

# METRO

The Portland Observer

## Community Calendar

### Unity Rally

A Unity Rally to show public disgust for the distribution of fliers by a racist group is planned for Saturday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 S.W. Capital Hwy. For more information, call 503-295-6761.

### King Tribute

A tribute and celebration to Martin Luther King Jr. will be at Jefferson High School's Robert G. Ford's Auditorium, 5210 N. Kerby, on Monday, Jan. 17. Many speakers, performers and vendors will entertain participants. A donation of \$3 or three nonperishable food items is requested. For information, visit [www.worlddartsfoundation.org](http://www.worlddartsfoundation.org).

### Get in Shape

Get in shape with Portland Community College's non-credit classes designed to get you trimmed and toned in January. Weight training: cardio circuit revs up the class for 90 minutes from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the newly built gym of PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. Cost is \$89 for 10 weeks. For more information, call 503-978-5205.

### PCC Skills

Learn how to build a Web-based business in a three-week class from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays from Jan. 25 through Feb. 8 in Room 130 of Mt. Tabor Hall at Portland Community College's Southeast Center, 2305 S.E. 82 Ave. Cost is \$49. For more information, call 503-788-6265.

### Business Meeting

Join North/Northeast Business Association meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, call 503-249-0487 or visit [www.nneba.org](http://www.nneba.org).

### Gain Computer Skills

The Sun program offers a computer class for parents at King Elementary School. To register, call 503-916-6156 or 503-319-3425.

### Volunteer Option

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, check out Bradley-Angle House to end domestic violence. Bilingual women and women of color are especially needed. For information, call 503-282-9940.

### Crack the Code

Crack the code to filling out financial aid paperwork with the help of the ladies of Beta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The workshop is at Portland State University from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8. For questions and more information, call 503-725-8766 or e-mail Nicole Harris at [dst\\_betapsi@yahoo.com](mailto:dst_betapsi@yahoo.com).

### Volunteer for Hospice

Kaiser Permanente offers training for hospice volunteers Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 4 p.m. from Jan. 18 through Feb. 3 with one Saturday session on Jan. 29. For more information or to register, call 503-499-5285 or 503-499-5408.

### Get Schooled

Learn how to help to improve schools and jobs at a forum with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo and President of Oregon's AFL-CIO Tim Nesbitt at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13 at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th. Free and sponsored by the Multnomah County Democratic Party.

## Moved by Spirit and Experience

University of Portland coach is student of the game

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

University of Portland's head basketball coach sees himself as an educator above all things. He views his athletes as students first and commits that all players who stay at UP for four years will leave with a degree, and he has the record to back that up.

Michael Holden coaches on his feet, but his humble spirit and experience with the game have helped him to guide his players in life and basketball.

"I've been the bench warmer, been traded, been semi-pro, driven the van, ridden in the back of the bus, I've been the first guy and I've been the 13th guy," Holden jokes. That experience has helped him relate to his team.

Following Holden's career as a UCLA Bruin, he was a third-round draft pick in 1983 of the Golden State Warriors. He played in the NBA for six years, as a Portland Trail Blazer from 1986 to '88.

"I'm a student of the game and I've had tremendous mentors," said Holden, who still consults legendary UCLA coach and college basketball royalty John Wooden. He played under Coach Larry Brown at UCLA.

At 43, Holden is one of the university's youngest coaches. He is also only the school's second African-American basketball coach at University of Portland.

"You look at all the sports, college and pro, and there's not adequate representation," he said. "In basketball, the transition from player to coach is smoother."

As a former player, Holden has an opinion about players jumping to professional teams straight from high school.

