



Marika Zimmerly (from left), Genna Beier and Colleen McCabe look over voter registration materials as they canvass downtown to increase participation in the Nov. 4 general election, especially for younger voters.

# Power to Vote

continued ▲ from Front

that they will get out and make their voices heard in the Nov. 4 election.

The Power 2 Vote Day of Action will be the largest voter registration event of the campaign.

Midge Purcell of Urban League of Portland, says, "The most common response I get from people who have decided they're not going to participate in the process, is 'because my vote doesn't matter.' Our message over the next month is that it does matter, and that it counts and that they can ensure their voices are heard."

Purcell says that simply participating in the election process sends a strong message.

"Across the board there has been a higher level of engagement than we've seen in many years, and that in and of itself expresses the hunger and the demand for change," she says.

In other words, the simple act of registering to vote in great numbers has expressed the will of the people.

Saturday's Power 2 Vote Day of Action at PCC Cascade will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and feature inspiring words from community leaders, the low down about ballot measures, music by DJ OG One and people hitting the streets registering voters.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Dire Warnings

### Congress urged to support bailout

(AP) -- Senators dug in their heels Tuesday, pushing back against dire warnings from the government's top economic officials of recession, layoffs and lost homes if Congress doesn't quickly approve the Bush administration's emergency \$700 billion financial bailout plan.

Congressional leaders still predicted passage — with significant changes — but Wall Street's nerves were hardly soothed. The Dow Jones industrial sank 161 points and now are off more than 500 this week after initially surging on the bailout announcement last week.



Ben Bernanke

Deepening market trouble was just one piece of the economic havoc that Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told senators would ensue if Congress lags in acting on the administration's proposal to rescue tottering financial institutions. Without the bailout plan, Paulson and Bernanke sketched out a dire scenario for senators at a contentious daylong hearing: Neither businesses nor consumers would be able to borrow money, and the world's largest

economy would grind to a virtual halt.

The legislation the administration is promoting would allow the government to buy bad mortgages and other rotten assets held by troubled banks and financial institutions. Getting those debts off their books should bolster those companies' balance sheets, making them more inclined to lend and easing one of the biggest choke points in the credit crisis. If the plan works, it should help lift a major weight off the national economy that is already sputtering.

The major presidential candidates also insisted on alterations in the administration's drastic prescription.

Democrat Barack Obama said any plan to rescue Wall Street from its financial woes must ensure that taxpayers are reimbursed and corporate executives are not further enriched for mismanagement. Republican John McCain, too, said the legislation must prevent executives from winning large taxpayer-funded bonuses, and he also said no earmarked spending could be included.



Charles Lott Jr. (left) as a player for the Centennial Eagles and (right) as an actor auditioning for TV shows and film.



## Local Talent Heads for Hollywood

Charles Lott Jr. is as comfortable on a football field as he is on stage.

A natural acting ability and athletic appeal has helped him to win first place in a major talent competition that puts him on a fast track for a major role in Hollywood.

Lott, 8, won \$10,000 last

month when he won "The" celebrity access auditions for aspiring stars in the 6-10-year-old category in Phoenix, Ariz. Earlier he won a regional singing, dance, acting and modeling competition in Vancouver.

He will be leaving for Los Angeles next month where some of the most powerful agents and

casting directors in the entertainment business have already expressed hope to match him up for work in TV shows, commercials and film.

Hollywood agents credited the young man for being fearless in his auditions in Phoenix and not holding anything back. He received a standing ovation after competing with over 200

kids from all over the U.S. The agents represented the major TV networks, Nickelodeon, MGM, Time Warner Cable and others.

"I'm so proud of him," said his father, Charles Lott Sr.

Lott's family, residents of Happy Valley in outer southeast Portland, also includes his mom, Roseanna and three sisters.

## Youth Empower Youth Fest

Young people will sound off and unite at the Youth Empower Youth Fest on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Court.

The participants from Portland and surrounding areas are encouraged to participate through sharing, learning, organizing and networking with other young people at this free event.

This event is funded in part by a city of Portland's Youth Action grant that was written by youth

from the United Voices/Beats for Peace program with the intention of showcasing young people and as a vehicle to get more youth involved in their community.

Youth Empower Youth Fest will include workshops by slam poetry artist and Black Women's Studies Professor Turiya Autry and long time event planning guru Noah Mickens.

Music performances by hip hop artists Line of Fire (Mic Crenshaw and Gen-Eric), electropop duo Crab Cannon and more are planned.

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