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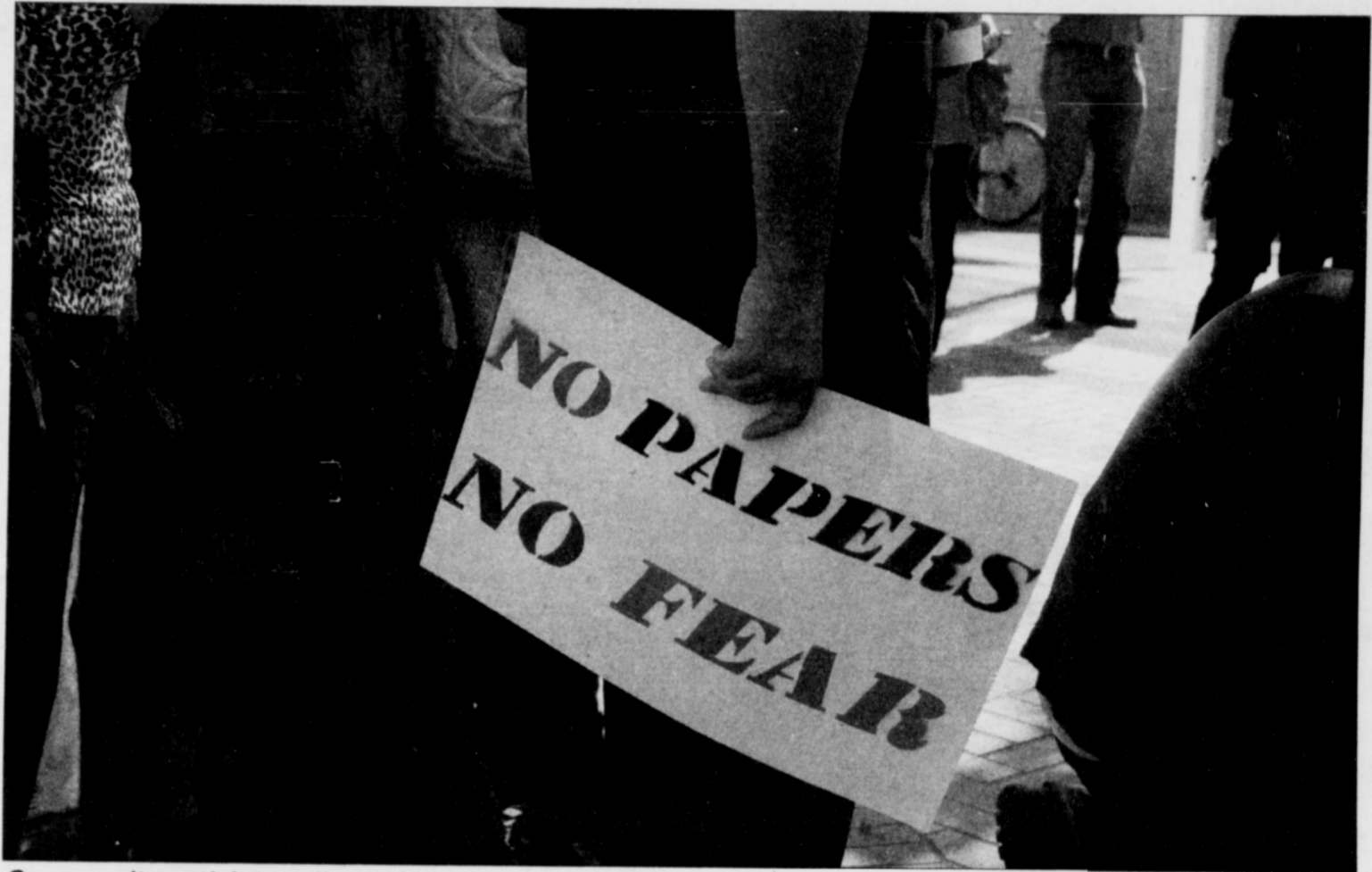
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LOCAL NEWS



Community activists rally against anti-immigration policies in downtown Portland.

Sheriff Backs Feds on Holds

Responds to outcry over immigration enforcement

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Under pressure from activists of the immigrant and refugee community to stop honoring federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holds in Multnomah County, Sheriff Dan Staton has responded in a written statement that he has heard the community outcry, but will continue to enforce the law as it is a mandatory regulation by the federal government.

The ACT Network, a coalition of faith leaders, community members and organizations dedicated to stopping ICE holds in Portland, argue the opposite, that local enforcement is voluntary.

Holding people who do not have legal proof of citizenship in jail for up to three days, whether that person is convicted of a crime or not, until federal officials can take those individuals to a detention center where they face deportation is a human rights issue, the ACT Network charges.

The activists say the deportation proceedings are separating fami-



Dan Staton

lies and detrimental to children left behind as their parents are deported. ICE holds criminalize people who are not criminals and breeds fear and distrust of law enforcement by immigrant communities, thereby putting the community's safety at risk, they say.

Staton issued his statement one day following a city informational session on Immigration issues, where the sheriff's public information officer Lt. Steve Alexander confirmed he met with concerned community group repre-

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Weekend of Service Honors King

Registration is open for the United Way Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of Service in honor of the late civil rights leader and the observance of the national Martin Luther King holiday.

The event taking place Jan. 19-21 brings together 44 organizations who work on various issues in the Portland community, including education, poverty, literacy, older adults, the environment, animals and homelessness. Together, up to 1,000 volunteers are expected to generate \$76,235 in value from 3,500

hours of volunteer service.

This is the sixth year United Way of the Columbia-Willamette has hosted the MLK Weekend of Service event. The event is organized by Hands On Greater Portland, now a program of United Way. The event is also done with help from The Boeing Company, who is serving as the presenting sponsor of the event for the second year in a row.

"We are so proud to once again be heading up this massive volunteer project aimed at improving our community and honoring Martin

Luther King Jr.," said Keith Thomajan, the local United Way president and chief executive officer. "This is such a great opportunity to get out there and make a difference. Sign up your family or a group of co-workers; this is a chance to give back in a meaningful way."

Projects are currently open for signup at unitedway-pdx.org/mlk. Individuals can sign up on their own, and friends, families and companies can also organize teams. People who sign up a four-person team are eligible to win an iPad Mini.