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The


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Who's That Clown

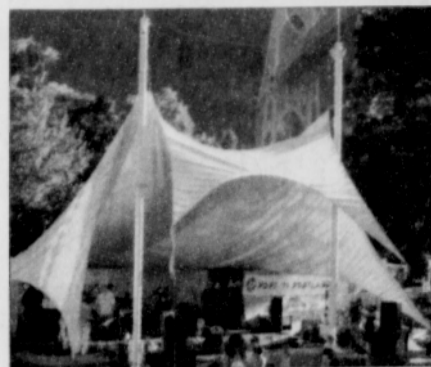
A street performer's quest for more than a living

See story, page A3

Jazz at St. Johns

Cathedral Park Festival is this weekend

See story inside, Metro section



Week in The Review

Vick Indicted for Dogfights

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick and three others were indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges related to illegal dogfighting. They are charged with violating federal laws against competitive dogfighting, procuring and training pit bulls for fighting and conducting the enterprise across state lines. See story, page A2.

Plant Closes after Quake

Japanese authorities shut down a nuclear power plant Tuesday following a leak of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan. The quake, registering 6.6 on the Richter Scale, killed at least nine people and injured another 1,000. See story, page A2.

Pakistan Bomb Kills 7

A suicide bomber blew himself up in the Pakistani capital Tuesday as hundreds gathered for a rally featuring the country's suspended chief justice, police said. At least 12 people were killed in the explosion, one of at least two deadly attacks in the volatile country.

West Nile in Portland

A dead crow found in June in northeast Portland tested positive for West Nile virus and was the first appearance of the virus in Multnomah County this year. Health officials say to dump any standing water around your home to prevent mosquitoes that carry the virus from breeding.

R&B Singer Collapses

R&B singer Kelly Rowland collapsed from dehydration while performing Sunday in Lagos, Nigeria. Rowland, 26, was in the West African nation as part of the ThisDay Music Festival. The former Destiny's Child vocalist was hospitalized and is in good condition.



Free Health in Spotlight

Michael Moore's new documentary "Sicko" has given Cuba's free health system its best publicity since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, a Cuban doctor who hosted the filmmaker's visit said on Monday. See story, page A2.

BET Defends "Hot Mess"

"Hot Ghetto Mess," a BET-produced show of viewer-submitted home videos, is intended to challenge and inspire "viewers to improve themselves and their communities," said BET entertainment head Reginald Hudlin. It's no different than what Bill Cosby is doing lecturing about the problems of the (black) community, he added.

Condo Conversions Sting



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Housing at Northeast 25th and Killingsworth is converted from rental apartments to condominiums, a growing trend that adds to the gentrification of local neighborhoods. Former tenant Erin Wiser recalls his eviction notice giving him less than 30 days to find new housing.

New law brings some relief to renters facing eviction

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tabor Hill Apartments resident Noreen Joynt received the letter in January. "Dear tenant," it read, "this letter is to inform you that your property has a new owner and manager, effective immediately."

From that point on, Joynt, 56, described her life at the apartment

building as a living hell.

Her home of seven years became a construction zone, with siding being ripped off the walls and pieces of moldy roof being thrown on the ground behind her house. Joynt and her boyfriend knew this work wasn't just upgrades like the new managers, Better Assets Management, had told them. Her home and

47 other units were being noisily and unceremoniously converted to condominiums before their eyes.

