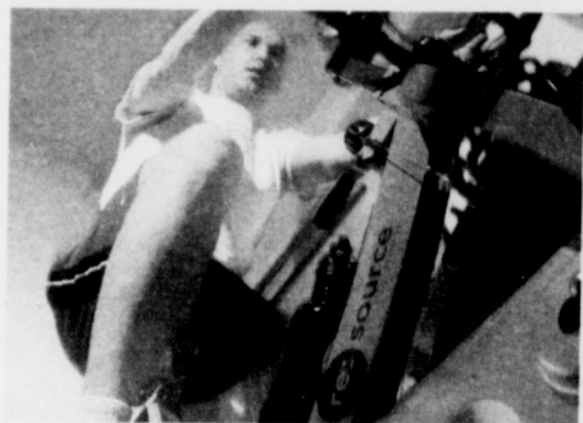


The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

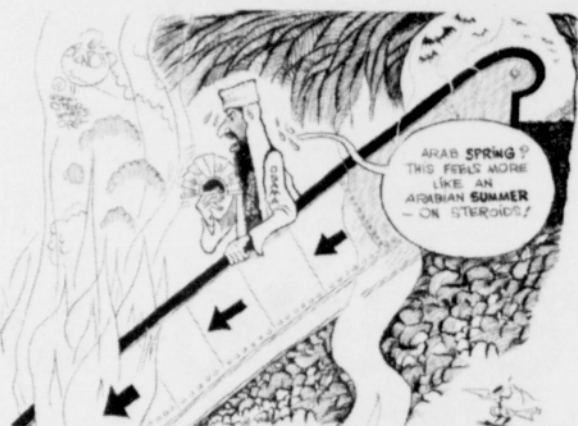
HEALTH

pages 6-7



OPINION

pages 8-9



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT pages 10-14

CLASSIFIEDS

page 15

RELIGION

page 16-17

MAY CALENDAR

page 19



FOOD page 20

This page Sponsored by:

Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

World flags dangle above the circle of community members who gather at David Douglas High School to take on the issues of gang violence and demands for a more peaceable future,

It Takes a Village

Community gathering confronts gang violence

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
"Like it or not, we are losing as a community," Sam Thomson, a local business owner and speaker, implored during the meeting at David Douglas High School in response to unwavering gang violence and a community's demand for a more peaceable future.

World flags dangled above the recent gathering as a double circle of community members met in the auditorium of the southeast Portland school. Experienced elders and tender-aged youth made up the inner circle while residents, teachers, families, and parents closed in the outer circle.

African Americans, the

forum's majority, listened as Thompson prompted a discussion on how to restore an aching community, hit hard by a recent uptick in gun-related incidents, and gentrification and recession induced losses of solidarity, moral cohesion, economic opportunity, city support, and the death of too many young lives.

Statistics proved his point. Just 51 percent of African Americans graduate in Portland Public Schools. Seventy-five percent of students at David Douglas are from families with incomes low enough to qualify for free school lunches. And while the city spends \$500,000 on gang outreach, it doles out \$20 million to build bike

lanes. In 2010, zero people died in bike-related accidents. Since September, gang-related shootings killed five young people.

"The reason things are the way they are is because we tolerate it," said Thompson recognizing that the only way the African-American community will receive help is if they help themselves.

In the background stood a lunch room table saturated with obituary cards from the funerals of local African American youth, representing just one third of gang-related deaths in recent years, and serving as a cold re-

continued ▼ on page 5