

## Playhouse Keeps the Diversity

continued ▲ from front

utilizing the church because of the power dynamics touched on when it comes to religion. He admitted, "We knew it would bring up a lot of powerful emotions."

Although the end of the season ends with the play Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Weaver explained the performances for next year have recently been announced, and will also reach out to those within the

community.

One performance the Portland Playhouse will bring to the stage is the Brother/Sister plays by the award-winning African-American playwright and actor Tarell Alvin McCraney, who studied under August Wilson.

Weaver, who said the cast will be made up almost entirely of African Americans, explained his excitement for another performance that will celebrate diversity.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Advocates gather at the MercyCorps headquarters, downtown, examine and question the often costly and prohibitive process for once incarcerated individuals to re-enter the community.



### Happy 50th Anniversary!

Pauline and Willie (Johnny) Kelly celebrated 50 years of marriage on May 6, 2011 Celebration this summer in the Hawaiian Islands. Both are retired Transit City Bus Drivers, as well as retired Beautician and Barber. The couple has 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren. The couple says the key to their marriage is not a 60/40 or a 70/30 but a 50/50 LOVE!

*We love the both of you,  
Family & Friends*

## Jail Free and Broke

### Advocates work to make re-entry successful

When a person walks out of prison, they usually face costly financial barriers including fees, fines, and restitution which can add debts of up to tens of thousands of dollars. In addition, upon re-entry into the community, formerly incarcerated people must navigate the complex system of the repayment process often without complete understanding of their legal financial obligations.

Working to help individuals through such financial burdens and promote successful re-entry from incarceration to the community is ROAR (Re-entry Organizations and Resources), a collaboration of over 45 faith-based and government agencies mostly in the Portland Metro area.

With the aim of making the re-entry process easier to understand and more fair, ROAR conducted a recent workshop to examine how legal financial obligations might affect the process of re-entry and consider whether changes need to be made to the method of payments.

The workshop panel consisting of a parole officer, formerly incarcerated people, and researchers from Portland State University's Criminal Justice and Masters Program, concluded that the financial obligations often do present a significant barrier to re-entry. The group also addressed questions about the victims of crime; when and how do they get their money?

If you would like more information on re-entry issues, you're encouraged to attend the next ROAR meeting on June 16 or contact Peter Pincetl by email at [ppincetl@mercycorpssnw.org](mailto:ppincetl@mercycorpssnw.org) or call 503-896-5074.

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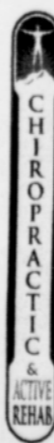
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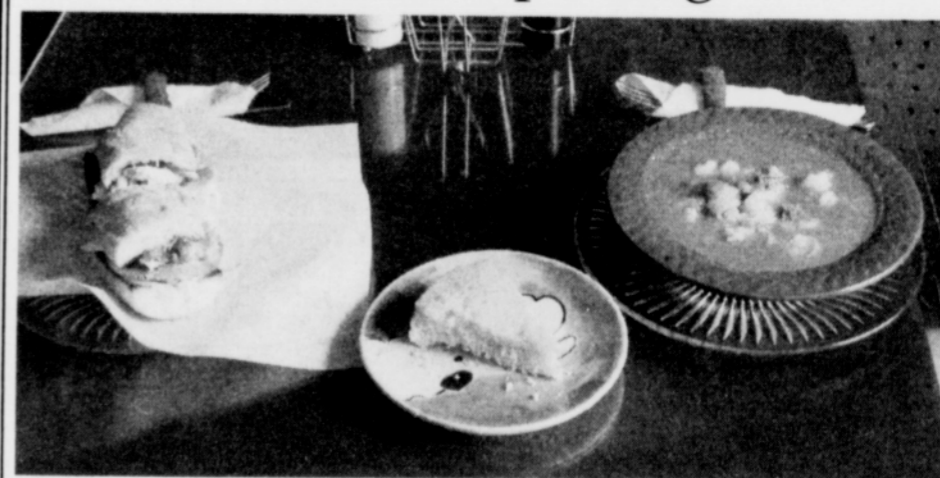
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