community activists, including JoAnn Bowman, associate director of Oregon Action; nurse practitioner Mariah Taylor; and Darryl LC Moch, executive director of Brother to Brother; to remove all tobacco ads in his neighborhood market.

Coalition leaders also spoke about tobacco's impact on the African-American community and advertising's powerful effect on compelling children to start smoking.

Most people who smoke begin before age 18; and 20 kids in Oregon start smoking every single day.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Going Street Market Owner Charles Bedford sets an example for the advocacy of African American health by taking down tobacco ads at his neighborhood store at 4601 N. Williams Ave.

## Advocates Tackle Youth Violence

Lack of funding  
doesn't stop effort

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Late last summer a heated panic filled the room of a Gang Violence Task Force meeting, as north and northeast Portland parents and community members shared their frustrations concerning youth violence in the wake of lost anti-gang resources and cuts to youth advocacy programs.

In the following months a group of individuals, led by youth mentor Roy Pittman, gathered to respond to a demand for greater community responsibility when it comes to young people. Without much attention and with no funding they formed a task force to address youth - wayward and otherwise - through advocacy and proactive attention.

Pittman, a retired wrestling coach who has worked and volunteered at Peninsula Park for 30 years, created a similar program in the 1990s with anti-gang advocate John Canda, who now works for Mayor Tom Potter.

The two have seen their share of community talks that go nowhere, and realized police participation was necessary to encourage "community policing." So Pittman invited Portland officers Rod Beard Sr. and Asst. Chief Lynnae Berg to the table.

"Youth and police have always been at odds," Pittman said, "and this is a great way for kids to look at police in a positive way."

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