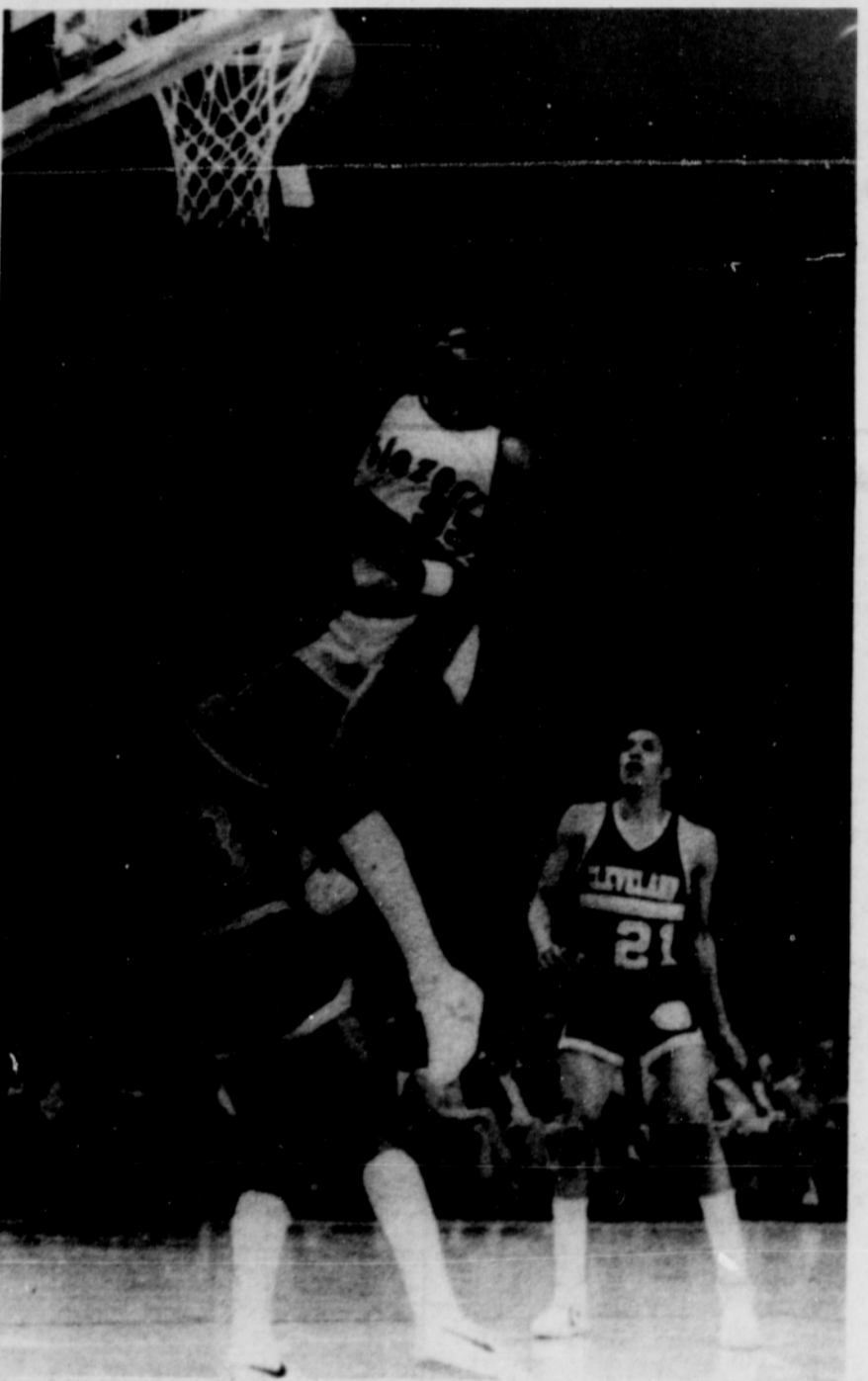


Mychal Thompson moves into position to signal Kelvin Ransey for his famous drive while Cleveland's defender finds himself helpless to stop. (Photo: Viance Easter)



Calvin Natt takes it to the hoop as he uses Cleveland's James Silas as a stepladder for a Blazer two-pointer. (Photo: Viance Easter)

Ticket scalping in Rip City

by Ron Sykes

Memorial Coliseum, home of the Portland Trailblazers, employs several hundred concessionaires, parking lot attendants, custodial workers, ushers, security guards, etc. These people are visible to the general public. But there are other workers around who are only visible to those seeking tickets for Blazer games and concerts. These workers are known as scalpers.

On May 5, 1977, the Portland City Council passed the following ordinance:

"... Resale of tickets to events at municipal facilities at a premium price prohibited. Tickets to all events at municipally owned facilities shall have printed thereon the retail price thereof. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any such ticket at a price greater than the retail price printed thereon, exclusive of fees or service charges for sale of tickets not exceeding fifty cents per ticket at regular ticket outlets.

"Some of these guys are so regular that we know them by sight," said one security guard. "We personally escort them off the premises, but they just keep coming back, and back, and back."

There are at least ten regular scalpers who work all of the games. Just like in any business, there are the good ones and the bad ones.

