

Community Rallies Against Hate

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taking the courage to stand up.

"What has happened to you my friend has happened to us," Fish said, invoking the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jeff Cogen, a Multnomah County Commissioner and chair of the city's Human Rights Commission, said even a progressive community like Portland can't afford to rest on its laurels.

Hatred grows if we give it an opening, he warned.

Cogen told the Portland Observer that Vuong has talked about his experience with the rights commission which has formed a subcommittee to deal with incidents of hate. He added that the committee was also planning a summit to talk about racism and intolerance in Portland.

After all the speakers had concluded, people mulled around the parking lot, munching on food that was left over from the neighborhood's National Night Out anti-crime gathering.



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A large crowd gathers at Beaumont Middle School in northeast Portland to rally against hate and in support of a 22-year-old Vietnamese-American victim.

Schools Graded Under No Child Left Behind

70 percent pass tests

Nearly 70 percent of Portland's public schools measure up to academic performance ratings required by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Highlights for this year's annual ratings include a complete turnaround for Lane Middle School in outer southeast Portland, and Roosevelt High School in north Portland becomes one of only four of the district's high schools ever to meet all NCLB standards.

The Oregon Department of

Education released preliminary reports under the law, indicating whether each school met or did not meet standards for "adequate yearly progress," or AYP.

After five years on the school improvement list, Lane Middle School met all standards for the second year in a row - an academic comeback resulting from reforms put in place by leaders and teachers. Lane now moves off the improvement list and is free from any NCLB sanctions.

The Pursuit of Wellness Education at Roosevelt (POWER) Academy and Lincoln High School were the only PPS high schools to meet all achievement, test participation and graduation

standards. This is the first time for POWER and the third year in a row for Lincoln.

Three other PPS high schools, Pauling Academy and Renaissance Arts Academy on the Marshall Campus and the Arts, Communication & Technology School on the Roosevelt Campus, met all student achievement benchmarks, but missed the graduation rate standard.

"Strong and consistent work by students, teachers and staff at these schools - along with support from the district - is paying off," said Superintendent Carole Smith. "Congratulations to the students, families, staff

and everyone who has contributed to the schools' success."

Jefferson High School was placed on the sanctions list. The north Portland school avoided penalties in the past because of reconfiguring school programs. But this fall, the school must offer its 600 students free tutoring and a transfer to another school.

Principal Cynthia Harris called the failing grades an important wake-up call. She said school leaders will look deeper at instruction and individual student needs.

The district will give Jefferson students the option of attending Madison or

Franklin high schools, but those schools also fail to meet many of the NCLB standards.

Two local middle schools barely missed passing grades.

George Middle School in north Portland has dramatically increased its students' achievement scores since it first went on the NCLB watch list in 2003. SEI Middle School, a public charter school, also did not meet NCLB standards by the narrowest of margins.

If only one additional special education student at SEI met the math achievement standards, the entire school would have met NCLB. Instead, it joins the watch list.

Portland Public Schools' elementary schools have traditionally steered clear of NCLB sanctions. This year, however, some did not. In 2008-09, six schools missed the mark.

For three of the six, this was the second year in a row - moving the schools into school improvement status. Sitton Elementary School, in school improvement status last year, met all measures this year and will be released from NCLB sanctions if it meets all measures again for 2009-10.

AYP reports for all Oregon schools are posted on the Oregon Department of Education's Web site at ode.state.or.us.

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First Hispanic on Supreme Court

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Princeton and Yale before going on to success in the legal profession and then the federal bench.

Obama, the nation's first black president, praised the Senate's vote as "breaking another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union."

The new justice can now get to work, although the Supreme Court won't hear arguments until Sept. 9, in a key campaign finance case. The entire court will convene a day earlier, however, for a formal ceremony to welcome Sotomayor.

Sotomayor also will be learning the quirky customs of the highest court in the land. As the newcomer she will take notes and answer the door when the justices have private meetings, including



Sonia Sotomayor, 55, becomes the first Hispanic justice the U.S. Supreme Court. She was nominated by President Barack Obama, the first black president.

one in late September at which they dispose of a couple thousand appeals.

A former clerk to Sotomayor's predecessor, Souter, says that first case in September could get her thinking about the biggest change anyone faces in becoming a justice, the far-reaching impact of some Su-

preme Court decisions.

There are few easy questions that come the court's way," said Meir Feder, the former Souter clerk who is now a partner at the Jones Day firm in New York "You're not applying settled law," Feder said, "because if it's settled, it shouldn't get there in the first place."

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