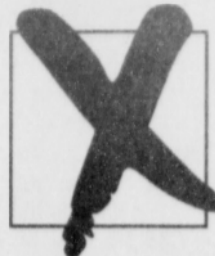


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38
years of
community service50 Years of Glamour
Classic Ebony Fashion
Fair coming to Portland
See page A6, inside

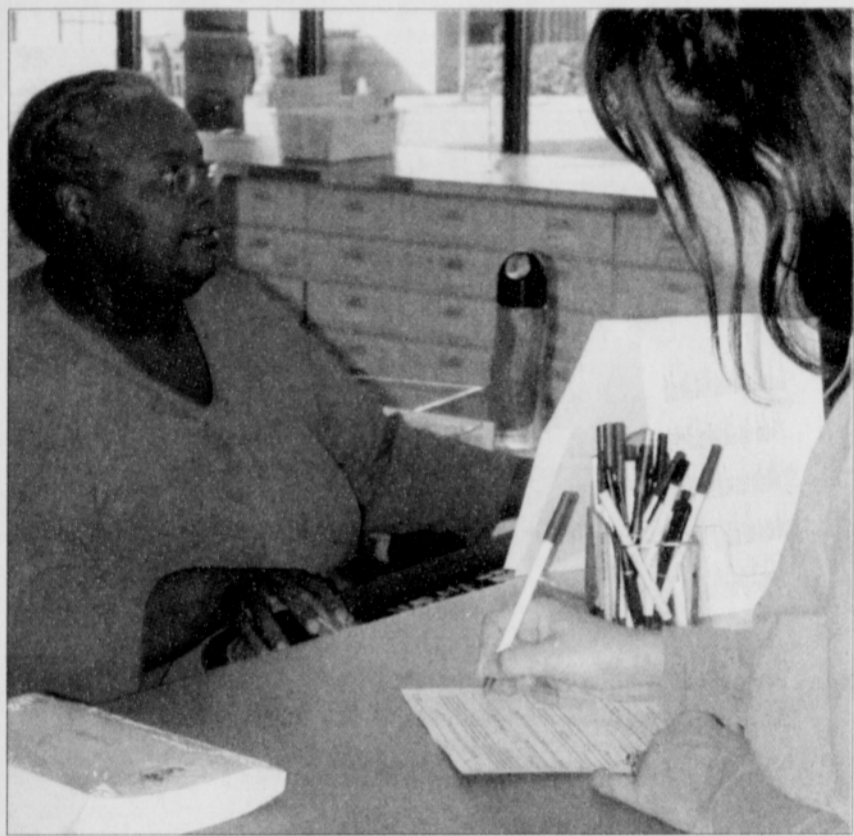
May 20 Primary

Last Day to Register:
April 29www.oregonvotes.org
1-866-ORE-VOTES

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVIII, Number 15

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversitywww.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • April 9, 2008PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Multnomah County Elections receptionist Sharon Johnson (left) helps keep up with demand, distributing a packet of 100 voter-registration cards to Marissa Johnson, a student-body officer at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.Clinton-Obama Vote
for Democrats Only

Registrations surge as deadline looms

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A rare opportunity to sway the pick for president may vanish sooner than you think.

With the convenience of Oregon's vote-by-mail system, you may be tempted to just wait for the upcom-

ing May 20 Primary ballot. But unless you're registered as a Democrat by April 29, you won't have the chance to vote in the historically competitive primary race between Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama.

continued ▼ on page A3

Hillary: 'I'm a Fighter'

Oregon in
spotlight as
vote nears

(AP) — In her first visit to Oregon as a presidential candidate, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton promised that the state's voters would get their chance to weigh in on the hotly contested Democratic race in May.

"I am a fighter," Clinton told a crowd of about 2,600 at Liberty High School in Hillsboro, as thousands more watched her speech in an overflow room. "I happened to believe this country is worth fighting for. And I also believe that you don't make difficult, consequential change in America merely by wishing for it and hoping for it."

Clinton and Illinois Sen. Barack Obama are both vying for their party's nomination, in a contest that's lasted far longer than predicted. Oregon's May 20 primary is one of the last in the nation.

