

Family Split by Deportation

continued ▲ from Front

Gordly has introduced Senate Joint Memorial 4 and Senate Resolution 12 to urge Congress, state agencies and local governments to make family reunification a priority in immigration reform.

"Children who are citizens of the United States are being separated from their fathers and moth-

ers because of broken immigration laws," the resolution says. "A child's separation from family members violates the right to family unity and causes children who are United States citizens great emotional and financial harm."

On the afternoon of Feb. 9 Jenny and her father approached Pioneer Courthouse Square to make their case known in a public demonstra-



PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Diana Herrera and Jasmine Zavaleta, both 12, attend a rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square in support of their friend and schoolmate, Jenny Diaz, and her family.

tion. Clutching American flags and a large banner that said "Reunite Jenny," the pair circled the block trailed by a handful of supporters.

Jenny Diaz Reunite Foundation board secretary Lisa Stott said these public demonstrations are just one part of a long process to reunite the family.

"We have got to make a lot of noise to the right people," she said, "and I don't know that we've found them yet."

The rally follows many personal attempts from the family. Luis Diaz said he did everything the Immigration and Naturalization Service had

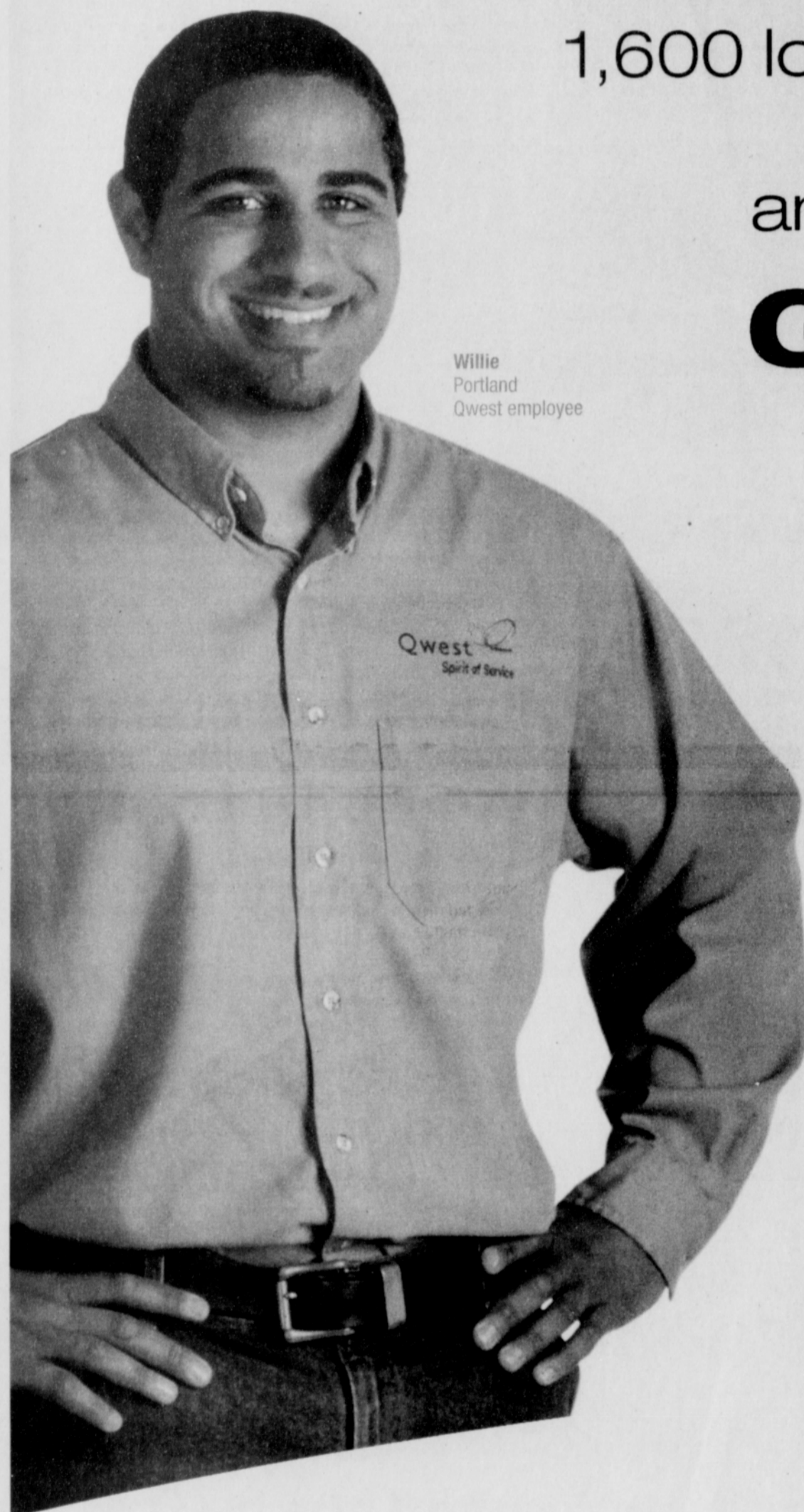
asked of him.

"It's been very hard for Jenny, and now I have two families to support," he said.

Jenny was joined at the rally by two of her friends and schoolmates, Diana Herrera and Jasmine Zavaleta, both sixth graders with Jenny at Five Oaks Middle School. The two stood giggling with their friend as they partook in the political process.

The trio said they usually go to the malls or the movie theater for entertainment, but lately, Jenny said life hasn't been as much fun.

The foundation will hold another "Reunite Jenny" demonstration on the steps of the state capital in Salem at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 23.



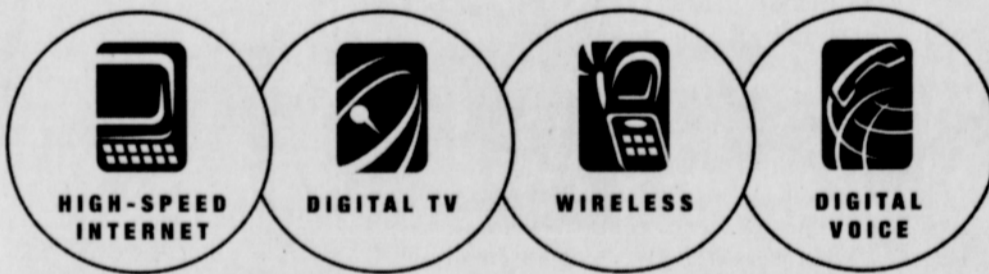
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