

## Civil Rights Champion Honored

This year's signature event of the Portland Chapter of the NAACP has attracted a civil-rights champion from across the country.

The organization's annual Freedom Fund Dinner scheduled May 15 at the Sheraton Hotel, 8235 Northeast Airport Way, will feature Bernette Joshua Johnson, associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, as keynote speaker.



Bernette Joshua Johnson

Johnson was the first woman elected to the Civil District Court in New Orleans, the city where she grew up. Prior to her election to the bench, she spent most of her legal career working in the public sector. During the 1960s, she worked as a law intern with the U.S. Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, and as a com-

munity organizer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City.

Contribution for dinner tickets at \$60 per person and reservations for seats or tables of 10 can be made through local NAACP offices, 3527 N.E. 15th Ave. #125, Portland, OR 97212. For more information, call 503-280-2600.

## Oregon Senate Candidates to Debate



Jackie Dingfelder



Sean Cruz

The Portland Chapter of the NAACP is sponsoring a forum for the public to get to know candidates for Oregon's Attorney General and State Senate District 23 covering northeast and southeast Portland.

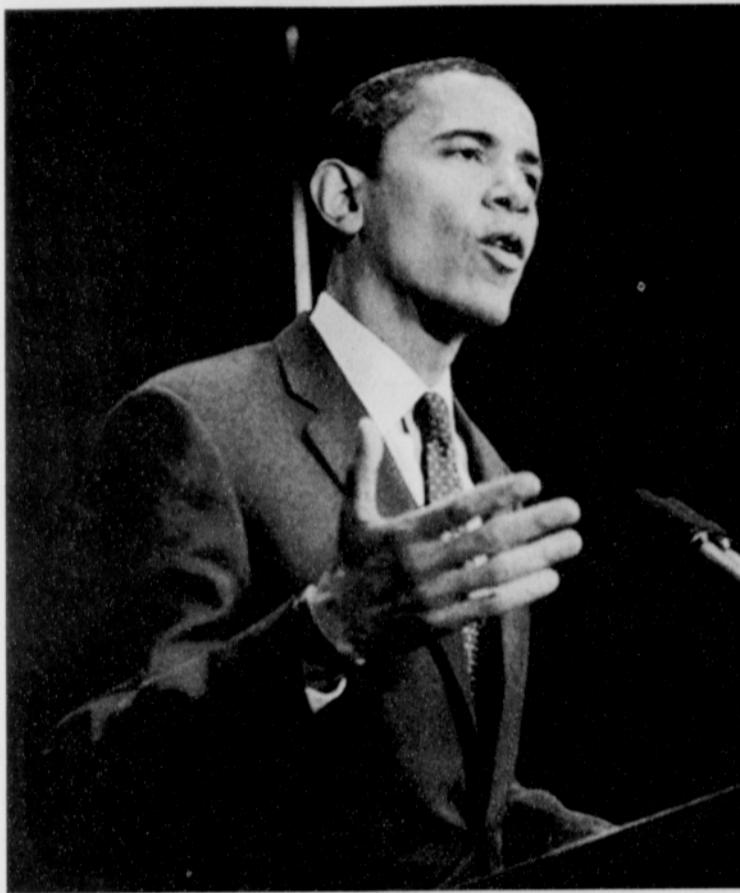
Sean Cruz, chief of staff to State Sen. Avel Gordly, will face off with State Rep. Jackie Dingfelder for the senate seat. Additionally,

lawyer John Kroger will discuss the issues with his opponent for Oregon Attorney General, State Rep. Greg Macpherson.

Moderators include radio personality Opio Sokoni and lawyer Melvin Oden-Orr.

The debates will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 2, at the Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St..

# Obama Tries to Tamp Down Uproar



Sen. Barack Obama holds a news conference in Winston-Salem, N.C., Tuesday to denounce the latest assertions by his former pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright. (AP photo)

## Denounces pastor's latest remarks

(AP) -- Barack Obama angrily denounced his former pastor for "divisive and destructive" remarks on race, seeking to divorce himself from the incendiary speaker and a fury that threatens to engulf his front-running Democratic presidential campaign.

