

Wrestling with Success

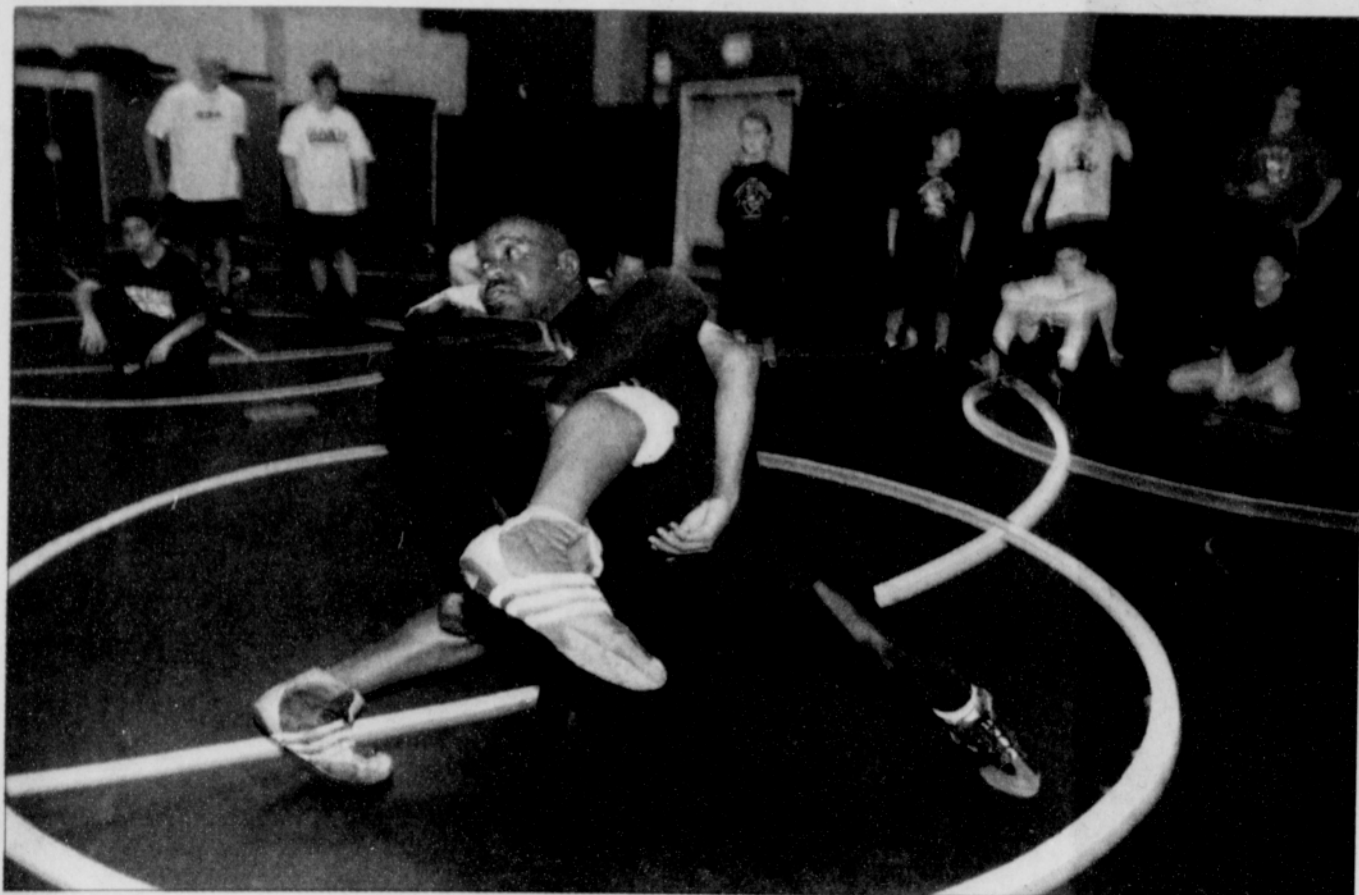


PHOTO BY GUNTHER JOSE FRANK/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Heritage High School wrestling coach Donnie McPhearson coaches an athlete on the proper way to go in for a take down. McPhearson said wrestlers are often the hardest working athletes and he makes sure his team stays on their toes.

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about the numbers on the scale or the scoreboard, it's a parallel to life.

"My wrestling practices are probably different than 95 percent of wrestling coaches around," he said. "I spend a lot of time talking about health, nutrition, giving back to people who give to you, treating your parents good, listening in class and being a good student, about male/female relationships, about drugs and alcohol."