We arrived early for the Boston game to get a first-hand view of these young entrepreneurs at work. We followed Ed Fabian (fictitious name for obvious reasons). Ed is a handsome young Black man of me-

Portland Observer Top Twenty

1. N. Carolina
2. Virginia
3. Georgetown
4. Oregon State
5. DePaul
6. Missouri
7. Minnesota
8. Alabama
9. Memphis State
10. Idaho
11. Pepperdine
12. Tulsa
13. Villanova
14. Kentucky
15. Arkansas
16. Ala. Birmingham
17. Fresno State
18. Kansas State
19. Iowa
20. Indiana

Paul Westphal: Sonic or Knick?

Today is a day for all pro guard Paul Westphal. Sonic management must make a decision whether the team will match the Knick's offer sheet or let Paul go to the Knickerbockers without any compensation for him.

The Sonics lost an arbitration hearing Saturday over playoff clauses in the contract he signed with the Knicks.

General manager Zollie Volchok has some tough choices to make right away.

We feel they will sign Paul so the Knicks won't get him and try to work a trade elsewhere. The Knick's management and Sonic partners are still up in arms about the "Webster affair" and just won't let it go away. It would do both parties good to forget the past and deal in good faith with each other. The marriage they have in the NBA is forever.

dium build, six feet two inches tall with short curly hair. He grew up in a broken home and was a product of the streets from an early age.

"I've always hustled to help my Mom. There were six of us kids and no father around. So someone had to help put bread on the table," says Ed. When asked about the City Ordinance prohibiting scalping, Ed replied, "I really can't see it as a crime. You have a willing buyer and I'm willing to sell, so what's the crime?"

About this time a young couple approached while Ed was holding his two tickets in sight. "I've got two for fifty," Ed said. These were normally six-fifty seats. The couple took the tickets without asking where they were located. Ed said to

me, "This is going to be a good night."

To keep up with the young man one would need roller skates. He moved just that fast working the crowd. The amazing thing to me is that most of the time these scalpers arrived at their job site with no tickets. They arrive early to bargain with season ticket holders who for some reason can't make it to the game that night. They are a scalper's delight.

I asked which games were best for scalpers. Ed's eyes lit up and a smile danced across his face. "If I had Boston, Philadelphia and New York every night, I could spend my sum-

mers vacationing in Hawaii. For Boston and Philadelphia, I usually make three hundred or better in a night. Not all nights are good nights. Sometimes we get burned."

Ed explained to me how scalping works. "When season ticket holders come down to sell their tickets, it's usually because they have something else to do. If they have twelve dollar seats, I can usually talk them down to eight. If I buy six tickets, I'm out of forty-eight dollars. If I sell all six for fifty each, I leave here with three hundred dollars."

This was a trend that began in 1977 and will continue as long as there is a great ticket demand.

Need 7 bucks today?

An easy, relaxing way to pick up cash—all that's required is a plasma donation. We pay \$7 for each donation & special bonuses enabling you to earn up to \$75 a month. Come in today!

BRING THIS AD FOR NEW DONOR BONUS!

Alpha
PLASMA CENTERS

427 S.W. 11th
2705 S.E. Ankeny

For More Information Call
223-4199

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!



Expert consultation on your transportation needs on both new and used cars.



WENDELL BROWN
Sales Representative

RON TONKIN
CHEVROLET-HONDA CO
122 N.E. 122nd Ave.
255-4100
"THE ONLY DEALER"

JIM FISHER VOLVO

<p style="text-align: center;">Excellent Buys on Used Imports & Domestic</p> <p>1981 Datsun SW 5 sp, 18,000 mi. \$5399</p> <p>1980 Chev Monza AT, PS, 8,000 mi, exc shape \$4299</p> <p>1980 Datsun Wagon 5 sp, 30,000 mi, nice car \$4499</p> <p>1979 Honda Civic 5 sp, sun roof \$3599</p> <p>1978 Toyota Celica Liftback, 5 sp, exc shape \$4599</p> <p>1976 BMW 200Z Sunroof, automatic, nice car \$6995</p> <p>1975 Chev Nova 3 sp, 6 cyl, perfect econ car \$2499</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Excellent Buys on Used Volvos</p> <p>1981 242 4 sp 6,000 mi, lots of std equip \$9599 (Priced under Blue Book)</p> <p>1980 GLE SW Loaded with equipment \$10,999 (Priced well under Kelly Blue Book)</p> <p>1980 GL Overdrive 4 dr, nice car, stk #27691 \$9999</p> <p>1980 242 4 sp, lo mi, two to choose from, red & yellow \$8100</p> <p>1980 Volov Sunroof Automatic. You must see this one. \$8599</p> <p>1972 P1800 Just in. Cpe, 4 sp, air, nice car \$7499</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



We have financing available. We take trades and give high trade-in values. Each of our used cars is thoroughly safety checked.

JIM FISHER VOLVO

2108 West Burnside
Downtown Portland
221-0080

Coupon Good Until March 15, 1982

25% OFF Your Service Work

Done In Our Shop (one coupon per car)

<p>SERVICE ... YOU BET OPEN Monday through Friday 6:30 TO 6 PM</p>	<p>FOUR SEASONS DODGE 2510 N.E. SANDY BLVD. 234-0771</p>	<p>PARTS DEPT. SALES OPEN Mon-Fri 8:00 to 5:30 SAT 9-8 Sun 11-6</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------