

Free Tax Help

Tax Aide volunteers assist local residents

See Metro Section, inside



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Week in The Review

U.S. Divided on War

A year after the start of the Iraq war, the American public is divided over how much the United States government should spend in Iraq and on what will happen if U.S. troops leave, polls found.

Tenn. Proposes Law Against Homosexuality

The county that was the site of the Scopes "Monkey Trial" over the teaching of evolution is asking lawmakers to amend state law so the county can charge homosexuals with crimes against nature.

Thousands Protest War in Portland

One year after anti-war protesters shut down bridges, freeways and intersections, resulting in 135 arrests in Portland, roughly 2,000 demonstrators marched calmly through the streets of Portland. Many carried flowers - and in a reference to Vietnam-era protests, handed out daisies and flower petals. Several veterans carried a casket through the streets, draped in an American flag.

Jackson's 1st Accuser May Testify

The prosecutor in Michael Jackson's child molestation case is considering asking a boy who reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with the entertainer to testify before a grand jury, according to a published report.

Hamas Founder Assassination Prompts Retaliation Threats

Israel killed Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque Monday, prompting threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

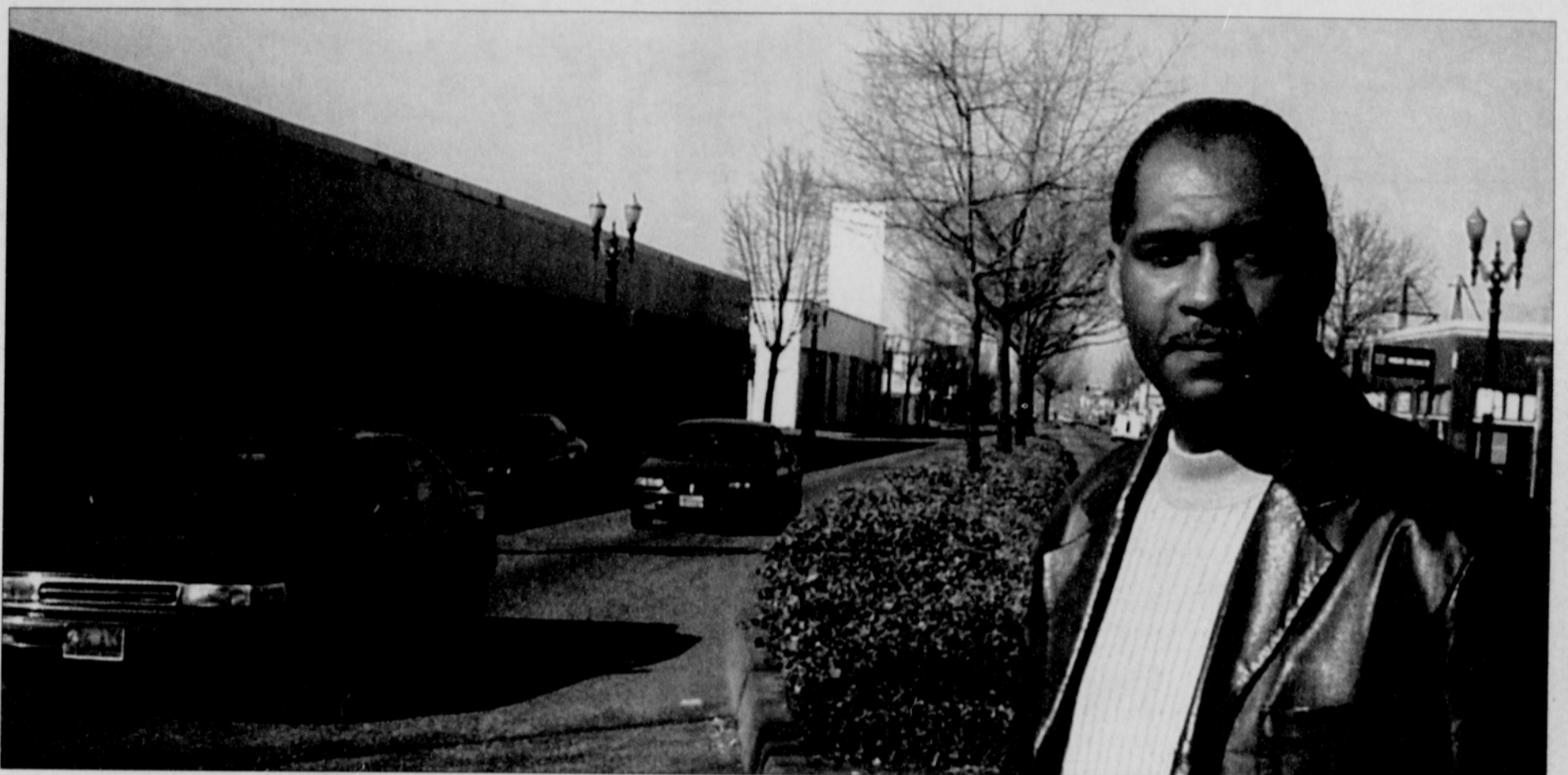
Suicide Caution for Antidepressants

Patients on some popular antidepressants should be closely monitored for warning signs of suicide, the government warned Monday in asking the makers of 10 drugs to add the caution to their labels.

Video Game Maker Donates \$8M to USC

One of the world's leading makers of video games, Electronic Arts, is donating \$8 million to University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television to expand the university's interactive media program.

Urgency on Vanport Project Grows



