



The



Portland Observer 41

Volume XXXXI, Number 6

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • February 9, 2011

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Concordia's Big Step



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Concordia University Athletic Director Matt English (right), steps into the construction zone with his student-athletes Odie Hollingshed (from left), Facundo Dipascuale and Indigo Recker. The northeast Portland college has continued on a sustained path of expansion by breaking ground this month on a new athletic complex and playing fields.

University gets home team advantage, finally

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Within the last few years, community members, faculty, and the 2,500 students of Concordia University have watched their campus bloom into a new and expanded being of higher education. This month, the northeast Portland university breaks ground on a long-awaited Community Athletic Complex, which upon completion will feature a well-lit, year-round turf field and facilities for clubs, camps, kids, and student-athletes.

"I view Concordia as a local gathering place for the community," says college athletic director, Matt English, comparing last year's opening of Concordia's George R. White Library and Learning Center with the addition of the athletic complex.

"With the library, people can use the coffee shop, sign up for library cards, check out books, and use our conference rooms for meetings and a place to gather. That's

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Activist, Political Leader Writes Memoir



Avel Gordly isn't done with public life

BY CLIFF PFENNING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Avel Gordly retired from the Oregon Senate in 2009 after nearly two decades in the state Legislature, she didn't fully retire from public life.

As an associate professor in the Portland State University Black Studies Program, Gordly's worked to encourage more minority teachers in public schools; and next month she will see her biography published as part of the series Women

and Politics in the Pacific Northwest.

The memoir, "Remembering the Power of Words: The Life of an Oregon Activist, Legislator, and Community Leader" recounts the challenges and struggles Gordly faced growing up in the 1950s and '60s in Portland and her successes as a college student, professional and public servant.

That words have power is a constant undercurrent in Gordly's book and a truth she learned early in life. The publication can be pre-ordered through amazon.com.

Gordly moved toward public life following the 1988 drive-by killing of Joseph "Ray Ray" Winston, when she became the program director of

the House of Umoja's local chapter, working to help at-risk youth. At the same time, she worked to get civic and political attention for the growing problem of gang violence in north and northeast Portland.

In 1992, she ran as a Democrat and was elected to the Oregon House for District 19, raising a stunning total of nearly \$70,000 for her campaign.

After two terms in the House, she won election to the Senate for District 23, needing to raise far less for her campaign. During her legislative career, she raised more than \$140,000, although only one contribution was

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