

50¢



Stunning Elegance

Ebony Fashion Fair weaves culture, beauty and charity
See Metro section, inside

Love Interest

Actress-comic Aisha Tyler lands a spot on 'Friends'
See Focus, page B3



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Established in 1970

www.portlandobserver.com

Volume XXXIII • Number 17

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Wednesday • April 23, 2003

Week in The Review

Some lights on in Baghdad

Electric power was restored for parts of Baghdad on Tuesday and neighbors ran up and down the block outside their houses to cheer and fire weapons in the air to celebrate the end of a devastating 3-week-old power outage. Still, more than 80 percent of the city remained in darkness - and doctors reported the first suspected cases of cholera and typhoid, with no clean running water yet.

Scientists close to SARS cure

Scientists in search of a SARS cure have narrowed their focus to several dozen drugs that appear to have the best chance of stopping the deadly respiratory virus, but they have abandoned plans to test one of them in people. The urgent hunt for something that works - preferably a medicine already on the market or close to it - was helped by the breakthrough a week ago in decoding the virus's genetic makeup, which gives scientists some logical targets.

France wants to suspend Iraq sanctions

In a surprise move, France on Tuesday proposed immediately suspending U.N. sanctions targeting Iraqi civilians, an important step toward the U.S. goal of ending trade embargoes that have crippled the country's economy. President Bush called last week for sanctions to be lifted quickly, so Iraq's oil revenue can be used to finance reconstruction.

Saddam's 'Shiite Thug' is captured

One of Saddam Hussein's most-feared lieutenants was in U.S. hands Tuesday, while hundreds of thousands of Shiite Muslims crowded two holy cities in a fervent pilgrimage that was banned for decades. The U.S. also says it has found more than \$600 million in stashed U.S. dollars and 800-plus explosive suicide vests.

