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37
years of
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Human Rights on Film

Director's film on ethnic cleansing in America included in local film series
See A&E section, inside

Woman of Achievement

Pastor Mary Overstreet, a person who sees need and acts to meet it
See Metro section, inside



Week in The Review

Oregon Schools Graded

DaVinci Arts Academy and Beaumont Middle School in northeast Portland were among the Portland schools that improved grades on Oregon education report cards released Monday. Overall, the scores for most schools were mixed.

Jones Forfeits Medals



Track star Marion Jones gave back the five medals she won at the Sydney Olympics on Monday following her admission that she was a drug cheat, and also agreed to forfeit all results, medals and prizes dating back seven years. **See story, page B6.**

Polluter Pays Billions

With a \$5.6 billion payment to a dozen East Coast states, American Electric Power Co. ended an eight-year legal battle Tuesday over smokestack pollution that chewed away at mountain ranges, bays and national landmarks.

Obama Takes Pulpit

Barack Obama stood in front of a pulpit Sunday at the 4,200-seat Redemption World Outreach Center and told worshippers that his faith "plays every role" in his life. The Democratic presidential candidate said God could help break down the divisions between political parties and among religions.



Michigan Vote Stripped

Barack Obama, John Edwards and Bill Richardson took the lead Tuesday in withdrawing from Michigan's Jan. 15 primary because Democratic Party rules say only Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina can hold contests before Feb. 5.

Deadly Plane Crash

Ground searchers found no survivors after following the smell of fuel Monday night to the wreckage of a plane carrying nine skydivers and a pilot that crashed in the rugged central Washington Cascades.

Pot Pies Contaminated

Oregon consumers are being urged to not eat any Banquet brand pot pies following a large, multi-state outbreak of salmonellosis, public health officials announced Tuesday. Banquet brand pot pies are sold in the freezer section at grocery stores.



Fifty Years of Community Links

Celebrating a legacy of involvement

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ten women with strong ties to our African-American community started a civic group in 1957 with the goal of nothing less than universal equality. Fifty years later, their ranks have swelled with a transformational vision that is just as strong.

The Portland chapter of Links, Inc. will celebrate its Golden-anniversary on the weekend of Nov. 2, providing the group with an opportunity to celebrate past accomplishments as they plan to repeat their success.

Two surviving original members help connect the 30 others with a founding philosophy that continues to thrive in the tight-knit circle.

"Links has always wanted to open doors," says Carmen P. Walker, who happened to be the society's tallest member when it first formed with 10 members. The other surviving founding member was Fannie Stills Chatman.

Never even mentioning the tidy sums of money raised for local scholarships and their support for advocacy organizations over the years, Walker



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN CARR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Fannie Stills Chatman (left) and Carmen P. Walker are the two surviving original members of Portland Links, Inc., a local civic group that's celebrating 50 years of service to the African-American community.



The 10 founders of Portland's chapter of Links Inc., a civil-rights and charity group that started in 1957 with the goal of nothing less than universal equality.

sees the group's greatest triumph in the visibility they have brought to black-community issues.

Most people 50 years ago thought black Americans on the West Coast didn't have the numbers or the drive to tackle inequality, she remembers. "We wanted to get this thing organized so that our black children would have the same opportunities that everyone else had."

Unlike 50 years ago, minorities today can purchase homes anywhere in Portland without regard of race, and city employees can no longer so easily get away with racial slurs, but the Portland Links has zero intention of easing its drive for justice.

"We will not stop until the entire nation is linked together in a chain of friendship and service," says Yvonne Williams, who is the current president of the Portland chapter. "We hope to capitalize on the trend toward greater national awareness of health issues while maintaining our commitment to youth."

Always with an eye to the future, Walker and Williams consider the organization's 1960 inaugural Ebony Fashion Fair as a turning point in putting Portland in the national civil-rights movement. When organizers arrived, they diminished

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Skill Center Named for Margaret Carter

Longtime leader helped create PCC program

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community College honored State Sen. Margaret Carter on Tuesday by naming a program in her honor at the Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Carter, a longtime Oregon lawmaker, served as a counselor and faculty member at PCC Cascade and helped create the Skill Center, which has guided thousands of north and northeast Portland residents into the workforce. As of this week, the program will be known as the Margaret Carter Skill Center.

The center made headlines this spring as part of public-college administrators' successful effort to draw more state funding. Much of the Skill Center's success is a direct result of Carter's efforts, both as an academic and a lawmaker who has always been responsive to the community, according to Cascade Campus president Algje Gatewood.

Proud of Cascade's 4.25 percent enrollment-growth rate outpacing other PCC campuses, Gatewood says, "Now the program has expanded to include a pre-apprenticeship program, and that's all thanks to the

groundwork laid by Margaret Carter."

