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# HOUSING

Special Edition

inside pages A5 and A6

## Construction Empowers

Women learn skills, teamwork and help community

Story on page A5



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Oregon Soldiers Home



About 700 Oregon soldiers came home last weekend from Iraq after being away for 18 months. After a prayer and brief remembrance of those who died, they reunited with their families at Fort Lewis, Wash. The 162nd Infantry division is based in Cottage Grove. Eight members of the battalion died in Iraq.

### Violence Skews Elections

Five years of violence, intimidation, voting irregularities and restrictive legislation have skewed Zimbabwe's electoral playing field in favor of President Robert Mugabe's party, Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday, days before new parliamentary elections.

### School Shooting Kills 10

The suspect in the worst U.S. school shooting since Columbine smiled and waved as he gunned down five students, a teacher and a guard, asking one of his victims whether he believed in God, witnesses said. The Minnesota teen's grandfather and his grandfather's wife also were found dead, and the boy killed himself. See story on page A2.

### Feeding Tube Ruling Appealed

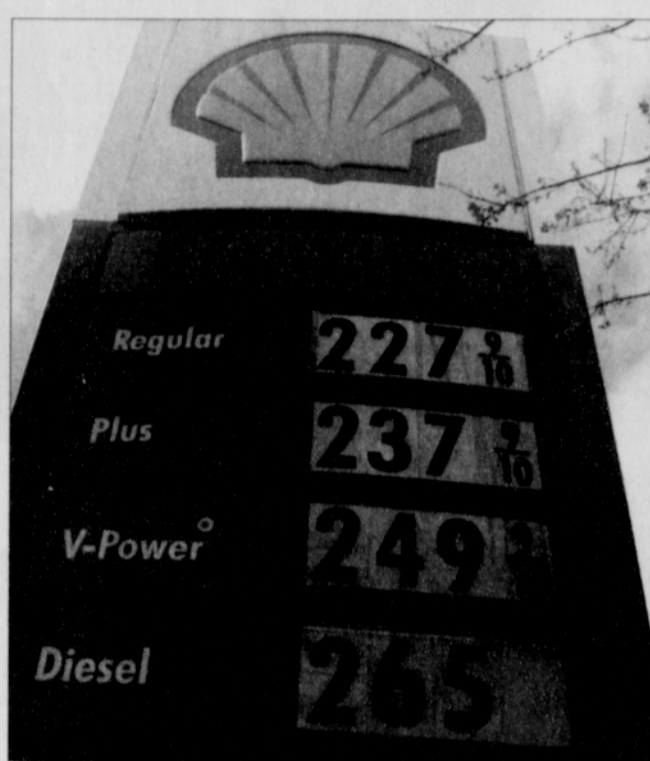
A federal judge in Florida on Tuesday refused to order the reinsertion of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube, denying an emergency request from the brain-damaged woman's parents. The parents' lawyer quickly filed a notice of appeal. The ruling came after feverish action by President Bush and Congress on legislation allowing the contentious case to be reviewed by federal courts.

### Undocumented Workers Surge

The nation's undocumented immigrant population surged to 10.3 million last year, spurred largely by the arrivals of unauthorized Mexicans in the United States finding job opportunities, according to a report released Monday.

### Embargo Pressure on EU

European Union leaders faced pressure from the United States and other nations Tuesday to maintain a 15-year embargo on weapons sales to China in the wake of Beijing's new law authorizing a military attack on Taiwan.



## Gasoline Prices Sting

Broadway Shell station attendant Donnie Crawford works the pump as record gasoline prices drain pockets. The national average retail price for all three grades has increased to \$2.13 per gallon, the highest ever. But in Portland, prices are even higher. Along with sharp hikes in the cost of crude oil, an analyst predicts more sticker shock in the days ahead because of seasonal changes and strong demand.



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Activist Sets Sight on School Board

Charles McGee is a young man with a mission

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As a 19-year-old African American who has gone through the Portland Public School System, Charles McGee has had a recent first hand look at the obvious need for change in the system. That's why he's running on the May ballot to replace the seat of Derry Jackson on the Portland School Board to cover north and northeast Portland.

He's got tough competition, running in the election with 42-year-old Dan Ryan, director of university development at Portland State University and 60-year-old Steve Buel, a former middle school teacher who previously served on the board from 1979 to 1983.

