



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVII, Number 15

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • April 11, 2007

Week in The Review

School Gunfire Hurts 15

A 15-year-old boy fired a shot into a window at Springwater Trail High School in Gresham Tuesday afternoon. Authorities said no students were injured by the shot, but 10 students suffered minor cuts from shattered glass.

Obama Rejects VP Spot

Don't call him Vice President Barack Obama. On the Late Show with David Letterman Monday, Presidential hopeful Obama dismissed the possibility of running for VP with Hilary Clinton on top of the ticket. Obama says he doesn't run for second place because he doesn't believe in it.



Lionel Hollins Honored

Former Portland Trail Blazer Lionel Hollins' number 14 jersey will be retired during a special 30 year anniversary tribute to the team's 1977 NBA Championship. Hollins played for the Blazers for five years and was an integral part of the championship season. See story on page B3.

Roots on TV-One

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Alex Haley's pivotal miniseries "Roots," TV One debuted part one of the saga on Easter. Each night through Sunday, April 15, the station will feature a new segment of "Roots." On May 22, the 4-disc DVD will be released.

Search for Vu

The family of a deaf and disabled man in Clark County are growing concerned after he went missing Saturday. The FBI has joined in the search for Khoi Vu, 25, who has the mental capacity of a 10-year-old and communicates with sign language. Call 9-1-1 if you have any information.

Boyfriend is the Daddy

DNA tests prove it: Larry Birkhead is the father of Anna Nicole Smith's million-dollar baby. "I told you so!" the late Playboy Playmate's former boyfriend said Tuesday upon emerging from a closed court hearing.



Repeat Deployment

As many as 13,000 National Guard soldiers from Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio and Oklahoma got an official heads-up Monday that they should expect possible deployment to Iraq. For most soldiers this will be their second tour of duty.

Tangled over Abortion

Planned Parenthood on MLK draws fire, support

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It is no surprise that controversy surrounds a potential Planned Parenthood on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. But what makes the controversy of this particular development unique are the allegations that the non-profit women's health and family planning clinic unfairly targets minority communities.

Several individuals who are strongly opposed to abortion have taken up advocacy for the minority communities of north and northeast Portland, even though most live out of town or out of state.

"You don't see them asking to put one in the West Hills," said Bill Diss, who has organized a movement against the clinic but lives in Beaverton.

Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette has been interested in relocating to a bigger facility in northeast Portland for two years, said the non-profit's local president David Greenberg.

They've had clinics in northeast Portland since 1966, most recently at Northeast 15th and Fremont, where they serve an average of 100 patients each day, Greenberg said.

The organization plans to relocate their regional headquarters from southeast Powell Boulevard to a 45,000 square foot location at Northeast MLK Boulevard and Beech Street, pending a vote from the city's urban renewal agency, the Portland Development Commission.

Sara King, manager of the renewal area along MLK Blvd., said the PDC purchased the property in 1997 as a catalyst to create jobs along that corridor. After failed attempts to secure a bakery, call center and a health clinic at the site, Beech Street Partners proposed the idea of Planned Parenthood. If built, it will include retail space that the PDC says would deliver 140 jobs, with more than half offering quality wage.

As a suburban resident, Diss admits this is his first time to take political action in anything involving African Americans or northeast Portland.

"I feel for all those people (clinic patients) but I think they



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Longtime African American leader Harold Williams Sr. stands at the proposed site of Planned Parenthood at Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Beech Street. Williams says he supports the clinic's relocation from southeast Portland, but only if it financially benefits the African American community.

are especially picking on this neighborhood because of the African American population."

But Greenberg said abortions account for less than five percent of the clinic's services and that they "don't expect that to change by relocating our headquarters."

"There's an attempt to say we're targeting one group or another," he added, "but we don't advertise. Women find us mostly by word of mouth."

Diss has presented the PDC with nearly 500 signatures of those opposed to the clinic. King said only 16 percent of the signatures were from residents and business owners from inner northeast neighborhoods.

But since the development falls within an urban renewal area, it is a priority of the PDC to bring financial gain to the neighborhood.

"When we did our outreach, we reached out to northeast community leaders," King said. "We're hearing some oppo-

sition but not much, most folks are staying neutral."

For African American leader Harold Williams Sr., Planned Parenthood is about much needed economic development for the African American community. He said the overrepresentation of abortions in minority communities should always be reviewed, but he also suspects that it is not the core issue for the opposition, who live in other communities.

