

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVII, Number 16

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • April 25, 2007



Church Help Comes in All Ways

Morning Star still in need
See page A2 inside

One 'Desperate Housewife' to Another

Alfre Woodard speaks out on domestic violence
See page A3 inside



Week in The Review

Nine Soldiers Killed

An al-Qaida-linked group claimed responsibility Tuesday for a suicide truck bombing that killed nine U.S. paratroopers in the worst attack on American ground forces in Iraq in more than a year.

Dems Vote Withdrawal

Democratic leaders ignored a veto threat and agreed Monday on legislation that requires the first U.S. combat troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by Oct. 1 with a goal of a complete pullout six months later.

Obama Ties Clinton

New public opinion polls show Illinois Sen. Barack Obama has gained ground for the fourth straight week and he has finally caught New York Senator Hillary Clinton in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination. It's now Obama 32 percent, Clinton 32 percent and former Sen. John Edwards at 17 percent.



No Excessive Force

A new report says that Portland police do not use excessive force and even the use of force is relatively rare. But the task force that has been analyzing Portland police reports has recommended at least 16 ways to improve the bureau's reporting along with its policies, training and supervision.

Gas Soars to \$3.12

Oregon's statewide average gasoline price for regular-unleaded set a new record Monday at \$3.12 per gallon. According to AAA, the previous record in Oregon was \$3.11 set in May of last year.

Hamburger Recalled

Health officials in Oregon and four other states have announced a recall affecting 100,000 pounds of frozen ground beef patties. The recalled products are sold under the brands Fireriver, Chef's Pride, Ritz Food, Blackwood Farms, California Pacific Associates, C and C Distributing, Golbon and Richwood.

Governor on Food Stamps

Gov. Ted Kulongoski couldn't afford much of anything during a trip to a Salem-area Fred Meyer Tuesday. The goal was to walk in the steps of those who are allocated \$21 worth of groceries each week in food stamps. See story, page A3

Toyota Overtakes GM

Toyota Camry, take a bow. Prius, bask in the limelight. Strong demand for those models has helped propel the Japanese car maker onto the throne as the world's largest auto seller, outselling GM for the first time ever.

Talkers Play to Narrow Audience

Imus firing won't change market forces

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There's been a change in the airways, but don't expect any automatic realignment of the radio industry.

Rose City Radio Manager Tim McNamara took the lead this month in canceling Don Imus' show on KXL for racist remarks.

"NBC ended up taking him off the next day," McNamara says. "They saw the same thing I saw: there's a wave coming, and we'd better do something about it."

The firing decision drew a line in the sand for the nation's radio talkers, the vast majority of whom are white and conservative.

For Michael Cooks, an African American who works on KXL's sister station with Jammin 95.5's Playhouse, "racial slurs are just an obvious line that you just can't cross now." Both stations are owned by Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen.

It seems that as long as radio commentators stay within the line of outright bigotry, nothing will

