

Week in  
The Review

## Bush Tries to Ease Doubts

President Bush used the first anniversary of Iraq's sovereignty to try to ease Americans' doubts about the war and outline a winning strategy for a violent conflict that has cost the lives of more than 1,740 U.S. troops and has no end in sight. Bush has refused to give a timetable for troop withdrawal, even though some Democrats and a few Republicans in Congress are supporting a resolution that calls for Bush to start bringing them home by Oct. 1, 2006.

## Venus Williams in Semifinals



Two-time champion Venus Williams will play against defending champion Maria Sharapova in the Wimbledon Grand Slam semifinals on Thursday. Williams, bidding for her fifth major title and her first since 2001, overcame five set points in the tiebreaker to eliminate Mary Pierce. "I feel like I deserve to be in the semifinal," Williams said. "I feel like when I play my best, I'm still a step ahead for sure."

## Two Wounded Downtown

Two people were wounded in a weekend shooting in a crowded area of downtown Portland in an incident police say may be gang-related. About 10 shots were fired early Sunday, many hitting parked cars and nearby buildings. Mikael Jo Pugh, 21, was found in her car with a shoulder wound she told police she got while stopped for a traffic light. James Hartley, 28, took himself to a hospital with a wound to the forearm. Hundreds of people left the area before police could interview them.

## Pfizer: Viagra Doesn't Cause Blindness

Pfizer Inc. said that a review concluded that Viagra doesn't increase patients' risk of blindness but that it is still working with federal regulators to update the drug's label to reflect rare reports of vision loss. Last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it had 38 reports of blindness caused by a condition called non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy among users of Viagra.

## Shuttle May Fly in Days

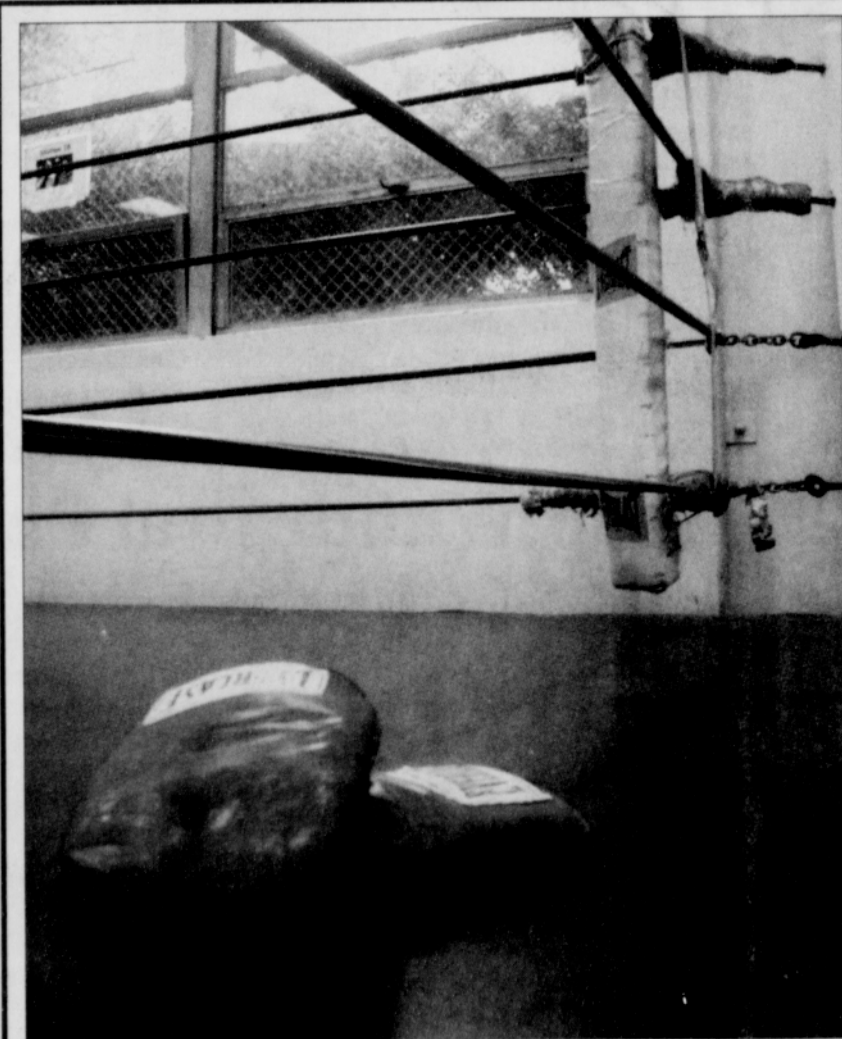
U.S. astronauts will blast back into space in a matter of days, the head of NASA said Tuesday, despite a new, critical report questioning the safety of this exploration. Top shuttle managers are conducting a flight readiness review this week in hopes of launching the shuttle Discovery as early as July 13, the first mission since Columbia broke apart during re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven astronauts aboard.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Good in the Neighborhood

This year's Rose Festival Court marched in the Good in the Hood Parade last weekend. From left, are Angela Gill of Jefferson, Lily Bosombath of Marshall, Charlotte Marshall of St. Mary's, Queen Katelyn Callaghan of Central Catholic, Nicole Gutierrez of David Douglas, Bryndle Rueck of Franklin, Kristina Stone of Madison, Lish Bui of Parkrose, Nicole Roberts of Lincoln, and Rachel Castaneda of Cleveland. See additional parade photos, page B6.



Boxing gloves take a rest on the ring at the Knott Street boxing gym inside the Matt Dishman Community Center in northeast Portland.

## Champion boxers await Oregon Hall of Fame vote

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Back before the Portland Trailblazers, before bling bling was a major priority in the world of sports, before OJ and his glove — there was boxing.

At the forefront, locally, was the Knott Street Boxing Team of northeast Portland. Between the late '50s to the early '70s, being in the Knott Street ring or punching a speed bag between meant you were it.

"It was the heyday for little boxers all the way up to big boxers. It was something you could look forward to. It was something you could do to bring recognition to yourself, to your family, and to your state. It was the appetite of the times," said A. Halim Rahsaan, known back then as Bill Cross, a former Amateur Athletic Union National Boxing Champion.

The Knott Street Gym, incepted in 1956 and now called the Matt Dishman Community

*'You had a lot of African American boxers to look up to. You wanted to emulate them.'*

—A. Halim Rahsaan

Center, was a place where champions were trained and honed until they were ready for the grand ring of the bell. The boxers had a second home at Northeast Knott by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, where they congregated to get off the streets with bigger hopes for life.

"You had a lot of African American boxers to look up to. You wanted to emulate them," Rahsaan said. "We were good role models.

We weren't involved in drugs, in the criminal justice system."

Boxing to these men meant hard work, dedication, and astute listening. And it paid off.

Ten national championships were won by individuals on the team from 1956 to 1972.

The team churned out Ray Lampkin, the first African American in Oregon's history to fight for the lightweight contender world title and the only African American boxer to be inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. Knott Street boxer Thad Spencer was ranked number one heavyweight contender in the world to champion Muhammad Ali in 1967 and 1968. Michael Colbert, now known as Adofo Akil, was the number one middleweight world contender in 1977. Steven Forbes won the IBS World Championship in 2000, being the first African American boxer to win a professional

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PHOTOS BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Cross Named Golden Boy



A historic newspaper article from the Knott Street Boxers' heyday is featured in a glass case among many trophies won by the team.

## 'Knott Street' Fights for Recognition

## Champion boxers await Oregon Hall of Fame vote



Kendra James

## Family's Claim Rejected

Jury sides with officer in Kendra James' death

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It was a bitter loss Tuesday for the African-American family of a young mother who was fatally shot by a Portland police officer two years ago.

A federal court jury rejected the claims of Kendra James' family in their wrongful death lawsuit against Scott McCollister, the police officer who shot the 21-year-old motorist as she tried to flee a North Skidmore Street traffic stop.

In final arguments, lawyers representing the family argued that McCollister was lying, accusing him of concocting a story that he fired at James because his life was in danger because the car suddenly moved forward with her in the driver's seat.

The 8-member jury, sided with the officer, rejecting the family's claim of \$12 million in damages for a violation of James's Constitutional civil rights.

"We are very disappointed. We feel like we put on a good case," said Tameka Pryce, cousin of Kendra James. "I feel like we didn't get justice because he was a police officer. If he was someone else, the outcome would be different. It's been a long two years for my family, and we wanted closure."

Attorneys for the family argued that McCollister must have been standing several feet from the car when he shot her. But jurors heard conflicting testimony from witnesses, doctors, and experts in forensics and in the use of deadly force.

McCollister was suspended from the police force for 5½ months after the May 5, 2003 shooting as part of a reprimand for poor decision-making. The death galvanized African-Americans and others and brought massive protests for police accountability.

"We should not forget, however, that as tragic as Kendra's death was, it helped bring the community together, black, white, Latino against police misconduct and led to the resignation and firing of (former Police) Chief Kroeker," Portland Copwatch spokesman Dan Handleman, said Tuesday in reaction to the verdict.

The family hoped a trial would force the Police Bureau to change its practices and have the city take action on future police shootings.

During the civil trial, McCollister said he was reacting to a volatile situation. His attorneys argued James resisted arrest while high on a lethal dose of cocaine.

McCollister said the car lurched forward as he tried to pull James

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