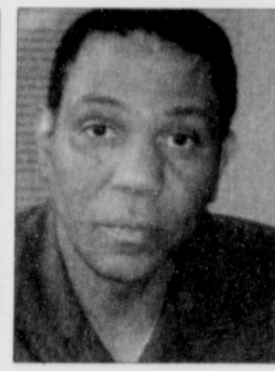


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37 years of community service



Rude, Crude and Hilarious Portland braces for racially charged comic See Metro, inside



Globetrotter Story Local producer pitches movie about Meadowlark Lemon See Metro, inside

# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Summer Heat Arrives!

Summer comes a bit early this year as temps inch toward 90 Wednesday, and the rest of the week looks just as warm with no clouds. The weather is then expected to cool back into the low 80s as the weekend approaches.

### Anti-War Mom Quits Role

Cindy Sheehan, the soldier's mother who galvanized an anti-war movement with her month long protest outside President Bush's ranch, says she's done with the movement after an exhausting two years. Sheehan became a national voice against the Iraq War after her son, Casey, was killed in combat in 2004.



### Soldiers' Deaths Mark Holiday

Ten American soldiers died in roadside bombings and a helicopter crash on Memorial Day, the military reported Tuesday, making May the deadliest month of the year for U.S. troops in Iraq. The deaths raised the number of U.S. forces killed this month to at least 112, according to an Associated Press count.

### Pressure on Sudan

President Bush Tuesday barred 30 Sudanese companies and one suspected of transporting weapons to government forces in Darfur from doing business in the U.S., pressuring Sudan's government to stop policies that have killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million.

### Drug Regulator Sentenced

Zheng Xiaoyu, China's former top drug regulator, was sentenced to death Tuesday in an unusually harsh punishment for taking bribes to approve substandard medicines, including an antibiotic blamed for at least 10 deaths. Addressing food concerns, the government has also announced plans for its first recall system for unsafe products.

### Antibodies Fight Bird Flu

Antibodies from human survivors of the avian flu appear to offer mice protection when immunized before being exposed to the virus, and some of the antibodies offered complete protection from death, according to doctors from Switzerland and the U.S. Researchers are optimistic the antibodies could also provide a clinical benefit to humans.



## Rose Festival Kicks off Thursday

The Portland Rose Festival kicks off its 100th year on Thursday, May 31, when visitors pour downtown to the Waterfront Village for carnival rides and games of chance. The festival continues at nightfall the next evening with a fireworks display over the Waterfront Village, followed by a week of parades and events and ending with the Queen's Coronation and Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 9. For a schedule of events visit www.rosefestival.org.

## Meals on Wheels Keeps Rolling *Volunteers make deliveries possible*

BY SARAH BLOUNT THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Meals on Wheels coordinator Monique Hedmann makes one last go around the Martin Luther King Jr. Loaves and Fishes Center in northeast Portland, preparing her morning delivery route and making sure volunteers are ready, too.

This particular Friday is busier than usual because the three-day Memorial Day weekend, but as Hedmann loads the meals for her familiar route she faces her biggest challenge of the day: fitting two large coolers and several smaller bags into her father's sporty, purple hatchback instead of the truck she usually drives.

From that point on her day goes fairly smoothly, with many rewarding moments that come from ensuring people are well fed and get to see a friendly face. Hedmann's few minutes spent with each senior can save them the often impossible task of preparing their own lunch. But just as importantly, when she drops by she is often the only person they'll see that day.

Hedmann first joined the senior center a few months ago as a volunteer driver. Having already nurtured an interest in senior health, Meals on Wheels further exposed her to the daily struggle immobile seniors must face when managing various ailments.

Soon she was offered the volunteer coordinator position, where she



Meals on Wheels the hot meal program

helps ensure that homebound senior northeast Portland weekday (another individual who eat the center).

"The mission of is no senior hunger or social

for Monique Hedmann visits John Houpt at his home in northeast Portland. Houpt, 84, found out about a past year. Meals on Wheels allows him to eat a greater variety of foods, he said.

200 said. Hedmann says she became passionate about senior health as a child, growing up around many older family members. Now, having just turned 24, she describes herself as an old soul. Most recently in Los Angeles, Hedmann moved north and began taking classes at Port-

land State University. However, she'll be leaving Loaves and Fishes and Portland soon to attend graduate school at Columbia University in New York, where this fall she'll pursue a Masters in Public Health with a concentration in aging.

Hedmann will learn to address some of the central challenges faced

by today's elderly population. But her education isn't only about the seniors of today; baby boomers are approaching retirement age, and Hedmann wants to address that transition as well.

"The number of homebound continued ▼ on page A6

## Exploring Truths about Homelessness

### Voices from Portland's Sisters of the Road

BY LEE PERLMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Raw truths from Portland's homeless have turned into a dramatic profile on life in America in "Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road."

Jessica P. Morrell, her many assistants, and the management and staff of Portland's Sisters of the Road Café compiled and published the book on why so many people become homeless, what keeps them there, and what the experience of homelessness is like.

Bolstered by some 600 in-depth interviews, the project was made possible by a grant from the Port-



Genny Nelson

land Bureau of Housing and Community Development at the urging of City Commissioner Erik Sten. The results are divided into topics: "Circumstances that lead to homelessness," "Family back-

ground and childhood," "Interactions with the criminal justice system," "Homeless veterans," "Dangers and violence in street life," "Barriers to finding work," "Recovery issues."

As with many poverty issues, one of the reasons for the explosion in homelessness is the lack of funding on things that could prevent it.

Genny Nelson, Sisters of the Road founder, pointed out at last week's book signing event, that since the Reagan administration, the federal government has steadily decreased funding for the development and maintenance of public housing. Another writer and former homeless person, Lisa Gray (AKA "Tiny"), added, "Almost simultaneously, there were similar cuts to mental health services and welfare."

Obtaining public services have continued ▼ on page A2



Various multicultural student groups meet to plan this week's Roots Festival at Portland State University.

## 'Roots Festival' Finds its Groove PSU plans Multicultural celebration

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This time, the Roots Festival didn't bother with a \$20,000 band. The first ever multicultural celebration at Portland State University came up short when it tried to Grammy-winning Latin, hip hop

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