



**Preacher Guilty**  
'Mississippi  
Burning' trial ends  
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**Laying Tracks  
in Music**  
Star athlete achieves  
in new pursuit  
See Focus section, inside

# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Guilty Verdict in 1964 Killings

Forty-one years to the day after three civil rights workers were beaten and shot to death, 80-year-old preacher and former Ku Klux Klansman Edgar Ray Killen was found guilty of manslaughter Tuesday. The 1964 killings galvanized the struggle for equality and helped bring about passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Killen could spend the rest of his life behind bars. See story, page A2.

### Bush, Vietnam Leader Meet

President Bush opened the Oval Office on Tuesday to the highest-ranking official from communist Vietnam since the end of the war that divided America and claimed the lives of more than 58,000 U.S. troops. The president and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai focused their attention on Vietnam's desire to join the World Trade Organization as well as its human-rights record, which some lawmakers say remains tainted.

### Trial to Probe Slaying of Notorious B.I.G.

The mystery of who gunned down Notorious B.I.G. - and why - has frustrated and fascinated the hip-hop world for eight years. The case finally is in court, as a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the New York rapper's family began with jury selection on Monday. Christopher Wallace was killed in Los Angeles after someone in a dark sedan fired seven shots into his sport utility vehicle.



### Human Embryo Cloned

Scientists have cloned human embryos for the first time using unripe eggs matured in a dish - a technique that may help cloning become a viable option for growing patients' own replacement tissue to treat diseases. The experiment brings the Belgians to the forefront of human cloning aimed at producing stem cells that would be a genetic match for injured or sick patients.

### U.S. Military Deaths in Iraq

As of Tuesday, June 21, at least 1,724 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,319 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians. Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 13,074 U.S. service members have been wounded, according to a Defense Department tally.

## Gentrification Results Surprising

Long and short-term residents find some optimism

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There's something strange going on in the neighborhood, and Daniel Sullivan recently did a study to find out how people are responding to it.

It's gentrification. In urban areas, gentrification has been described as the restoration of run-down areas by the middle class, resulting in the displacement of lower-income people. Need an example? Take a stroll down Alberta Street between 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

An assistant professor of sociology at Portland State, Sullivan did a report on examining the change in the northeast Alberta community and attitudes toward it.

One of the most racially diverse areas in Portland, the area has undergone rapid change over the past 15 years with new businesses, rising cost of housing and an influx of non-minority residents.

"We could see that the Alberta area and different parts of northeast neighborhoods are integrated," Sullivan said, "but to what extent are these people who are very different from each other socially integrated?"

The revolution has positive and negative effects. "Historically in U.S. cities, neighborhoods have been

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▲ Alberta Street has become a haven for new businesses and lifestyles, which can be good for the economy but costly for local homeowners and renters.

◀ The Alberta Street Clown House is an eccentric fixture on the street, with a lawn full of double-decker bikes and other bright kinetic sculptures.

PHOTOS BY ISAIAH BOUIE/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



## Area Residents Sound Off on Displacement

How do you feel about gentrification and the restoration of run-down areas resulting in the displacement of some local residents, including minorities?



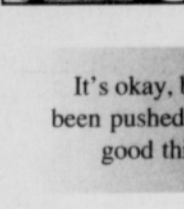
I think it's better than what it used to be. A lot more people are talking about the street in terms of business rather than criminal activity. --Jermaine Hall



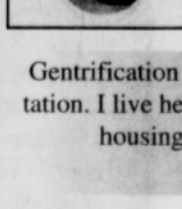
It's not the same. Living expenses are too high. Our urban area is turning into areas like northwest Portland and Hawthorne. Portland is growing in the wrong direction. --Rev. Joseph Reid



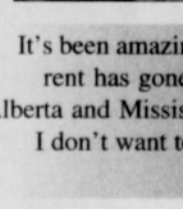
I grew up here and I think it's terrible. People are getting forced out of the city, especially people of color and that's not good. --Alec Dunn



It's okay, but I feel blacks have been pushed out and that's not a good thing. --Barbara King



Gentrification has such a bad connotation. I live here by default for cheap housing not because it's cool. --Arnold Benson



It's been amazing to watch how much rent has gone up around Northeast Alberta and Mississippi. It's depressing. I don't want to live around yuppies. --Katie Burkart



## Smith Late on Lynching Apology

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of Oregon's two U.S. senators signed up late for a Senate resolution apologizing to victims of lynching.

The apology was in response to 100 years of Senate blockage of proposed anti-lynching legislation dating to the mid 1800s to mid 1900s.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. supported the resolution but was not a co-sponsor until after it passed, Tucker Bounds, a member of Smith's office said Monday. Bounds said he didn't know

why Smith was tardy signing the apology or exactly when he added

his voice to the issue. He did stress that Smith was a long-time supporter of civil rights.

When the resolution was adopted June 13 by "unanimous consent," which means it did not require individual votes, Smith was one of 20 senators, all Republicans, who did not go on the record as a co-sponsor.

According to the Black Press of America, Oregon's other U.S.

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U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore.

## Jury Takes Kendra James Case

Family seeks judgment in police shooting

It was roughly two years ago that 21-year-old Kendra James was shot and killed by Portland police officer Scott McCollister after attempting to drive away during a traffic stop.

James' family wants something done about it. Although McCollister was suspended for 5 1/2 months after the shooting for poor decision-making, he is now an officer in the East Precinct of Portland. This is obviously unsettling for an African-American family who lost a young loved one.

Jury selection for the civil rights case began Monday morning and is being tried before U.S. District Judge

Ann Aiken.

The charge against McCollister says the officer violated James' right to due process by using excessive force. McCollister, on the flip side, claims that he was afraid for his life when he shot James, a statute protected by the state of Oregon.

It is a consensus that the car James rode in on May 5, 2003, was pulled over by Officer Rick Bean on North Skidmore Street for a minor traffic violation. The driver and another passenger left the car when McCollister attempted to arrest James, who had an outstanding warrant. McCollister drew his gun and demanded surrender when James resisted and started the car. After a

scuffle inside the car, the vehicle shifted into drive and moved forward.

What's being disputed isn't whether the events leading up to the shooting happened, but whether McCollister was standing safe outside of James' moving car when he shot, or falling backward outside of the car.

James' estate will be represented by three Portland lawyers and assisted by Milton Grimes from Santa Ana, Calif., who fought for Rodney King against the Los Angeles Police Department.

McCollister will be sided by two Portland attorneys.

The estate of James has plans to bring more than 15 witnesses to the stand, while McCollister's attorneys are planning for 30 witnesses. The case is expected to run into the beginning of July.



Kendra James

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