

# The



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Muslim community comes together to celebrate  
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Growing numbers make users of the road equally alert  
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# The Portland Observer 41

'City of Roses'



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Volume XXXXI, Number 34

Wednesday • August 24, 2011

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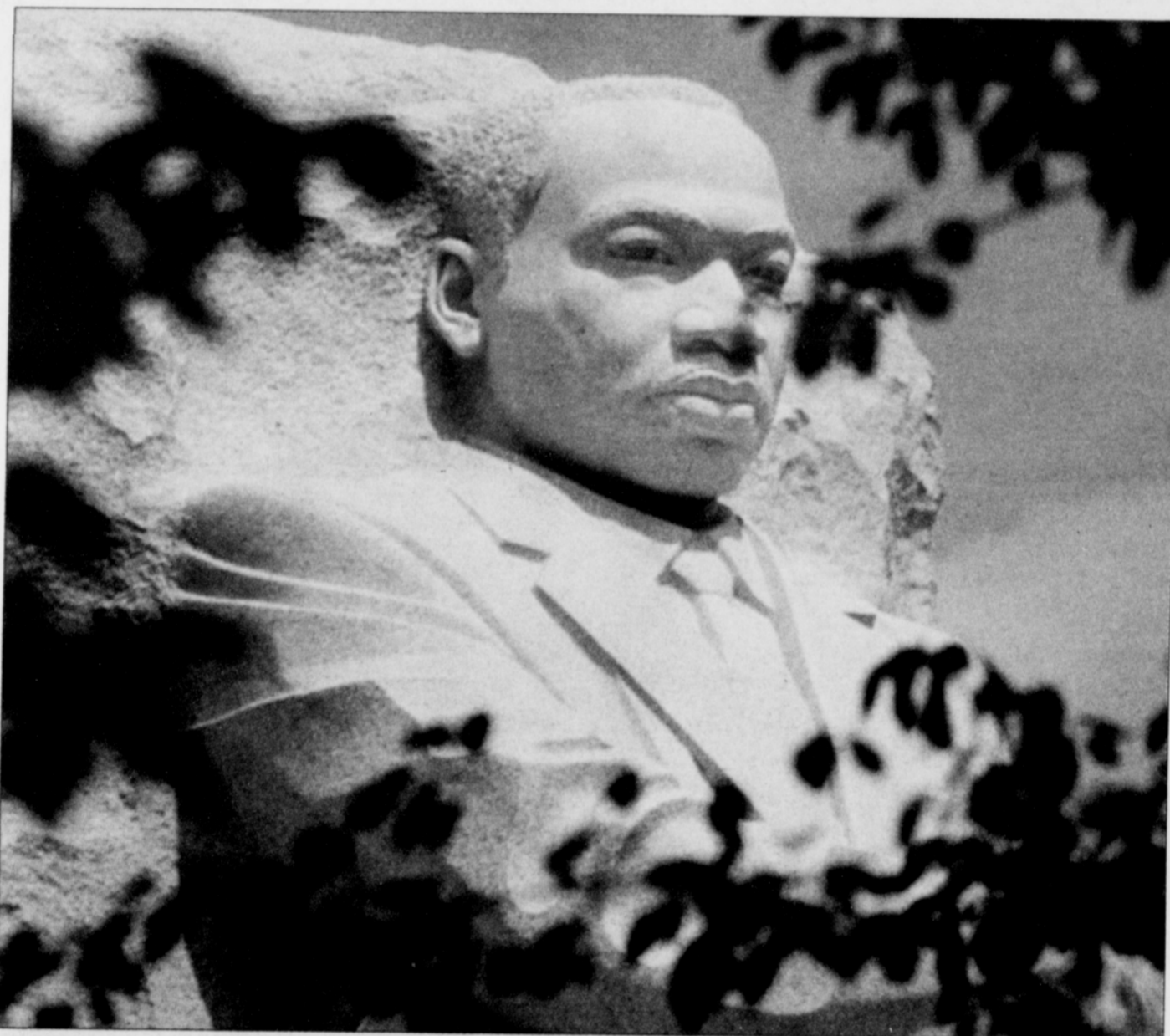
## King Memorial Opens

### Stone of hope carved from mountain of despair

Visitors got their first up-close look Monday at the memorial to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., including a towering granite sculpture inspired by the civil rights leader's "I Have a Dream" speech.

The opening started a week of celebrations ahead of Sunday's official dedication. A stream of people filed into the site, reading some of the 14 quotations from King's speeches inscribed into a 450-foot-long granite wall.

The memorial sits on the National Mall near the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., between memorials honoring Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson. The sheer size of the 30-foot sculpture of King sets it apart from the nearby statues of Jefferson and Lincoln, which are both about 20 feet tall.



A statue depicts the late civil rights leader Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. emerging from stone on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial was opened to the public Monday ahead of its official dedication on Sunday.

Pamela M. Cross, 53, a cyber security professional from Washington, said she usually passes by the memorial on her morning walk around the National Mall and was excited to be able to see it up close.

Cross said her father, a postal worker, attended the march on Washington in 1963. She said King's message continues to resonate.

"The way the country is right now, it's good to remember his principles," Cross said. "We are in need of jobs, we're in need of equality, we're in need of an economic vision that's inclusive."

The sculptor, Lei Yixin, said he wanted the memorial to be a visual representation of the ideals King spoke of in his "I Have a Dream" speech.

"His dream is very universal. It's a dream of equality," Lei said through his son, who translated from Mandarin. "He went to jail. He had been beaten, and he sacrificed his life for his dream. And now his dream comes true."

Jean Watkins, 67, a neuro-diagnostic technologist from Washington, said she was active in the civil rights movement in her native Norfolk, Va. She said the memo-

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## Letter Carriers Fight for Justice and Survival

### Workers say financial troubles are 'big lies'

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Contrary to popular belief, letter carriers say the U.S. Postal service's financial crisis, which has been making headlines for the past several months, is not the problem threatening mail delivery to go to a five-day schedule come September.

Instead, they say the problem is political.

For the past year, Portland's

Postal Service union has been working to inform the public that eliminating one day of delivery per week is detrimental to both the quality of service for customers and the well-being of postal employees.

"In the greater Portland area, there are over 1,500 letter carriers," said Jim Cook, the president of Portland's letter carrier's union.

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Jamie Partridge of northeast Portland, a local letter carrier for 27 years, delivers the mail to Griselda Gonzalez. Partridge says the postal service is facing a crisis due to politics.

PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER