



'City of  
Roses'

# The Portland

# Portland Observer

**41**  
years of  
community service

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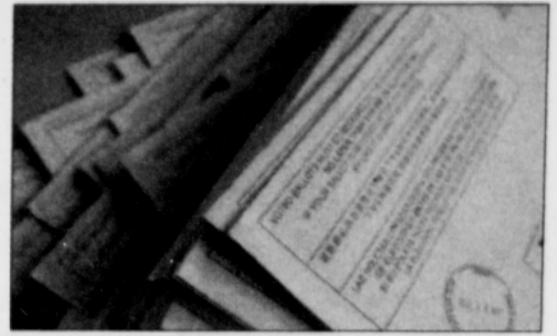
## Happy Halloween

Have a  
safe and  
happy  
holiday



## Ballots Due Tuesday!

Mail early  
or deposit at  
official sites



## Caring for Women

### Veterans benefit from new clinic

BY MELISSA CHAVEZ  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Female veterans from the coast to Bend, and from south of Salem up to Vancouver, now have access to vital medical services that are programmed specifically for their needs thanks to a new Center for Women Veterans Health at the Portland VA Hospital.

With women accounting for 20 percent of current military enlistees — up from 9 percent who served in Desert Storm during the early 1990s — the new health center is expected to meet an increasing demand for



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

U.S. Marine Corp veteran Kim Wilkie (left) and Women Veterans Program Manager Nancy Sloan welcome patients to the new Center for Women Veterans Health at the Portland VA Hospital.

continued ▼ on page 6

## PPS Board OKs STARBASE contract

### Program offers hands-on math, science teaching

The Portland Public Schools Board of Education on Monday voted 4-2 in favor of renewing a contract for STARBASE, a 25-hour educational program funded out of the Department of Defense recruitment budget.

The STARBASE program sends fourth and fifth graders to a week-long science camp on a local military base. Portland Public Schools has participated in STARBASE since 1993.

This 2-year, \$300,000-revenue contract between the school district and the DOD drew much attention district-wide, as it is usually a 1-year alliance, and comes before the board in spring, not fall. A growing number of Portland parents and community members strongly oppose the program because it is funded out of the U.S. military's recruitment budget and takes

place at a military facility.

The STARBASE program has repeatedly been a hot-button issue for the school board, drawing dozens of people wanting to comment on it, and hundreds protesting it whenever it comes up for renewal. Monday was no different.

Former and current teachers — both at the base and at PPS — praised the program's ability to demonstrate to students a real-world application of math and science, taking it beyond classroom theory.

Andrew Jaquiss, a North Portland elementary school teacher, called STARBASE "the best field trip of my life."

continued ▼ on page 4



Students from Harvey Scott Elementary School get a demonstration of a bomb-detonating robot, at STARBASE, a Department of Defense-funded program that teaches kids about math, science, and engineering. Photo courtesy of Starbase.



## ARMED FORCES



## Special Edition

See inside pages 4-6