

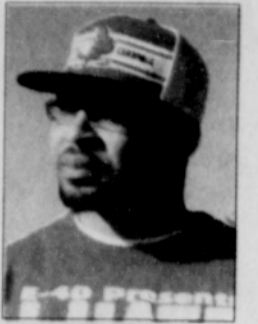


**Driven to Public Service**

*Ivy League scholar helps United Way*  
See story, Metro section B

**Hip Hop Voter Drive**

*CoolNutz and other local entertainers unite for common cause*  
See story, page A6



The

# Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • August 25, 2004

**Week in The Review**

**Officials Blamed In Prisoner Abuse**

The Pentagon's most senior civilian and military officials share a portion of blame for creating conditions that led to the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq, according to a report released Tuesday by an independent panel of civilian defense experts.

**Peterson Denied Wife's Murder**

Scott Peterson never admitted to his former mistress that he was involved in his pregnant wife's disappearance, and in fact vehemently denies it even as she prods him for answers, according to testimony at Peterson's double-murder trial. For the second day, defense lawyers cross-examined Amber Frey after jurors heard five days of taped telephone calls between Frey and Peterson.

**Marathon Mice**

Researchers unveiled genetically engineered mice that can run farther and longer than their naturally bred brethren, bringing the "genetic doping" of elite athletes a small step closer to reality. The creation of the so-called marathon mice follows earlier genetic engineering work that created "Schwarzenegger mice," rodents that bulked up after getting injected with muscle-building genes.

**Waterways Contain Polluted Fish**

More than one-third of the nation's lakes and nearly one-fourth of its rivers contain fish that may be contaminated with mercury, dioxin, PCB and pesticide pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency says.

**Italians Blow Off Iraqi Demands**

Italy's government insisted Tuesday it will keep its troops in Iraq despite a demand by militants holding an Italian journalist hostage that Italian forces pull out within 48 hours.