But age isn't a factor for the confident and articulate McGee, a political science and cultural anthropology student at Portland State.

He cites such great leaders as Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy and Moses as all being young people who lead people in a positive way.

"Age is not a requirement for leadership," McGee said. "I am old enough to risk my life for my country, to die for my country. I'm old enough to drive a car and possibly risk killing a family. I am old enough to vote on policies. I am qualified enough to vote on the decisions that will have an impact on my generation."

McGee was the youngest person on the district-wide Student Achievement Committee, was the founder of the Black Student Union at Franklin High School, was involved with the creation of the Black Student Leadership Conference, and helped to dissolve some issues around police shootings.

"I was very active during the police shootings when there was a

Charles McGee for School Board  
- Fresh - Forthright - Ready -  
CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS  
www.mcgeeforschoolboard.com



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

School Board Candidate Charles McGee stands outside his campaign headquarters at 15<sup>th</sup> and Killingsworth Streets in northeast Portland.

*"We need to include more parents in the process by always including them and saying there is a spot at the table for them."*

- Charles McGee

lot of strife in the community," McGee said. "I helped to bargain the relationship. Something I've been very good at is talking to my peers, talking to people who are on the ground, communicating to them the issues from the other side of the street, being that middle person and bridging that gap between government and the community to see how they can better serve the schools and the children."

McGee first realized the importance of education through his father, a former government official from North Liberia who fled the

dangers of a bloody civil war in 1993 to eventually settle in Portland. His father went on to become a teacher at Vocational Village High School and McCoy Academy.

"I started to value teachers," McGee said. "When you live with a teacher who is teaching at-risk young people who are sometimes forgotten about in society, you start to realize the importance of the field. I started to learn the importance of family and what it means to be an American."

Following by example, McGee sees how necessary it is to have

parents involved in the steps of learning.

"I want to close the achievement gap. We need to include more parents in the process by always including them and saying there is a spot at the table for them," McGee said. "One of the greatest mandates of the Portland Public School Board is to ask questions and I do not believe that is occurring. When a policy is presented you never hear discourse between members. I would be the type of board member

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## Deadly Shooting Second for Officer Grand Jury to hear case

In his second fatal shooting during 16 years on the force, Portland Police Officer Terry Kruger fired the shot that killed 40-year-old Ronald Riebling Jr., ending a hostage standoff that lasted three hours early Sunday in southeast Portland.

Riebling was holding an umbrella wrapped in cloth when the fatal bullet struck him, not a rifle as officers suspected, police said.

Kruger is a law enforcement sniper and member of the bureau's Special Emergency Reaction Team and is currently on paid administrative leave. A Multnomah County grand jury will hear the case next week.

On Feb. 28, 1996, Kruger shot and killed Deontae J. Keller, 20, a local African American who was driving a car police said was used in a drive-by shooting earlier in the day.

Police said Keller jumped out of the car and threatened them with a gun. A grand jury ruled the death justifiable homicide. But Keller's father, Joe "Bean" Keller continues to wage a fight for justice on behalf of his son.

He accuses police of a cover-up, arguing his son was critically wounded and then left for hours without medical attention in a backyard near north Shaver Street, some distance from the vehicle. He points out that the alleged gun his son possessed had no fingerprints on it and was found on the other side of 6-foot fence.

In Sunday's shooting, Riebling's former girlfriend, called police when Riebling broke into her home. She was outside when officers arrived, but her three children were inside the duplex with Riebling during the standoff. None were injured.

In an interview with detectives Monday, Kruger said he saw Riebling come to the door holding what he thought was a rifle and swinging it in front of him "as if he was aiming at officers from the hip," said Sgt. Brian Schmutz.

Initially the officers fired two beanbag rounds in an attempt to take him into custody, but this didn't have an effect.

Riebling went back inside. SERT officers said they heard someone inside yell that he had a gun.

When Riebling stepped out again, Kruger saw Riebling turn toward him and raise the object to his shoulder as if he were aiming a rifle at him, Schmutz said.

After the shooting, police found no weapons on Riebling or in the duplex.

Court records show Riebling had assault, drunken driving and drug convictions dating to 2001.



Ronald Riebling Jr. killed Sunday



Deontae J. Keller killed in 1996

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