



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Political Preacher Dead

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, the television evangelist who founded the Moral Majority and used it to mold the religious right into a political force, died Tuesday shortly after being found unconscious in his office at Liberty University. He was 73. See story, page A2.

### Soldiers Missing

U.S. aircraft in Iraq dropped leaflets seeking information about three U.S. soldiers feared captured by al-Qaida, as troops intensified a search Tuesday despite a warning from the terror group that the hunt will endanger the captives' lives.

### Few Minorities on TV Talk

The influential Sunday TV news talk shows are overwhelmingly dominated by white men, with women, blacks and Latinos having little presence, a liberal media watchdog said Monday. Blacks made up about 7 percent of those appearing on most of the programs, while Latinos made up about 1 percent, Media Matters said. See story, page A2.

### Stamps Cost More

The cost to deliver a first-class card or letter was raised to 41 cents for the first ounce Monday, a 2-cent increase. The post office is also introducing extra changes for large or odd-shaped mail.

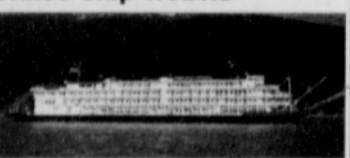
### Name Loses Popularity

Katrina dropped more than 100 slots last year on the baby-name popularity list compiled by the Social Security Administration. However, in Louisiana and Mississippi, the states most affected by the hurricane, the name's popularity increased 260 percent, according to the same data.

### Road Rage Survey

For the second consecutive year, rude Miami drivers have earned the city the title of worst road rage in a survey released Tuesday. Portland was ranked as the city with the friendliest drivers.

### Cruise Ship Trouble



The Empress of the North, a riverboat style cruise ship with Portland ties, ran aground off the Alaska coast and took on water early Monday. More than 200 passengers were transferred to nearby ships. The crew was able to stabilize the ship and made it to a nearby port on its own power.

## Leadership Role is Welcome Surprise

### Young advocate new Portland NAACP president

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Charlene McGee was elected president of the Portland NAACP, she wasn't well versed in the organization's history, nor did she know why the local branch went defunct for about a year.

But a lot has changed since the 25-year-old stopped by a Portland National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons meeting on April 28 to see how she could help and left as its new leader.

It turns out much of the crowd knew McGee and recognized her advocacy work within the community; they successfully nominated her in a not-so-symbolic move to bring some youthful energy to the reemerging branch.

Now, as she faces a deluge of duties within one of the most respected and historical national advocacy groups for civil rights, McGee isn't about to be weighed down by past negativity within the local organization.

She's focused and poised to eliminate disparities that existed when the NAACP was formed while responding to racial issues created by modern society.

"I don't know anything that occurred in the past - this is definitely a clean slate," she said.

Shortly following her surprise nomination, McGee was whisked off to a regional meeting in Las Vegas, where she underwent intensive training and got a crash course in the history of the century-old group. The information-



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Charlene McGee, 25, plans to build up membership in the Portland branch of the NAACP with grassroots advocacy.

packed weekend also allowed McGee to meet more than 300 of her fellow leaders across the western United States. It was there she learned she is the youngest NAACP branch president in the region and possibly the country. McGee, a native of Liberia, fled the

civil war-torn African country and moved to Oregon with her family in 1993. She graduated from Oregon State University in 2004, moved back to Portland a couple years ago and now holds what she calls her dream job, working as a coordinator within the Multnomah County Health

Department's African American Disparity Project.

McGee's professional responsibility to address racial health disparities fall right into place with her new post at the

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## Performing Arts Revitalizes Corner

### Ethos showcases more talent

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"It was definitely rocking; it was hot," says organizer Travis Huntington of last week's premiere show at Ethos.

A renovated Ethos Music Center and Café on the corner of Williams Avenue and North Killingsworth Street now features weekly open-mic revues in a new recital hall named after Tom Brumm, a community and economic development official.

From now on, the Ethos site will be the epicenter for up-and-coming performers every Friday night beginning at 7:30. Last Friday's show only went until 11 p.m., but the center will stay open as late as necessary to accommodate building interest.

"Our goal is to create the best open-mic night Portland has ever seen," said Charles

Lewis, Ethos' founder and executive director.

Performers will be attracted by the opportunity to hook up with Ethos' live feed to Portland Community Media Channel 23. The Friday night broadcasts are a direct link to over 300,000 households three times a week through reruns Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on Channel 11 and Friday afternoons at 4 p.m. on Channel 22.

Created in 1998 in direct response to school budget cuts, Ethos is also showing off its success in organizing private lessons, group classes, performance and ensemble opportunities to thousands of students each year.

From 3-6 pm this Saturday, the center will host an open house offering a preview of various programs.