Ray Leary keeps alive a dream to re-develop a row of warehouses, vacant lots and other properties on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, north of Alberta Street, into a large-sale retail destination benefiting local residents in the heart of Portland's African-American community.

Minority developers pressured to make a deal soon

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pressure is mounting for a minority-led group of developers wanting to transform the western edge of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, north of Alberta Street, into a major retail center covering several blocks in the heart of Portland's African-American community.

The Vanport Project, a major retail economic venture planned for Portland's largest ethnic and minority neighborhoods, continues to enjoy popular support, but it faces a June deadline to make significant progress in its strategy.

As originally conceived, the project would have included 300,000 square feet of development on five square blocks, including underground parking, various types of housing, a cinema multiplex, fitness center and a 60,000 square foot grocery.

Backers include African Americans Ray Leary, a local entrepreneur and one of the

principal visionaries behind the new Adidas store on the eastside of King, Jeana Woolley and Gerding-Edlen Corp., creators of the Pearl District's mammoth Brewery Blocks project.

The proposal has \$8.4 million in urban renewal monies earmarked for it, including a loan and funds for associated traffic improvements.

Portland Development Commission Director Don Mazziotti has lent his backing to the venture despite several delays, but recently warned that if "significant progress" wasn't met by June, the agency would have to "seriously re-evaluate" its

financial backing.

Some parts of the original scheme have already been abandoned.

Acquisition of the northernmost block, owned by Multnomah County, has been relegated to a "second phase." Housing development has been scaled back and underground parking has been abandoned.

Last month, the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, questioned whether there was community support for "the current, scaled-down version."

