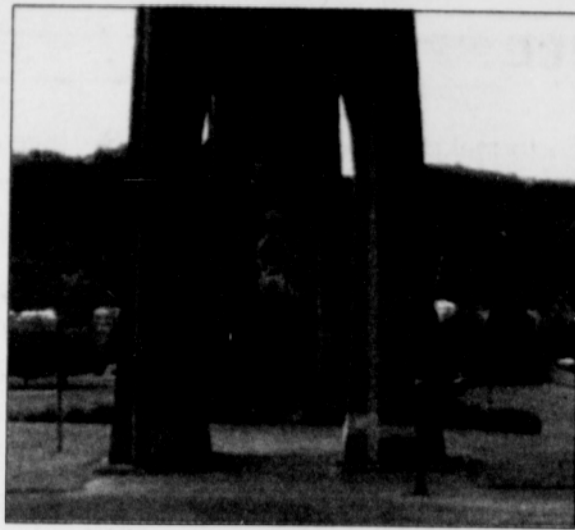


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No. Fest Weekend

Music, dance, theater and more fills Saint John's main stage and business sites
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Who Killed Michael?

La Toya writes on brother's death
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'City of Roses' 

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Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of community service

Tuition Free Magnet

Jefferson's college partners open doors to future grads



BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Excitement bubbled and exploded in smiles and applause as education elites from Portland Public Schools, Portland Community College and the University of Oregon united June 15 on the front steps of the north Portland school to solidify a new partnership establishing the Jefferson High School - Middle College for Advanced Studies, as a pre-college focus school for students across the city.

The crowd, including Jefferson's new principle Margret Calvert and incoming students were pleased with University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere's decision to guarantee low and middle income graduates of 2012 the reality of earning a college degree tuition-free.

One year ago, with dismal resources and declining attendance Jefferson was on the verge of closure. Now, upon the school board's October decision to keep the school open, education and community leaders are celebrating the expanding links between Jefferson and PCC and a new partnership with Univer-

PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere signs an agreement at Jefferson High School last week that will give the north Portland school's future students the ability to obtain a 4-year college degree tuition-free if they complete one year of free Portland Community College credits while enrolled in the a new and expanded college-oriented program at Jefferson.

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PDC Executive puts Focus on Jobs

New director charts course for agency

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Patrick Quinton is the new executive director of the Portland Development Commission, a position others sought but not everyone would covet. It is up to him to chart a course for an agency that has shed much of its staff and function yet retains some negative baggage from the past.

The agency's staff has fallen from 290 two years ago to 147 today. Part of this was due to bad economic times, which forced this and other public agencies to cut budgets, bodies and functions. Other employees transferred to the new Portland Housing Office, which has taken over the agency's old functions of housing development and maintenance.

Some have speculated that PDC should adopt a new mission statement. Quinton says that this is "on my to-do list," but a formal statement will require "internal and external conversations." In general, however, he says, "As the city's

economic development corporation, we need to be laser-focused on creating jobs. And we need to be focused on ensuring that those jobs go to existing residents."

The focus on economic development comes at the expense of some projects. PDC recently dropped a program of improvements at Unthank Park in north Portland, and there have been similar cuts elsewhere.

"It will vary by neighborhood, but with the decline in resources these kinds of cuts should

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Patrick Quinton