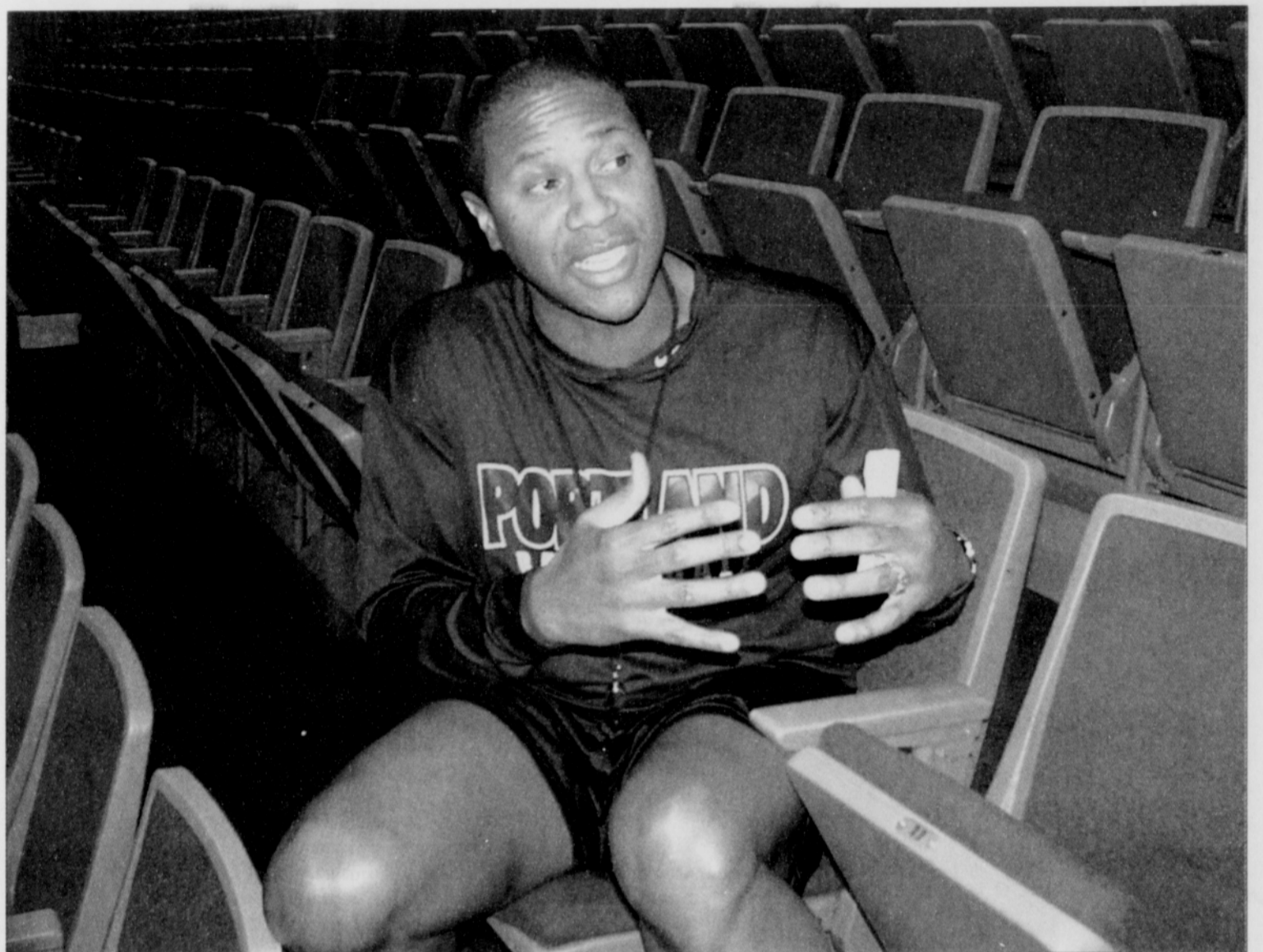


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

University of Portland Coach Michael Holden shares his knowledge of life and sport from a career in which he was mentored by the basketball legends at UCLA and the NBA.

"From a readiness standpoint, they're 18 in a business with men. The pureness of the sport and athletic readiness isn't what's problematic. Emotional maturity, financial responsibility; that's a real reach," he said.

Holden also taught for one year, to supplement his coaching income while working for Pasadena City College in California. He was a language arts and social studies teacher of a seventh grade class.

"I stayed a couple chapters ahead of the class," he joked, but he said that teaching showed him not to take the work of others personally, which helped him in coaching. "When you've been in the classroom, you learn that everyone learns differently and you have to be sensitive to the recipient."

Holden says he didn't always know that coaching was for him.

"When I played, I didn't realize how much I respected and looked up to and observed all my coaches."

But after a brief stint in the fashion industry, coaching called to him.

"As soon as I felt I could do something outside of basketball, I wanted to coach. Selling jeans was not my calling. I wanted to give back," he said.

## Gordly Oversees State Budgets



State Sen. Avel Gordly (far right) joins northeast Portland residents Laurie Vischer (left) and Sid Bert during a recent Portland Chapter of Stand for Children breakfast. The group of education advocates are frustrated by Gov. Ted Kulungoski's proposed budget cuts for local schools.

### Lawmaker also chairs public safety group

Sen. Avel Gordly, a Democrat serving northeast and southeast Portland, has been named to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for the upcoming legislative session. The committee, considered the most powerful in Salem, will be responsible for crafting the 2005-2007 state budget.

Gordly was also named chairwoman of the subcommittee on public safety, which will create the budgets for the state police, corrections,

the judicial branch and other agencies.

With another budget shortfall and other problems facing the state, Gordly's previous experience in public safety and on the Ways and Means Committee will be an asset.

"There will be a number of issues before us," Gordly said. "We must do what we can to get in front of the methamphetamine crisis that is impacting communities all over Oregon. And we have to address the expanding gang problem, which has grown beyond Portland and into other areas of the state."

"I am also very concerned about securing funding for the State Police. They continue to

operate with numbers far below national standards, and that could affect their ability to protect Oregonians. I have serious reservations about expanding the lottery to pay for more state troopers and I will work hard during the upcoming session to find another source of funding. But we absolutely need to have these officers on the road," she said.

Gordly will draw on 30 years of experience working on public safety issues. After earning a degree from Portland State University in Administration of Justice, she worked in the Oregon Department of Corrections as an adult

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Juan Williams

## Lecture on King's Legacy

Accomplished civil rights author and National Public Radio senior correspondent, Juan Williams will be in Portland to speak at a community-wide event celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The talk begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12 at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom, 1825 S.W. Broadway, room 355. A book signing follows.

Williams, one of America's leading political writers and thinkers, will offer insight into the lessons learned from King. The event also features the Woodlawn Elementary School dancers.

Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for students and can be purchased at Ticketmaster or at the PSU Ticket office. For more information, call 503-725-4422.