



**Post with a Purpose**  
City director promotes  
safety, livability and vitality  
See story, Metro section

**African American History**  
Curator finds a home for  
Hattie Anderson quilts  
See story, Metro section



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Storms Pack Punch

Oregon National Guard troops evacuated residents of the town of Vernonia, 35 miles northwest of Portland Tuesday, and tens of thousands of residents across the Northwest remained without power after back-to-back storms. Hurricane force winds on the coast gave the final blow to the world's tallest Sitka spruce, a 700-year-old tree near Seaside, and streets were flooded in Portland and Seattle. See story, page A2.

### Jena 6 Plea Deal

In an agreement that mandates time until June, the central figure of the "Jena Six" case, Mychal Bell, 17, pleaded guilty Monday to hitting white classmate Justin Barker for taunts involving nooses. Bell's initial conviction as an adult brought at least 20,000 protesters to Jena, La.



### Clinton, Obama Favored

Just weeks ahead of the first presidential primaries and caucuses, Hillary Clinton is the candidate viewed most favorably by likely African American voters -- with Barack Obama running a close second -- according to new national survey by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. See story, page A3

### Education Falling Behind

U.S. students lag behind their peers in other developed countries in science and math, according to Tuesday's test results from hundreds of thousands of 15-year-olds in the 30 countries that make up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

### Chavez Turns to Democracy

In gracefully accepting his first electoral defeat Sunday, Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez is casting himself as a true democrat. See El Observador page B3.

### Actor Pledges Funds

A vocal critic of faltering government efforts to rebuild New Orleans, actor Brad Pitt said on Monday he wants to build 150 environmentally friendly homes in the hardest-hit Lower Ninth Ward for families displaced more than two years ago by Hurricane Katrina.

### Comic Breaks Own Record

By taking the stage Sunday and telling jokes for six hours and 12 minutes, 34-year-old comedian Dave Chappelle topped his previous record by five minutes, determined to keep the record set in mid-April more than two hours surpassing Dane Cook, who was planning a second attempt.

## HIV Infections on Steady Climb

### Disturbing trend impacts more teens, young adults

(AP) — In the 26 years since scientists first spotted AIDS in America, millions of dollars have been poured into outreach efforts aimed at keeping young people clear of HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

But on the Dec. 1 anniversary World AIDS Day, a disturbing statistical fact has emerged in this country: The number of newly infected teens and young adults is suddenly on the rise.

And the question is, why? According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2001 to 2005 (the latest years available), the number of new cases of HIV infection diagnosed among 15-to-19-year-olds in the United States rose from 1,010 in 2001, held steady for the next three years, then jumped 20 percent in 2005, to 1,213 cases.

For young people aged 20 to 24, cases of new infection have climbed steadily, from 3,184 in 2001 to 3,876 in 2005.

Experts say a number of factors may be at play, including the fact that many HIV-infected patients are now being kept healthy with powerful drugs — making AIDS seem like less

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Community Educator Lesly Ayala (right) talks about HIV prevention with Cascade AIDS Project coordinator Roberto Astorga and Sadie Jimenez at La Clinica de Buena Salud on Northeast Killingsworth Street.

## Prevention Efforts Taken

### Minority communities renew fight for health

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Leave it to minority groups to break a silence about the spread of HIV. More than a decade after initial interest in the virus died down, Hispanic and African-American community advocates are renewing the fight to keep the public aware of dangers and how to prevent them.

The movement towards race-specific education stems from statistics showing a sharp increase in HIV disparities. Multnomah County health officials reported that the HIV death rate for minorities nearly doubled for the first half of this decade compared with the early '90s.

Once the county's sixth leading cause of death, HIV's devastation overall has dropped out of the top-20 killers, but this fact offers no comfort to black and Latino families facing a preventable tragedy.

As minorities and women become the

fastest growing populations contracting HIV, several Portland nonprofits have committed resources toward ending the disturbing trends. The various organizations have something else in common: They all want to channel anger about the disparities into a grassroots prevention effort.

"People have the power to educate their community and fight oppression," says Roberto Astorga, Latino education coordinator for the Cascade AIDS Project, fresh off a series of radio novellas aired on KBOO focusing on how Latino youth can confront "hard taboos to break."

Finding that curiosity can easily replace cultural resistance, Astorga takes a "highly interactive" approach with games he relies on to break through discomfort and avoid lectures. In Latin America, radical scholar Paulo Freire popularized this form of education that considers public knowledge as a primary tool of individual and collective emancipation, a background that Astorga recognizes.

"We use the knowledge that they have to teach the subject, so we don't come in and



PHOTOS BY  
RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/  
THE PORTLAND  
OBSERVER

Planned Parenthood educator Fannie Gonzales works to end HIV disparities in minority communities by talking to families at Lane Middle School in southeast Portland.

say, 'this is HIV, and HIV is the virus that causes AIDS,'" Astorga says. The program instead recruits what are called Community Educators to participate in activities and pledge to pass what they've learned to others.

Community Educators rattled off all the facts about the ailment, even though they obtained their knowledge through encour-

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## Youth Violence under Microscope

### As problems move to outlying areas

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Harry Jackson, a former police officer known for his decades of dedicated service, will host a community meeting Thursday at Concordia College to address the changing nature of youth violence in Portland and the surrounding neighborhoods.

A respected leader in the African-American community, Jackson hopes the session serves as an opportunity to regroup for a new kind of struggle, citing violence reminiscent of inner north and northeast Portland moving to the outlying areas like east Multnomah County.

Jackson stays modest about his own experience fighting ills and bringing people to the table to address other contributors to violence.

He led East Precinct as its late afternoon to midnight watch commander for the last part of his police career. In northeast Portland, a plaza at the corner of Alberta Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard honors Jackson's living-legend status earned by eradicating the area's street prostitution and gang violence.

Currently a community-safety coordinator in the mayor's office, Jackson attributes public-safety improvements to neighborhood-wide efforts and calls for a similar effort to combat reemerging problems.

"We've got to bring some accountability for parents, businesses and all community members," Jackson says. "It's going to have to be a tough-love thing, because youth really need that guidance."

The mixture of bringing authority and compassion to the job has served Jackson well throughout his law-enforcement vocation.

His favored method for combating prostitutes involved talking among them on the street, making clear that he was available for help while also assuring that they wouldn't get any customers standing near a uniformed officer.

On another occasion, in north Portland's Peninsula Park, he stepped between rival groups of youths he recognized from his various posts, taking a shotgun away from one young man.

Jackson stresses that "most of the kids are good, but some are acting out." To combat youth violence at its core, he suggests that the community strive for "an atmosphere where one or two individuals can't spoil a neighborhood."

Citizen participation and regular meetings will sway the situation one way or another, he says.

Jackson has put his time where his mouth is by regularly attending neighborhood

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Northeast Portland entrepreneur Roslyn Hill is photographed for the national publication AARP the Magazine for her selection as one of 10 Americans who use their passion to make the world a better place.

## Passion Earns Accolade

### Alberta entrepreneur on national stage

An African-American woman who was one of the first entrepreneurs over a decade ago to invest in what would become a revitalized Northeast Alberta Street has been named to a prestigious group of

Americans who use their passion to make the world a better place.

Roslyn Hill is one of 10 Inspire Awards

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