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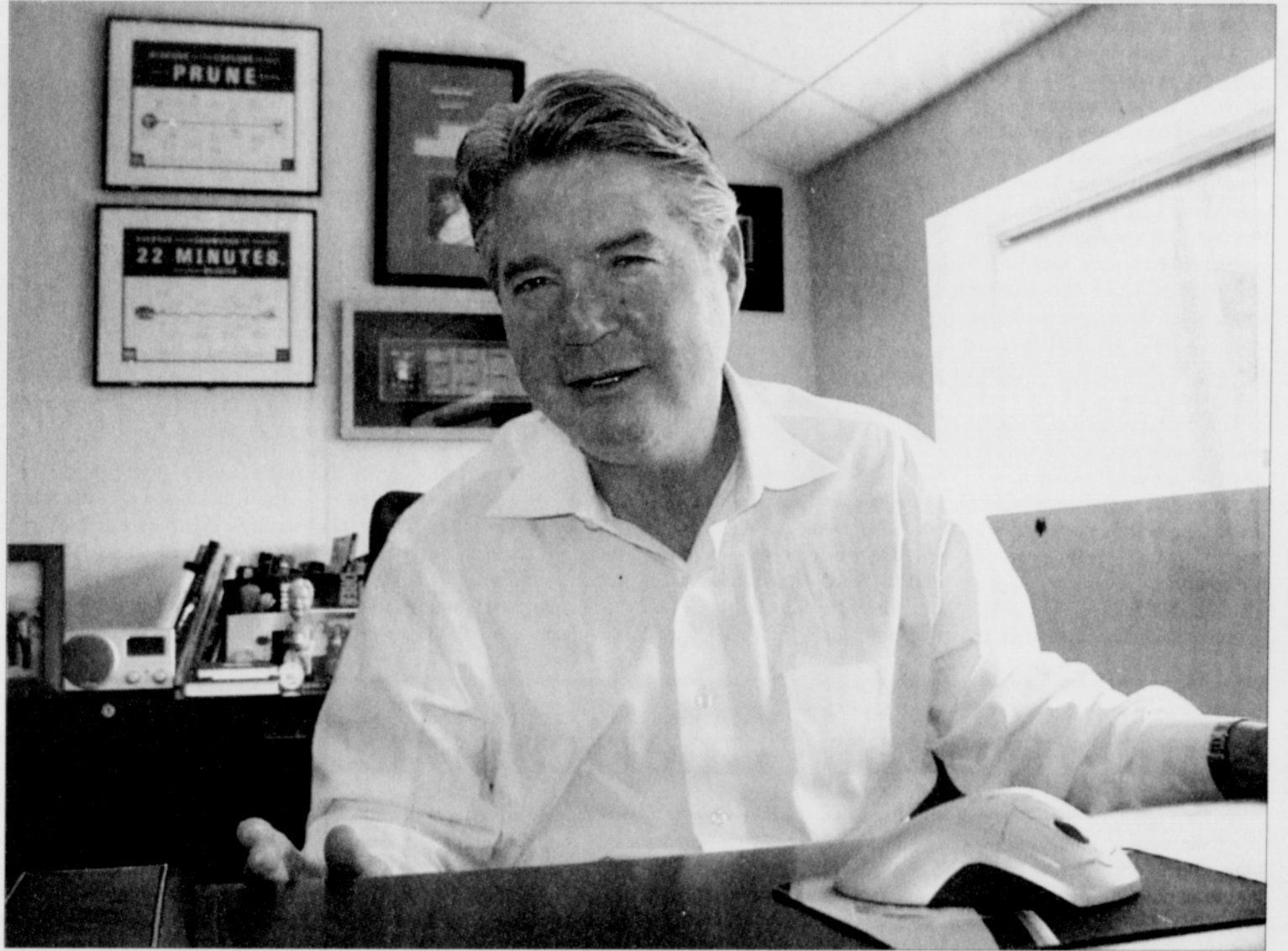


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Rose City Radio Manager Tim McNamara runs KXL, a conservative talk radio station owned by Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen.

PCC Locked in Budget Battle in Salem

Meeting minority needs more difficult

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community College continues to look more racially diverse even in the face of budget cuts and an overall decrease in students. But meeting the needs of PCC's diverse population is getting more difficult as the college district gets locked in a budget battle in Salem with lawmakers and the governor.

Nowhere is the tension more apparent than at PCC's Cascade Campus in north Portland where President Algje Gatewood points to the benefits of its Skills Center, with its 66 percent African-American participation. The program aims to give high school dropouts a shot at college and skilled labor.

"It has been a real challenge to keep the funding in place for the Skills Center," Gatewood says. "But keeping it open is especially important for African-American and low-income students."

Skills Center Coordinator James Brown says serving people of color with educational opportunities in their own community better positions these students for success, "so they don't have to be gentrified out."

PCC administrators say 80 percent of Skills Center students graduate and continue their education through regular college or company training.

"It was primarily developed for the four zip codes around Cascade," Bowles says.

The Skills Center has a strong partnership with its neighbor Jefferson High School, where a two-thirds-black student population remains while a greater proportion of white families go to other schools. Given these demographics, some Jefferson administrators recognize a continued need for their school to concentrate on serving black stu-

dents.

But PCC's leadership is much more vocal about the need for quality education in the neighborhoods undergoing significant changes.



Algje Gatewood

"Portland's people of color have a lot of challenges," Gatewood says, "so we have to be cognizant of that by developing programs and services to counteract negative

forces."

He and other PCC administrators are testifying before the Legislature for the increased school funding, and PCC's website prominently

Portland's people of color have a lot of challenges, so we have to be cognizant of that by developing programs and services to counteract negative forces.

encourages staff, faculty and students to give testimony at the Ways and Means committee in Salem.

At stake is the difference between the \$427 million that the state

has allocated for the district in the 2005-7 biennial and the \$529 million that administrators say they need to restore services to a fully operational status for the next two years. This general funding covers almost half of PCC's operating costs.

It's easy to see that the goal of serving minority populations comes naturally to Gatewood and his boss, PCC District President Preston Pulliams. Both are African American.

"Our enrollment is more diverse than any other college in the region," says Pulliams, "so I'm looking to serve those students."

While the percentage of black students has steadily increased at PCC Cascade to 11.4 percent, the actual number of black students, estimated at 675 individuals, has fallen by 76 students over the past five years. Those statistics also fall short of matching the black demographics of nearby neighborhoods.