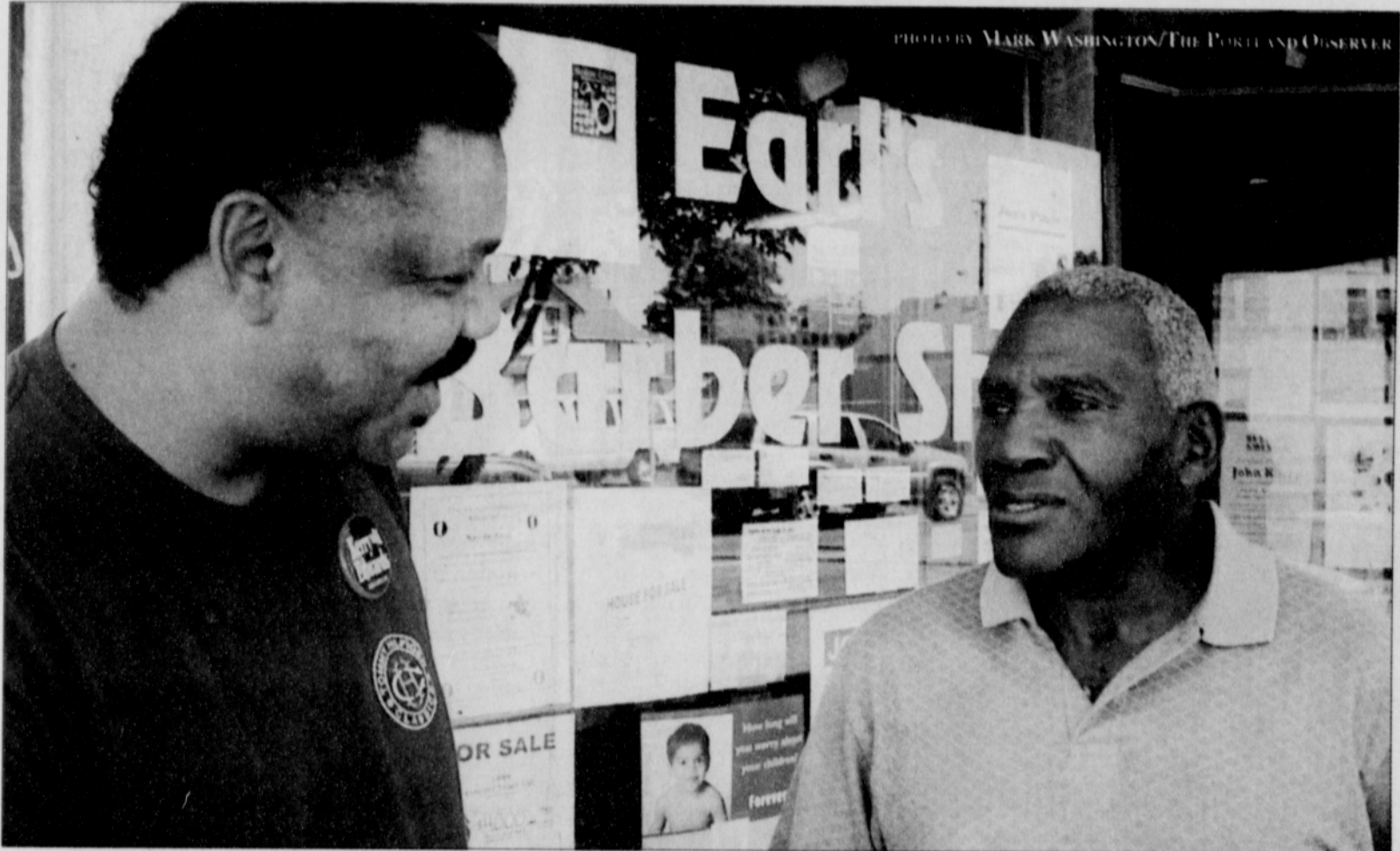
**'Real World' Philly**

Fifteen years and over 100 strangers since its debut, MTV's "The Real World" has moved to Philadelphia with a fresh crop of 21- to 24-year-olds.

**Japan Deporting Ex-Chess Champ**

Japan ordered Bobby Fischer deported, but the former chess champion immediately appealed the case in court, meaning he won't be sent out of the country right away. The government also ruled Fischer did not qualify as a political refugee.

## MIXED blessings



Earl's Barbershop Proprietor Earl Clark (left) and employee Milton Ross, experience the changing demographics of Northeast Alberta Street. They have little company when it comes to African-American owned and operated businesses.

### Alberta gentrification attracts and pushes back

BY LIZ WALLACE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There's no denying that things have changed on Alberta Street from Martin Luther King Boulevard to Northeast 33rd Avenue. But the debate rages on: Are these changes beneficial? To whom?

The recent Alberta Streetscape Project was "initiated by community members," according to the Portland Development Commission, to improve the visual quality of the thoroughfare by adding street trees, public art, curb extensions at transit stops, new sidewalks, new crosswalks, public parking, and most importantly, although not mentioned in the project literature, new busi-

nesses. Many local residents appreciate the visual changes. "It looks better," said Jewell Stevens.

*"I think it is pushing all the people who used to live here out."*

—Local resident Nicole Hess on Alberta Street gentrification

Others like the art galleries that have sprung up in their own neighborhood. But the new businesses on Alberta don't exactly cater to the working class people of

color that have lived in the area for decades. Charles Santos, an organizer with Reclaiming Our Origins Through Struggle (ROOTS), talked about the displacement of

describe the displacement of one population with another.

"It's a shift of people from the suburbs moving into our neighborhoods. It doesn't matter if it's the Alberta corridor or the Boise-Elliott neighborhood, the Pearl district or all of downtown, poor people are being pushed out of this city," Santos said.

"They've got all these new businesses in the neighborhood (Boise-Elliott) being set up, said Santos. "I go to the video store, the coffee shop, the bar, the breakfast place, and I see no black people working in these establishments. There's something wrong with

continued ▼ on page A3

### Following a Human Rights Advocate's Path

**Local activist earns prestigious scholarship**

Lakita Logan, a Roosevelt high school alumnus and community activist, will finally have a chance to finish college. Practically a poster child for the prestigious Nancy Ryles Scholarship at Portland State University, Logan will continue her schooling at PSU, which she entered last spring as a sophomore.

The Ryles Scholarship pays \$5,000 per academic year and is renewable for four years or until the individual earns her bachelor's degree. The scholarship was created to honor Ryles, a late civic leader and former Jefferson High School graduate known for her advocacy of human rights.

The award is targeted to the college education of women who wish to work toward an undergraduate degree and who have had their education interrupted by financial difficulties, family responsibilities or personal disabilities.

Logan's goal had always been to finish college, but as a single mother with two children, financial struggles kept her from attending full time.

A native Oregonian, she spent much of her high school and early college starting organizations aimed to raise up her community, by protecting the civil rights of women, students and people of color.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Lakita Logan is pursuing a bachelor's degree at the college of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University thanks to a prestigious scholarship.

When Logan graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1997, she entered Portland Community College. Without guidance toward a college preparatory track in high school, she did not complete higher math or learn how to prepare an outline or write an essay, despite an exceptional grade point average. Thus, Logan spent her first years of college taking basic classes to prepare for college-level work.

Logan's political organizing began in high school. She was active with a group called "Sisters in Action" that worked against gender violence in the schools; she was also instrumental in convincing Tri-Met to make monthly passes available to Portland high school students for reduced rates.

While attending PCC, Logan and others started a non-profit organization called Reclaiming Our Origins Through Struggle (ROOTS), with a goal to teach people about their community, their history and origins, as well as about their basic civil rights.

Founded in June 2002, ROOTS is a grassroots community based organization that strives to encourage African Americans to be proud of their heritage, maximize educational opportunities, and become more socially conscious.

Now, with the Ryles Scholarship, she plans to attend school full-time and major in community development in the college of Urban and Public Affairs.

PRESDRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT  
NO. 1610

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