

Freed Muslim Lawyer Speaks Out

Imprisonment called fallout of failed minority protections

(AP)—Brandon Mayfield, the Portland lawyer wrongfully imprisoned this month in connection with terrorist bombings in Spain, said his ordeal underscored a warning he has sounded since his days as a law student.

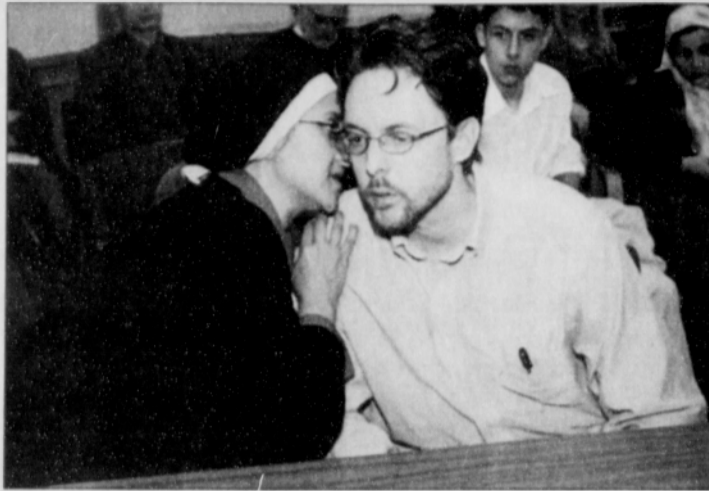
At Washburn in 1996 and 1997, Mayfield said, an interest in constitutional law spurred him to write a paper cautioning against attacks on personal rights and privileges. He titled the paper "Liberty" - what Mayfield lost after the FBI linked him to the March 11 bombings and held him as a material witness for two weeks.

"One of the messages of the paper was you have to protect people even if the majority doesn't agree with them, provided they aren't breaking the law," he said Sunday. "That this happened to me was kind of ironic in that sense."

Mayfield, a 37-year-old Muslim convert, said he believes he was targeted for investigation because of his religion. He said his incarceration also pointed out alarming problems with the U.S. Patriot Act, which, among other provisions, allowed FBI agents to search his home without his knowledge.

"The Patriot Act goes way too far in taking away our privacy and freedom as U.S. citizens," Mayfield said.

Mayfield was taken into cus-



Brandon Mayfield with his wife, Mona, confer in court.

tomay 6 in connection with the bombings, which killed 191 people and wounded 2,000 others in Madrid. According to court documents, the FBI began investigating Mayfield two weeks after the attacks, when fingerprint examiners

narrowed the identification to him.

FBI agents raided Mayfield's home and office and confiscated computers, a key to a safe deposit box, assorted papers and what agents classified as "Spanish documents" but which appar-

The Patriot Act goes way too far in taking away our privacy and freedom as U.S. citizens.

- Portland Attorney Brandon Mayfield

found 15 possible matches to a fingerprint found on a plastic bag containing detonators of the kind used in the bombings. The matches included prints belonging to Mayfield, and three FBI examiners

ently was foreign language homework for one of Mayfield's three children.

In additional evidence aimed at supporting Mayfield's arrest, the FBI said he attended a Portland

mosque and advertised legal services in a publication owned by a man with suspected links to terrorism. Officials also pointed to a call made by Mayfield's wife, Mona, to a branch of an Islamic charity with suspected terrorist ties.

Arrested and booked into Multnomah County Detention Center in Oregon, Mayfield feared he might be incarcerated for months, even years, without a trial. He said connecting him to the bombings had been "preposterous." Mayfield, who runs a small law office in Portland, never faced any charges.

"It was pretty dark days for me the first couple of days - being treated like I'm public enemy No. 1 and knowing there's a capital punishment penalty at the end of all of this," he said.

In a rare public apology, the FBI admitted it had blundered in linking Mayfield's fingerprint to the one from the bag of detonators. Mayfield, who had been discharged from jail the week before but placed under house arrest, was released from all restrictions on his movements.

Mayfield said that while he appreciated the apology, he wasn't satisfied with the outcome of the ordeal. He said he was considering writing a book detailing his experiences but hadn't talked to a publisher.

Court Upholds Suicide Law

Republican administration overruled in Oregonians' right to die

(AP)—A federal appeals court ordered the Bush administration not to meddle with a state's assisted suicide law, ruling that doctors in Oregon may prescribe lethal doses of medication to terminally ill patients.

Ruling on the nation's only law that allows doctors to assist in hastening the death of a patient, the court said U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft cannot sanction or hold Oregon doctors criminally liable for prescribing overdoses, as the state's voter-approved Death With Dignity Act allows.

"The attorney general's unilateral attempt to regulate general medical practices historically entrusted to state lawmakers interferes with the democratic debate about physician assisted suicide," wrote Judge Richard Tallman in the

2-1 opinion by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He said Ashcroft's action "far exceeds the scope of his authority under federal law."

The Oregon law, approved by voters in 1994, lets doctors prescribe a lethal dose of narcotics to terminally ill patients who request assistance.

In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could decide whether to allow assisted suicide.

The state of Oregon maintained it had the power to declare for itself what types of medical procedures are allowed. But the Justice Department concluded that suicide is not a "legitimate medical purpose."

Ashcroft had cited the federal Controlled Substances Act when he issued a directive threatening to revoke the licenses of doctors who aid suicides with narcotics. The act declares what drugs doctors may prescribe.

