



The

Portland Observer

Volume XXXX, Number 19

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • May 12, 2010



**Art Hop Focus:
Community**
Day-long celebration
Takes place Saturday
see Arts and Entertainment,
page 11

Scholarships

College opportunities abound



page 11 inside

40
years of
community service

Push Back

High schools redo generates opposition

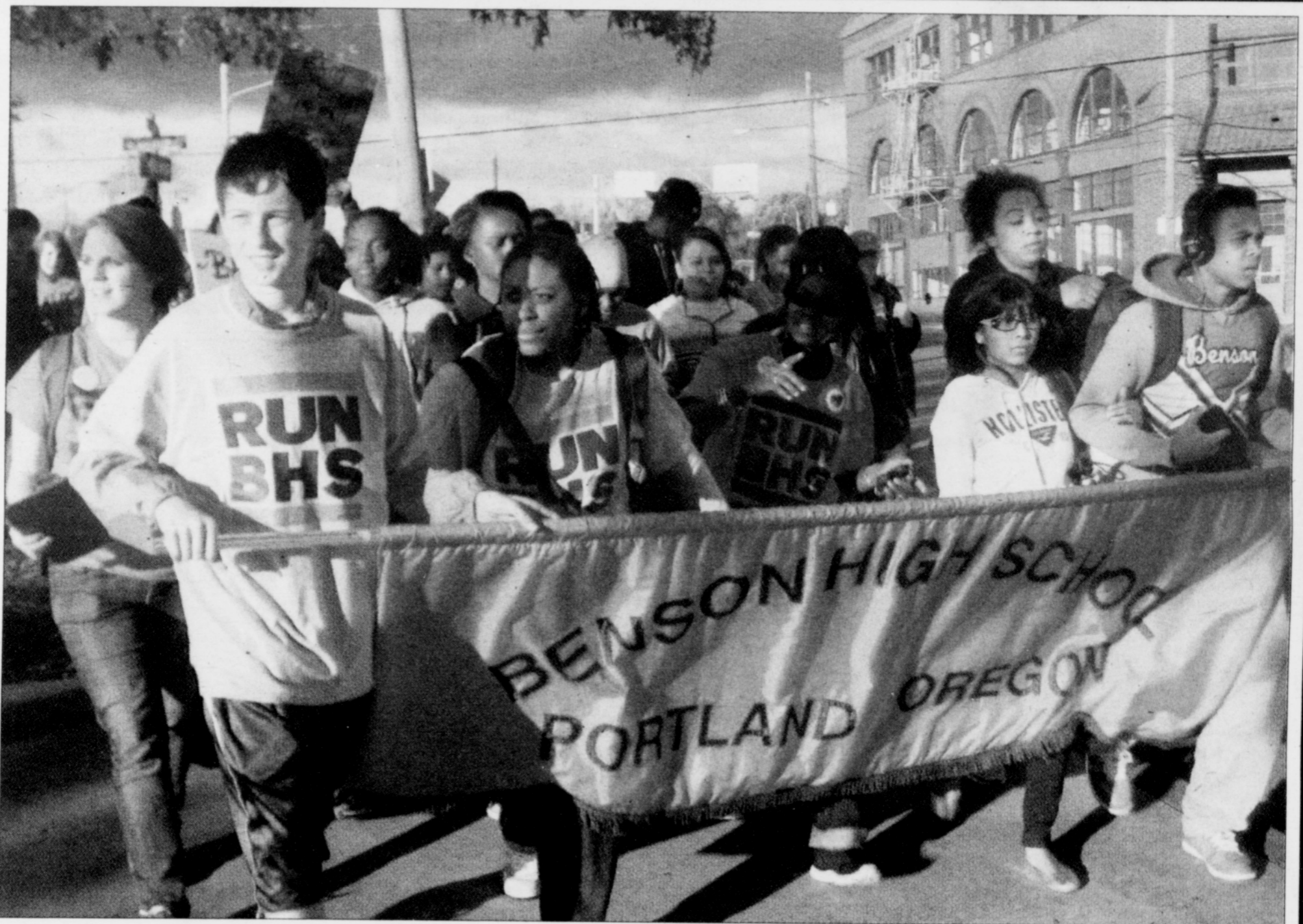
BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Four hundred to five hundred students, faculty, and alumni from Benson Polytechnic and Marshall high schools converged on a school board meeting on Monday night to push back against a controversial proposal from the superintendent that would drastically alter both schools.

Under Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith's plan, Marshall would become a focus school and Benson would become a specialized school open to juniors and seniors only who would attend part-time to pick up technical skills.

Supporters of both schools point

continued ▼ on page 18



Benson High School students and supporters march from the northeast school to Portland Public Schools' headquarters in north Portland on Monday to protest a plan that would significantly alter the school.

PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Racial Inequities Grow Wider

Report finds minorities falling behind

Minorities in Multnomah County fare far worse on many social and economic indicators than other parts of the country, and the quality of life for these communities has even declined in some respects, according to a new report released last week.

The findings were the culmination of nearly two years of research by the Communities of Color Coalition, composed of eight community organizations. The report was pro-

Home Repairs Fight Displacement



Bernice Hornbuckle received a low-interest loan to make major repairs to her home in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area. The Portland Housing Bureau is hoping more people like Hornbuckle will take advantage of similar programs, keeping wealth in the community.

See story, page 4

PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

duced in partnership with the Northwest Health Foundation, Portland State University, and city and county governments.

Some of the most unsettling inequities include:

Local minorities earn half the amount of money as their counterparts. Individually, the income of whites was typically around \$33,095, while people of color earned \$16,636.

A third of minority children in the Portland area live in poverty, while that number for non-minorities is 12.5 percent.

Whites are twice as likely to have a bachelor's or advanced degree as minorities.

continued ▼ on page 4