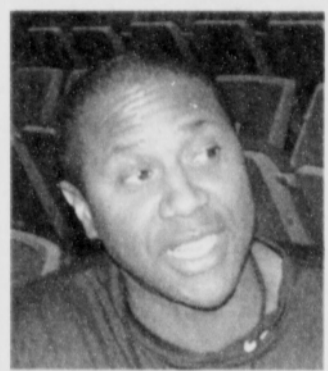


SPORTS



University of Portland Coach Michael Holton is the second black coach in the history of the of the Pilot program.

Holton Guides UP Program

Two errors were made in our Jan. 5 issue about University of Portland Head Basketball Coach Michael Holton.

Holton's name was misspelled and he was in incorrectly identified as the second African American to guide the UP program. Holton is actually the second African-American coach in the history of the north Portland school. The first black coach at the university was Clive Charles, head coach of men's and women's soccer, who died of prostate cancer in 2003.

We regret the errors.

Pilots Home for Thursday, Sunday Games

Portland tries to rebound from Santa Clara loss

The University of Portland men's basketball team is home this week for games Thursday and Sunday after a weekend road loss to Santa Clara.

Travis Neisen led Santa Clara to a 76-63 victory Saturday with a game-high 35 points. Portland was led by Darren Cooper's career-best 16 points.

As a team, the Pilots (11-6) were held to just 10 field goals in the second half. Portland was able to cut the lead to 11 points with just over four minutes remaining after a three-pointer by Cooper and fast break lay-up by Donald Wilson, but the Pilots would get no closer.

"We got out-played and out-worked," said Portland Head Coach Michael Holton. "We didn't match their energy at the start and Santa Clara came out hard to defend their home court. This was a real eye-opener for our team in terms of how good the conference is this season."

Portland shot 39 percent for the game, but had 10 less attempts than the Broncos. SCU claimed its domi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON MOORE
University of Portland senior Karl Aaker surveys the court on way to a season-high 11 points against Santa Clara.

nance down low, outscoring Portland 30-18 in the paint. Second chance points became a factor as the Broncos held the advantage, 17-7. Portland was also out-

bounded by 19 for the game.

The Pilots will next host Pepperdine on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. and Loyola-Marymount on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

Vikings Best Start Since '70s

The Portland State Vikings won their second and third Big Sky Conference games with a 79-69 win over Sacramento State on Thursday and a 91-78 victory over Northern Arizona on Saturday.

Seamus Boxley caught the eye of Northern Arizona coach Mike Adras,

who called him "the premier player in the Big Sky," scoring 25 and 18 points, respectively, in the wins.

Portland State University is ranked 11-4, 3-0 Big Sky. The Vikings have won seven consecutive games. The last time a PSU team won seven in a row was late in 1973-74.

Martin Luther King and Gay Rights

continued ▲ from Front

ern Christian Leadership Conference.

King's request was denied by the SCLC board and scholars say Rustin's homosexuality was the unstated reason.

All God's Children

Some African Americans do not perceive the gay fight for equality as on par with the black civil rights movement. Yet many same-sex marriage advocates feel their "separate but equal" treatment has parallels to Jim Crow laws. One of the major opponents of same-sex marriage has been Christian conservatives.

"We are in a climate nationally and politically where civil rights for every minority group is under challenge. I'm concerned that we have the growth of a Christian right wing that is motivated by their own religious values and a conservative agenda that in Oregon, they have silenced moderate voices in our state," said Thorpe. "It's really important to join together with other social justice and economic groups to prepare for attacks as they come."

She adds, "I actually think asking for marriage equality is a very

conservative thing to do but it addresses people's prejudices."

"We are in a climate nationally and politically where civil rights for every minority group is under challenge."

— Basic Rights Oregon Executive Director Roey Thorpe

conservative thing to do but it addresses people's prejudices."

Despite fears that conservative politics as a threat to civil rights, others say their churches have provided comfort during turbulent times.

"People have a perception that it's the church against gays and lesbians when there are many religious institutions that have been on the front lines," said Rebekah Kassel, a spokeswoman for Basic Rights Oregon.