McPhearson considers it his duty as an educator to teach his kids about life.

"I tell them they'll be a person a lot longer than they'll be an athlete," he said.

According to McPhearson, no athlete works harder than wrestlers, and one of

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

life's lessons through wrestling is getting along with people of different races and economic backgrounds. McPhearson estimates that more than half of the kids on his team are African American, about a quarter are Latino and about 10 percent are Caucasian.

"It means a lot to me that we represent the real world and all the kids get along well," he said. "I insist that if you're going to call yourself a team, you're a family. We don't bicker and argue. We don't fight amongst ourselves and we don't have cliques."

McPhearson also insists that his students condition their minds. His wrestlers are some of the best academics in the school and the varsity teams' grade point average hovers around 3.1.

When he shows up for practice and finds his team there before him, playing chess or mopping the wrestling room floor, McPhearson knows he's not ready for retirement anytime soon, and he owes it all to his coaching experiences at Jefferson High School.

Kaiser Scholarship Offered for Local African Americans

Group would like to see more black health-care workers

The Kaiser Permanente African American Association of the Northwest will award two \$1,000 college scholarships to local high school seniors interested in pursuing a career in health care. They are to support African-American students in areas served by Kaiser Permanente in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington.

"Part of the Kaiser Permanente African American Association's mission is community outreach,"

said Carlton Washington, co-chair of the Association. "We'd like to increase the number of African-Americans in health care professions, where we've been traditionally underrepresented. So we're offering financial help to students seeking careers in health care."

The scholarship program is open to African-American high school seniors who have a grade point average at or above 2.75.

For more information or an application, please call 503-813-4487 or send an e-mail to Mary.Roberson@kp.org.

Deadline for applying is Thursday, April 24, 2003 at midnight. Recipients will be notified by mail.

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Beer and Wine Taxes May Restore Vital Services

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that doesn't appear likely given the thrashing that similar proposals got during a special session a year ago.

A key factor against any such increase is the beer and wine industry, which has become a key contributor to Republican legislative campaigns.

In the 2002 election, the industry contributed more than \$300,000 to legislative candidates,

according Money in Politics Research Action Project, a Portland-based watchdog group.

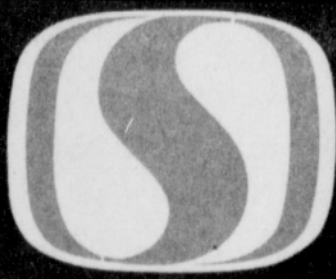
Beer and wine lobbyist Paul Romain said that especially in the current weak economy, the proposed tax hikes could hurt Oregon's microbrew and wine industries and impose a financial hardship on beer and wine drinkers.

"It's not a modest increase," he said. The measure being sponsored by

Morrisette and Dingfelder would impose a \$23.17 per barrel tax on beer on top of the existing \$2.60 per barrel tax. The current 65-cent-a-gallon tax on wine would be raised by an additional 75 cents.

Morrisette estimates the increase would raise \$120 million in the coming two years to, among other things, maintain prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors and disabled people.

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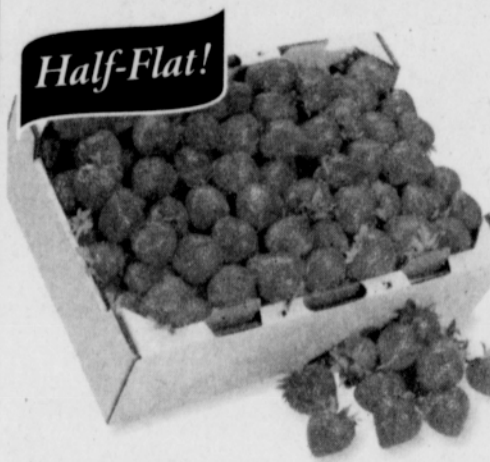
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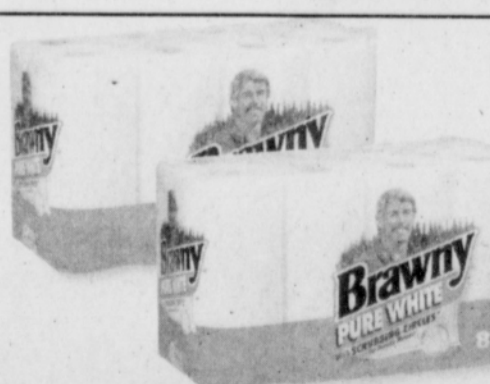
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