



'City of Roses'



Black History Month

40 years of community service

Committed to Cultural Diversity

# Hot Seat at City Hall

Police reform demands gain traction

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Police reform, a long elusive goal for the African American community and a handful of committed activists, might be within striking distance as pressure on City Hall reaches a fever pitch in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of Aaron Campbell, an unarmed Portland black man who was shot by police after a tense stand off.

"I think it could be different this time," said Jo Ann Bowman, a local African American political leader and longtime police critic who serves as executive director of Oregon Action.

Rev. Allen T. Bethel, the president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, an organization representing black churches, and someone who has long been on the front lines of policing issues, echoes Bowman's remark.

"This time it seems to be sustaining a lot of momentum, more than it has in the past," said Bethel, who attributes the surge to last week's visit by national civil rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Jackson was invited to address Campbell's death as he traveled to Oregon for a prior Black History Month engagement at the University of Oregon in Eugene. He met last



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Sam Adams (front) and Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman, announce their support for a federal civil rights investigation into last month's fatal police shooting of Aaron Campbell.

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## A Campaign for Equity in School

Desegregation ruling impacts Portland

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In 1954, winds of change started to slowly breeze through the country when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that schools could no longer segregate students by race- even if they promised the same quality education.

Portland, a city that still struggles with its own racist past, was slow to launch efforts to desegregate its schools after the landmark ruling. And even today, the city finds itself grappling with the same problems that seemed insurmountable when the issue first surfaced.

Minority students are still concentrated in a few schools. There is still a sobering achievement gap, and there are still disparities in how discipline is applied in public schools.

"The history of desegregation and integration efforts in the Portland Public Schools is almost as old as the school district itself," reads a document from the PPS archives, which explains that Portland, being a virtual frontier in the remote Pacific Northwest, has always had to grapple in fluxes of different kinds of people.

The same document states that after the court ruling there was "little community pressure to deal with it."

That was until the 1960s, when civil rights activists- like William McClendon of the local NAACP grew fed up with

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