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Week in The Review

Senate Defies Bush, Approves Highway Bill

The Republican-controlled Senate brushed aside a presidential veto threat Tuesday and passed a \$295 billion highway bill, arguing that massive spending on bigger and better roads was necessary to fight congestion and unsafe roadways. The administration said the bill was too expensive in a time of war and debt and could result in the first veto of the Bush presidency.

White House: Newsweek Story Did Great Harm

The White House said Tuesday the United States' image abroad had suffered irreparable damage from a now-retracted Newsweek article alleging that American interrogators at Guantanamo Bay desecrated the Quran, the Muslim holy book. Newsweek at first apologized for its story and then retracted it under heavy pressure from the administration.

Mfume Admits Relationship

U.S. Senate candidate Kweisi Mfume said having a romantic relationship with a subordinate while heading the NAACP was a "boneheaded thing to do." Mfume, who is divorced, has previously admitted dating the woman in 1997 and adopting her son, now 15. But he denied that any of his personnel decisions were affected by the relationship.

Apology for Abu Ghraib

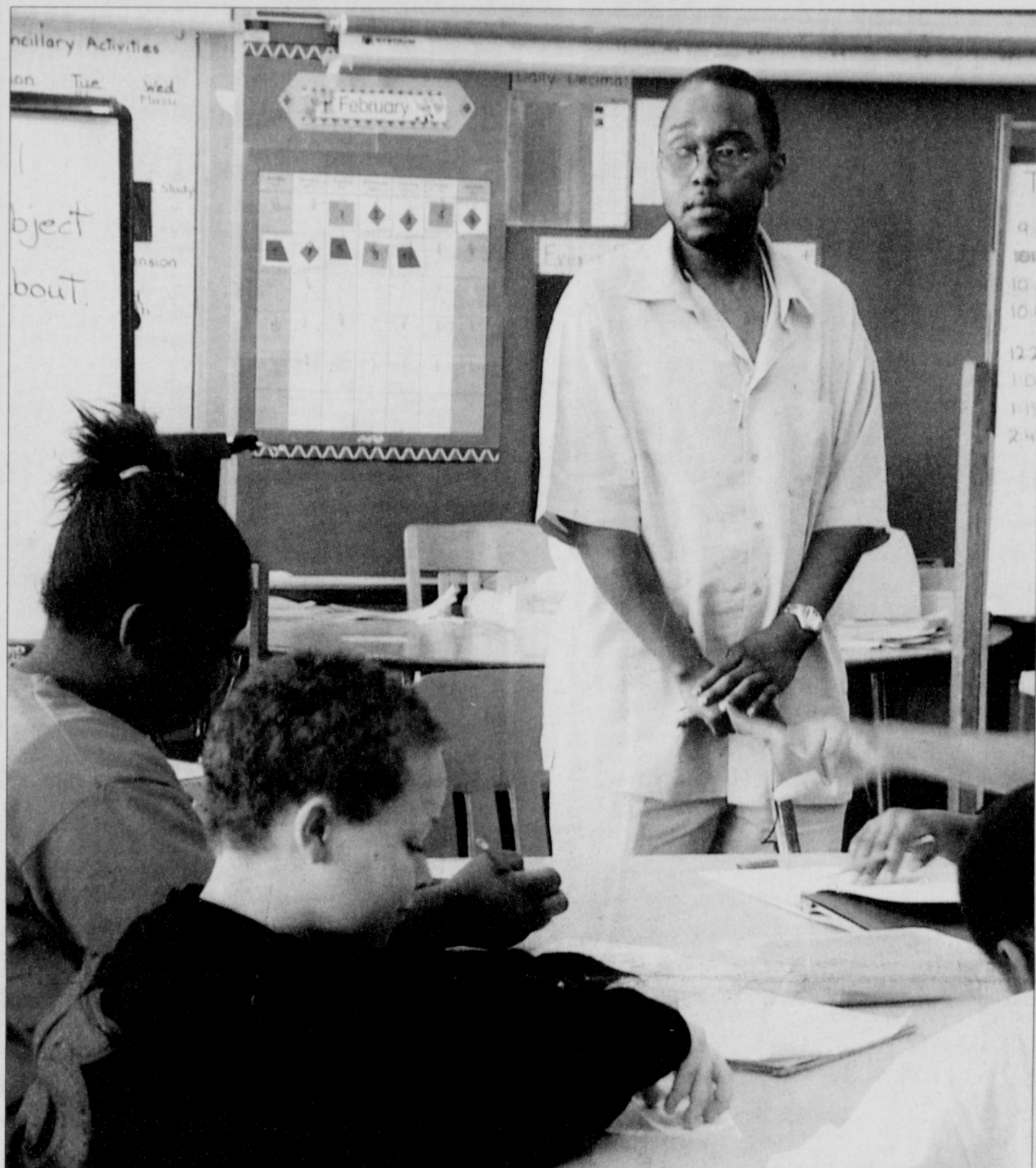
Army Spc. Sabrina Harman stood before the jury in the sentencing phase of her court-martial Tuesday and tearfully apologized for mistreating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Harman, 27, was convicted Monday on six of the seven charges she faced for her role in the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners in 2003. She appeared in several of the most notorious photos taken at Abu Ghraib, including one of naked Iraqis piled up in a pyramid.

