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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Prime Minister's Daughter to Run for Office

TOKYO—The daughter of Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, who fell into coma while in office and died this month, announced that she would run for her father's seat in the coming elections. Yuko Obuchi, 26, said she was eager to finish the work of the late leader, who filled his own father's seat in the powerful lower house of parliament also at 26. Public sympathy for Obuchi is expected to give an electoral boost to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and probably will help Yuko Obuchi carry on her family's political dynasty.

U.N. Investigates Corpses in Sierra Leone

ROGBERIJUNCTION, Sierra Leone—The United Nations is trying to determine whether several mutilated corpses found in the bush were also members of the U.N. contingent. Sierra Leonean soldiers, however, buried the decaying bodies before U.N. officials arrived at Rogberijunction, 50 miles northeast of the capital, Freetown. The soldiers believed they buried eight bodies but said they were not sure because the corpses had been hacked into pieces.

Church Rules Out Shroud of Turin Exams

VATICANCITY—City officials said that they have ruled out for the moment any new scientific tests on the Shroud of Turin, which many believe is Christ's burial cloth. The shroud bears a faded image of a bearded man and what appear to be bloodstains that coincide with Christ's crucifixion wounds. But Carbon-14 testing has suggested that the cloth dates to the 13th or 14th century. Some argue that the test results may have been skewed by contamination.

China, EU Reach WTO Deal

BEIJING—China and the European Union reached a market-opening trade deal after the Chinese premier intervened, clearing Beijing's largest remaining hurdle to joining the World Trade Organization. The deal's most immediate impact would likely be on a contentious debate in the U.S. Congress on granting China much-sought permanent low-tariff access to the American market.

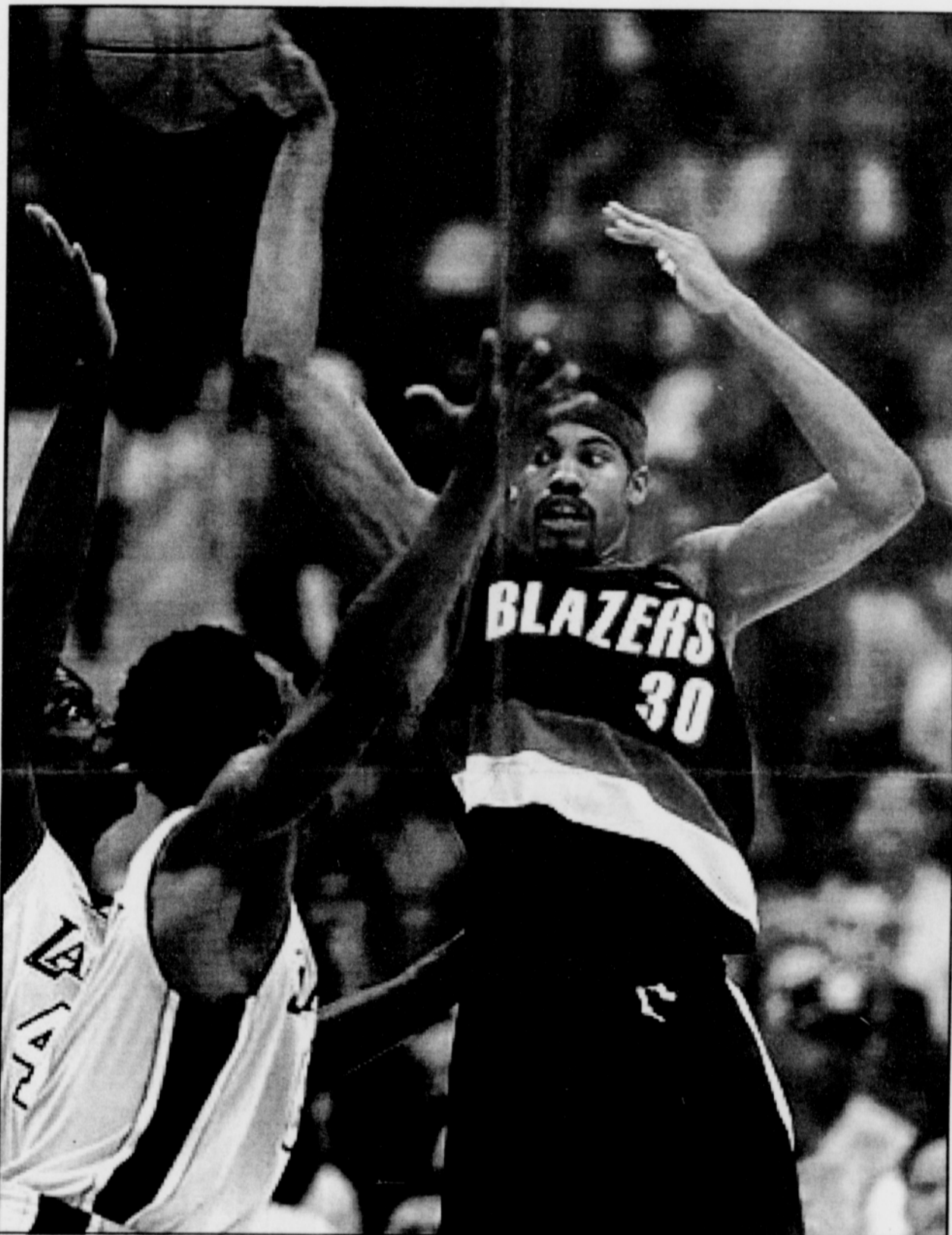
Gunmen Claim to Seize Power in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji—After months of simmering ethnic tensions, seven masked gunmen stormed parliament and took the prime minister and his Cabinet hostage, saying they were seizing power from the democratically elected government on behalf of indigenous Fijians. The gunmen fired at least two shots inside parliament and then locked up Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry, his Cabinet ministers and lawmakers of the ruling coalition in the legislature's upper chamber.