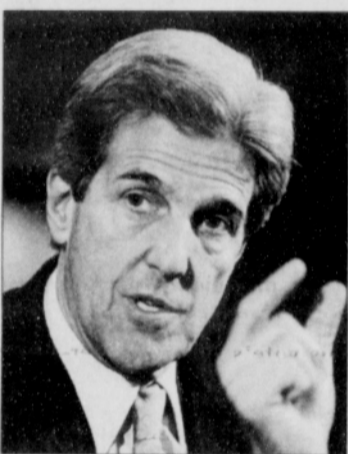
In a sharp rebuke, U.S. District Judge Robert Jones in Portland, Ore., ruled in April 2002 that the Controlled Substances Act does not give the federal government the power to say what is a legitimate medical practice.

Kerry Targets Hispanics, Blacks with Ads

(AP)—Democrat John Kerry made his first advertising push into Hispanic and black media, part of an \$18 million month long effort.

Kerry's latest commercials, focusing on issues rather than his biography, will air on mainstream media outlets beginning Wednesday in 20 states and nationally on cable networks.

On Friday, the Kerry campaign began airing its first Spanish-language general election television ad targeting Hispanics - arguably the most volatile swing group - in six states: Florida, Arizona, New



Sen. John Kerry

Mexico, Nevada, Colorado and Ohio.

In Spanish, the 30-second commercial describes Kerry as a Vietnam veteran and a Democrat who "knows that in Washington, the World War II Memorial is a monument to soldiers with names such as Garcia, Chavez and Ortiz."

The commercial also shows photos of Kerry in Vietnam, with artist's renderings of the monument and Hispanic veterans, while listing their last names.

Kerry also will expand his adver-

tising starting next week to media outlets targeting blacks, including running commercials on cable's Black Entertainment Television. Black lawmakers had told Kerry's campaign that it must target ads to black communities to help mobilize the Democratic vote.

With its June TV ad purchase, Kerry's campaign follows through on two promises: to target some of its advertising to ethnic and racial groups and to expand the number of battleground states from the 17 already seeing heavy levels of commercials.



The parents of a missing college student, Cammy and Greg Wilberger of Corvallis, face reporters to appeal for the public's help in finding their teenage daughter.

Police Expand Search for Brooke Wilberger

Reward swells to \$30,000

(AP)—As the search for a missing Brigham Young University student moved into its eighth day, a \$30,000 reward was offered for any information leading to the 19-year-old's safe return.

Brooke Wilberger, whose parents live in Veneta, was last seen a week ago, at the apartment complex her sister manages in Corvallis.

Lt. Ron Noble, a spokesman for the Corvallis police department, said police have focused on four "persons of interest," one of whom was arrested over the weekend on unrelated burglary charges.

Sung Koo Kim, 30, of Tigard was later released on \$250,000 bail, according to jailers at the Benton County Jail. Kim was arrested for burglary at George Fox College by Newberg police May 13 on a search warrant that found more than 1,000 items, including large quantities of women's underwear.

He also is charged with an April

burglary at Oregon State University's Sacket Hall, which is very near the site where Wilberger was last seen. He was released on the 17th.

"In addition to that, there are over 400 names from our tip line that we are looking at," Noble said. "Mr. Kim has been more out in the public eye, but the investigation isn't stopping there."

Noble also said that police are considering any and every tips, including those that come from psychics.

Also Monday, Wilberger's friends and family planned to gather at a community prayer rally in Corvallis. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to which Wilberger's family belongs, was to take the lead in the prayer service.

The search for Wilberger is now focusing on natural areas near Corvallis. More than 1,200 volunteers have searched more than 2,000 acres in Benton County in the past week, looking for the missing woman.

Seattle Monorail Catches Fire near Experience Music Project

(AP)—A monorail caught fire outside a Seattle museum Monday, forcing firefighters to use ladders to evacuate dozens of passengers.

Nine people were hospitalized,

including a firefighter who injured a knee, but none of the injuries was considered serious and no one appeared to have been burned, Seattle Fire Department spokes-

woman Helen Fitzpatrick said. About 40 people were evaluated at the scene for respiratory problems from the smoke, she added.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

About 100 people were aboard the train when it caught fire outside the Seattle Center's Experience

Music Project, a rock 'n' roll museum. Thousands of people gathered at the center over the holiday weekend for the annual Folklife Festival.

Fire officials said the fire was brought under control Monday evening. Streets were closed in the area.

Train Wreck Kills Two

(AP)—A freight train struck a man and four children as they crossed a private railroad bridge north of Vancouver Monday, killing the man and a 12-year-old child.

The group, on a Memorial Day outing to the beach, apparently ignored the "No Trespassing" on the bridge over the Lewis River between Woodland and Ridgefield.

Arin Kight, 30, and Ashley Falk, 12, were killed. Kight's two children, 12-year-old Heaven Campbell and 7-year-old Matt Thompson, were injured, as was 6-year-old Wayne Frye, the son of Kight's fiancée.

The three children survived by hugging the bolts on the sides of the bridge, but Ashley fell into the river. It was unclear whether she died from the impact of the train or drowned.

"I remember this really loud bang, and dad told us to get on the edge," said Wayne, referring to Kight. "My dad didn't make it. He fell."

Area residents have grown accustomed to running across the trestle. In the last five years, at least two others have been killed by trains on the bridge, residents said.

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
 EDITOR: Michael Leighton
 REPORTER: Jaymee R. Cuti
 DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
 CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt
 OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

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
 news@portlandobserver.com subscription@portlandobserver.com
 ads@portlandobserver.com classifieds@portlandobserver.com

Subscribe!
 Fill out, Clip out & Send to:

The Portland Observer
 Attn: Subscriptions
 PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

subscriptions are just \$60 per year
 (please include check with this subscription form)

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 TELEPHONE: _____

No lie
 MAX needs over
 2 blocks to stop
 Be safe—stay off the tracks

TRIMET

