

# The PO



## Crowned Jewels

Photo essay honors women impacted by breast cancer  
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## Garbage Pickup Changes

Weekly service gives way to food composting  
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# Portland Observer 42

'City of Roses'

Read back issues of the Portland Observer at [www.portlandobserver.com](http://www.portlandobserver.com)

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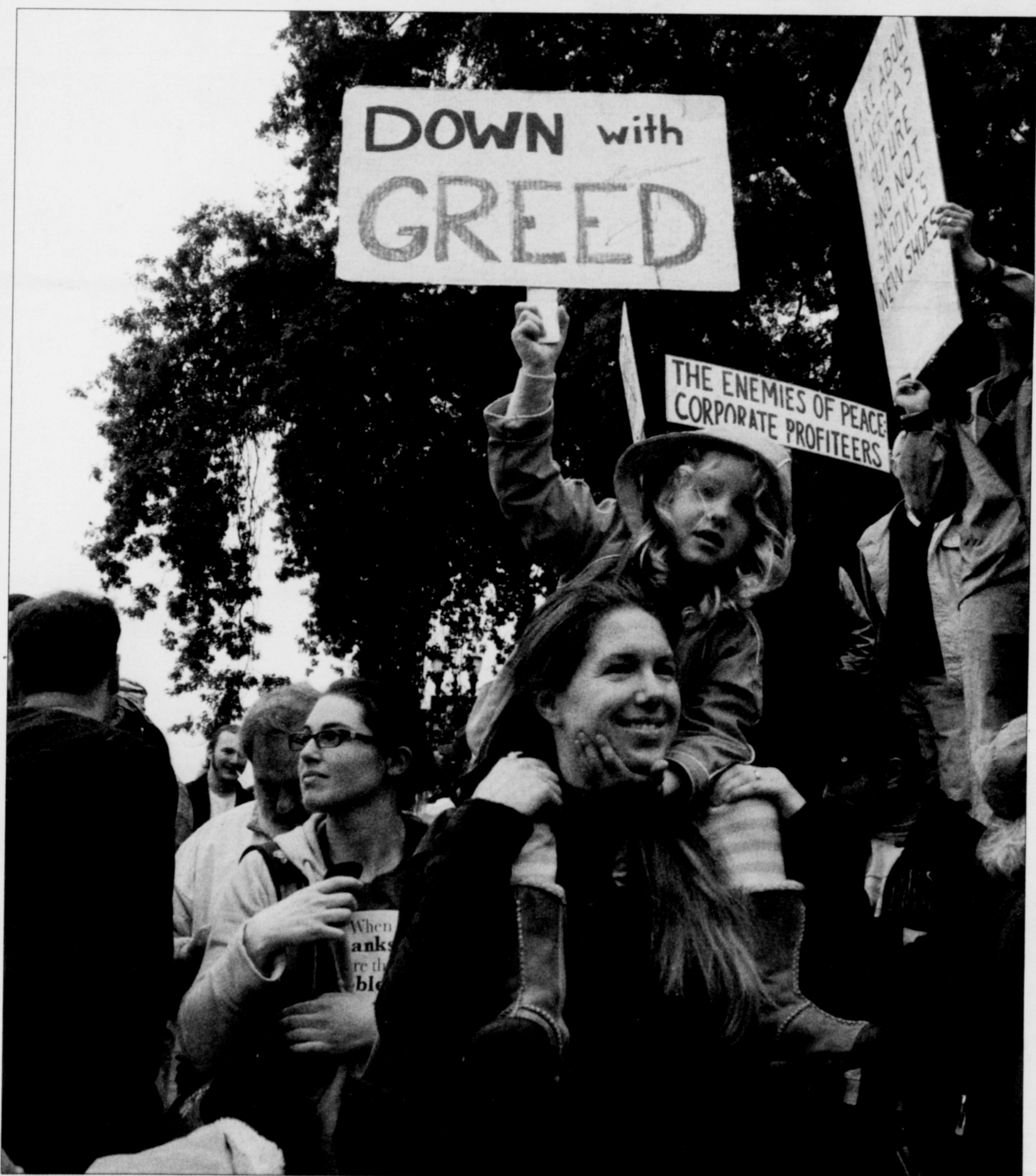
Wednesday • October 12, 2011

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# Wall Street Back Lash



## Occupy Portland rises up against the powerful

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thousands of residents gathered at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square and other downtown landmarks Thursday to unite in anger against unequal access to resources, high unemployment rates, and the wealth of the country residing in the hands of the few.

As one of the biggest demonstrations since the political protests in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, countless Portland residents joined forces with the recent Occupy Wall Street movement in New York, which has inspired activists, demonstrators and individuals throughout the country to battle the political power held by the richest one percent of Americans.

'We are the 99 percent' echoed the voices marching through Portland, as individuals united in an effort to fight corporate greed through peaceful solidarity.

No one knew the level of local support before the rallies began. Almost a week later, however, Occupy Portland is still very much alive, making it clear that the voices of many citizens have been suppressed for far too long.

While the initial fear of police intervention lingered for many when a permit wasn't attained for the march, officers did not arrest anyone for unlawful acts, despite the thousands of individuals who filled the streets.

Mike Leloff, a commander of the North Precinct of the Portland Police Bureau, was on the job at Waterfront Park as the protest grew. He said he couldn't comment politically, but he said, "It's a good group of people, and they've got a message, and we are going to facilitate them to deliver that message."

Although no defining organizational structure exists to the non-violent pro-

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PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Portland resident Laura Shepard, 41, and her four-year-old daughter Gabrielle, join the Occupy Portland protests, downtown. The demonstrations, part of a national movement, counter the political power held by the richest Americans.