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Week in The Review

Dire Economic Warning

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and other government economic officials had dire warnings of recession, layoffs and lost homes Tuesday if Congress doesn't quickly approve the Bush administration's emergency \$700 billion financial bailout plan. See story, page A2.

Crisis Lines Busy

Officials from Oregon Partnership's 24-hour crisis lines say they are getting more calls from people stressed out from an economy that sees more people out of work, homeowners unable to pay their mortgages and families worried about their savings.

Oden Ready for Season

Greg Oden is technically a rookie. Sidelined all season after knee surgery, the top pick in the 2007 draft never got to compete for the Rookie of the Year award. So he's eligible to win it this year, and that's one of his goals. See story, page A2

Heating Assistance Coming

The federal Department of Health and Human Services announced last week that Oregon will receive \$1.2 million in emergency energy assistance. The money will help low-income families heat their homes this winter. People interested in applying can contact their local Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program agency.

Offshore Oil Ban to Expire

Democrats have decided to allow a quarter-century ban on drilling for oil off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to expire next week, conceding defeat in a months-long battle with the White House and Republicans set off by \$4 a gallon gasoline prices this summer.

Oregon Beach Cleanup

Volunteers removed an estimated 400,000 pounds of trash from the Oregon Coast Saturday during the SOLV Great Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup. More than 3,700 people scoured the entire Oregon coast the clean the beaches of debris and trash that had accumulated during the summer months.

Bike Parking Added

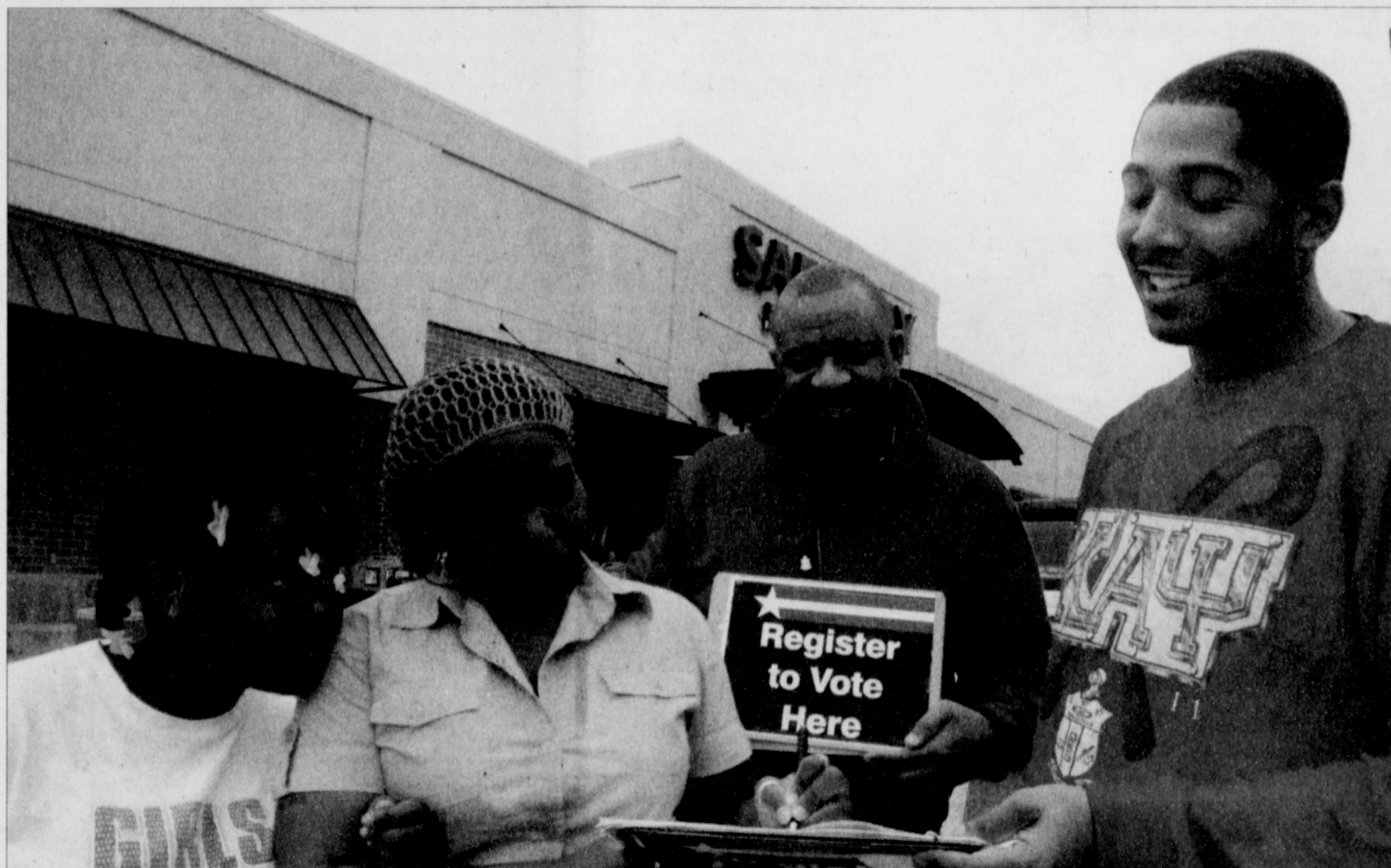
The Portland Office of Transportation made room for the growing number of bicycles by opening four new on-street bicycle parking facilities in the downtown core on Friday. The corrals provide parking for 16 to 24 bicycles along curbs formerly reserved for motor vehicles.

Dairy System Led to Abuse

China's agriculture minister acknowledged Tuesday that the country's milk-gathering system was "out of control" and led to abuses that put contaminated dairy products in stores across Asia, sickening some 54,000 babies and killing four.

Stonehenge was Place of Healing

The first excavation of Stonehenge in more than 40 years has uncovered evidence that the stone circle drew ailing pilgrims from around Europe for what they believed to be its healing properties, archaeologists said Monday.



Tracey Woods signs up to vote outside the Safeway store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. She is joined by her daughter Lovesha and two Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity members volunteering to register voters, Charles Hill (center) and Antonio Jackson.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Power to Vote

Urban League, NAACP and Bus Project Team Up

BY LAURA MEEHAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many young people or minority groups feel their voices won't be heard, so they don't vote—and then the government is less likely to listen to them.

The Urban League of Portland, NAACP and the Oregon Bus Project are teaming up to break that cycle of disengagement by increasing voter registration with their Power 2 Vote Day of Action, Saturday, Sept. 27, at Portland

Community College's Cascade campus in north Portland.

Despite the terror, heartbreak and discrimination experienced by countless numbers of women, young people and people of color, many of us today take voting for granted. When the U.S. Constitution was written, only white male property owners were eligible to vote. The 15th Amendment proclaimed that the right to vote could

not be denied on the basis of color, but true progress was not made until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Women were not eligible until 1920.

After such a long fight, one might supposed we would be lining up at the polls, eager to be heard, and yet many people, especially young people, are not registered to vote at all or have not updated their registration after changes of address.

Mollie Ruskin of the Oregon Bus Project says the group has set a goal of signing up 20,000 voters in Oregon.

"Oregon has the largest gap in the country between the citizens' average age and the average age of a voter, which is 69," Ruskin says.

And while Oregon's minority populations are expanding rapidly, white middle-class Baby Boomers make up an enormous percentage of voters.

Studies show that the gap tends to start with voter registration, not registered voter turnout. The Oregon Bus Project focuses on getting people signed up so

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The Asian American Plaza, a mini-mall on Northeast 82nd Avenue, is the latest business venture by Mytien Huynh Kent and her brother Tieno Huynh

Entrepreneurs Live American Dream

Open Asian-American Plaza on 82nd Avenue

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Huynh family, once refugees, is now living the American dream. Not only do they own their own business, they own the ground it stands on and rent commercial

space to other retailers.

Mytien Huynh Kent and her younger brother Tieno own the Asian-American Plaza, a 15,200 square foot mini-mall on Northeast 82nd Avenue at Siskiyou Street. There they have their own Portland Beauty School.

The Plaza also contains the Blue Sky Café Asian restaurant, which recently expanded into adjacent space with the Rain bar, and a deli-

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Racial Views Impact Election

Obama's path steeper than it would be if he were white

(AP) — Since the nation's birth, Americans have discussed race and avoided it, organized neighborhoods and political movements around it, and used it to divide and hurt people even as relations have improved dramatically since the days of slavery, Reconstruction and legal segregation.

Now, in what could be a historic year for a black presidential candidate, a new Associated Press-Yahoo! News poll, conducted with Stanford University, shows just how wide a gap remains between whites and blacks.

It shows that a substantial portion of white Americans still harbor negative feelings toward blacks. It shows that blacks and whites disagree tremendously on how much racial prejudice exists, whose fault it is and how much influence blacks have in politics.



Barack Obama

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Polls in the upcoming presidential election show a wide gap remains between whites and blacks.

38 years of community service