



## Neighborhood Peace

North Portland group bands together against gangs

See page B4, inside

## On Foreign Soil

Local father takes pride in daughter's deployment

See Metro Section



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## Week in The Review

### Peanut puffs a priority

Even if Iraq attacks Israel with missiles, Israeli children will still be able to eat their peanut-butter puffs. The popular snack, known as "Bamba," was declared a vital staple food last week, along with milk, sugar, flour and bread. That means the Tel Aviv-area factory that makes the peanut-flavored morsels can issue emergency call-up orders for its workers to ensure that production goes on, even in case of a missile attack. "We see the Bamba factory as vital," said Labor Ministry spokesman Nahum Eido.

### War correspondent plays it safe, very safe

Listeners to Swaziland's state-run radio station thought it had its own correspondent in Baghdad covering the war, until legislators spotted him in Parliament on the weekend. Announcer Pshesheya Dube has been found to be giving "live reports" from a broom closet. Program host Moses Matsebula frequently expressed concern about Mr Dube's wellbeing and once advised him to "find a cave somewhere to be safe from missiles."

### See Saddam swim

Iraqi satellite television offers viewers a pretty simple choice. You can watch Saddam Hussein being cheered, worshipped, kissed, adulated, adored, hailed, praised, honoured and glorified. Or you can watch him go swimming. The Baghdad channel might not get much notice in normal times but with an unpopular warring to topple him, the ready-made images of Saddam as Arab defender and heroic Muslim, even vigorous swimmer, pack a peculiar punch.

### Jackson voted 'most foolish American'

"King of Pop" Michael Jackson was selected as the "most foolish American" in a poll out on Friday, ahead of April Fool's Day. Eighty per cent of those polled said Jackson, who has been in the media spotlight again since a British television documentary shed new light on his personal life. Jackson, 44, drew foolish reviews for, among other things, dangling his baby son out a window in Germany to show him to fans last year. Boxer Mike Tyson came in a foolish second.

### Iowa town to make telling a lie illegal

Lying could be perceived as more than just a character flaw in the southeast Iowa town of Mount Sterling. It could become a crime. Four City Council members have proposed an ordinance against fibbing. Acting Mayor Jo Hamlet said he's tired of the exaggerating that comes with stories in the town of 40 residents famous for its hunting and fishing. "We wanted to slow down on this lying," Hamlet said. "Plus, I'm bored. ... It's been a while."

My wrestling practices are probably different than 95 percent of wrestling coaches around. I tell them they'll be a person a lot longer than they'll be an athlete.

