



The



50 Years of Cultural Expression

Alvin Ailey dancers inspire, enlighten see A&E, page 11



Clocks move ahead 1 hour on Sunday

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Not on the Same Page:

Local markets react to plastic bag ban proposal

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Last week, lawmakers in Salem held a debate on Senate Bill 536, which if passed, would make Oregon the first state to ban single-use plastic bags, allowing customers the option to pay a nickel for a paper checkout bag or bring their own re-usable bags.

Supporters of the ban include several environmental and legislative groups, as well as some larger grocery retailers who like the idea of encouraging customers to purchase reusable bags sold in their stores. Launching campaigns against the proposal is the plastic industry, arguing that plastic bags barely account for litter problems and offer recycling as a better alternative.

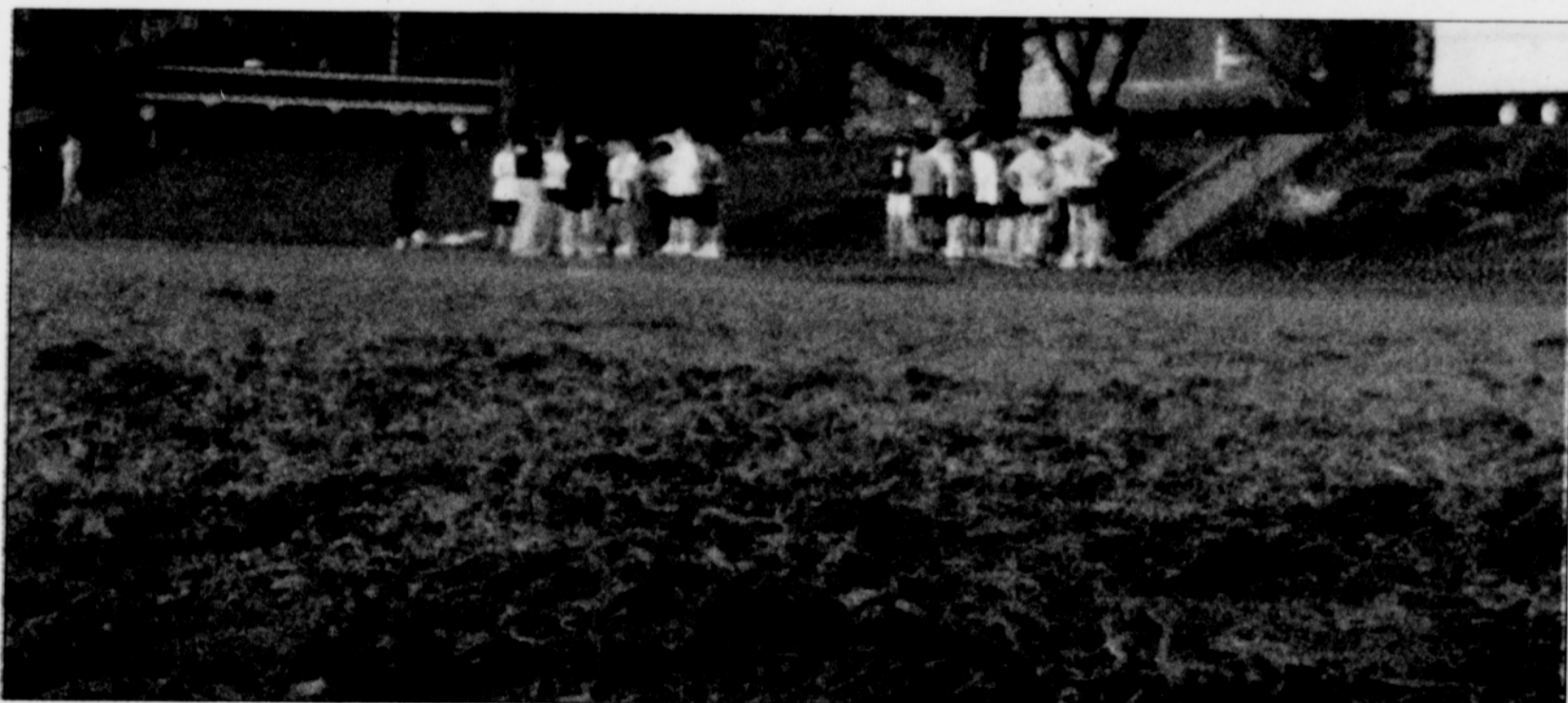
As the lobbyists lock horns in the state capitol, the plastic frenzy flutters amid smaller shop owners, like local convenience stores and corner markets, who are just beginning to consider the reality of losing those plastic bags that slip so conveniently over six-packs and snickers bars.

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PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Charles Bedford of Going Street Market helps longtime customer Latrell McNeely check out his purchases with a plastic bag. Lawmakers are considering a bill to ban the plastic bags to help the environment.

Grant Fields on Path to Fulfillment



After decade of planning, designs ready for viewing

BY CLIFF PFENNING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's been more than a decade and approaching \$3 million in the making, but the turf field project at Grant High School in northeast Portland appears to be on the path to fulfillment.

Portland Public Schools, Portland Parks and Recreation and Friends of Grant Athletics will present designs for what the fields at Grant Park, Grant High School and neighboring Hollyrood Elementary School might look like with improvements that include two artificial turf fields.

The football playing field within the Grant Park Bowl and the adjacent baseball and soccer fields are headed for all-weather turf, while the Hollyrood Elementary field will be revamped with

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PHOTO BY CLIFF PFENNING/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The muddy football field at Grant Park will be transitioned into an all-weather, artificial turf field thanks to the construction of new athletic fields serving Grant High School in northeast Portland.