Couples Mark Anniversary

Alexander Westerhoff and Thomas Lang celebrated their first wedding anniversary Tuesday by holding a sign on the Statehouse steps reading: "Thank you Massachusetts for one year of equality." Last May 17, couples lined up in city and town halls across the state to apply for marriage licenses. Since then, some 6,200 of them have been handed out to same-sex couples.

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Writer Samuel Irving brings a lesson on how to write a Japanese poem to Rory Thompson's fifth grade class at King Elementary School in northeast Portland.

Writing to Survive

Local poet inspires
healing with words

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Samuel Irving lost his younger brother to a killing only to have his parents separate, he wrote his way through the trauma.

"I really couldn't express how I was feeling to anybody else so I would stay up late at night and write. I would feel so much better and so much closer to him having that outlet," Irving said.

Later, dealing with the deaths of friends from drug use and gang violence, as well as coming to terms with his own debilitating scoliosis, Irving turned to the pen and paper once again.

"It was an inspiration for me to write and envision things that I can't physically do, like running through a forest. It's just that freedom that you can do anything," he said.

Now a writing instructor at King Elementary School, Irving helps children express their fears about poverty, abandonment and family issues through a gamut of writing styles. He has also started up a summer institute called Poetry Lifeline, which includes workshops for children to work through their issues when there doesn't seem to be any other constructive outlet.

"These kids from disadvantaged areas have never known of the different writing styles," Irving said. "Nobody actually took the time. With Poetry Lifeline, we take the time to instill the different writing styles and show that there is expression

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Tough as Nails

Consumers of nail
salons beware

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With nearly 100 nail salons in north and northeast Portland alone it's obvious that many local women view a "nice set" as a necessity.

But how many of these nail salons really meet health standards? Depending on who is asked, the answer can be less than expected. For example, if the same utensils are used on more than one customer, the salon is violating state health laws. The regulations exist to prevent diseases.

Each set of nail instruments must be discarded or sanitized after each use, according to the state Health Licensing Office, the agency that governs nail salons.

"The disposable nail implements should be calculated in the cost of the service," said Trish Allbritton, HLO division manager. "Refuse services if you feel your safety has been jeopardized."

With so many nail shops in Portland and across the state, it's hard to catch a particular salon violating regulations. Allbritton said the state agency has a budget that allows it to inspect a nail salon only once or twice a year.

She said it is up to the consumer to alert the HLO of any unlawful activity. The health inspection certificates that are required to be visible in all nail salons may carry less merit.

Because so many of the salons are owned by people who speak English as their second language, the state also distributes safety and regulation pamphlets in Vietnamese and Spanish.

Unsanitary practices can cause bacteria related to skin tuberculosis. Electric drills used in nail work can cause abrasions on the cuticle. This practice not only makes hands look unattractive but also becomes an inviting spot for infection.

According to Allbritton, there have been no studies regarding the transmission of HIV through dirty nail implements. But the risk of contracting hepatitis is why nail salons are required to disinfect all sharp edged tools or metal tools.

To protect themselves, nail salon workers often wear masks because the dust that comes with the electric filer can cause respiratory problems.

Nail salons are required to alert health officials and keep the names



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Health safety regulations govern the nail salon industry, a popular service with shops along every major thoroughfare in north and northeast Portland.

and phone numbers of its customers in the event of an outbreak. But it appears that few nail shop owners even know their customers names. If client records aren't kept, the salon could face up to \$500 in fines. A customer also has the option to sign a waiver in order to keep their contact information private but this also will mean that the salon will have no liability.

The best and worst advertising for a nail salon is the customer. For

every bad review a business gets it takes many more to make up for their reputation. Often when a woman is asked about their nail job, they either give the salon rave reviews or warn the other person about the dangers of visiting there.

Nail salons may be a dime a dozen in north and northeast Portland, but loyal nail customers seem to know which ones not to frequent.

"I once got my nails done and for two days, my thumbs were swollen.

I had so much puss coming out of my nails, I had to go to the emergency room," said an anonymous nail salon client.

When frequenting a nail salon it is important to know that a customer has rights. If the nail shop wants to charge you for an extra nail file, leave. Legally, the salon can charge a customer to take the disposable nail implements home but

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