



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Adam "The Great" Parsons (left) with Roger Ullenberg, a.k.a. Cosmo the Balloon Wizard, create smiles with their magician craft in northeast Portland days before they leave for a tour of duty to entertain the American military.

# Mystifying the Troops

continued ▲ from Front world three times." "You get to go places most people don't get to go," Ullenberg said, recalling a past

trip to the restricted Kwajalein islands, which is home and work to 23 military personnel, 2,000 support staff and family and 1,000 children. The performances are ripe with

patriotism and bring a bit of the states to the troops. Eddie the Eagle, a star of Ullenberg's performance, is sure to bring some smiles. Parsons said he is excited to

debut his Magic Flaying Carpet Illusion. The group said they would promote their entire act at festivals and events in Oregon upon their return in June.

## High-Achieving Juniors

Portland State University's admissions department, with the assistance of PSU President Daniel Bernstine, established the Viking Scholars program, which recognizes juniors at Oregon high schools who earned at least a cumula-

tive 3.25 grade point average during high school.

This year, approximately 2,500 high-achieving students were named 2004 Viking Scholars, including kids from north and northeast Portland. Students from the local area

include Desiree S. Hudson of Jefferson High School and Nora Darlow, Larrisha Wells, Leila George, Heather Morgan, Jennifer Brannon, Hendricks N. Orem and Cam Schnur; all of Grant High School.

## Activist Supports Senior Causes

Northeast Portland resident Jean Mitchell was honored for her decades of dedication to improving the lives of seniors throughout the local community.

From rallying support for senior causes to helping establish the non-profit organization Elders in Action, Mitchell has made a positive difference in people's lives.

She was given the Elders in Action Timeless Treasure award at a banquet at the Oregon Zoo on April 29.

"Jean is one of those people who simply inspire," said Becky Wehrli, executive director of Elders in Action. "Her dedication is tireless and her efforts are felt throughout the community. It just shows the power that one person can have when it comes to making Portland a better place to live."

Mitchell is active in her church and has been a member of the Madeleine Parish Choir in north-



Jean Mitchell

east Portland for more than 50 years. Through Catholic Charities, her family has hosted two Cuban families who immigrated to the U.S. and lived with them while settling in Portland.

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