Carter played a pivotal role in the creation and long-term support of the Skill Center through her efforts on House and Senate committees, and in her current leadership position in the Senate.

The Skill Center has taken a hands-on approach to applied training for thousands of students through life-skill education, including computer literacy, office techniques and math for entering professional trades.

"It is difficult to imagine what Portland Community College would be like had we not had this long, wonderful relationship with Sen. Carter," said PCC District President Preston Pulliams. "The senator has been an advocate and ally, as well as part of the PCC family. She is one of the great champions of PCC's essential mission: to provide access to anyone who wants a college education."

Earlier this year, Carter was named national president of NOBEL Women, the National Organization for Black Elected Legislative Women. Gatewood sees this moment of the national level recognizing her gift for leadership as the ideal time to honor her services to the college.

"The Skills Center reaches out to young people, old people and middle-aged people who may not otherwise come to this campus," Gatewood says. "It also helps everyone get living-wage jobs that they deserve."



Sen. Margaret Carter

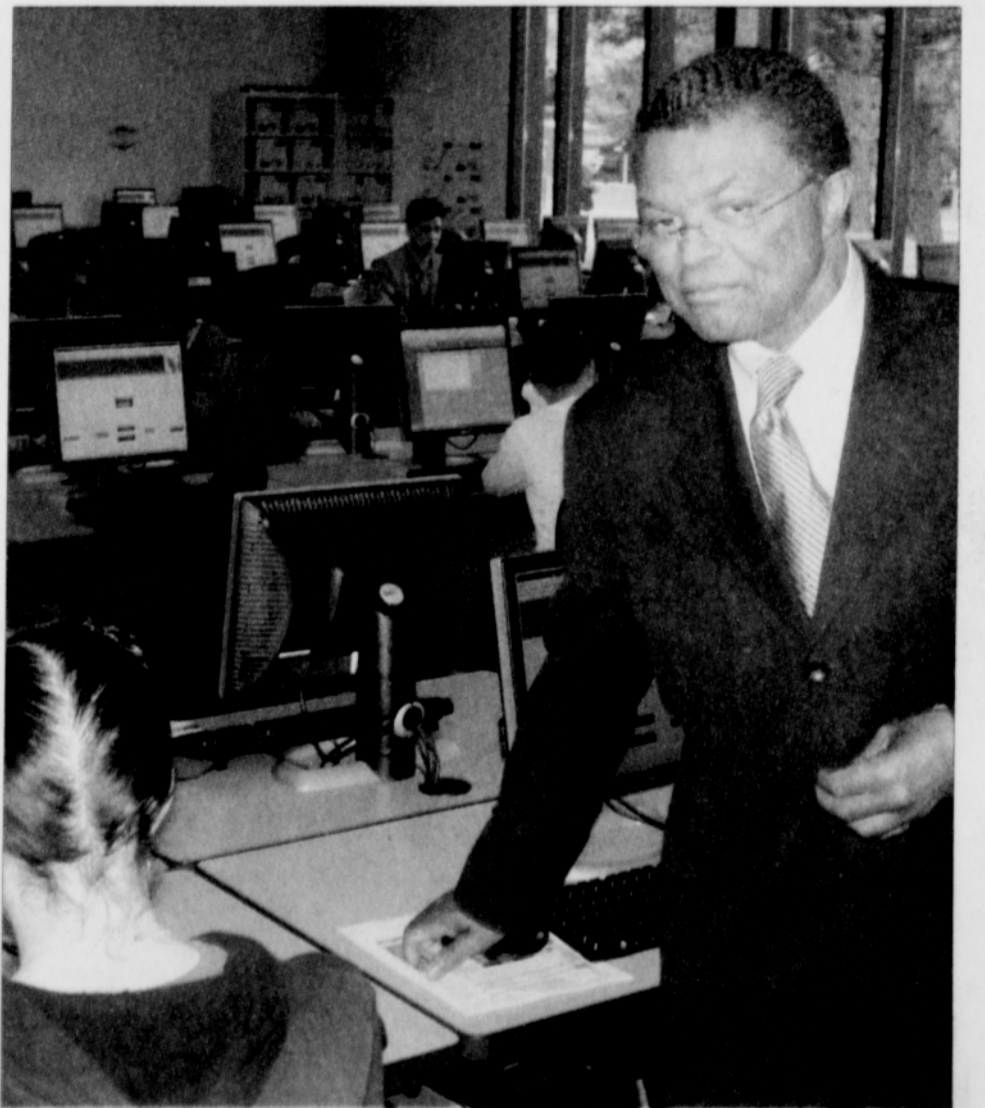


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland Community College Cascade Campus President Algje Gatewood visits the Margaret Carter Skill Center building.

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