

OPINION

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The Portland Observer
USPS 959-680
Established 1970
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, OR 97211

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208
Periodical Postage paid in Portland, OR. Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year
503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015 • EMAIL: news@portlandobserver.com subscription@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com

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THE TEMPTATIONS

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March 4th, 2004 at 7pm

\$25 & \$35 tickets available in person at Spirit Mountain Casino and all TicketsWest Centers. Order by phone at 800-992-8499.

THE FOUR TOPS

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Must be 21. Spirit Mountain Gaming reserves the right to alter or cancel this promotion at any time.

AAHC African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Presents for your health,
Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

Aerobics
Mallory Ave. Christian Church
Mon, Wed, Fri, 6-7am, Pierce • 5:30-6:20pm,
Granville • 6:30-7:30pm, Nickerson
Humboldt Elementary
Tue, Thu, 6-7pm, Keller

Low Impact Aerobics
Daniel's Memorial Church
Tue, 7:15-8:15pm, Granville

Water Aerobics (Contact AAHC)
Salvation Army
Matt Dishman

African Dance
Matt Dishman
Sat, 10-11am, Addo

Body Conditioning
Wild Oats Market
Sat, 9:30-10:30am, Nickerson

Pilates
Matt Dishman
Mon, 12:15-1:15pm, Jenkins

Salsa
Salvation Army
Mon, 6:30-7:30pm, Henry

Stretching/Body Sculpting
Matt Dishman
Tue, Thu, 7-8am, Lois

Tai Chi
Salvation Army
Wed, 6:30-7:30pm, Lyles

Walking Group
Peninsula Park
Sat, 12:30pm, Woods

Weight Mgmt./Conditioning
U. of Portland Indoor Track
Tue, Thu, 9-10am, Hasan

Yoga
Wild Oats Market
Tue, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, O'Rourke

Daniel's Memorial Church, 1234 NE Killingsworth (12th & Killingsworth)
Humboldt Elementary, 4915 N Gantenbein
Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym), 126 NE Alberta

Matt Dishman, 77 NE Knott
Peninsula Park, 700 N Portland
Salvation Army, 5325 N Williams
U. of Portland Indoor Track, 500 N Willamette
Wild Oats Market, 3535 NE 15th

**All classes are free of charge!

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please contact AAHC before showing up to the first class and for more information at 503-413-1850 or kdempsey@aahc-portland.org. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class.

REACH Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A Program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit our web site at www.aahc-portland.org

Fallen Soldiers Due Respect

Wooden crate on conveyer is infuriating



State Sen. Avel Gordly

Editor's note: The following is open letter to the Oregon Congressional Delegation from Sen. Avel Gordly who represents northeast and southeast Portland in the State Legislature:

I am writing to express my outrage regarding the disrespectful treatment our soldiers and their families are receiving in connection with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, especially those who have made and will surely make the ultimate sacrifice. We are not doing enough either to support or to honor them.

In a letter entitled "The Wooden Crate on the Airport Conveyer Belt," which was printed in The Oregonian's commentary page on Feb. 12, the writer described how she happened to view a wooden crate containing the remains of a fallen soldier being unloaded without ceremony at the Salt Lake City airport.

She wrote: "I'm overwhelmed by the certainty that this person's life mattered and that our encounter at this final stage is important...Did PFC Owens have a spouse? Children? A surviving mother? The pain she must be feeling sears me. The mother in me is connected to this woman I will never meet...All I know about PFC Owens I can see on the tarmac. Without any more knowledge than the fact that another American in uniform had died, I grieve because PFC Owens made the last trip home in a box."

Colleagues, we send these soldiers into danger without proper equipment, training and planning. We abruptly sever National Guard families from their breadwinners, leaving many to subsist on food stamps and without health care, and send them on missions they

never imagined they would have to endure. They are not, after all, the sons and daughters of the wealthy and powerful. I know that I am telling you what you already know, heard from constituents, and I am aware of your concern as well.

