



## Sotomayor Support Grows

Prospects for the first Hispanic named to the Supreme Court look good  
See story, page A3

## Columbia Slough Regatta

Area residents are invited to join the largest one-day paddle in Oregon  
See Arts & Entertainment, page A6



# The Portland Observer

City of Roses

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## Week in The Review

### Scholar Confronted

Prosecutors dropped a disorderly conduct charge Tuesday against prominent black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was confronted and arrested at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in. Authorities issued a statement saying the arrest "was regrettable and unfortunate." See story, page A3.



### Summer Heat Warning

With a long stretch of warm weather expected over the next few days, the local Aging and Disability Services Division is reminding older adults and people with heat sensitive disabilities to take precautions. See story, page A3.

### Governor Signs Tax Plans

Gov. Ted Kulongoski has signed a \$733 million tax increase plan Monday he says will protect schools and state programs from budget cuts. Passed by the Democratic-led Oregon Legislature, the tax package sets a higher tax rate for upper-income earners and increases taxes on corporations.

### Ex-Adams Official Sues

Mayor Sam Adams' former spokesman, Wade Nkrumah filed suit against the city Monday, alleging wrongful discharge, defamation, invasion of privacy by false light and unpaid wages. The suit was expected after Nkrumah filed a tort claim on May 14 alleging that Adams lied by misrepresenting the circumstances surrounding his resignation.



### NFL's Vick Released

Suspended NFL star Michael Vick ended his federal dogfighting sentence Monday, freeing him to lobby for a return to the field. That means Vick no longer has to wear the electronic monitor he's had while under home confinement for the last two months of his 23-month sentence.



### Quarterback Accused

A woman has filed a lawsuit accusing Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger of raping her last summer in his penthouse hotel room at a casino in Lake Tahoe during a celebrity golf tournament. Roethlisberger's lawyer adamantly denied the allegations Tuesday.



### Vancouver Clinic Sued

A clinic in Vancouver is being sued for \$1.3 million over the overdose death of a Portland teenager. The parents of the 18-year-old accuse the Payette Clinic of negligence or recklessness in prescribing oxycodone.

39 years of community service

# Portland's Growing Despair



Roxy Davenport sits outside of Powell's City of Books, downtown, with her dog, "Baby," while asking passers by for spare change. Davenport says she's been homeless for nine months and hasn't been able to find work.

PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Homeless ranks on the rise

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nine months ago Roxy Davenport fled from a relationship she described as "abusive." During that entire time she has been homeless,

unable to find work.

"There have been some really nice people who have helped me out with change," she said.

But other times she's felt "invisible," or has had some people openly heap scorn on her, telling her she had no right to have her dog, "Baby."

A new report released by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development reveals that the number of people in Davenport's situation is on the rise in Oregon, which has more homeless people per capita than any other state in the union.

The report also revealed alarming

trends, such as the jump in families experiencing homelessness.

Each year HUD presents a report to Congress that gives the number of homeless people in each state. Oregon came out on top with 0.54 percent of the state's population lacking a place to call home. The total number is about 17,000 people, roughly the size of Pendleton.

Nationally, there are 664,414 sheltered and unsheltered homeless people, which is about the population of Memphis, Tenn.

Over the last decade, the city of Portland has launched several initia-

tives aimed at ending homelessness, which haven't staved off the growing number of homeless people.

In 2004, the city launched its 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, which strategically directed resources towards combating the problem.

Two years later, the City Council passed an ordinance mandating that 30 percent of monies generated in urban renewal districts go towards affordable housing. In 2007, the legislature tacked on a \$15 fee on every real estate document recorded with the

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## Healing Old Wounds

### Group tackles police practices

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new front has been opened to heal old wounds between the Portland Police Bureau and minority populations.

A committee on Community and Police Relations for the city's Human Relations Commission fully assembled for the first time this month to address racial profiling and other complaints.

Members of the committee expressed a desire to improve relations between the police and the communities it serves. However, the group is still finding its voice as it grapples with lingering issues from the city's previous efforts to address police tensions.

"This is a very unique opportunity, and that's very exciting; so it better work," said Hector Lopez, the committee's chair and retired United Church of Christ minister.

The committee is composed of four Human Relations Commission members, five police members, and four citizens. It is charged with developing guidelines and pathways for improving relations with police, making recommendations on community policing policies, and addressing prickly issues like racial profiling.

The group's citizen component in-



Darryl W. Kelley Jr. volunteers to serve on a committee to heal old wounds between the Portland Police Bureau and minority populations.

PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

*"This is a very unique opportunity, and that's very exciting; so it better work."*

— Hector Lopez, Human Relations Commission chair

clude two African Americans who have been on the wrong side of the law in the past and now mentor youth, an immigration lawyer, and a Hispanic who works with at-risk Latino youth.

As committee members introduced themselves to each other they ex-

pressed a deep commitment to Portland and improving police-community relations.

East Precinct Police Commander Mike Crebs nearly teared up when describing his fondness for the community he served and how the sound of gun fire

in residential neighborhoods distresses him.

"I want our critics to come out and shake our hands, and say, 'you know what? You have achieved excellence,'" he said.

However, the committee acknowledged that its plans to improve relations between police and the community are still in its infancy.

"We all got to crawl before we walk," said Darryl Kelly Jr., a former gang member who was recently appointed to the committee.

The formation of the committee is one

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