

# SPORTS / METRO

## Beavers for Sale League asks city to buy troubled team

(AP) — The Pacific Coast League has asked Portland to buy out its private partners and take public ownership of the troubled Triple-A Beavers baseball team.

The league is considering taking over the team if the city doesn't step in and pay down debt held by Portland Family Entertainment, the Beavers' current owner.

Public ownership would involve issuing revenue bonds to

pay parts of PFE's debts.

Either way, the city would lose money on the baseball venture.

The city estimates it would lose \$6 million to \$16 million with public ownership over the next 17 years. If the league took ownership of the franchise, the city said it would stand to lose up to \$1.7 million a year in stadium costs.

The league has said it intends for the Beavers to continue playing in Portland, its biggest market.

## Triple Win for MHCC Coach Lena Chan is Coach of the Year

The MHCC Volleyball team has gone down in history as the third team of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) to win three consecutive volleyball championships.

First-year coach Lena Chan and her team defeated the team from Shoreline Community College to win the championship Saturday, Nov. 23 in Spokane.

Additionally, Chan was

named NWAACC Coach of the Year. Ali Salsgiver was given the award for the Most Valuable Player for the tournament and her sister, Lauren Salsgiver, and Ashley Bour were named as Second Team All-Tournament selections. Kristin Purscelley and Alyssa Perry were named as First Team All-Tournament selections.

This marks the sixth championship for MHCC in the 25-year history of NWAACC Volleyball.



## GAME CONCENTRATION

Franklin's Kiante Griffin huddles with her coach Tom McCarthy at a girls' freshman basketball game last Wednesday at Lincoln High School. The Cardinals won the game 33 to 22.

## EL OBSERVADOR

### No News is Bad News

#### Networks provide few stories about Hispanics

(AP)—The booming U.S. Hispanic population has yet to be reflected in the news reports of the major broadcast networks and CNN, a new study shows.

Out of about 16,000 stories on the evening newscasts of ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN last year, only 99 - 0.62 percent - were about Hispanics, according to the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

The number was a slight increase over 2000, when there were 84 such stories, or 0.53 percent, according to the highly critical "Network Brownout Report" released Monday.

"The networks' dismal record of covering the nation's fastest-growing minority group undermines the information needs of all U.S. residents and distorts the public discourse so necessary for any democratic society," said the association's president, Juan Gonzalez.

Hispanics now represent 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, and their numbers have increased nearly

60 percent since 1990 to 35.3 million.

What news stories the networks did carry on Hispanics often tended to be stereotypical and unflattering, the study said.

"Stories about Latinos frequently

*Stories about Latinos frequently used the image of the border to suggest a divide between the Latino and non-Latino populations.*

—National Association of Hispanic Journalists

quently used the image of the border to suggest a divide between the Latino and non-Latino populations and to define Latinos as illegal immigrants," the association said.

ABC had the most stories about Hispanics, 31, followed by NBC with 24. CBS and CNN had 22 each,

the study found.

A lack of newsroom diversity is a major reason for the scant number of Hispanic-related stories, the association said.

Two of the networks responded that they are taking steps to improve their coverage, including hiring more Hispanics.

