

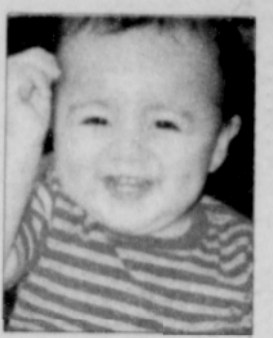


Jason Sery Resigns

Officer cleared in James' shooting to join ministry
See Law and Justice, page A2 inside

Local Baby Missing

15-month-old Julian Renteria missing after visiting mother, April Letitia Renteria, also missing
See El Observador, page A2 inside



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Suit Filed Against OLCC

Violation of contract,
civil rights claimed

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A clash with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission has led a local African-American community leader to file a lawsuit against the state agency, claiming a violation of his contract and civil rights.

Robert Larry, president of the Portland NAACP and operator of King Boulevard Liquor Store, asserts that the OLCC forced him out of business as part of an ongoing campaign to discriminate against small business owners. Larry is among 67 out of about 250 liquor store operators in the state who own their business.



Robert Larry

He says the OLCC has breached its contract with small operators by allowing the sale of distilled liquor products, also known as "malternatives," in grocery stores. These are beverages sold with distilled-spirits alcohol.

Larry has been in a long-term battle to save his liquor store.

He was threatened

with termination in June for failure to make daily deposits and an alleged misappropriation of funds. In a letter, the OLCC notified Larry that his contract would be terminated if he failed to produce \$40,114, a balance owed after making a payment of \$108,000 on June 3 toward an original debt of \$148,114.

Larry will fight the outstanding charge in an administrative hearing scheduled for Sept. 15.

In his defense, Larry says he purposely held off on making deposits and filing reports until he could resolve a computer problem between him and the commission. He said he kept the records and funds in a trust account.

Larry closed King Liquor on June 10 when the agency refused to make liquor deliveries.

"Is there discrimination going on in the OLCC? I think it's pretty obvious," Larry said Friday.

The local businessman says he hasn't been the only African-American liquor store operator unfairly targeted by the OLCC.

"There is a component that makes this a civil rights issue," said Larry. "They're clearly discriminating against a liquor agent by the way

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All About Relationships



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mahogany Black and Brian Dance participate in a community forum on black relationships.

Discussions heat up 2nd Fridays

Each second Friday of the month sizzles as black men and women of all ages, marital status, personality types, economic and educational levels, meet to discuss one of the most debated topics since the existence of mankind: relationships.

The gatherings have grown immensely. At the most recent discussion titled "Everything You Love and Hate About Black Women," eager participants were crammed inside a crimson room like a can of sardines, while others were lined anxiously outside anticipating entry.

The atmosphere is relaxed and inviting, complete with cool drinks and tasty food. It is a laid-back environment, one that fosters a safe place where people from a common and not so common history can share openly and

recent graduate from Portland State University, who simply goes by the name Byrd, presents a seemingly innocent question. "Do black women have attitudes?"

A peaceful environment explodes after the question is asked. As hands shoot up around the room, one man attempts to answer: "I don't think black women have attitudes, it's strength." Some participants agree while others don't. For those who disagree they have no problem vocalizing their opinions. While listening to the discussion two things are apparent; if you are thin-skinned or have virgin ears you may not want to attend.

Although the atmosphere is relaxed, the

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Brothers and Sisters Invited

Local African Americans are invited to the first in a three-part series on "Everything You Love and Hate about Black Men" on Friday, Sept. 10 at Reflections Coffee House, on 446 N.E. Killingsworth.

The open forum on black relationships will discuss why more sisters are holding on while others are discovering love in the arms of others.

A heated discussion is scheduled to kick off the evening at 7:30 p.m., so be there on time, ready to let loose your own inner thoughts on the matter.

perhaps too bluntly their thoughts on relationships.

The evening begins as organizer and facilitator, a political science honor student and

Wellness Within Reach

Walk for community health Saturday

Building on the momentum of last year's inaugural Wellness Within REACH Walk, the African American Health Coalition is drumming up participation for its second annual event on Saturday, Sept. 4.

Former head of Parks and Recreation, Charles Jordan, is the grand marshal of the 2nd Annual Wellness Within REACH Walk, which takes place at Dawson Park located at North Vancouver and Stanton.

"The AAHC's Wellness Within REACH program not only brings people together for health, but also to create community," Jordan said.

The walk winds through scenic north and northeast Portland neigh-

borhoods, starting at 9 a.m. Participants may walk a 1.5-mile or 4-mile course. Early registration is encouraged. Those interested may register at www.aahc-portland.org or call 503-413-1850. Event-day registration begins at 8 a.m.

Upon return to the park, participants can learn more about getting healthy with informational displays

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African American Health Coalition Special Projects Coordinator Bill Beamer (left) and Wellness Within REACH Walk Grand Marshal Charles Jordan meet at Dawson Park in north Portland, the location of Saturday's Wellness Walk.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Week in The Review

Bush Says 'We Will Win' Terror War

President Bush said Tuesday "we will win" the war on terror, seeking to quell controversy and Democratic criticism over his earlier remark that victory may not be possible.

SAT Scores Unchanged From Last Year

The average SAT scores for the class of 2004 were unchanged from the year before, though some minority groups made modest improvements.

Judge Revokes Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

A federal judge declared the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional because it does not contain an exception to protect a woman's health, something the Supreme Court said is required in laws prohibiting types of abortion.

20 Arrested in GOP Protest

Protesters in pig snouts grunted and rolled in bogus \$100 bills featuring a sneer-

ing Vice President Dick Cheney on Tuesday as part of a day of civil disobedience aimed at deflating Republicans in town to celebrate their party's presidential ticket.



US District Judge Rich C. Casey

DNA Helps Free Wrongly Convicted Man

A man who spent 17 years in prison for the 1986 rape, kidnapping and robbery of a hospital worker was freed Tuesday after DNA evidence cleared him. Clarence Harrison, 44, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 on charges of sexually as-

saulting the woman as she waited for a bus.

Crisis Talks May Help Spare French Journalists

France intensified efforts Tuesday to save two journalists held hostage in Iraq, convening crisis talks in Paris and around the Arab world as a 24-hour execution deadline set by militants neared.

12 Nepalese Executions on Web

A video purporting to show the



12 recently executed Nepalese construction workers.

methodical, grisly killings of 12 Nepalese construction workers kidnapped in Iraq was posted Tuesday on a Web site linked to a militant group operating in Iraq.

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