



**Demand Falls**  
Gasoline prices in Portland inched down to an average of \$3.93 a gallon Tuesday as worldwide oil prices fell because of less consumer demand

**Local Help for Jefferson**  
Portland leaders enter into a partnership to provide mentoring, career and educational opportunities to students at Jefferson High School  
See story, page A3



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVIII, Number 31

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • August 6, 2008

## Week in The Review

### Jobless at 4 Year High

The nation's unemployment rate climbed to a 4-year high of 5.7 percent last month as employers cut 51,000 jobs, dashing the hopes of an influx of young people looking for summer work. See story, page A10.

### Morgan Freeman Recovers

Morgan Freeman was recovering from surgery Tuesday to repair injuries sustained in a serious car crash and looking forward to leaving hospital, a spokeswoman for the actor said. Freeman, 72, was driving a car in Mississippi Sunday when it left the road and rolled over.

### Bush Denies Fake Letter

The White House and the CIA on Tuesday adamantly denied a report that the Bush administration concocted a fake letter purporting to show a link between Saddam Hussein's regime and al-Qaida as a justification for the Iraq war.

### Portland Crime Rate Dips

Portland's crime rate has sunk to the lowest level since the city started keeping records in the 1970s. Police said the overall crime rate was 63 victims of crime for every 1,000 people. That compares to a high of 161 victims for every 1,000 people in 1988. See story, page A2.

### Paramedic Sentenced

A Multnomah County judge sentenced a former paramedic to five years in prison Monday for inappropriately touching female patients during ambulance trips. Lannie Lee Haszard, 62, pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree sexual abuse. See story, page A2.

### I-5 Expansion Protested

Activists unfurled a banner on the Morrison Bridge Monday protesting the I-5 Interstate Bridge expansion proposal. Members of Convergence for Climate Action are concerned about the plans to add six more lanes to the crossing, citing the impact on the environment and continued reliance on oil-based transportation.

### Max Checkpoints Coming

TriMet is making renovations to the Northeast 82nd Avenue and Gresham Center Max stations to make sure that light-rail passengers are paying their fares. The transit agency plans to funnel passengers toward specific entrances where ticket inspectors can check who has valid tickets.

### Olympics Open Friday

Friday's opening ceremony for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing will use around 10,000 performers and is expected to be seen by a global television audience of about four billion people. NBC will broadcast the ceremony to American audiences starting at 7:30 p.m.

### Oregon Schools Fall Short

New data suggests that just 61 percent of Oregon schools are meeting federal academic goals, down nearly 14 percentage points in a single year. As in years past, the picture looks bleaker for high schools than it does for elementary schools.

## Company Retaliated Against Workers

### Video Only liable for harassment

Home electronics retailer Video Only will pay \$630,000 and implement preventative measures to settle two discrimination lawsuits, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced Monday.

According to the EEOC's suit, two employees of Video Only's Jantzen Beach store — Michael Gonzales, a Hispanic, and Jayson Lewis, an African American whose fiancée and two young children are Jewish — faced repeated slurs and jokes about their race, national origin, and religion.

The abuse included use of the "N-word" by management;

the telling of racially offensive "jokes"; use of the epithet "beaner"; and a doll with its hair and face painted black that was hog-tied and hung by a nail in the break room.

The EEOC also alleged that the company retaliated against Gonzales and Lewis after they reported the harassment by, among other things, hiring a private investigator to gather information in an effort to discredit their harassment claims.

Company officials also confronted co-workers who supported the complainants by telling them they were hurting the company and trying to get them to quit, the EEOC charged.

In finding for the EEOC and the discrimination victims, Judge Garr M. King of the U.S. District Court in Portland said the company had called for a private investigation

continued ▼ on page A10



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Video Only store at Jantzen Beach was fined and ordered to make corrections to its workplace after store employees and their supervisors used some of the worst stereotypes and slurs about African Americans, Latinos and Jews and retaliated against employees who complained.

## Job Network Helps the Disabled

### DePaul Industries serves the community

For 37 years, DePaul Industries has been helping people with disabilities have the opportunity to work.

Located at 4950 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., DePaul Industries typically helps over 2,000 people with disabilities every year by employing them in one of its core businesses — temporary staffing services, security services, food and consumer goods packaging — or by placing them in jobs throughout the community.

Company officials say the individuals that go to work for them are usually people who hope to begin or re-start a career. They are people who want to work, despite their disabilities.

DePaul's success can be gauged by the fact that it is the largest employer of people with disabilities in Oregon and among the most successful organizations of its kind in the country.

In support of its mission, DePaul values respect for the dignity of people, compassion, integrity, customer focus, entrepreneurial spirit, responsiveness to change, economic independence, teamwork and having fun.