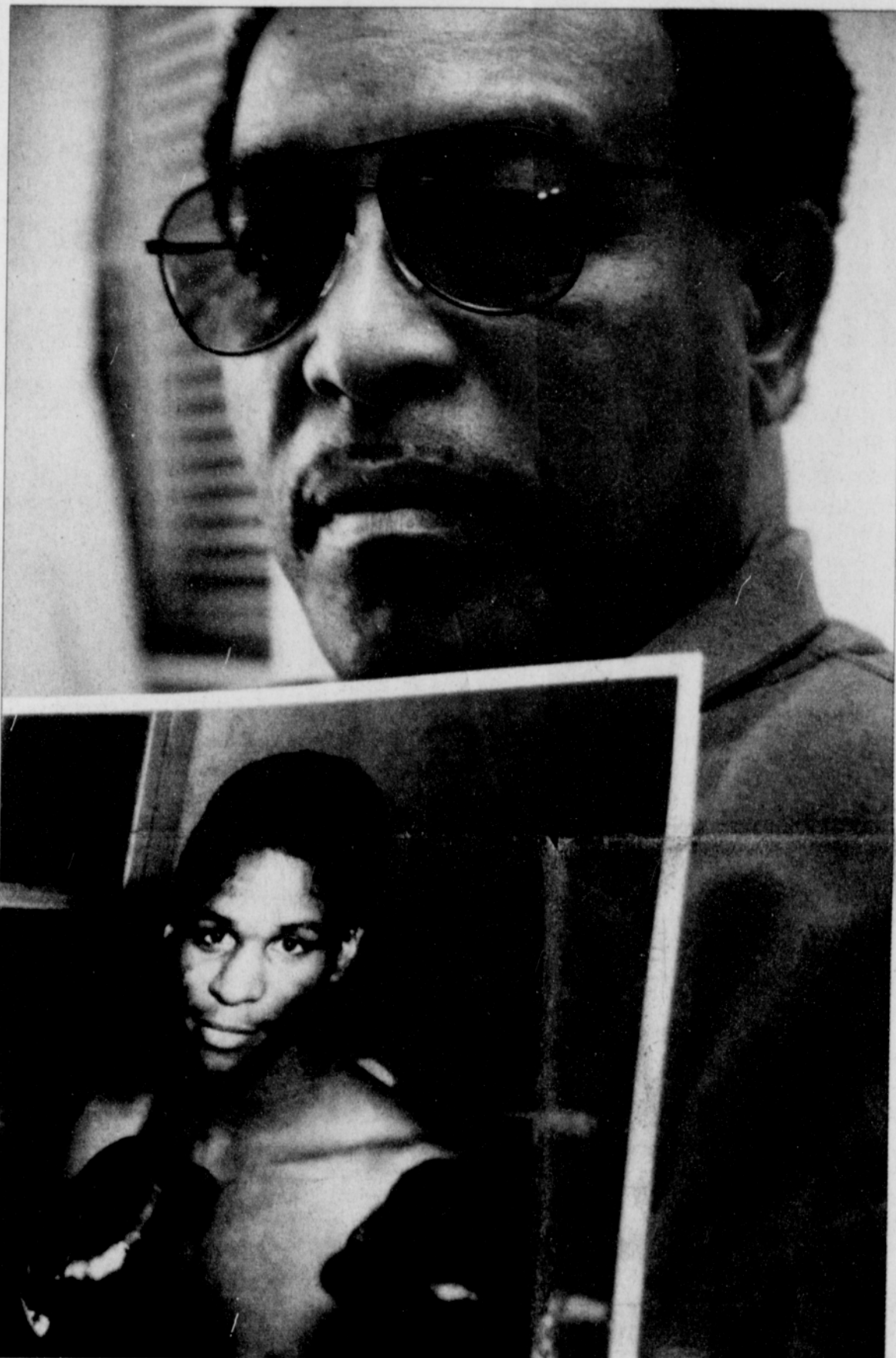
Morning-afterpill maker seeks approval

The maker of a morning-after pill applied for government permission Monday to begin selling the emergency contraceptive without the doctor's prescription now required. The maker of Plan B pills hopes to win Food and Drug Administration approval for over-the-counter sales by next year.

Professor-student dating ban considered

University of California professors are contemplating a new question this spring: Does dating your student flunk the ethics test? Faculty are scheduled to vote on new rules this spring. Should it pass, the policy would make UC the latest school to ban the classroom courtships, joining such schools as the University of Michigan, the University of Iowa and Yale.

'Fallen Warriors'



Halim Rahsaan holds a photograph of Sam Johnson, the first to die of 12 Knott Street Boxers who will be commemorated at a free public dinner at 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Dishman Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

Knott Street Boxers remembered

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In their days of glory, members of the Knott Street Boxing Club wore the colors of burgundy and gold with pride, racked in prestigious titles that put Portland on the national athletic map.

But as the fame faded, many of the former boxers, who made their names in the 1960s and 1970s, fell into hard times, ultimately to die destitute and forgotten.

When the family of one of these boxers could not afford to bury him, former Knott Street boxer Halim Rahsaan began to think a formal commemoration for his teammates was long overdue.

"It was like a bell went off in me," Rahsaan said.

"Knott Street Boxing is an important legacy of Portland history that not many people know about. I realized that it's a poor frog who doesn't croak about his own pond."

So, Rahsaan made up his mind to pay homage to his fallen teammates.

On Saturday, April 26 at 5 p.m. a memorial ceremony and free public dinner will be held at the Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott, to honor Pete Gonzales, John Howard, Joel 'JD' Stroud, Joe West, Sam Johnson, Tony Jacobs, Clyde Williams, Herb Le Suer, Marcellus Allen, Joe Hopkins, Joe Banks and Pete Vastine White. The families of the late boxers will be presented with plaques shaped like the state of Oregon.

"People think it was the Trail Blazers beating the Lakers that gave Portland its name in sports," Rahsaan said. "No, we were beating big teams in New York, Chicago and Los An-

continued ▼ on page A3

Fire Bureau Still Dominated by White Males

Consultants find tolerance for sexist and racist attitudes

(AP) — A white male "good old boy" culture dominates city fire stations where sexist and racist jokes are tolerated, according to a recent firefighter survey.

Only about a third of the firefighters and support staff at the Portland Fire Bureau, or 237 people, responded to the poll by The Metropolitan Group, a Portland consulting firm.

About a fourth of those who responded said sexist and racist jokes are tolerated.

The consultants were hired last summer after the city settled a civil rights claim filed by Rick Fizer, a black firefighter.

Fizer's complaints about racist comments and pornographic pranks at the fire station on North Going near Interstate led to the discipline of five firefighters in 2001.

The consultants said the survey revealed problems in a profession that historically has been dominated by white men and presents unusual stresses for employees who live and work together.

"They are heroes and heroines, but

they are also human," the report said.

Some firefighters did not think their supervisors are adequately trained to handle conflicts among co-workers. Other firefighters said that minorities have an unfair hiring advantage through the Firefighter Trainee Program, begun in 1995 to attract more minorities. A third of the

continued ▼ on page A3

Quick Action Saves History

Seats only salvage from old theater

LEE PERLMAN
PORTLAND OBSERVER

Herb Jenkins is looking for a permanent home for 382 historic, but good as new, theater seats stored in his basement.

The seats are all that is left of the former Colonial Theater, a landmark that stood in the way of the expansion of the Portland Community College Cascade Campus in north Portland. Jenkins, a security guard for the Falcon Center, a half block away, noticed construction equipment assembling near the

building. Told that no effort would be made to salvage any part of the building, he hastily assembled a group of friends and trucks and removed the seats to the Falcon basement.

According to Matt Hayes of the Preservation League of Oregon, the building was constructed in 1925 as Hudson's Colonial Theater. It was converted to a church in 1973, serving the Albina Christian Life Center, an African American ministry that moved last year to North Willamette Boulevard.

Hayes fears other buildings in the college's path might suffer the same fate, this time without someone like Jenkins to do last-minute salvage.

Jenkins is looking for a future use for the seats and can be reached at 503-515-4037.



Herb Jenkins and some of the 382 theater seats he rescued from the old Colonial Theater, a 1925 building that stood in the way of the expansion of the Portland Community College Cascade Campus in north Portland.



PRESPORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610

Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR, 97403-1205