"The squeakiest wheel gets the oil and you have a zillion people

marching in the streets that hate gay people but you have a zillion who love us, too. The problem is the people who don't speak up when you believe something is wrong, you have your own lives compromised," Saadat said.

According to Alisa Simmons, a board member of Basic Rights Oregon, conversations are needed with church leaders to promote understanding.

"I'm a Christian, so I have to have hope and fight within our churches to have those conversations and have them more honestly," said Simmons, who is an African-American lesbian.

Pastor T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church and president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance spoke out against same-sex marriage before the ban passed in November.

"It is definitely not a civil rights issue. If the opponents of (Measure) 36 want to say it's equal to the violations and discrimination against African Americans, there's absolutely no way. Not even close," Bethel, who is African American, said at the time.

For Simmons, the argument is basic, and needs not include intel-

lectual or theological musings.

"What we are fighting for are basic protections and rights that are afforded to other people. I'm not interested in a complex discussion about religion. This stuff is not rocket science. It's basic rights of full human beings," said Simmons.

Saadat doesn't deny that marriage equality will redefine the family.

"We'll expand it to include more people," Saadat said.

Although many say anti-gay attitudes are rooted in fear, some believe Christians are speaking from

the convictions of their faith that homosexuality is morally wrong.

"I think there is resistance because there is fear and fear comes out of ignorance," Saadat said. "If we are all God's children, then we are all God's children."

The Day After

Thorpe said waking up on Nov.

"If we are all God's children, then we are all God's children."

— Kathleen Saadat, local African-American gay rights leader

3 to election results that her own state voted to make marriage among gays illegal brought feelings of vulnerability.

"It goes back to the impact on the human spirit," said Simmons. "I don't feel like a full citizen, acknowledged or supported."

"There's an uncertainty to the most basic exchanges during the day, like you feel more vulnerable to the kind of power others hold over you," Thorpe added.

Basic Rights Oregon has joined a national shift to redirect focus to civil unions, which still do not offer complete protections that are afforded to married couples, but Thorpe says its long-term goal is unwavering from same-sex marriage.

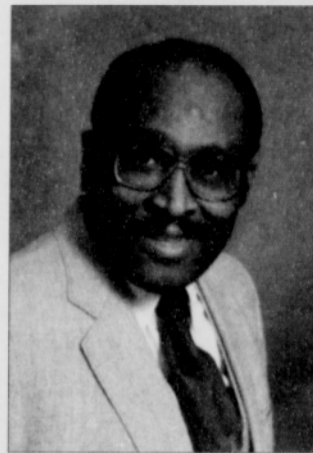
"Our eventual goal is marriage equality and that will not change. Regardless, we see value in each incremental step towards marriage equality while never letting anyone forget about marriage equality," said Thorpe.

According to Thorpe, the passage of Measure 36 was such a defeat to civil rights because in her lifetime, she witnessed so many events designed to expand freedom; not squelch it.

"It's an outrage. I don't think in most of our lifetimes, we've seen separate systems set up. We've been a part of tearing them down," Thorpe said.

She said that reading literature

Obituaries



Joseph Taylor, Jr.
Sunrise: March 8, 1937
Sunset: January 7, 2005

Services will be held Saturday, January 15, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. at The House of Prayer, located at 4936 N.E. Skidmore, in Portland, Oregon.



Nancy Ellen Turner (Bonnie)
November 20, 1954-
January 2, 2005

Rest in Peace Our Beloved Daughter

Funeral Services: January 12, 1:00 pm at Portland Memorial 6705 SE 14th Avenue

The African American Men's Club

"In the community...for the community"

AAMC Valentine's Day Dance

Saturday, February 12, 2005

9 PM - 2 AM

Ramada Inn at the Airport

6221 NE 82nd Avenue

Portland, Oregon

503-255-6511



Ticket Price: \$20.00 per person

Dress: After 5

Dance...Music...Fun...Raffle...Food...No Host Bar

Peninsula Little League 2005

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-15)

Softball & Baseball Sign-ups
(\$85.00 per player)

Peninsula Park Community Center
700 N Portland Blvd

February 5th & 12, March 5th 2005

10:00am - 2 pm

&

Portland Observer
4747 NE MLK Blvd

Hours: 10 am - 5 pm (Mon-Friday)

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