— Donnie McPhearson, head wrestling coach at Vancouver's Heritage High School

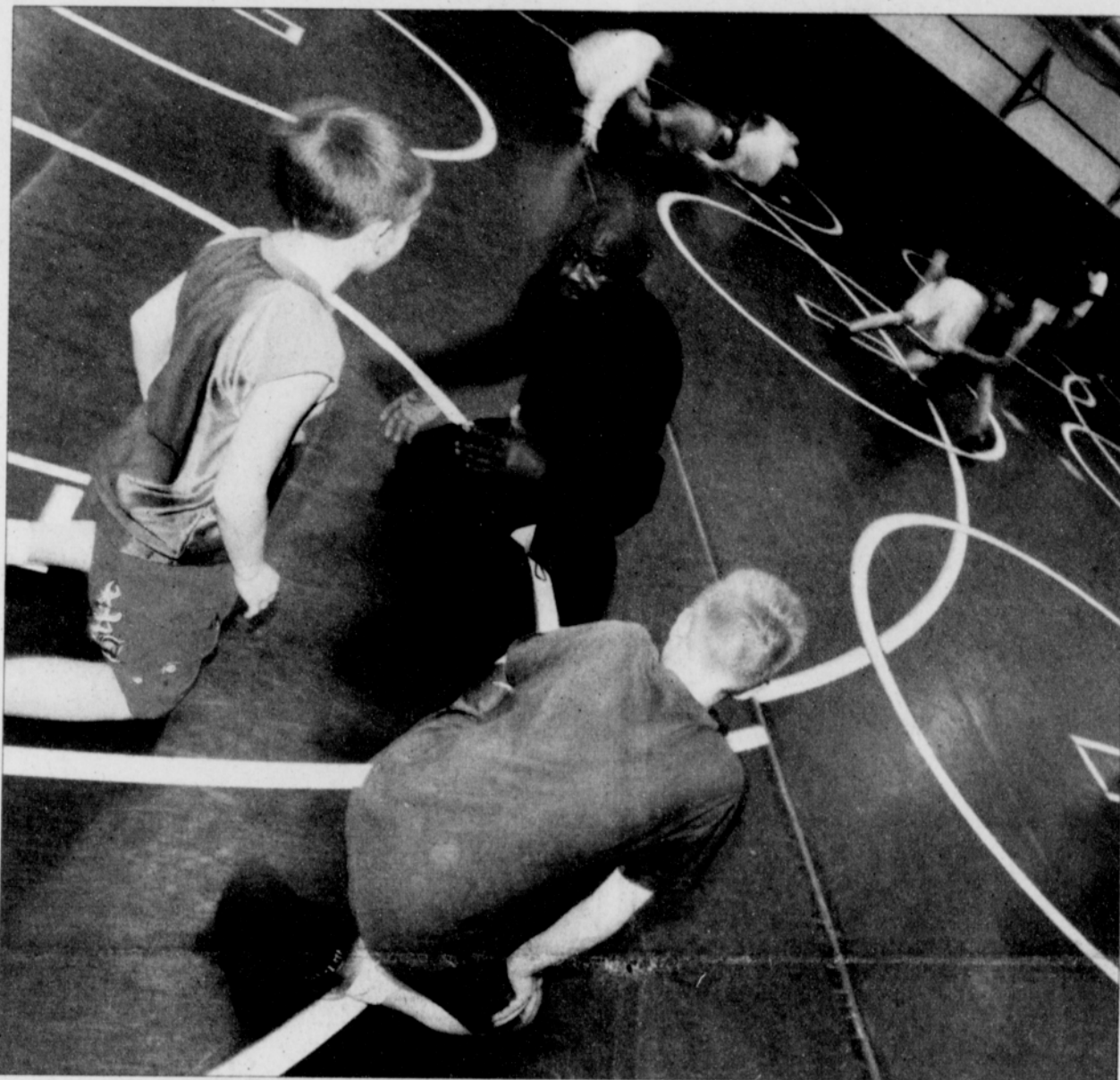


PHOTO BY GUNTHER JOSE FRANK/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Donnie McPhearson, head wrestling coach for Vancouver's Heritage High School, teaches technique to a pair of youth wrestlers during an off season practice on Thursday. Formerly the wrestling coach at Jefferson High School, McPhearson tries to liken wrestling to life for his multicultural athletes.

## Wrestling with Success

### Long-time Portland coach finds new challenge across the bridge in Vancouver

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Donnie McPhearson, head wrestling coach at Vancouver's Heritage High School, wants to create a sports history never to be duplicated.

Four years ago he was coaching about 35 wrestlers and struggling to keep the Jefferson High School program alive on strapped budget. Then McPhearson was offered what he refers to as "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

He was asked to run the wrestling

program at Heritage, a brand new high school in the financially stable Evergreen School District. Once the school's budget and levies had passed, he was ready for the change. His team at Heritage grew to more than double the size of his team at Jefferson.

"I felt guilty, in a sense, to leave Jefferson. I was committed to the work we were doing with the kids," said McPhearson. "The challenges we were facing were budgetary problems. The kids were never a problem."

McPhearson, 52, has strong ties to Portland. He graduated from Washington High School, played football and wrestled for Portland State University, was a three-time wrestling champion and a state champion in football.

