



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rosa Parks Way would intersect with Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard if an ad hoc group is successful in getting Interstate Avenue re-named in honor of the civil rights leader who successfully raised national awareness of immigrant worker injustices. The MAX transit station (above) doesn't yet reflect this year's change of Portland Boulevard to Rosa Parks Way.

## Interstate Name Change Proposed

Street may honor another minority activist

North and northeast Portland's tradition of recognizing civil-rights leaders through streets like Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Rosa Parks Way, may soon have a Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard.

Local activists have come together with the intent of renaming Interstate Avenue after Chavez, who organized migrant farm workers in Oregon during the 1960s and 70s.

Striving to eliminate social and cultural inequities using nonviolent civic-involvement principles, Chavez successfully raised national awareness of the injustices that workers endured on the West Coast.

He led an upstart labor union in strikes and boycotts leading to the passage of the 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which spawned national protections for farm-worker rights.

In Oregon, the first college in the nation for recent immigrants was named for him, and many of his followers became leaders in city governments around the

Willamette Valley.

José and Kathy Romero, the Portland couple leading the name-change effort, hope that a Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard would encourage the larger community to learn about the social, cultural, economic and environmental contributions that Latinos have made in Oregon.

So far, the Kenton Neighborhood Association has voted to support the change by writing a letter to Mayor Tom Potter, who recently stood up for immigrant workers after a federal raid in north Portland.

With Latinos now exceeding

12 percent of the Oregon's population, many are viewing the current lack of public tributes to American Latino leaders in the Portland area as an ongoing injustice.

Members of the Romeros' ad-hoc organization have met with transportation officials, religious groups, businesses and agencies in an effort to ensure an inclusive and comprehensive process.

Saying that the social benefits would far outweigh the costs, they hope to persuade a large coalition to push for a positive City Council vote on Oct. 17.

## City Supports Housing Help To offset gentrification trends

(AP)—The City Council has presented a plan to slow the decline in school enrollment by helping poorer families continue to live in gentrifying neighborhoods.

The \$1.6 million package includes rental assistance, gap mortgages and grants to parent and neighborhood groups.

Portland has lost 11,000 students in the last decade as poorer families have moved to cheaper areas. The wealthy people moving closer to downtown often send their children to private schools.

The trend has cost the school district tens of millions of dollars a year in state money, so keeping families in neighborhoods is critical for the health of the district, said Tripp Somerville, policy director for the Portland Schools Foundation.

Commissioner Erik Sten has presented three contracts as the

first specific steps in what he calls the Schools, Families, Housing Initiative. Commissioners voiced approval for the project, and the council is expected to take action this week.

"This is the money the city would spend anyway on housing, but we've linked it to school policy," Sten said.

Most of the money, \$950,000, will go to the Portland Schools Foundation for grants aimed at promoting neighborhood schools, so newcomers will decide to send their children to them. The grants could be for anything from repairing broken windows to designing an after-school program.

The two other components are pilot projects. One provides \$450,000 in rental assistance for families with school-age children in schools with high student turnover. The other provides \$200,000 for a cash reserve.