Obama is trying to tamp down the uproar over the Rev. Jeremiah Wright at a tough time in his campaign. The Illinois senator is coming off a loss in Pennsylvania to rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and trying to win over white working-class voters in Indiana and North Carolina in next Tuesday's primaries.

"I am outraged by the comments that were made and saddened over the spectacle that we saw yesterday," Obama told reporters at a news conference Tuesday.

His strong words come just six weeks after Obama delivered a sweeping speech on race in which he sharply condemned Wright's remarks but did not leave the church

or repudiate the minister himself, who he said was like a family member.

Wright, after weeks of staying out of the public eye while critics lambasted his sermons, made three public appearances in four days to defend himself.

He asserted that criticism of his fiery sermons was an attack on the black church. Obama rejected that notion.

"There wasn't anything constructive out of yesterday," said Obama. "All it was a bunch of rants that aren't grounded in truth."

At one point, Obama said he understood the pressures Wright faced but wouldn't excuse his comments.

"I think he felt vilified and attacked and I understand him wanting to defend himself," Obama said. "That may account for the change but the insensitivity and the outrageousness of the statements shocked me and surprised me."

## Focus on Children of Incarcerated

### Conference brings justice expert

The local nonprofit Children's Justice Alliance is bringing together Multnomah County judges, police, prosecutors, commissioners, state lawmakers, corrections directors, child-welfare managers, social service leaders, educators and other community leaders for a conference

on improving the outcomes for children of incarcerated parents.

The session titled "And How are the Children? A Community Approach to Prioritizing, Protecting and Parenting Children of Incarcerated Parents" will take place on Friday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1011 S.W. 12th Ave.

Bridgett Ortega, a national speaker and consultant on juvenile justice, who herself is the child and grandchild of incarcerated parents, will host the summit.

At least 1.5 million children under the age of 18 currently have a parent in state or federal prison

nationwide.

The multi-disciplinary summit participants will share information about the county's existing resources. By the end of the day, leaders will have outlined next steps and updated the community action plan to address this issue.

For more information, call Lauren Booth at 503-892-5396.

## Centennial School Bans Shaved Eyebrows

### Gang related signs

(AP) — One Portland school is telling some students: shave your eyebrows or go home.

Several students at Centennial High School have picked up on a trend to shave lines into their eyebrows. They say it's a fashion statement; school administrators, how-

ever, contend it's a gang sign.

Centennial administrators are telling students who shave the lines that they can't return to school until they take care of the problem — by shaving their eyebrows off. Four students have been sent home. One came back immediately with a bandage covering the shaved brow. The others are still out of school.

Assistant Principal Mark Porterfield said the students are not suspended, but they are not allowed in school until they cooperate.

Andy Gonzalez, a junior at Centennial, was studying for a test when a security guard approached him and told him to go home. He told the teenager that the one vertical line

down his brow looked like a gang symbol and said, "If you're going to come to school like that, don't come at all."

"We don't dictate policy for any schools," Officer David Schmidt of the East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Team said. "We just tell them what we see the latest trends are."

## Columbia River CROSSING

CRC is a bridge, transit and highway improvement project for I-5 between Vancouver and Portland.



### Help Decide Your Future Ride.

Your input is needed on the Columbia River Crossing project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Draft EIS and proposed findings of *de minimis* impacts\* to public parks will be released on May 2, 2008. The document describes the potential environmental and community effects of the five project alternatives.

## The Draft EIS public comment period is May 2 to July 1, 2008.

The project considers comments at anytime, however comments received during the comment period will be responded to in the Final EIS.