World Bank Approves Loans to Iran

WASHINGTON—The World Bank approved the first international loans to Iran in seven years, despite strong U.S. opposition and complaints that Iran is railroading 13 Jews on trumped-up espionage charges. The \$232 million in loans had been on hold since 1993 because of concern over human-rights abuses in Iran.

Blazers triumph despite Laker homecourt advantage



Portland Trail Blazers' Rasheed Wallace (30) finds an outlet over Los Angeles Lakers A.C. Green, left, and Kobe Bryant during the third quarter.

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Shaq, Kobe and the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers won 67 regular-season games to earn homecourt advantage throughout the NBA playoffs.

The Portland Trail Blazers took it away with a 20-0 third-quarter run that negated any reason for a Hack-a-Shaq repeat.

"I've never seen anything like that," the Lakers' Robert Horry said. "You don't know what happened, where it came from."

With Rasheed Wallace on his best behavior, and at his best on the court, the Blazers routed the Lakers 106-77 Monday night to even the best-of-seven Western Conference finals 1-1. The series doesn't resume until Friday in Portland.

"No one said it was going to be easy," Shaquille O'Neal said. "Now we've got our hands full."

Wallace, thrown out of Game 1 for getting two technical fouls, had playoff career highs of 29 points and 12 rebounds. A graceful, powerful 6-foot-11 handful around the basket, he also has range. He made three 3-pointers in the decisive run.

"I think everybody realizes how much of a key he is to us," Portland's Steve Smith said. "We've got to have him on the floor, and I think if you look at the way he played, we're really going to struggle without him out there."

The way the Blazers played the third quarter there was no reason for the "Hack-a-Shaq" strategy that sent O'Neal to the line a playoff-record 25 times in the fourth quarter of Game 1. O'Neal was 5-for-17 from the line, but it was academic.

O'Neal, averaging 30.8 points in the playoffs, had 23 points and 12 rebounds, but 14 of his points came in the fourth quarter, when the Lakers never got closer than 18.

"Defensively, we did a lot of good things out there," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "We were aggressive, much more so than we were last game."

