

# OPINION

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Chief Derrick Foxworth

## No Winners in Kendra James Verdict

Death brought pain for all involved

Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth released the following statement in regards to the

June 28 civil trial verdict that sided with the officer in the May 2003 fatal shooting of Kendra James, an unarmed African American motorist:

"People look to jury verdicts as a win or lose situation. But in this case, there are no winners. This was a situation that resulted in a person's death, caused division

within the community and pain for all involved.

"There have been many changes in the Police Bureau over the last couple of years. With a great amount of community involvement, we have restored the 40-hour officer in-service training and made changes to policies and procedures regarding officer-

involved shootings.

"I understand that there are heightened emotions in the community, but I ask people to channel their frustration and energy into peaceful actions. I ask that they come together with police to help us with our community policing efforts and in the process, build strong, lasting rela-

tionships.

"The men and women of the Portland Police Bureau are committed to protecting the citizens of Portland. It is my hope that we can all work together to strengthen the police and community relationship and focus on look for ways to reduce crime and improve neighborhood livability."

### Letter to the Editor

#### Bush Wasting Lives, Money

George Bush Jr. and Richard Cheney lied about the reasons to attack Iraq and now George Bush Jr. lies about the fighting being worthwhile in lost lives and money.

George Bush Jr., Cheney et. al. should be impeached, convicted, removed from office and thrown in jail for the lies that have led to the deaths

of tens of thousands of people and over 1,700 American soldiers.

It is passed time for our soldiers to come home from Iraq, where they should have never been in the first place.

C. Curry  
Northeast Portland

#### Blue State Soldiers Die

Clearly Karl Rove and the party and president he represents believe it suits their political purposes to continue to push the false notion that Democrats are not patriots.

Perhaps someone should remind Mr. Rove of the number of proud, blue-state Oregon National Guardsmen who have given their very lives for this country in the Iraq War. And while they are at it, they should remind Sen. Gordon Smith as well. When I contacted his office regarding this matter,

I was told that the senator had elected not to issue a condemnation of Rove's disgusting comments. That is not acceptable.

I, as well as many others, will interpret the senator's silence as a tacit approval of the substance of Rove's remarks. Sad is the day when one of Oregon's senators stands with the likes of Karl Rove instead of the state he is supposed to represent.

Michelle Neumann, Northwest Portland

#### We Need an Exit Plan

It's time to start responsibly coming home from Iraq.

Iraq is no closer to stability than it was a year ago. Things keep getting worse. More than 1,700 Americans have been killed and more than 12,000 wounded.

The U.S. occupation is fueling a growing insurgency. Our presence is exacerbating the problem. There are tens of thousands of insurgents backed by hundreds of thousands of supporters.

We got into this war based on lies—the wrong way.

It's time to get out the right way. The first step is to realize that the Bush policy is out of touch with reality.

We need a real exit plan with a real timeline providing real accountability for our leaders. We need to turn control of the training of Iraqi forces and the rebuilding of Iraq to the international community. And we must renounce permanent military bases in Iraq because that angers the Iraqi people.

Tyler Mason, Southeast Portland

## Supporting Our Troops in Iraq

Find a new approach to bring them home

BY U.S. REP. HAROLD FORD

I've recently returned from a two day trip from Iraq with several of my colleagues, including U.S. Senator Joe Biden and one of my Republican colleagues in the Congress, Kurt Weldon.

It was wonderful being with our troops and spending time with our U.S. military leadership on the ground, as well as the Iraqi government officials, many of them recently elected in January.

What is clear are a few things. One, our troop moral is high.

are needed to limit the number of casualties, to win stability on Iraq, to bring our men and women home to be with their families.

My hope is that President Bush, much like a football coach, goes in at halftime, down by two touchdowns, and realizes that a new plan and a new set of approaches are needed to ensure victory. It's my hope that he will provide the resources on the ground to our Army and Marines and other military who are trying their hardest to restore basic services like water, electricity and

intelligence shows that Syria and Iran are playing a larger role in provoking insurgent activity. We need international help to address this problem as we try to close off their borders.

NATO and other countries have offered their help. I think it's incumbent upon the United States and our President in particular, to step up and be willing to accept their assistance and help guard the borders.

And finally, I've asked our President, as much time and effort as he has spent trying to



*"We now find ourselves at a crossroads and it's clear that new ideas and new approaches are needed."*

Despite the setbacks, despite the lack of equipment many have, their fervor and intensity and enthusiasm for finishing the task is remarkably high. We should be thankful as Americans that we have those who are willing to serve us.

Two, it's clear we are not making the level of progress we need in order to leave. I think since Sept. 11, 2001 President Bush has enjoyed broad support and the benefit of the doubt from many Americans from the Patriot Act, to our efforts in Afghanistan, to our efforts in Iraq and even the post-war chaos in Iraq.

We now find ourselves at a crossroads and it's clear that new ideas and new approaches

the cleaning up of sewer systems.

The Iraqi people have really only one tangible measure of our success and that's the restoration of services, and the resumption of their daily lives which in many ways is lacking.

Two, we have to provide our troops with the training they need and must challenge our business community and our technology community to faster ways. Better technology will help them fight on the ground and prevent casualties on the ground, especially the explosions and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that seem to catch them off guard.

And last, the President should understand, and those of us here should understand, that our intel-

privatize Social Security, if he would spend just a third of that time to help rebuild relations around the globe, particularly in Africa. This will allow us to bring not only our troops home faster, but allow us to win the war on terrorism in a way that will make future generations of Americans safer and future generations of our global citizens safer as well.

Mr. President, I hope you listen. Be like the coach at halftime and make the halftime adjustment so that we can win this war and win this effort and bring our troops home.

U.S. Rep. Harold Ford is a Democrat from Tennessee and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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