Both campaigns have descended on the state.

Clinton stayed overnight in Portland Friday and spoke in Hillsboro Saturday morning before an afternoon town hall of about 2,500 people at South Eugene High School. She promised she'd be returning to Oregon and opened a campaign office in downtown Portland on Monday.

Obama has opened five campaign offices so far and headlined



Sen. Hillary Clinton signs autographs in Hillsboro on Saturday during her first visit to Oregon as a candidate for president.

a series of rallies in the Willamette Valley last month, following by a campaign swing last fall.

On Saturday, Clinton made a point of nodding to Oregon-centric issues, dedicating a portion of her speech to her opposition to citing floating terminals for storage and

...You don't make
difficult, consequential
change in America
merely by wishing for
it and hoping for it.

—Hillary Clinton

delivery of natural gas on or near the Oregon Coast.

She drew on Oregon's reputation as an environmentally aware state, saying it was a role model for several of her priorities, via its growing wind-power industry and its reputation for energy-efficient building. She promised investments in "green manufacturing," and said such new programs would be partially paid for by removing tax subsidies for big oil companies.

But some of the audience's biggest cheers were reserved for national issues, like her promise to crack down on loan companies that charge sky-high interest rates to students, and her statement that if elected, she'd hope to begin withdrawing

continued ▼ on page A3

Changes May Shake Up Rose Festival Court

Schools must
boost princess
participationBY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A decade ago Alisha Moreland-Capua became the pride of the city. No one thought that the unpopular kid from north Portland's