Before moving to Heritage, McPhearson left something of a legacy at Jefferson.

"I wanted my kids to look and feel like all other wrestling programs - to have nice

uniforms and wrestling skills," he said.

When McPhearson took the job as head coach at Jefferson in 1989, he described the program as "rag-tag." The team often lost points at competitions by forfeiting weight classes, and did not have decent uniforms. McPhearson spearheaded fund-raisers, from selling Christmas trees to running concession booths at Portland Trail Blazers games to building floats for the Rose Festival to pay for new uniforms and travel expenses to competitions.

Under McPhearson's coaching, the Heritage team achieved four years of wins in the district tournament, second, third and sixth in state wrestlers, as well as nine individual state champions.

But for McPhearson coaching isn't

continued ▼ on page A6

## Hikes in Beer and Wine Taxes May Restore Vital Services

Lawmakers believe Oregon voters would support higher 'sin taxes'

(AP) — Two Democratic lawmakers recently launched what they concede is uphill fight to raise beer and wine taxes generate money for medical, social and enforcement programs.

However, the lawmakers and otherponents said they are prepared to see the proposed increases directly to voters if the Legislature balks at the proposal.

Sen. Bill Morrisette of Springfield and Rep. Jackie Dingfelder of northeast Portland sponsoring a bill they say would raise beer tax by about 7 cents a bottle and the



Rep. Jackie Dingfelder

budget woes.

"We are in very deep trouble, and we see this as a partial solution," Morrisette said.

The two are hoping the Legislature will pass the beer and wine taxes directly, but

continued ▼ on page A6

wine tax by about 15 cents a bottle.

They say they believe Oregonians, who handily approved a cigarette tax increase last fall, would support higher "sin taxes" on beer and wine as well to help ease the state's



## A CITY IN PROTEST

A protestor holding an American flag with corporate logos for stars runs through the streets of downtown Portland during a peace demonstration last week. For additional coverage of the effect of weeklong protests on the city of Portland and an up close look at one Portlander who has been touched by war, see Metro Section.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Poll:

### Americans Support President's Decision to Attack Iraq

Public also thinks United Nations will remain an important entity

(AP)—While the American public has rallied behind President Bush on the Iraq war, two-thirds say the United States should not feel free to use military force in the future without U.N. support, says a new poll.

The survey says three-fourths of the respondents said they support the president's decision to go to war with Iraq. But almost that many, 66 percent, said they don't think the United States should feel free to use force without the backing of the United Nations.

Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq two weeks ago, despite his inability to gain backing from the United Nations. While opinion was mixed on such a move before the war, the public has rallied behind Bush and the troops.

The poll, by the Program for International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland, was taken March 22-25 by Knowledge Networks of 795 respondents. It has an error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Steven Kull, director of PIPA, said "the public is ready to give the president a pass this time" but noted that a solid majority is uneasy with using military force without U.N. backing in the future.

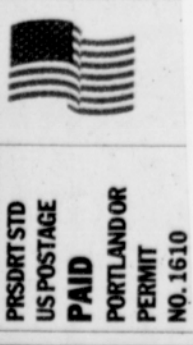
Other polls released over the weekend by Newsweek and NBC-Wall Street Journal showed that about two-thirds of the American public now approve of the president's overall job performance. That's up from job approval that had dipped into the mid 50s in some polls before the current war.

Seven in 10 people surveyed in the University of Maryland's PIPA poll said they expect the United Nations to continue to be an important entity, remaining as relevant in the future as it was before the war.

Three in 10 said the United States should govern Iraq after the war, while half said the United Nations should assume that role.

A solid majority, 72 percent, says the United Nations should take the lead in dealing with North Korea. And six in 10 want the international organization to take the lead in monitoring Iran, which contends that its nuclear program is strictly for energy production.

"There is no evidence," Kull said, "that the majority of Americans think the United Nations has become irrelevant."



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