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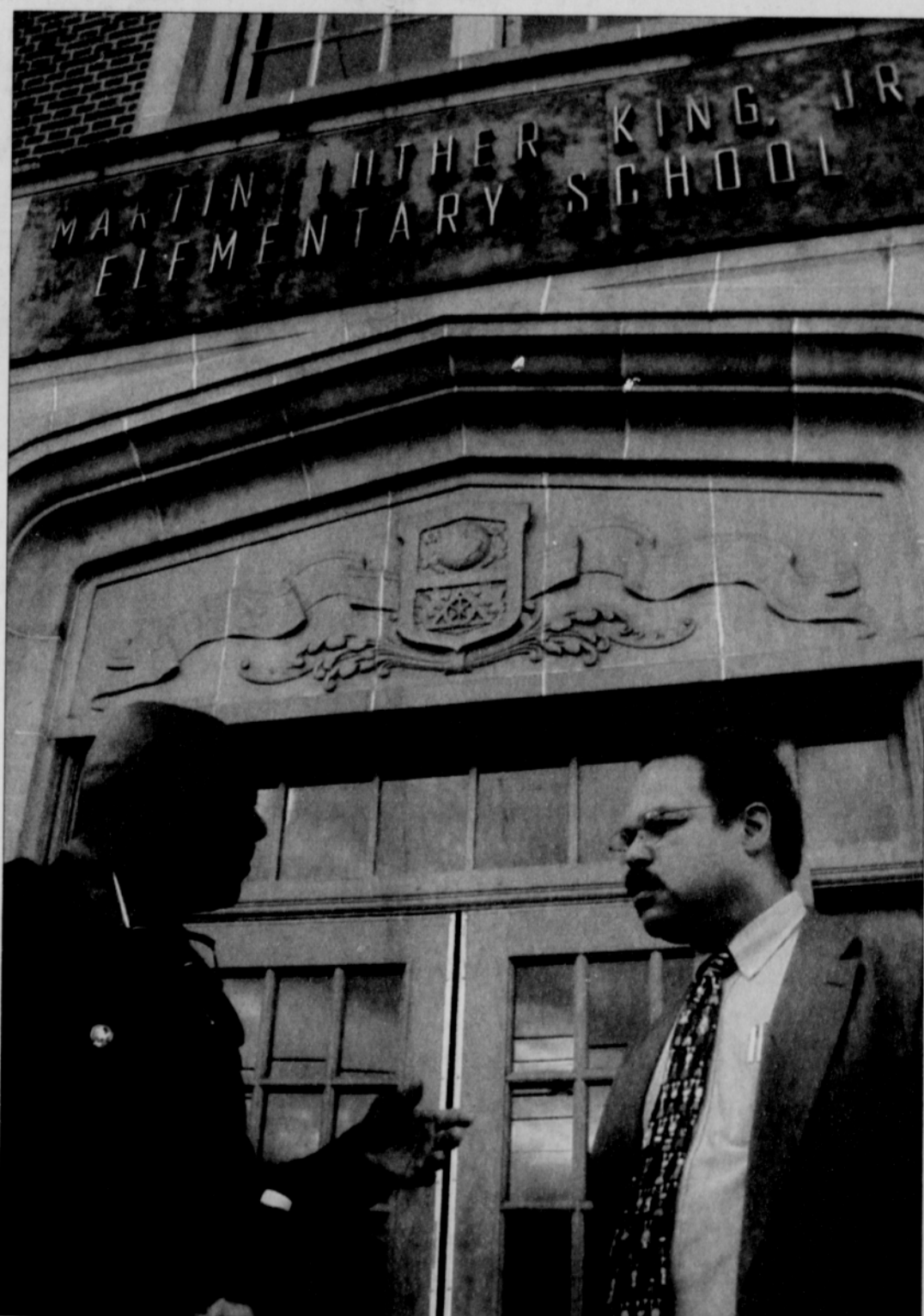
Girl Escapes King School Kidnapping



A composite sketch of the man who kidnapped a girl from King School.

Portland Police Officer Ron Cash and Lew Frederick of Portland Public Schools, oversee a boost in security at King Elementary School in northeast Portland following the abduction of a third grader from a school hallway. The girl escaped by yelling and kicking the kidnapper after being put in his vehicle.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Police increase presence at northeast elementary

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Police released a composite sketch Monday in the hunt for a man who walked into King Elementary School and kidnapped a nine-year-old girl.

Uniformed officers have also kept watch outside the northeast Portland elementary after the incident Thursday. The third-grader was taken from a stairwell while walking to class after meeting with a counselor. She escaped unharmed by yelling and kicking the attacker after being dragged to his car and driven away from the school.

She ran home and returned to school with her mother and another adult to report the attack and call the police.

The school, at 4906 N.E. Sixth Ave., was on lockdown Thursday and resource officers guarded the school on Friday. Safety procedures are being reviewed, according to Lew Frederick, a spokesman for Portland Public School.

The perpetrator entered the school through the front door, the only unlocked daytime entrance to the school. School officials were investigating why a bell that alerts the office when the door is opened was not working.

Normally, visitors enter through the front door and are instructed to check in at the front office.

"The fellow never made it (far enough) into the hallways where an adult, a teacher or another student might have seen him," Frederick said. "This was pretty brave; about as brave as you can get."

Thursday's attack was the first Portland school abduction since 1992. In that attack, a man kidnapped a 12-year-old girl from a hall-

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