

# Terry Porter Builds Plan to Buy Trail Blazers

## To meet with mayor and investors

(AP) — Former Portland Trail Blazer guard Terry Porter is rounding potential investors interested in buying the Portland Trail Blazers and the Rose Garden Arena.

He arrived in Portland Tuesday will meet with Mayor Tom Potter Wednesday.

Owner Paul Allen said he has come to terms with selling the troubled team, which has the worst record this season in the NBA and which, he says, has been costing him multiple millions of dollars to keep afloat.

"I've come to terms with it," he told a



Terry Porter

reporter from the Oregonian during a game in Los Angeles Friday.

Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft and one of the world's richest men, has lobbied

for public funding for the team but hasn't found it in a city and state that are strapped for cash.

He said there are several scenarios that might unfold, and that he doesn't know yet how it will turn out.

He said any decision likely would be before the June 28 draft. He deflected questions on what the asking price might be.

Porter, who was one of the more popular players in the franchise, played for Portland 10 years beginning in 1985 and later coached the Milwaukee Bucks for two years. They fired him at the end of last season. He also was an assistant coach for a season for the Sacramento Kings.

Porter still holds some Portland fran-

chise records. His time with the Blazers included the 1990 and 1992 seasons, when they team got to the NBA finals. They won their only championship in 1976-1977.

He said he will meet with wealthy prospects about a team purchase. Some of the richer Oregonians, including Nike Chairman Phil Knight already have said they want no part of it. But former Blazer and Portland native Damon Stoudamire has also expressed an interest in becoming a co-owner of the team.

Porter said his group already has \$100 million in debt financing lined up but would not say how much they hope to raise, or from whom.

Porter said he also will approach other former Blazers.

Paul Swangard, director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon said the problem is a relatively small pool of very rich prospects in the Portland area, a pool that gets smaller when those who don't much care about NBA basketball are winnowed out.

"There's probably money. There's just a question of whether the money's there for basketball," he said.

NBA Commissioner David Stern has said the franchise and the Rose Garden are worth at least \$300 million.

Andy Brimmer, a spokesman for Allen's privately held investment company, Vulcan Capital, said the group is "open to any reasonable option that would fix the broken economic model."

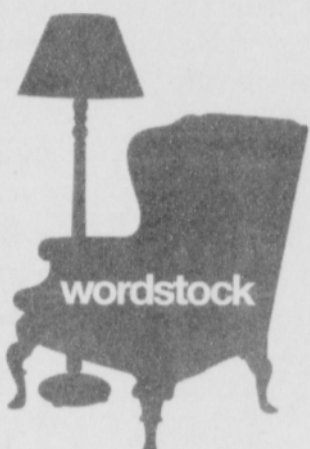
## Booklover's Paradise Wordstock celebration this weekend

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thousands of bookworms, writers and teachers are expected to attend Portland's Annual Wordstock Festival this weekend, April 21 through 23 at the Oregon Convention Center. This year's festival features readings by bestselling authors, poets and northwest writers, panels, workshops for writers and teachers, dinners with authors, a two-day book fair, children's activities, food, music, cooking demonstrations and more.

For a complete list of authors and events, visit [www.wordstockfestival.com](http://www.wordstockfestival.com) or call 503-546-1013. Some featured authors will include:



### Marc Acito

Marc Acito is a New Jersey boy who has thrived by writing in rainy in Portland for the past 16 years. Acito snagged the 2005 Oregon Book Awards Ken Kesey Award for his novel "How I Paid For College (A Novel of Sex, Theft & Musical Theater)." It's a humorous tale of teen larceny, embezzlement, blackmail, ID theft,



Marc Acito

fraud, money laundering and a little bit of prostitution. Acito calls it his love letter to every misfit kid who ever did high school plays.

### How did you pay for college?

My father. I don't have any salacious stories.

As a writer, especially one who has won the Oregon Book Award, is it okay to read guilty pleasures, like The Da Vinci Code?

Because [my writing] is in the middle of literary and genre, I personally don't have that hang-up about admitting guilty pleasures. I'm very fond of airport reads...if you can tell a good story that's what everyone is looking for.

### Which authors are you excited to see?

Joyce Carroll Oats and Dave Eggers, these are huge superstar names in the literary world. As a neophyte author it's both flattering to be included but daunting, given the literary heavyweights.

### Do you feel like a celebrity?

It was last year when I felt a real shift in how I operate in public. When it comes to celebrity, I'm absolute bottom of the food chain. I remember someone running up to talk to me at Wordstock last year, and it's been different ever since.

### What is your favorite local publication?

Just Out — I wrote a column there for four years. It started my writing career.

### What's your favorite local spot to give props to?

Rimsky Korsakoff House. It's authentically eccentric. They don't try to be weird, they just are. Sometimes I bring work, sometimes I wait tables.

### Cupcake Brown

Cupcake Brown has only written one book, a memoir titled "Piece of Cake", and she doesn't have plans to write another between her gigs as an attorney in San Francisco and motivational speaker who travels across the country.



Cupcake Brown

"Piece of Cake" packs a punch. Her remarkable story starts at birth, when her mother requested a cupcake before passing out, prompting the confused nurse to register that as her daughter's name.

When Brown was 11 her mother died, and she was put into foster care where she was forced to make the choices of drug use and prostitution, before running away and becoming a gang member by age 13. Brown had become what she calls a trashcan junkie, using any drug she could get, until something clicked one day 17 years ago. Living without a home and sleeping at rock bottom, Brown was leaving a

dumpster she had occupied for the past four days, and passed a plate glass window. Her reflection stopped her in her tracks; what she saw was a dying person, and she wasn't ready to die.

The rest of her story is an uphill climb to rehabilitation, relapse and a final triumph.

Shortly after she was convinced to share her past with others, the requests for speaking engagements poured in, and Brown eventually penned her story which was released early this year.

Unfortunately around the same time, fellow author James Frey was publicly busted for his memoir "A Million Little Pieces" — for having relied more on fabrication than fuzzy memory.

Brown says she spent years lying about her past because of shame; she doesn't want Frey's reputation to taint the accuracy of exactly what she endured.

"I wrote the book as if no one was going to read it," she said. "What I find is that people who have struggled or worked in law enforcement or child protection know this stuff is real. Only those that live in fantasyland tend to doubt."

She said some of her memories stayed sharp, through repeated attempts to drink herself into forgetting. Other memories weren't so strong, so she went to family and her sponsor from the beginning of her recovery, Venita Ray.

"I'd go back to other people's memory," she said. "If they were completely different I didn't use it, because I felt I would be telling their story, not mine."

### Colson Whitehead

Brooklyn author Colson Whitehead has written four novels, and his third, "John Henry Days" was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

His novel latest novel "Apex Hides the Hurt", released last month, is a slightly satirical tale that begs the question what's in a name?

Whitehead has created the Midwestern town of Winthrop, originally named "Freedom" by ex-slaves during the 1880s. The town suffers an identity crisis, and its council calls on the protagonist, a local boy turned "corporate namer" who returns with plans to apply his penchant for naming products to the dying town's moniker.

The compact work of "Apex" is a departure from "John Henry Days", a sprawling novel of history and popular culture, and the legendary folk hero John Henry.

"It's a bit of a comedy," Whitehead said of "Apex".

"It's sort of an absurd proposition to rename a town. The protagonist is forced to reexamine his life, and think about what naming actually means."

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