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Portland City Hall

## Report: City Must Change Government

City Club of Portland report comes up sharply critical of Portland's form of government

By Christen McCurdy  
Of The Skanner News

**P**ortland's current form of city government needs to change, argues a report released Sunday by the Portland City Club.

Portland voters have twice, in recent years – in 2002 and 2007 – rejected a shift to a strong-mayor form of government, and the report also argues against such a move. Instead the report, authored by 11 City Club volunteers, includes the following recommendations:

- Centralize authority by strengthening the mayor's role;
- Create a city manager role – some- See CITY CLUB on page 3



In this photo taken Oct. 2, 2018, a semi-automatic rifle, with "God Bless America" imprinted on it, is displayed for sale on the wall of a gun shop in Lynnwood, Wash.

## Washington State Sheriffs Refuse to Enforce New Gun Restrictions

page 8

## Kam Williams Gives New Film 'Black' Four Stars

page 7

# RECORD SNOW HITS SEATTLE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Several snow storms rolled through Seattle between Feb. 8 and Feb. 11 dumping more than eight inches of snow, forcing school closures throughout the area. Making the most of a bad situation Seattlites took advantage of the cold white stuff to make snow people, have snowball fights and sled down the numerous hills in Seattle. In this Feb. 9 photo, children slide down a hill next to Jane Addams Middle School.

## OSU President Emphasizes Diversity in 'State of the University' Address

'Excellence is achieved through diversity in all that we do,' Ray tells Portland audience

The Skanner News Staff

**I**n a Feb. 7 address at the Oregon Convention Center, Oregon State University President Ed Ray emphasized the importance of improving diversity at the school – and called on state government to provide more funding for higher education.

Touting the university's five-year roadmap launched in January, Ray

said the university plans to help "transform society" with research and innovation and offer "success for all people regardless of their race, gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or identity – or economic circumstances."

"At Oregon State, we believe that excellence is achieved through diversity in all that we do and for all that we serve. Thanks

to the leadership of our Office of Institutional Diversity, we are making great strides in becoming a more inclusive university, but we know that we have more work to do. We realize the more diverse and inclusive we are, the more excellent we will be," Ray said.

In a conversation with The Skanner News staff later on Feb. 7, Ray and diversity chair Charlene Al-

exander talked about ways in which the university is working to recruit and retain minority students and other students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Some highlights and key numbers:

- Improved cultural centers. The university's five cultural centers for minority students have been rebuilt and in one case renamed, with input See OSU on page 3

## Parkland Anniversary Highlights Democratic Shift on Guns

After years of caution on gun rights, public pressure – and midterm success – mean Democrats are getting bolder on gun control

By Nicholas Riccardi  
Associated Press

**I**n the final weeks before the 2008 election, Barack Obama's campaign sent mailers to Florida voters reassuring them that he supported the Second Amendment. In the opening days of the 2020 Democratic primary, it's hard to imagine any

candidate feeling the need to make a similar gesture.

"Guns are no longer the third rail," said Steve Schale, a political operative who ran Obama's Florida campaign in 2008. "Ten to 12 years ago, Democrats had to – for political necessity – be really careful about how they talked about it. Now, if you don't

See PARKLAND on page 3



PHOTO BY ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., center, accompanied by Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., third from right, speaks at a news conference on an proposed amendment to ban high capacity magazines in guns Feb. 12, 2019.