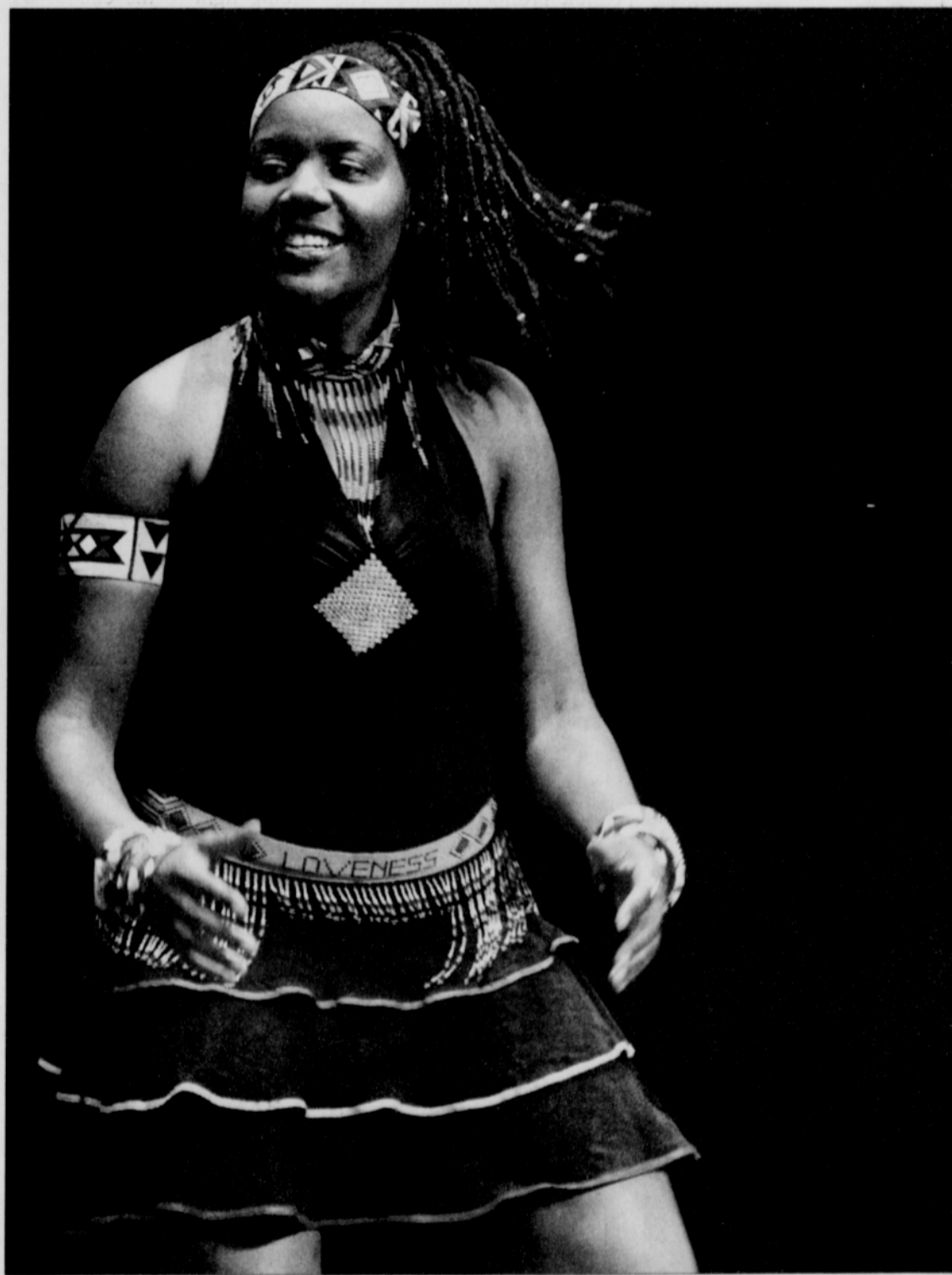
### The Portland Chapter of the L.I.N.K.S. &

The Portland Observer Newspaper

#### 'Community School Supply Drive'

Seeking the communities support in the ongoing effort to provide local children with much needed school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Donation Drop Site:  
The Portland Observer Newspaper  
4747 MLK Blvd.  
Monday - Friday  
9 am - 5 pm



## International Star sets Concert Date

Loveness Wesa of Portland, an international star and one of Africa's finest female artists, will perform live in concert with her new home band called "The White Bantuz" on Saturday, Aug. 6 at p.m. at Washington Park in southwest Portland.

Wesa has established herself as one of the most prominent

African female artists on the world stage. She is a musician, dancer, and choreographer she was the first woman artist in her native country Zimbabwe to write, choreograph and produce dance theatre shows performed by mostly women.

Wesa has traveled the world as a cultural ambassador for

Zimbabwean women artists, bringing to her audiences not only traditional African dancing and singing but she also does drumming which used to be a taboo for women in her culture to be found behind the drum.

She is also spreading a message of peace, freedom and understanding through her works.

**5th Avenue Street Fair**  
Old Town/Chinatown  
August 2 • 5-10 p.m.

**The Next BIG THING DOWNTOWN EVENT SERIES**

Come join friends, family and neighbors on First Thursday for a fun-filled neighborhood street fair to celebrate the completion of light rail construction on 5th Avenue in Old Town/Chinatown.

**Great food • Beer garden  
Kids' activities • Entertainment  
Music by MusicfestNW artists**

Ride the Next Big Thing shuttle!  
Stops at the Street Fair, First Thursday & Pioneer Courthouse Square

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