



Scramble to Survive
Food Stamps don't cover rising costs
See Health Matters, page B2

Hip Hop Helping Schools
Leading acts come together for music programs
See story, Metro inside



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Established in 1970
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Week in The Review

Kennedy has Brain Tumor

A cancerous brain tumor caused the seizure Sen. Edward M. Kennedy suffered over the weekend, doctors said Tuesday in a grim diagnosis for one of American politics' most enduring figures. See story, page A3.

Obama Packs Waterfront

Sen. Barack Obama drew the largest political crowd in Oregon history Sunday when 75,000 packed the Portland Waterfront to hear the Democratic presidential candidate speak. See related story, page A2.

Quran Shooting Apology

President Bush has apologized to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and promised prosecution of a U.S. soldier accused of using a copy of the Quran for target practice, Iraqi officials said on Tuesday.

Oil Drives Downturn

Wall Street tumbled Tuesday after oil prices spiked to a new record above \$129 a barrel and a government report raised investors' concerns about the impact of inflation on consumer spending.

Officers Fired for Beating

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey fired four police officers who were caught on television news-helicopter video beating three suspects in a drug-related triple shooting on May 5. Ramsey said three other officers have been suspended and one officer has been demoted.

Homeowner Rescue Plan

A key Senate panel approved a homeowner rescue plan Tuesday to give cheaper, government-backed mortgages to up to 500,000 strapped borrowers. It also includes tougher regulations for government-sponsored mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

China Takes Toll

Rescuers freed a 60-year-old woman Tuesday who was trapped for more than 195 hours after last week's earthquake and had survived by drinking rainwater, while the confirmed death toll rose to more than 40,000 in a disaster that left more than 5 million homeless.

Child Pornography Ruling

The Supreme Court's 7-to-2 decision Monday has upheld an effort by Congress to make it illegal to offer or promote child pornography. The high court said the law protects innocent children from a thriving form of abuse.

Fighting a Stigma

Three-year-old New Columbia prioritizes safe activities

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community organizers in the New Columbia neighborhood of north Portland gear up each spring to promote a safe environment, and this year they're confident that a full slate of activities will prevent any flare-ups of violent activity.

The first residents of New Columbia moved in during the spring of 2005 as construction replaced Columbia Villa, the low-cost public housing that had turned into a focal point of gang-related concerns.

Now that the new houses, apartments, streets and businesses that replaced the Villa will be fully occupied for the first summer, optimism runs high, especially for the Housing Authority of Portland and most of the neighborhood's 2,500 residents.

"I never really felt as though this was an experiment," says Leslie Esinga, a HAP employee for New Columbia who, as a single mother, lived in Columbia Villa before safety concerns led to its razing in 2003.

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Pernell Brown and Leslie Esinga walk the streets of New Columbia to check on neighborhood complaints and keep in touch with residents about concerns.

PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the Neighborhood

Are your plans for Memorial Day weekend impacted by the soaring cost of gasoline?

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN AND MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



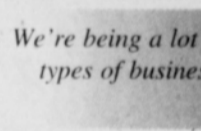
The gas prices are giving me extra motivation to do what I should be doing already, which is bike to work.
--Jan Underwood



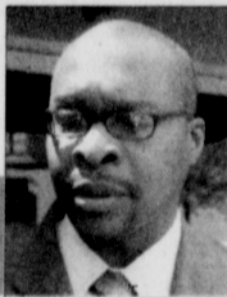
I don't ever drive because I can't afford it, but I hope to be able to buy a car someday.
--Dawa Gyaltzen



We've got to stay close to home. I hope it gets better, but what can we really do?
--Shelli Curry



We're being a lot wiser about the types of business trips we take.
--Robert Bush



I now think about which car has better gas mileage and how many people we can fit in the car.
--Dave Forslund



All traveling has to be done in more moderation.
--Larry Collins



Roots Festival Celebrates Diversity

Event to heat up PSU Park Blocks

BY CHARITY PRATER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

People of all backgrounds will come together to celebrate diversity on the Portland State University campus for the third-annual Roots Festival, sponsored by the multicultural student groups.

The festival will heat up beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 22 on the South Park Blocks. Activities will then continue until 8 p.m. The celebration will include local music and dance, international cuisines and a variety of multicultural artwork.

This year's theme is "Diversity in Politics and Activism," which will educate and inspire the community to embrace civic engagement and a multicultural perspective in political action.

"We are going to have local, hip-hop artist Lifesavas performing, and our first community mural that the community will participate in creating," says Leah Meijer, Roots Festival coordinator. "When it's finished, it will be on display in the Portland State University library."

The Roots Festival has a full day of fun and entertainment scheduled including reggae music, DJs, Native American dance, hip hop and Latin dance lessons.

"The festival gives us a chance to explore our roots by celebrating and recognizing our similarities," says Meijer.

Stopgenocidenow.org will display "Camp Darfur" at the event, a mock refugee



Native Americans from Painted Sky Northstar are among the diverse groups to perform Thursday at the Portland State University Roots Festival. Pictured are Colt Nicol of the Cree nation, Mary Bodine of the Warm Springs tribes, Betty Stephens of the Dine/Yakima nation, Rebecca Friedlander of the Atnabascan native Alaskan nation and Reggie Johnson of the Umatilla tribes.

camp aimed at raising awareness of genocide and the current crisis in Darfur.

"The art installation will show visitors through photos, histories, questions, maps, and DVDs what happens during genocide and what people can be doing now to end the current ethnic cleansing in the Darfur region," says Katie-Jay Scott, community outreach coordinator of Stop Genocide Now.

Camp Darfur was invited to participate because of its work to ignite social change and raises awareness.

"This year's theme of diversity through politics and activism supports the idea that art, music, dance, and dialogue are great ways to honor a culture, but can also be used as a tool to preserve, cherish and ensure a culture's survival," says Scott. "Camp Darfur works to create community between those who can bring an end to genocide in Darfur and the victims of the genocide in Darfur."

The annual festival is always held on Thursday because that's the day of the week when the most students are on campus.

"It's difficult to determine how many people will attend since many simply drop in or walk through," says Meijer. "But we are expecting more people than usual since we have such a fantastic schedule of events planned."

Other noteworthy events will include a speech from Charles McGee about his non-profit Black Parent Initiative, Mike Struwin will be performing acoustic roots music, the PSU Breakers will perform with DJs and Eatcho will be painting live.

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