A small fraction of the population bears 100 percent of the burden, the danger, the loss and the pain, and they do so anonymously. Would they only get the respect they deserve—even the attention a good jump shot or a punt return or this week's celebrity gets—this nation would move closer to sharing more fairly in these hardships.

PFC Owens and 534 of his brothers and sisters have come home in boxes so far. Is this how all of these soldiers have come home? Without the full respect and ceremony that is due?

We can do better than this. My heart aches for these soldiers and their families. Please continue to do everything in your power to end this war.

Avel Gordly, Oregon State Senator

Motown Host Doesn't Feel Right

Timberlake homogenizes African-American contributions

BY TANYA KERSEY

News that Justin Timberlake will co-host the ABC-TV special "Motown 45" hit many in the black community like a ton of bricks and outraged black civic and civil rights leaders. The "Breastgate" co-conspirator is scheduled to co-host, with singer Lionel Richie, the ABC celebration of the legendary Motown label which will be taped live at the Shrine Auditorium on April 4. But it just doesn't sound right, or feel right.

There are two obvious problems here. First, pandering to the ratings game in the pursuit of a cross-over audience, ABC is compromising the legacy of this cultural and musical institution. With his neatly constructed image as 'the New King of Pop,' Timberlake's participation is an obvious attempt to dilute the show and make it attractive for mass consumption. It also reflects a dangerous trend towards homogenizing the historical contributions of African Americans and marginalizing Black culture.

Motown has become the symbol of R&B and soul music around the world. Once the most commercially successful and culturally influential black-owned record company, the Motown machinery produced a slew of popular acts including Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Temptations, the Four Tops, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, the Jackson Five, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder. While Timberlake has always credited black music as the source for his own musical style, certainly ABC can find a singer who more closely represents the very people the Motown legacy

was built on.

Then there's "Breastgate," the provocative bump-and-grind Super Bowl halftime performance between Timberlake and Janet Jackson which turned R-rated when Timberlake reached across Jackson's black leather bustier, ripped it off, and flashed her bare breast to 100 million TV viewers. Janet apologized twice and took full responsibility for the "wardrobe malfunction." Timberlake punked out and played the victim, taking no responsibility for the "reveal" gone bad.

Before the Super Bowl scandal Timberlake had gotten a "Black folks pass." Black America embraced him and his music and he sang R&B-style music and dressed in hip-hop gear.

He walked the walk and talked the talk. But then he sold out Janet to save his own skin, showing his true colors in the process. It's a classic case of profiting from black culture, but jumping ship when things get hot.

In other words, he's

okay with being identified as an 'honorary brotha,' as long as it doesn't cost him anything. And now Timberlake plans to co-host the "Motown 45" television special? I think not! As African Americans we should not support this obviously contrived attempt to boost ratings and attract a wide White audience. It is thoughtless and an insult. If we allow it to happen, we will be just as guilty as them for pimping black culture to appeal to the mainstream.

ABC is sending a racially-tinged message of corporate insensitivity and cultural indifference. They should do the right thing and hire a co-host that respectfully symbolizes the rich legacy of the Motown label. Is Usher available?

Tanya Kersey is an entertainment journalist, editor-in-chief of Black Talent News and contributing editor and columnist for several other media outlets.



- Tanya Kersey

Alliance Endorses Posey, Adams

The African American Alliance has announced its endorsement of James Posey for Portland mayor and Sam Adams for the city council.

The alliance is a local group of African Americans that has been meeting regularly for almost two

years to develop and work to implement strategies designed to improve the status of African Americans in Portland.

Posey is a northeast Portland resident and business owner. He has emphasized community empowerment, educa-

tion and economic development as primary issues in his campaign.

Adams is the former Chief of Staff for Mayor Vera Katz. His campaign issues have emphasized quality education, livable wages and public safety.