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## Alberta Street Fair

Saturday celebration to catch  
Northeast beat  
See Focus section, inside

## Homebuying

Seminars help turn  
renters into homeowners  
See story, Metro section



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Abortion Ban Unconstitutional

A third federal judge ruled that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is unconstitutional, saying it fails to include an exception when a woman's health is in danger.

### Troop Deaths Surpasses 1,000

With the number of American military deaths in Iraq surpassing 1,000, President Bush said, "we mourn every loss of life" and declared that the United States was making good progress in the war against terrorism. However, attacks against U.S. Forces in Iraq increase and in Afghanistan they continue.

### Bush Skirts Guard Order

Addressing questions that have lingered for years, newly unearthed memos state that George W. Bush failed to meet standards of the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War and that he refused a direct order and that his superiors were in a state of turmoil over how to evaluate his performance after he was suspended from flying.

### Antidepressants Dangerous for Children

Federal health advisers considering more stringent warning labels for anti-depressants linked to suicidal thoughts among children were told on Tuesday that a new warning added in March appeared to have little impact on children's use of the drugs.

### McVeigh's Father Subject of Film

Bud Welch, who lost a daughter in the Oklahoma City bombing, went from wanting to kill bomber Timothy McVeigh to becoming a leading opponent of the death penalty. Along the way, he came to know and have sympathy for McVeigh's father, Bill McVeigh. The journey of these two men is the basis for "Bud & Bill," a new film.

### Writing Lesson For Workers

It's not just students who need to brush up on their writing. A majority of U.S. employers say about one-third of workers do not meet the writing requirements of their positions, according to a survey by the College Board's National Commission on Writing.

## Islam and Politics

Muslim leader  
speaks out on  
the war, election

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The role of Islam in politics may raise questions to Westerners, devout to the separation of church and state. But in Muslim culture, these lines blur. In 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini was overheard saying "Islam is politics."

"Politics in Islam is not a separate entity. We are to be concerned with the community, the environment, all aspects of human life," said Shaheed Haamid, amir for the Muslim Community Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Roughly a third of the Koran, the Muslim holy book, is about legislating human behavior, according to Haamid. Even the Muslim prophet Muhammad was a politician of sorts. He was the administrator of the city of Medina.

At a recent national Muslim conference held in Illinois, American Muslims deliberated about which presidential candidate to endorse, expressing a disconnect from both. A decision from The American Muslim Taskforce, an alliance of major Muslim organizations, is expected next month.

The American Muslim community's vote is particularly influential in this election as Muslims have a strong presence in battleground states such as Michigan, Ohio and Florida.

Locally, Haamid says the war in Iraq heavily influences his vote.

"I can't speak for the whole nation of Islam or all Muslims here in Portland but frankly I'm concerned that neither candidate represents what is necessary to win the so called war terrorism," said Haamid.

Haamid's opinions are heard widely throughout Portland on his many radio and cable television programs, which he says he produces out of duty as a practicing Muslim.

