

**Cinco de Mayo**

Four days of  
partying begins  
Thursday  
See Metro section, inside

**Pet Food  
Caution**

Recall aftermath  
sparks interest in  
origins of food  
See Metro section, inside



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

**Deadly Month in Iraq**

April was the deadliest month for American forces this year in Iraq with over 100 soldiers killed. U.S. troops have been increasingly deployed on the streets of Baghdad and housed with Iraqi troops in joint security operations away from their heavily fortified bases, raising their vulnerability to attacks.

**Terrorism Rising**

Terrorist attacks worldwide shot up 25 percent last year, particularly in Iraq where extremists used chemical weapons and suicide bombers to target crowds. Overall, the State Department says about 14,000 attacks took place in 2006, claiming more than 20,000 lives.

**Cam'Ron Doesn't Snitch**

Rap star Cam'Ron told CNN's Anderson Cooper that he follows a code of ethics by refusing to work with police. The Harlem born rapper said even if he lived next door to a serial killer, he would move instead of inform the police.

**Freeway Collapse**

A section of San Francisco bay area freeway burned and crumbled after a tanker carrying gasoline exploded on Sunday near Oakland. The freeway funnels traffic onto the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The truck's driver walked away from the scene and called a taxi, which took him to a nearby hospital with second-degree burns.

**Child's Color Brings Suit**

A judge has ruled that a couple can proceed with a lawsuit against a fertility clinic after the wife gave birth to a daughter whose skin was thought to be too dark to be their child. Thomas and Nancy Andrews, of Commack, N.Y., say that they have been forced to raise a child who is not the same race, nationality or color that they are.

**Driving While Black**

A new federal study finds that black, Hispanic and white drivers are equally likely to be pulled over by police but blacks and Hispanics are much more likely to be searched and arrested. See story, page A2

**Citizenship Rallies**

Thousands of people protested across the country Tuesday to demand a path to citizenship for an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants. Organizers say immigrants feel a sense of urgency to keep immigration reform from getting pushed to the back burner by the 2008 presidential elections.

**Castro No Show**

Cuban acting president and Defense Minister Raul Castro attended Cuba's May Day parade Tuesday in place of the convalescing Fidel Castro, an event the island's 'maximum leader' had attended for decades without fail.

## De La Salle on Solid Ground

### Move to historic Kenton site begins

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Kenton Grade School closed in 2005, the neighbors wondered what would take its place. Many feared that it would turn into another McMennamins or even a Wal-Mart. But instead, it will be the new site for De La Salle Catholic High School.

Currently, the school holds classes in cramped quarters at the Queen of Peace Church Parish hall and school just a few blocks away. Tim Hennessey, De La Salle's vice principal of development, said the current site is simply too small.

"We have to kick the principal out of his office to have meetings," said Hennessey.

But the limited space is about to change with even more room coming for future growth.

De La Salle has invited students, parents, faculty, community leaders and corporate partners to a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday at the former Kenton School site, a relatively large campus bordered between North Lombard Street and Interstate Av-



On the steps of the new site for De La Salle North Catholic High School, Tim Hennessey, the school's vice president of development with Freshman Darnell Peterson and Sophomore Michelle Perea.

enue.

Plans call for \$10 million in renovations and the construction of a

stand alone gymnasium to be completed by this summer and the school opening for classes this fall.

De La Salle's student body resembles the diversity of other inner city schools like Jefferson and

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Preparing for Washington, D.C. Honor

The King Elementary Choir under the direction of Kathryn McVey performs outside their northeast Portland school in preparation for their performance in Washington, D.C. this June as representatives of the National Anthem Project. Friday's community event was part of a series of fundraisers to pay for the group's travel expenses. Donations are welcome by contacting McVey at King School, 503-916-6155.

## Heading Off Trouble at New Columbia

### Housing authority responds with positive changes

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Is New Columbia haunted by its past? When the Housing Authority of Portland replaced the old Columbia Villa housing project in north Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood, the multi-million dollar mixed-use community project became a source of pride

and lessened crime for homeowners and renters. But violent activity began to crop up last summer within the neighborhood's centerpiece of McCoy Park — spurring mobs of youth to gather at night and sometimes create racially charged violence.

Leslie Eisinga, the neighborhood's community liaison, said the problems within New Columbia are the same in other neighborhoods.

"There's not enough activity for people to engage in," she said, adding that the housing authority has planned several activities for the summer, including a summer concert series and even an "old school fam-

ily reunion."

Also, the neighborhood Boys and Girls Club will open in June.

If you visit McCoy Park during the day you might think you stepped into the ideal community — kids of all ages climbing playgrounds, shooting basketball and zipping around on bikes and scooters. A community garden grows in the middle and a pavilion designates the southern end of the park.

But the change in the park's tone is as simple as night and day.

Eisinga says that around 5 p.m., as parents are returning home from work, the younger kids go home and older teens begin to show

up. Then the activity shifts to a basketball court at the northern end.

With their arrival, especially since the warmer months have arrived, has come some violence, which North Precinct Sgt. Tom McGranahan says is partly due to residents who used to live in the old Columbia Villa, but mainly because of the young people converging at New Columbia from outside the community.

The crowds range from pre-teen to twentysomethings, McGranahan said, and are part of the same groups that concen-

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