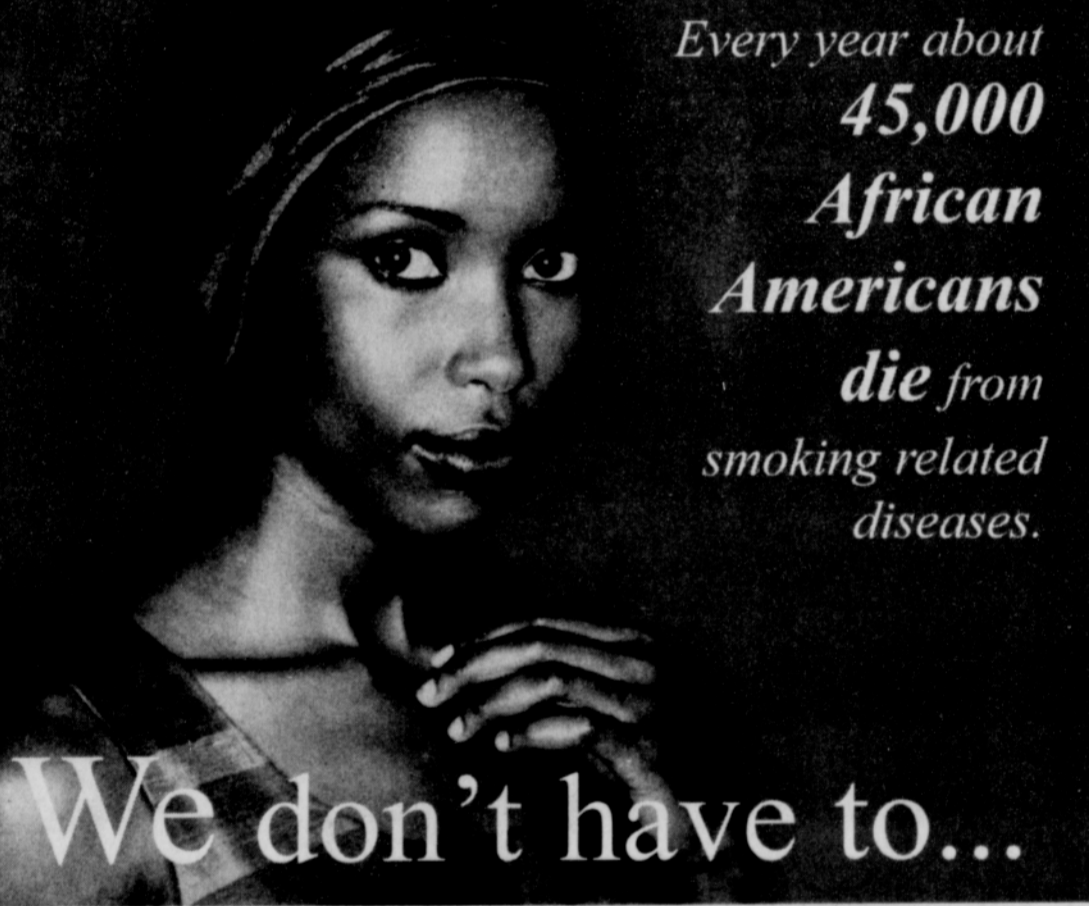
For the second consecutive year, the study found protests over U.S. military exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques was the dominant story about Hispanics, with 25 reports. The other leading story topics were government (15), migration (11) and sports (five).

One area of improvement was cited: The number of Hispanic-related stories in which Hispanics were interviewed was 67.6 percent, compared with 24.4 percent in the 2000 study.

The report for the 1,700-member association was prepared by Serafin Mendez-Mendez of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn., and Diane Alverio, a past association president.

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### Ratings Slip for Fox on Anniversary Mexico President's popularity falls as his wife's rise

President Vicente Fox's second anniversary in office was marred by the news that his popularity has fallen to its lowest level ever.

Heady expectations that the first non-PRI government in 72 years would bring about change, and do so quickly, have given way to disillusionment as living standards fail to improve. This is not all Fox's fault: his promise of 7% economic growth was always going to be tied to the US, and the economy has slowed down as the economic engines in the US have spluttered.

A poll by Grupo de Economistas Asociados (GEA) and Investigaciones Sociales Aplicadas shows Fox's approval rating falling

from 73% last March to 49% in November. Over half of respondents said his administration has been no different to those of his predecessors. Worryingly, most are pessimistic about the economy in 2003.

A bigger surprise is the surging popularity of the first lady, Marta Sahagún de Fox.

Though not included in the GEA poll, a survey by the newspaper Reforma suggests that she is the most popular politician in the country. She heads the charitable Fundación Vamos México, and in recent weeks has been in the public eye, doing good works such as handing out computers to secondary schools.

Fox did his bit to push her into the spotlight by stating that he hopes the next President will be a woman, arousing suspicions that he would endorse her candidacy for the Partido Acción Nacional ticket in 2006.

Consensus building is key if Fox's remaining four years in office are to be constructive.

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