The organization, in recognition of its core values, was a finalist in 2005 and 2007 for the

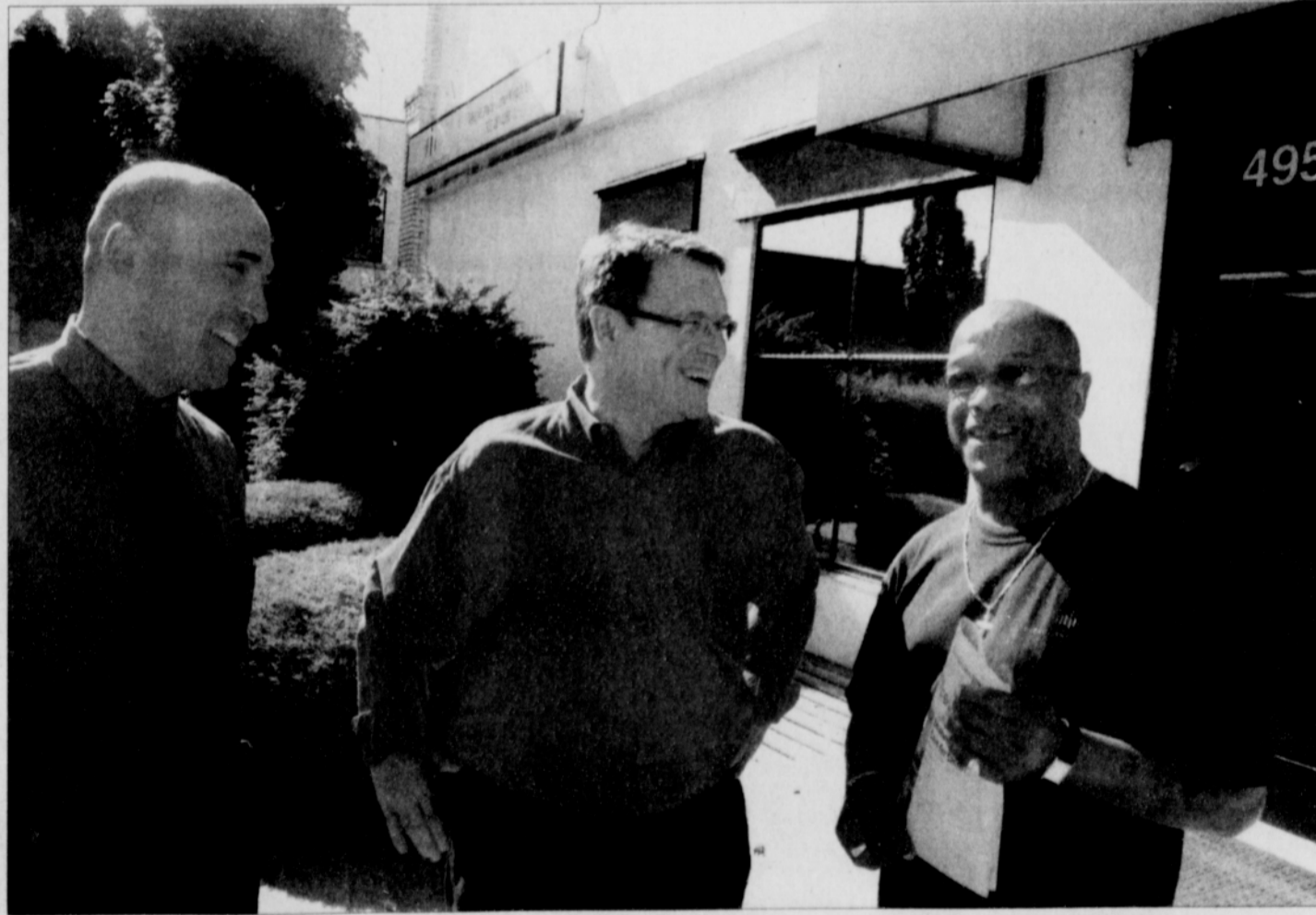


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Donnie Crawford Sr. (right) meets with DePaul Industries General Manager Travis Pearson (far left) and DePaul executive Dave Shaffer, after making a job connection at the organization which employs people with disabilities, located at 4950 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

prestigious Oregon Ethics in Business Award.

Statistics show some major obstacles for facing people with disabilities.

The unemployment rate in the United States and Portland for people with disabilities exceeds 65 percent. Nearly 200,000 Oregonians have disabilities that present barriers to competitive employment. Ameri-

cans with disabilities are nearly three times more likely to live in poverty than people without disabilities.

DePaul Industries is very proud of the major role it plays in positively impacting the lives of people who are capable of making a substantial contribution to the community.

At DePaul, these Oregonians are doing real work and contrib-

uting to the economic life of our community.

Recently, DePaul Industries has become the lead organization spearheading the efforts of Project SEARCH, a nationally recognized program dedicated to workforce development focused on individuals with significant barriers to employment.

Project SEARCH generates partnerships with businesses that

work to benefit the individual, the community and the workplace. Its goal is to match qualified employees with open positions in a variety of settings.

There is also on-site job-retention staff at DePaul, charged with creating a unique support system where people with disabilities can successfully maintain employment and advance in their chosen careers.