Evaluating the overall success

of serving African American students, Gatewood asks, "Are we there yet? Probably not. But we are working very diligently to get more diversity and people of color."

Black students choose PCC Cascade for various reasons.

"For me, being a single mom, it was finally a viable way to go to another school," says Akala Rice. She led a meeting of PCC's Black Student Union with Sasha Quintana, who says, "I could have gone to a university right out high school... but I wanted to experience a greater diversity at a lower price."

For others, PCC Cascade is a safe haven.

Kashea Kilson-Anderson became one of the first students in the program that became the Skills Center because he "saw a lot of racial tension at Wilson" High School, which he attended in the late '90s.

"Although it claimed to be one of the smartest schools, they were culturally out of it," he says.

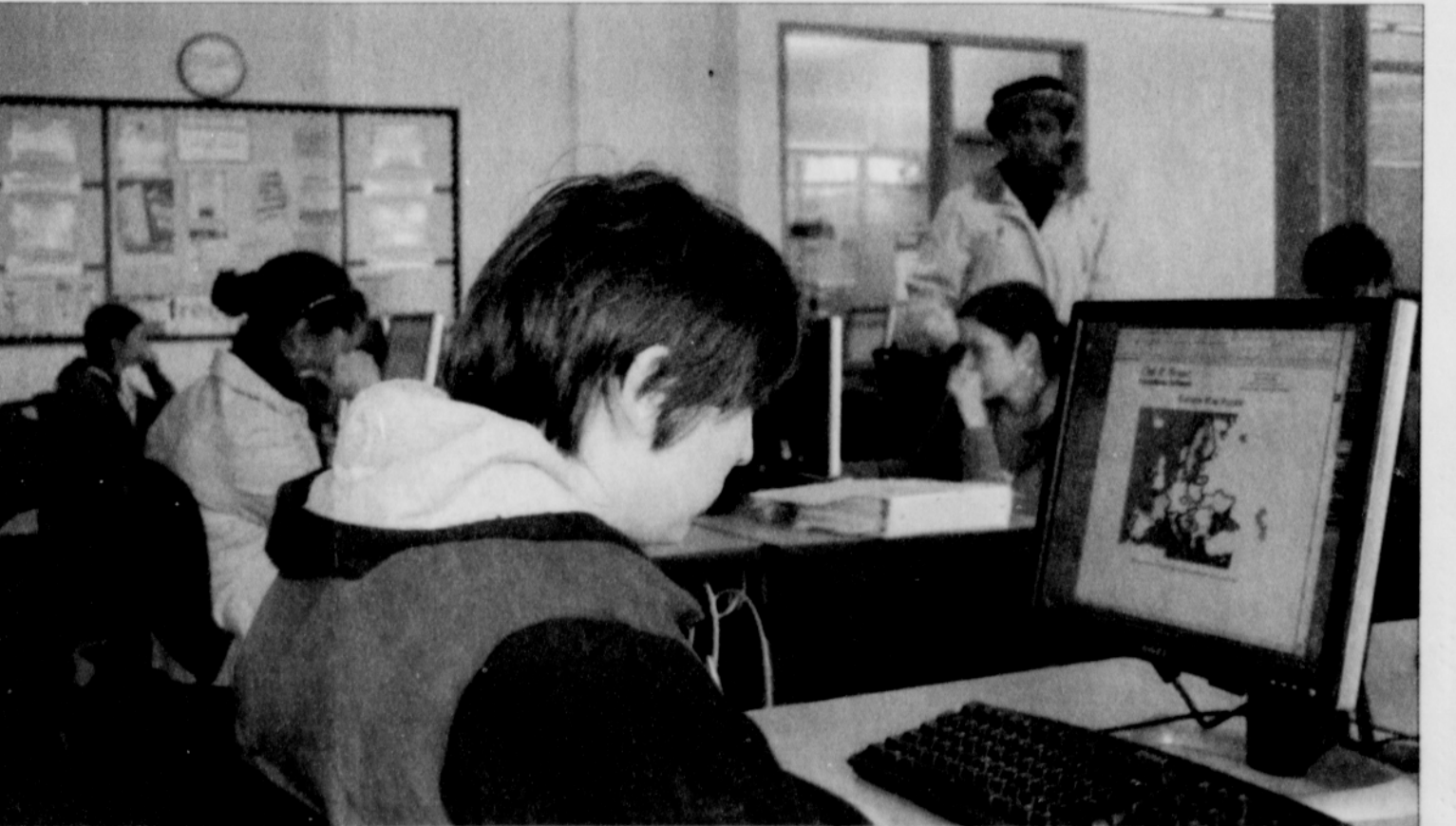


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Students utilize state-of-the-art technology services at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland.

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