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Fred Meyer

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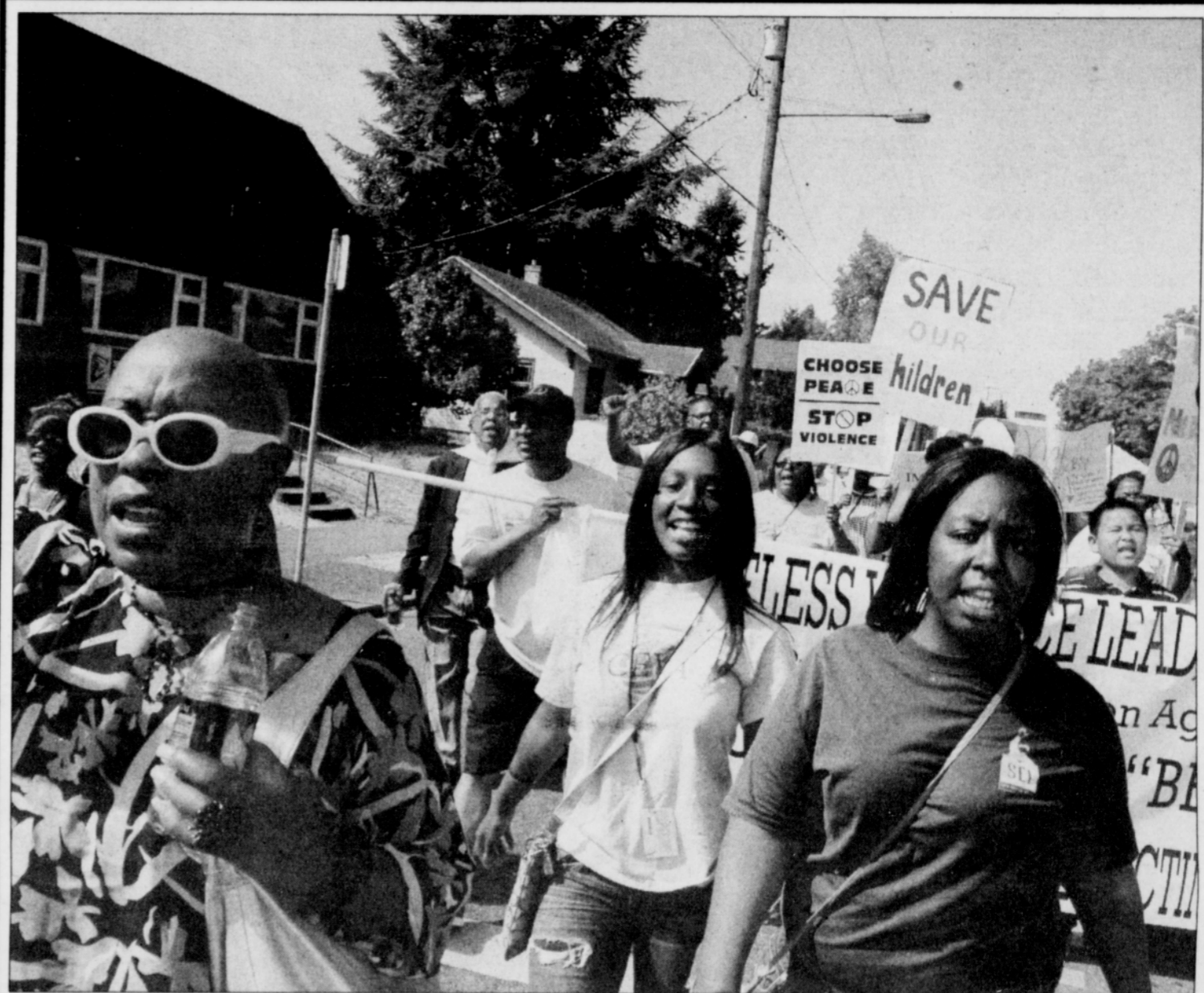


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LOCAL NEWS



Marching for Peace

A large group of community residents, including Rev. Renee Ward (from left) and Asianique Savage, the daughter of 2002 murder victim Asia Bell, took to the streets Saturday in an annual tribute to all victims of violence. The 'Senseless Violence Leads to Silence' march and rally started at Irving Park and concluded at Alberta Park with motivational speakers, music, food and games for kids.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Neighborhood Activist Loses Job

Northeast Coalition votes out its executive director

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, which represents several neighborhoods in mostly inner northeast Portland, has parted ways with its executive director Paige Coleman.

The reason for the employment termination is at best a matter of speculation. Coleman says the group's executive committee made it clear that they were dissatisfied with her, but never presented her with an explanation.

"I don't go where I'm not wanted," she told the Portland Observer.



Paige Coleman

Chris Lopez, chair of coalition, declined to specify what the cause of the problems were. Asked if Coleman was told about perceived problems and given a chance to rectify them he said, "I'm not sure."

Monday, the board asked former NECN staffer Shoshanna Cohen to serve as a part-time temporary ex-

ecutive director while a search for a permanent director is conducted.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is one of five coalitions run by volunteer boards made up of representatives of neighborhood associations and other interested parties. The system has operated in Portland since 1974, and in that time only two neighborhood office directors have been fired, both times at NECN.

Joseph Santos-Lyons was terminated in January 2008 and, on that occasion, the board (which then included Coleman as a representative of the Boise neighborhood) deliberately chose not to supply a reason for its actions.

Coleman notes that as director she increased the coalition's interaction with neighborhoods, in addition to standing committees dealing

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