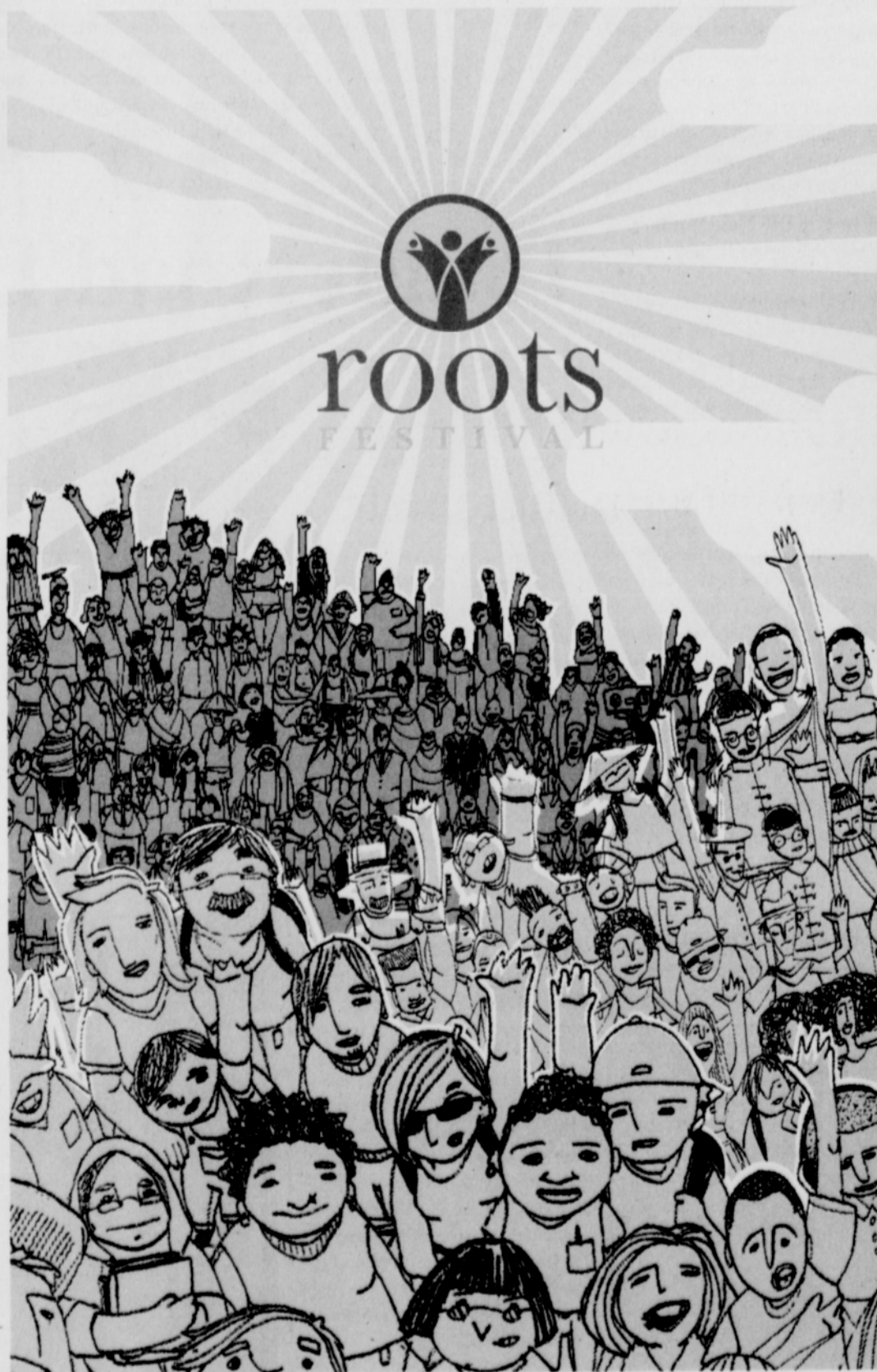
Visit [www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org](http://www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org) after May 2 to view the Draft EIS, learn where to read a printed copy, and submit your comments.

Questions? Call 1-866-396-2726

\*In addition to input on the Draft EIS, we are seeking public review and comment on the draft Section 4(f) Evaluation that includes proposed findings of *de minimis* impacts to several public parks in Vancouver, in compliance with Title 23 U.S.C., 138, Title 49 U.S.C., 303, and 23 C.F.R. 774.

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Thursday, May 22, 2008, PSU Park Blocks. Celebrate "Diversity in Politics & Activism" with art, food, and dance from all across the globe! Featuring live music from Cubaneo, Copacrescent, Lifesavas and more! For more information check out [www.rootsfestival.groups.pdx.edu](http://www.rootsfestival.groups.pdx.edu)

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