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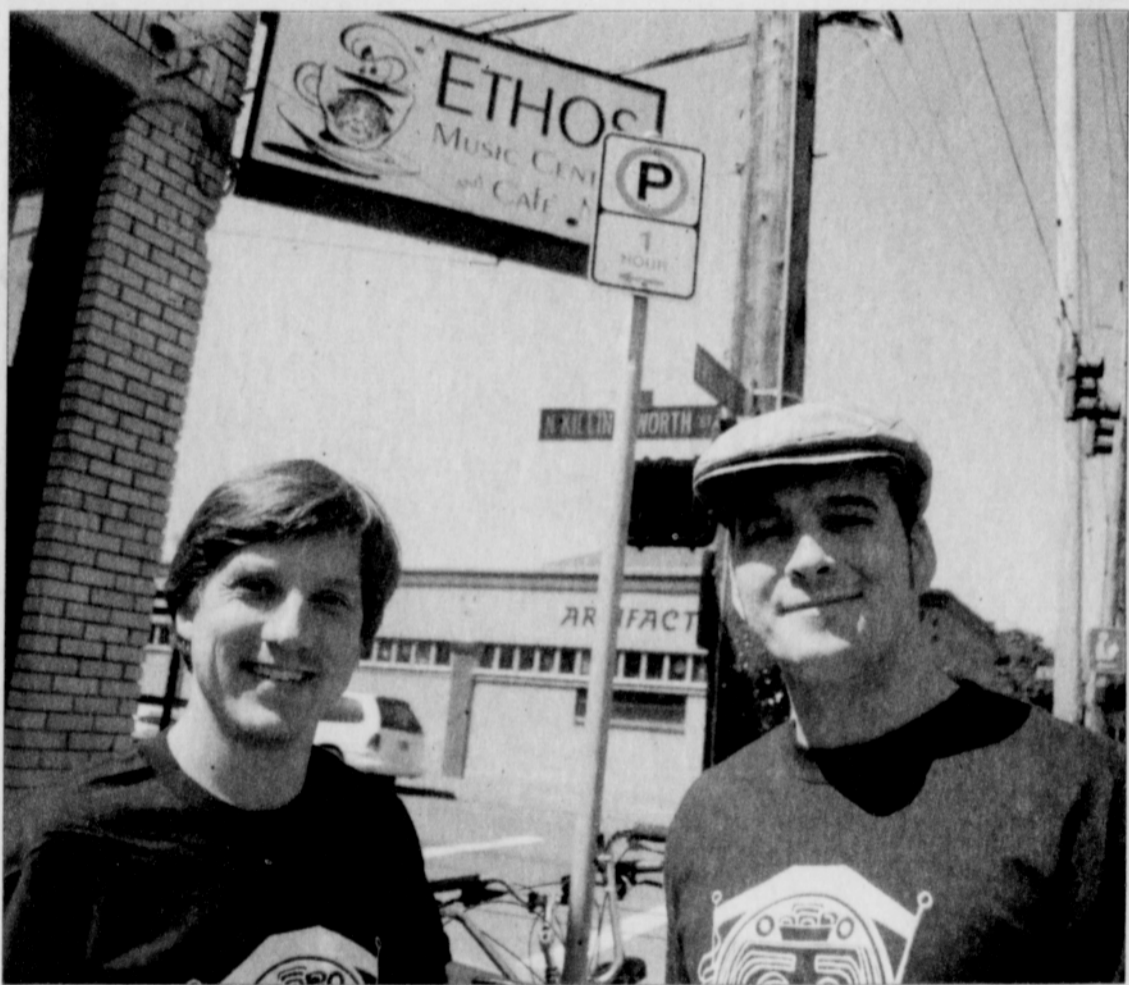


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

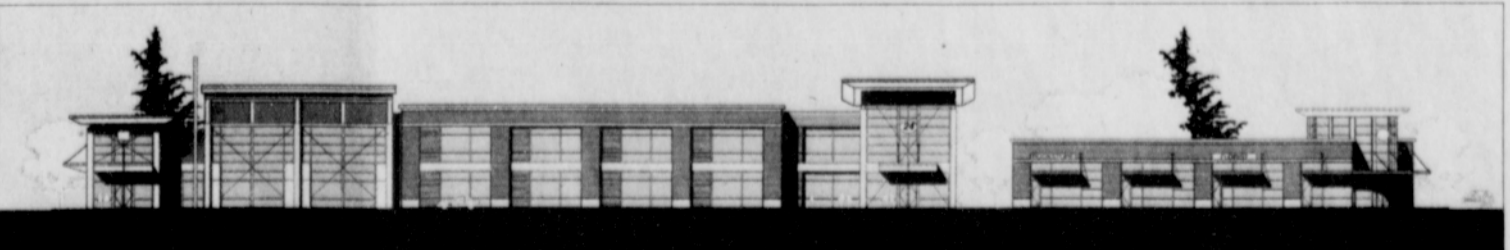
Travis Huntington (left) and Charles Lewis welcome the community to the renovated Ethos Music Center and Café on the corner of Williams Avenue and North Killingsworth Street.

## Momentum Builds for Vanport Square Development

### Magic Johnson 24-Hour Fitness wins approval

BY LEE PERLMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vanport Square, the minority-owned commercial and retail development under construction on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, got a major boost last week when the Portland Development Commission gave up 1.7 acres



A Magic Johnson 24-Hour Fitness will be built at Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, replacing the existing Living Color Beauty Supply store and a vacant warehouse. Living Color plans to move into another the first phase of Vanport Square, now under construction a couple of blocks north.

of land for a Magic Johnson 24-Hour Fitness center. The site facing MLK and Alberta

Street will replace an old store and a vacant warehouse for a new 35,000 square foot fitness facility, 218-

space parking garage and a coffee shop. The developers are Ray Leary, a local African American

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