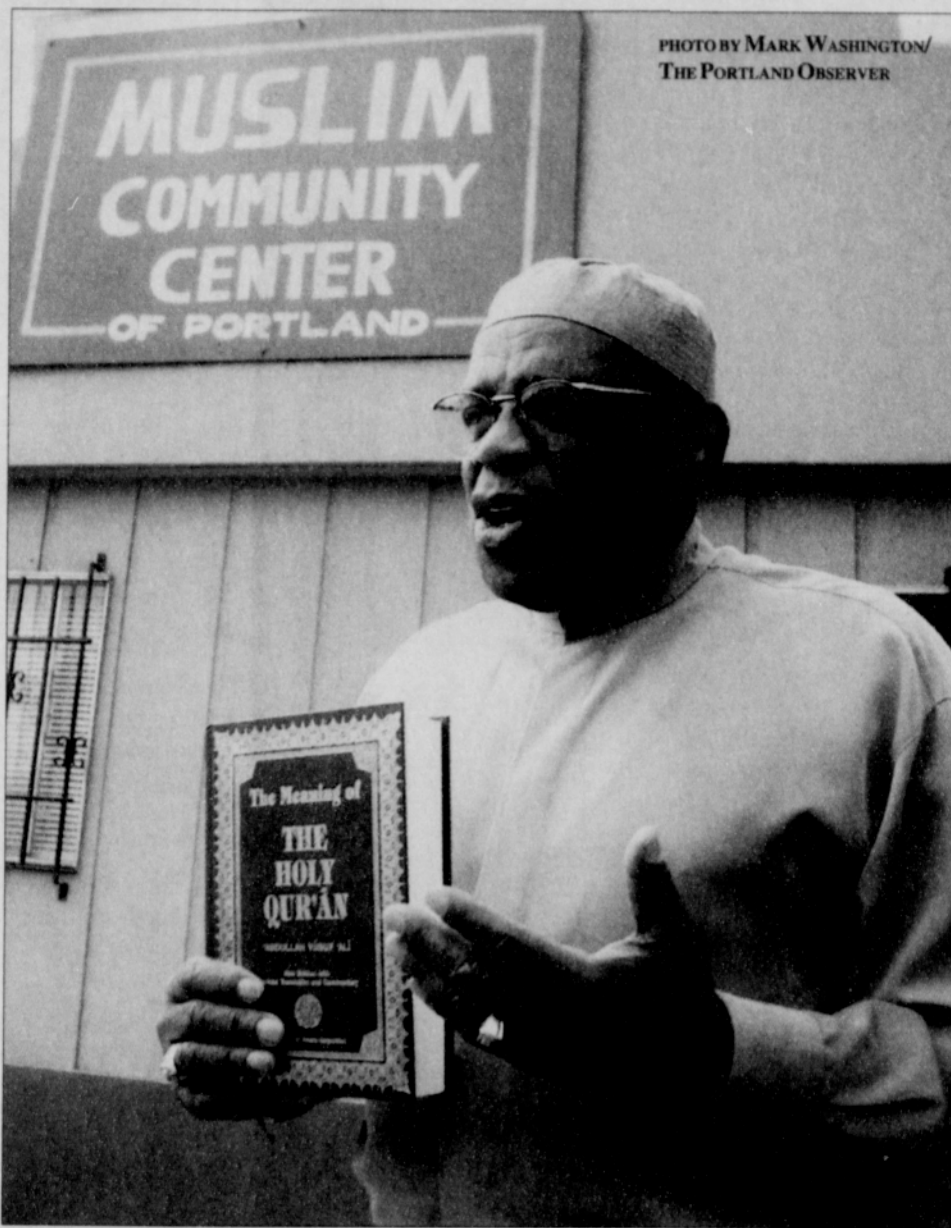


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shaheed Haamid, administrator for the Muslim Community Center in northeast Portland and the host of local radio and cable access programs, discusses political issues relevant to Muslims and African Americans.

KBOO-FM 90.7 airs Haamid's shows "An Islamic Point of View" on Sundays at 8 a.m. and "Proverbial Perspectives" every first Thursday at 6 p.m.

He is also host and producer of "Imam W. Deen Mohammed," on Portland Community Access channel 23 Fridays at 3 p.m. and channel 22 on Sundays at 6 p.m.

His show, "Al-Islamic Focus" also airs periodically on channels 22 and 23.

Haamid often address stereotypes Muslims face and attempts to demystify the religion to

outsiders. He also addresses hot-button issues concerning the Muslim or black community, including racial profiling, the erosion of civil rights, ramifications of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and treatment of women within the religion.

"The whole purpose is to deal with subjects directly or indirectly affecting African Americans because we don't have adequate representation in the mainstream media," he said.

Haamid says that the concept of holy war is

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## Moms Lead March Against Violence



Three local mothers who lost a son or daughter to deadly and senseless violence, Perlia Bell (from left), Areba Stickland and Lenetta Jones, lead a march and rally Saturday from Irving Park to Alberta Park in northeast Portland. The day also featured speakers, music, mime, dance and poetry.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

North and northeast Portland residents gathered on the third year anniversary to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania Saturday to remember victims of senseless and deadly violence in their own communities.

A march and rally from Irving Park to Alberta Park drew more than 100 people. The day featured speakers, music, mime, dance and

poetry.

The effort was an attempt to end a silence that surrounds the circumstances of many of the murders, but also to save our children from additional violence. The activities also promoted solutions to violence that continues to filter throughout our neighborhoods.

A special honor was paid to Asia Bell James, a 24-year-old mother of four, a commu-

nity college graduate and a gainfully employed contributing member of our community. On Nov. 29, 2002, she was senselessly and randomly gunned down while sitting on the front porch of her home at North Mississippi Avenue and Jessup Street.

Her murder not only affected her family, it

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## Racial Profiling Deep Rooted

32 million  
targeted in U.S.,  
report charges

(AP) — Authorities' targeting of people because of their racial background or religious affiliation is a deep-rooted problem in the United States, with nearly 32 million people reporting they've been racially profiled, a human rights group said Monday.

The report by Amnesty International USA also said at least 87 million people — one in three — in the United States are at high risk of being victimized because they belong to a racial, ethnic or religious group whose members are commonly targeted by police for unlawful stops and searches.

Racial profiling is a growing problem as the government has expanded its war on terror, the report said. Police, immigration and airport security procedures are the areas where the problem has gotten worse since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, it said.

Citizens and visitors of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent, and others who appear to be from these areas or members of the Muslim and Sikh faiths, have become more frequent subjects of racial profiling over the last three years, the study said.

Such racial profiling is a distraction to law enforcement and therefore undermines national security efforts, the report said. As police primarily focus on Arab, Muslim and South Asian males, it said, they are more likely to overlook terrorists who are white.

For example, recent cases of American Taliban John Walker Lindh and British shoe bomber Richard Reid show that al-Qaida has an ability to recruit a diverse range of sympathizers. These two would not necessarily have been identified by policies that focus on Arab, Muslim and South Asian males, the report said.

Aside from the ill-effects on victims — depression and humiliation — racial profiling reinforces residential segregation, creates fear and mistrust and engenders reluctance in reporting crimes and cooperating with police officers, Amnesty International USA said.

"In these times of domestic insecurity, our nation simply cannot afford to tolerate practices and policies that build walls between individuals or communities and those who are charged with the duty of protecting all of us," it said.

State laws continue to be insufficient in addressing the problem, according to the report.

Twenty-seven states do not ban racial profiling, the report said. Also, 46 states don't ban religious profiling, 35 continue to allow pedestrian "stop and frisk" searches and only six of the 15 that ban these searches use a definition of racial profiling that can actually be enforced, the report said.

No jurisdiction in the United States has addressed the problem in a way that is effective and comprehensive, the report said.

Amnesty International USA came up with its estimate of nearly 32 million profiling victims by analyzing a collection of recent polls, census figures and studies.

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