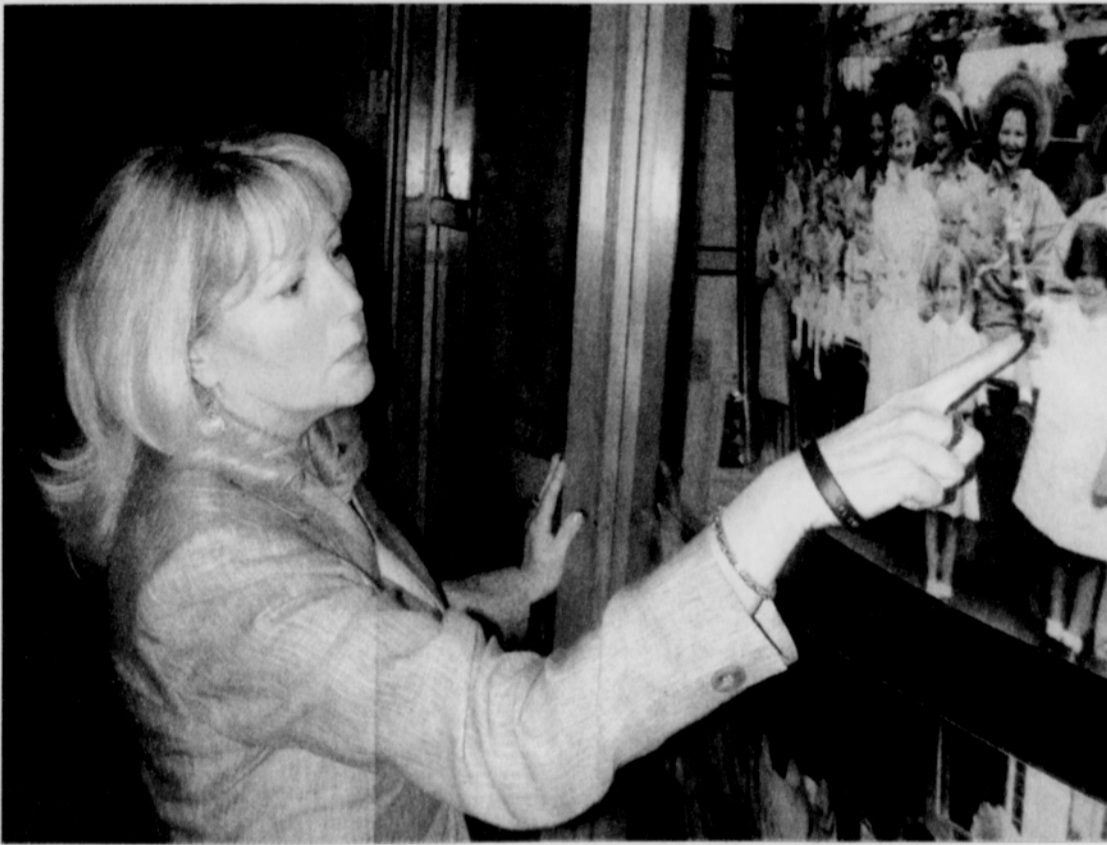
Alisha Moreland-Capua

Jefferson High School would be chosen to represent the Rose Festival Court in any capacity. Classmates ended up not only voting her princess, she went on to be named Queen of Rosaria and graduate from George Washington University's School of Medicine.

Now the program director of an addiction-recovery center in Gresham, Moreland-Capua can be counted among those who worry about changes afoot. She sees a magical capacity in the Rose Festival program to give inspiration and scholarship funds to underserved young women, but hopes that inclusion of suburban schools will not hinder the city's passion for Rosaria rituals.

"It (the Court program) has a self-esteem and community building focus, and I think you take away from that when you expand it," she says.

Another possible concern involves the emerging set of participation requirements that threatened to strip high schools like Benson

PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Decades of Rose Festival changes are overseen by Marilyn Clint, a director of the nonprofit program.

and Roosevelt of their spots in the program if they continued not to produce five princess candidates yearly. Moreland-Capua perceives a top-down message to communities in struggling parts of the city.

"It suggests that the students from north and northeast Portland aren't good enough," she says. "It's unfair for students because so much is dependent on the high-school administrations' level of motivation and resources."

Program designers assert that the recent rulemaking session's goal was to encourage involvement.

"It wasn't about a message; it was just about dwindling participation," says Marilyn Clint, associate executive director of the Rose Festival, who herself aspired to be Roosevelt's princess in 1974.

Clint also points to how the nonprofit has increased its assistance to the schools in boosting interest. Among the sets of recommendations for the largest event in the

continued ▼ on page A3

Week in
The Review

Fantastic Finish!

Kansas wins the NCAA tourney at the buzzer and in overtime giving the Jayhawks their first national championship in 20 years. See story, page A2.

King Anniversary

Forty years after the assassination

of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, vigils involved thousands of mourners across the nation, including a group in Portland who gathered Friday in front of the King statue in front of the Oregon Convention Center and carried his memory across the river to Tom McCall Waterfront Park.



New Era at OSU

Craig Robinson, who coached the past two seasons at Brown and has gained added attention as Barack Obama's brother-in-law, was selected Monday as the men's coach at Oregon State. See story, page A2.

TV Legend Dies

Jim Bosley, nicknamed "The Boz," a longtime icon at Portland's KATU Channel 2, where he anchored the weather department for over 30 years, died Sunday at the age of 73.



Protesters Scale Bridge

People protesting China's human-rights record and the impending arrival of the Olympic torch climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge Monday and tied protest banners to its cables. China insisted that the international relay would proceed unchanged despite wild

street protests in Europe on Sunday and Monday.

\$4 a Gallon Expected

Retail gas prices could climb as high as \$4 a gallon this summer, the Energy Department said Tuesday, predicting that prices at such lofty levels will make many Americans think twice about hitting the road this summer and.

Polygamist Bust

Officials in Eldorado, Texas removed 534 women and children from a polygamist compound Monday. The raid was sparked by a 16-year-old girl's call to authorities that she was being abused and that girls as young as

14 and 15 were being forced into marriages with much older men.

Sneaker Assembly Resumes

Most of the 21,000 workers returned to a Vietnamese factory on Monday to make Nike sneakers, one week after a strike closed the plant.



No Troop Withdrawals

General David Petraeus told lawmakers Tuesday that progress in Iraq is too "fragile and reversible" to allow U.S. troop levels to fall below about 140,000 earlier than September.

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