Kobe Bryant was the only other Los Angeles player in double figures with 12 points, but he was only 2-for-9 from the field.

The Lakers lost at home for the first time in eight playoff games and the second time in 26 games since losing to the Blazers on Jan. 22.

(Please see 'Trail Blazers' page B3)

Plaque dedicated to honor Mt. St. Helens victims

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Tears were shed at the dedication of a plaque bearing the names of those who died in the most destructive volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

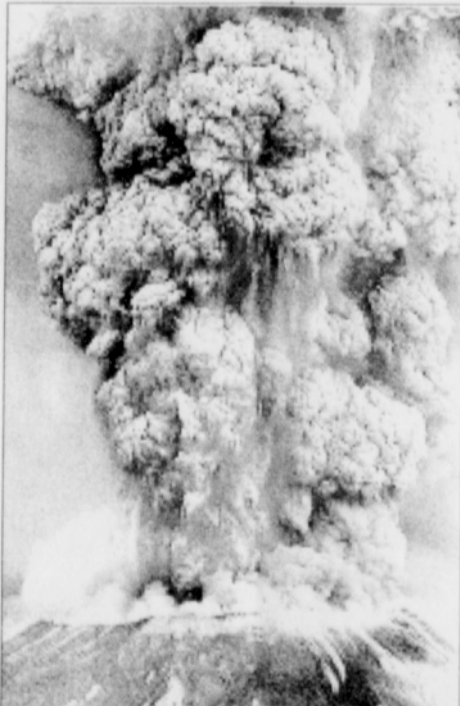
The reading of the 57 names Thursday at Hoffstadt Bluffs, overlooking the Toutle River 27 miles east of Interstate 5, was the first formal commemoration of the victims of the cataclysmic blast from Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980.

Following the ceremony at a Cowlitz County visitor center, Sheryl Bales, 23, and her mother, Madelin Varner, 60, both of Longview, said eruption anniversaries have been hard on those who lost loved ones in the eruption. They lost Karen Varner, their sister and daughter, respectively, and her boyfriend, Terry Crall, who were both 21 and planning to be married.

"It's nice that they put them together" on the plaque, Bales said. "It's nice that they're remembered. It won't take away the pain."

Within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, half a dozen past and present forest workers gathered at the David A. Johnston Ridge Observatory, named for a U.S. Geological Survey observer who died in the eruption.

Kristy Summers of Sheridan, Ore., a former Gifford Pinchot National Forest interpreter and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, gave the group bits of tobacco to scatter at 8:32 a.m., the time when the mountain blew its top.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We can't control nature and this is what brings people here," she said. "Mankind can try to control Mother Earth, but in her own way she holds the last card, the trump. She can take, but she can give."

Paul Nickell, 45, lost his mother and stepfather Ellen and Robert William Dill, of Kirkland, who were believed to have camped somewhere near the volcano. Their remains have never been found.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't



(Top) Blown-down trees, still pointing away from the blast where they fell 20 years ago, frame the north side of Mount St. Helens at Loowit Viewpoint. (Left) At 8:32 Sunday morning, May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens' summit and much of its north flank crumbled in a huge landslide, triggering massive explosions that ripped through the sliding debris.

think of them," said Nickell, a newspaper reporter in Grants Pass, Ore., at the time of the eruption. "I was at a softball game and I didn't even occur to me there would be a personal connection."

Most of the 350 people who attended the ceremony were public officials who responded to the volcanic disaster.

Nickell said many survivors remain bitter about comments by authorities who initially portrayed those who died as thrill-seeking

lawbreakers who ignored warnings to stay away. As it turned out, only three of the victims are known to have been in restricted-access zones.

Still, he said after the ceremony at Hoffstadt Bluffs, "I feel good about being here."

The explosion, which flattened 230 square miles of forest and destroyed 200 homes with a force estimated to be equal to that of a 24-megaton nuclear bomb, was much bigger than anyone predicted, Nickell conceded.