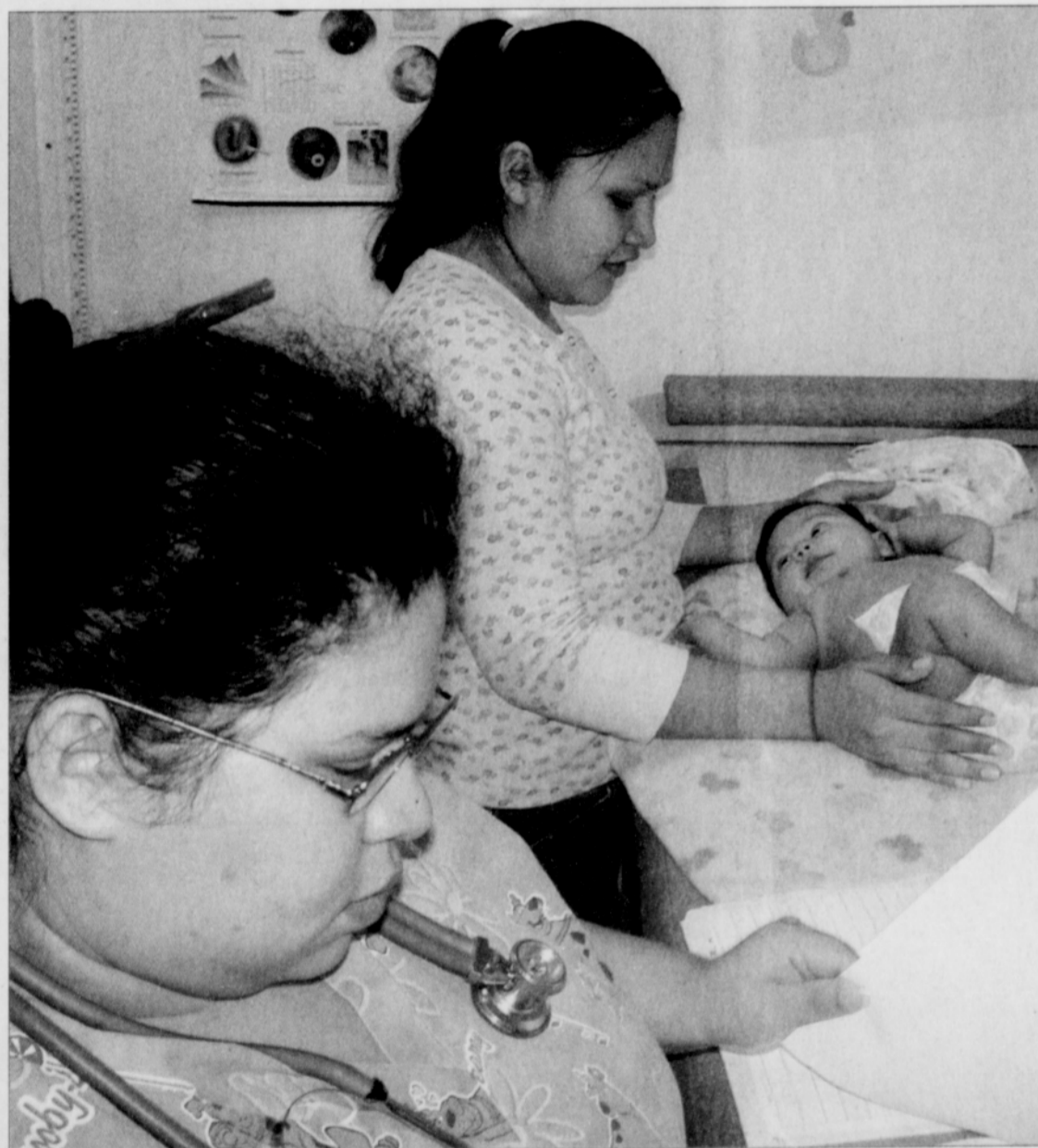
It wasn't until June — long after the laundry machines stopped working and repairs were hopeless — that Joynt received the expected letter of condo conversion. She got the notice on the same day she received her eviction, giving her

less than a month to find new housing.

Joynt did find a nice house this month on 83rd and East Burnside, with relocation assistance from the NW Pilot Project. But for her, the displacement began the first day she had to leave her house unwillingly for a few hours just to escape the construction noise.

Apartment owners like Better Asset Management have long enjoyed a process of evicting tenants like Joynt and redeveloping in a few months time — even though a city ordinance was supposed to protect tenants from such an unbalanced practice.

continued ▼ on page A5



Llesenia Gonzalez, a bilingual nurse (left) helps Catalina and her three-month-old baby Jasmin at the Children's Community Clinic, the health facility for underinsured children formerly known as the North Portland Nurse Practitioners Clinic.



Mardica Hicks is director of the non-profit Children's Community Clinic at 27 N.E. Killingsworth St.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND RENDEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Clinic Positioned to Help Underinsured

And preserve legacy to local youth

BY RAYMOND RENDEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After a tumultuous year, a local health clinic has renewed its commitment to underinsured youth by continuing to welcome all patients

in the face of greater uncertainty about healthcare.

The 27-year-old Children's Community Clinic at 27 N.E. Killingsworth St. may have a new name, director and location, but it

hasn't altered its rebel spirit when it comes to providing below-cost pediatric health care.

"We don't ask any questions," says nurse Mardica Hicks, who became director of the program May 7. "We just want all of our families to feel comfortable."

Questions about immigration status aside, the clinic's patient survey reveals impressive diversity with a 30 percent Hispanic, 30 percent white and 23 percent black clientele. It logged 2,110 patient

visits last year, and it is on track to exceed that number by hundreds more this year.

Mariah Taylor, the founder and director of the program until she was fired last year, cites higher numbers while she was director, and regrets that many African Americans have shunned the clinic after her controversial departure.


A few visits to the clinic reveal that the volume of patients is below capacity. But the families of patients who trickle in represent a

wide variety of ages and ethnicities, and they consistently say that they depend on the clinic's services. Many of them were hesitant to go on record, but one mother couldn't keep from gushing.

"I tried to get a follow-up immunization for my daughter at other clinics, but this was the only one that would take us," says Catalina, a Spanish-speaking client whose remark has been translated for this

continued ▼ on page A5

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