For African American leader Harold Williams Sr., the clinic's relocation is about much needed economic development within the African American community. Williams said the overrepresentation of minorities who have abortions should always be in question, but if individuals are to regard racial disparities, they should look at the spectrum of issues faced by disenfranchised communities.

continued ▼ on page A6

Comments called 'racist, sexist despicable'

Players not sure they can accept Don Imus' apology

(AP) -- The Rutgers women's basketball team will meet with embattled CBS/Infinity Radio host Don Imus, and their coach on Tuesday called his comments "racist and sexist remarks that are deplorable, despicable and unconscionable."

Players stopped short of saying whether they thought Imus should be fired. Effective Monday, Imus has been suspended for two weeks for calling the

Rutgers female basketball players "nappy-headed hos."

"We all agreed the meeting with Mr. Imus will help," Essence

Local residents sound off
See page A2, inside

Carson, a member of the team that lost the NCAA women's championship game to Tennessee last week, said. "We do hope to get



Don Imus

something accomplished during this meeting."

Teammate Matee Ajavon said: "I could say that we honestly don't know what to expect from Don Imus and what we will plan on asking him is his reasons and how you could just say things that you have not put any thought to? Right now I can't really say if we have come to a conclusion of whether we will accept the apology. What I can say I think this meeting will be crucial for us, the state of New Jersey and everybody representing us."

Head coach C. Vivian Stringer said her players "are the best this nation has to offer, and we are so

very fortunate to have them at Rutgers University. They are young ladies of class, distinction. They are articulate, they are gifted. They are God's representatives in every sense of the word."

She said it's not about the players "as black or nappy-headed. It's about us as a people. When there is not equality for all, or when there has been denied equality for one, there has been denied equality for all."

She further said: "While they worked hard in the classroom and accomplished so much and used

continued ▼ on page A2

Advocates say Legal Help Fails Blacks

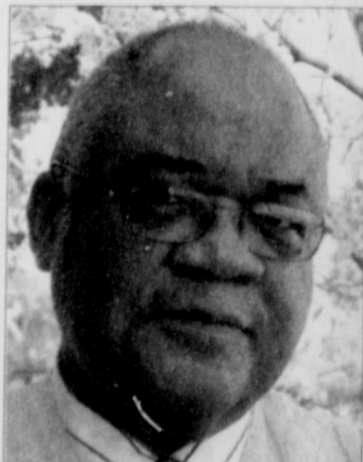
More diversity training wanted

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Advocates for African Americans say Oregon's legal system is so completely engulfed in fear and racism that black defendants fail to receive effective representation before the state courts.

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs is calling for legislation to help correct the problems minorities encounter by requiring all Oregon lawyer to have more diversity training.

OABA President Calvin O.L. Henry says House Bill 2886 is a necessity for black Oregonians, which would give them effective



Calvin O.L. Henry
legal representation.

The Oregon State Bar has not taken a position on the bill.

Kateri Walsh, the lawyer group's community relations administrator, said discrimination and bias are

problems "we recognize and we are pretty engaged in."

She said the bar would likely include diversity training in its annual legislative seminar if the bill is passed. But the length, title and direct focus of the classes are an unknown.

Walsh said that the bar already has continuing education classes. There is an Elimination of Bias requirement where lawyers have to take three hours of instruction every reporting period. The reporting period is three years; so essentially, a lawyer could do the class in a one hour increment each year.

Jesse William Barton, a Salem criminal defense attorney, says diversity is an interesting concept that isn't on his radar but that he would like to see the training tai-

lored to defense attorneys if at all.

"For me the biggest problem I see in terms of racial disparity in this state are found in the prison system," said Barton. "If you have a lawyer in a small town doing wills and estates and everyone in that town is white, the lawyer could take the extra diversity training but it's not going to change the racial disparity in prisons."

However, Barton said the O.J. Simpson case was a good example of what can be accomplished with effective representation.

"He was willing to spend all the money he had on a DNA expert to rebut states attorney

continued ▼ on page A6



Leon Dudley

Principal Replaced

Jefferson High School Principal Leon Dudley has been placed on leave for the rest of the year, the Portland School District announced Tuesday. Jefferson cluster director Cynthia Harris has been named interim principal.

There is no word yet why Dudley

continued ▼ on page A2

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610



Oregon Newspaper Project
UO Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299