



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A massive crowd fills Pioneer Courthouse Square to rise up against powerful banking and Wall Street interests on the first day of an Occupy Portland protest, downtown.

Wall Street Back Lash

continued **▲** from front

test, Occupy Portland has attracted people from all different walks of life who feel they have finally been given a chance to express their dissatisfaction with political decisions that favor the wealthy interests of Wall Street and banks.

Northeast Portland resident Laura Shepard, 41, and her four-year-old daughter Gabrielle, attended the rally, where they held together a sign, which read 'Down with the Greed.'

"We're here because we want to get the message out that the people should be making the choices—not the few at the top," said Shepard. "We are super

excited so many people are like-minded. It gives us hope for the future."

Keri Brunson, 34, another north-east Portland resident, agreed.

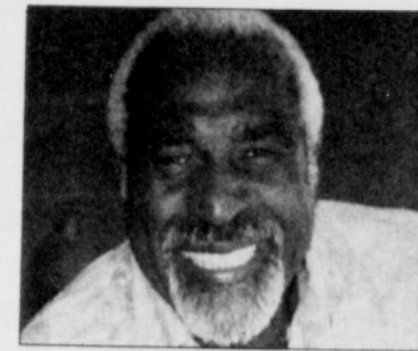
Brunson attended the rally with her homemade sign that attracted heightened attention and admiration from throughout the crowd. "My sign is all about the GOP taking orders from the Koch brothers," she said. "Unfortunately, corporate interests are buying our politicians when it comes to sharing the sacrifices of the tax burden created by Wall Street.

Guillermo Magallon, 44, said he was at the protest to gather volunteers and support the economic rights of farm workers and other low income Americans.

Bob Crispin, 67, said he has been fighting corporate greed since the 1960s to current day, where he is now a retired high-techie and cleans houses part time to "bolster" his retirement.

"This is important to me because it seems to me that the political right is calling people on any kind of safety net 'Takers,' but don't mention the people at the top who are taking," he said.

Although there are several reasons for why individuals felt the urge to attend the rallies, many residents said Occupy Portland is the beginning of the mission to find common ground and create a better and more just future for generations to come.



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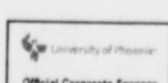
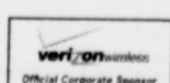
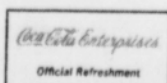
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