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## LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

### Faubion Rebuild Celebration

Patrick Kiblinger is project manager for the \$48.5 million rebuild of Faubion K-8 school. On Thursday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m., the community is invited to the school site at 3030 N.E. Rosa Parks Way to celebrate the partnership between Portland Public Schools, Concordia University, Trillium Family Services and others committed to this investment as a way to close the achievement gap and mark the beginning of construction.

### 'Meet the Heat' Protest NAACP stands up against cop fundraiser

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
In what sounded like an April Fool's joke but was in actuality a hosted event, a Citizens Crime Commission and the Portland Police Foundation thought it appropriate to host a "Meet the Heat" fundraiser, where a \$1,000 donation for registration gave participants an opportunity to schmooze with law enforcers.

NAACP Portland Chapter President JoAnn Hardesty and the group Portland Copwatch saw the obvious abuse of public property and employees for a private pledging affair, and called for a protest

that same morning at the Portland Police Training Facility, where the Friday fundraiser was held. The registration fee included a membership and badge for the inaugural Portland Police Foundation's Founders' Circle, an associate membership with the Citizens Crime Commission, the chance to meet members of the Special Emergency Reaction Team, the "world famous" K9 Unit, and witnessing various police tactics in action. In the shadow of a federal Department of Justice Agreement with the City of Portland to reduce unnecessary use of force, the protesters said it looked more like an

ad for a "Lethal Weapon" sequel than a means to attract donors who wish to support law enforcement and reduce crime. Hardesty was joined by more than a couple of dozen of other supporters. She led them on a charge of the facility building, where they were met by police and were able to negotiate and guarantee that no one was arrested. It is unclear how much money was raised, or if this event will take place again next year, but we can rest assured that Hardesty and other community advocates will be there to protest if it happens again.

### Tuition Hike Disrupts PSU Board

Taking action into their own hands, a group of Portland State University students and community advocates challenged the university's plans to hike tuition rates by storming the school's governing board with a disruptive protest. The board of trustees had to relocate their Thursday meeting to a secure basement room to escape the protestors, where they eventually followed through with the

nearly 4 percent tuition increase decision to avoid a \$6 million cut from its budget. Beginning next fall, full-time in-state undergraduates at Portland State can expect to pay \$8,337 in mandatory fees and annual tuition, amounting to about a \$303 increase. PSU currently holds the second lowest tuition and fees of all public Oregon universities, yet with increasing rates in other costs of living, this heightened tuition was

considered very low for everyone. PSU officials issued a statement saying they understand any tuition increase is a hardship for their students, but said the school is suffering from ranking near the bottom nationally in state support for higher education. "We need to find alternatives that help make PSU more affordable for our students and future students, said Peter Nickerson, chair of the trustees.