



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVII, Number 2

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • January 10, 2007

Week in The Review



Florida Wins Championship Quarterback Chris Leak of Florida completed 25 of 36 passes for 212 yards and one touchdown during a 41-14 victory over Ohio State on the BCS Championship Game on Monday. Leak was named offensive player of the game.

Young Black Men Killed

Portland's first two murder victims of 2007 were young black men, one just 14 years old and the other a young father of twins who were shot and killed along city streets, days apart and on opposite sides of the river. See story, page A2

US Airstrikes in Africa

Helicopter gunships attacked suspected al-Qaida fighters in Somalia Tuesday after U.S. forces staged airstrikes in the first offensive in the African country since 18 American soldiers were killed there in 1993, witnesses said.

White House Warned

In a blunt warning to the White House, congressional Democrats said Monday they may seek to deny funds for the type of short-term troop buildup that President Bush is expected to announce for Iraq Wednesday night.

Sharpton Considers Run

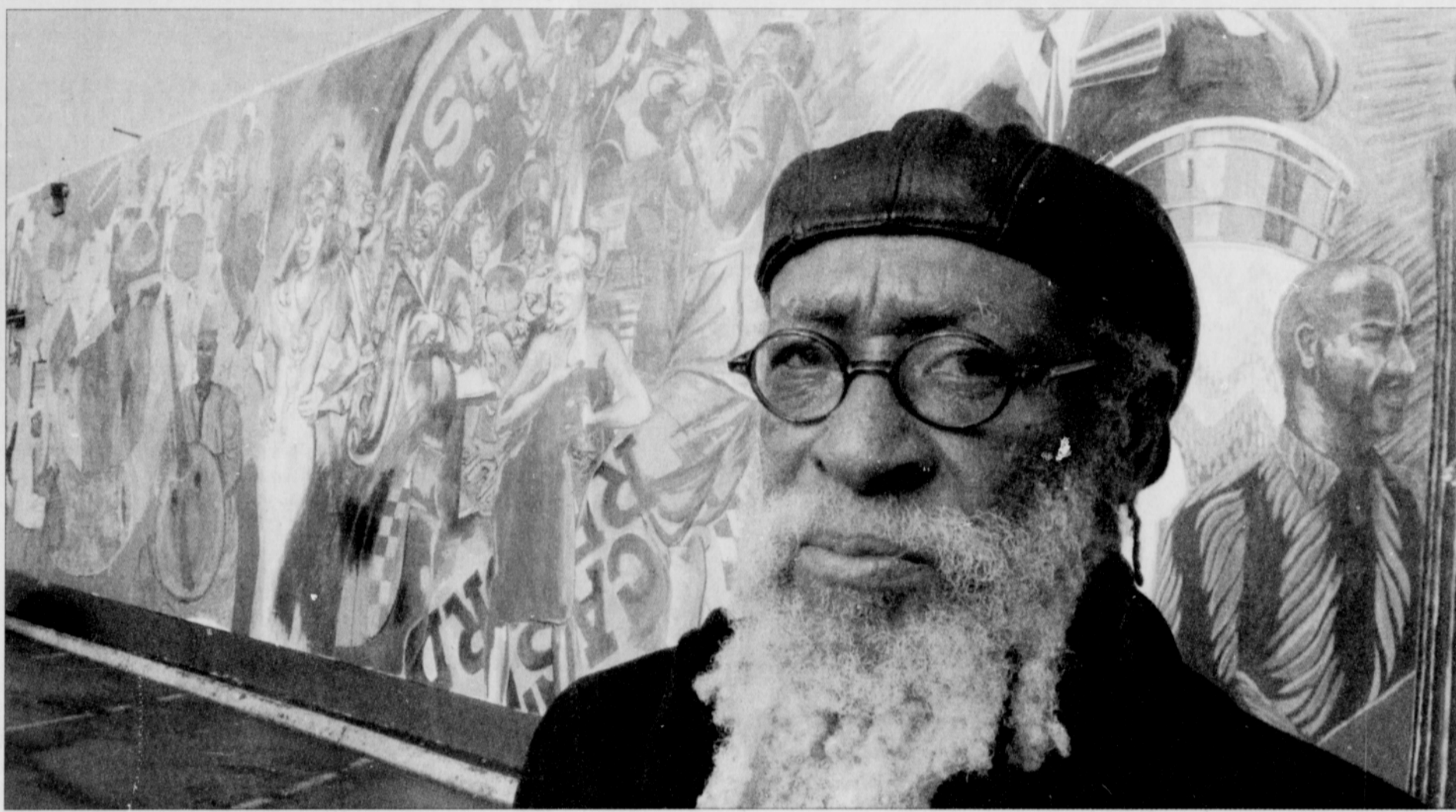
Civil rights activist Al Sharpton said Monday he is seriously considering a run for president. "I don't hear any reason not to," Sharpton, 52, said in an interview during an urban affairs conference sponsored by another civil rights leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

New Execution Video

A new video of Saddam Hussein's corpse, with a gaping neck wound, was posted on the Internet early Tuesday, the second leaked release of clandestine pictures from the former leader's hanging.

Gov. Opens Legislature

Calling the opening of the 2007 Legislature a "great moment of opportunity for Oregon," Gov. Ted Kulongoski on Monday urged lawmakers to put aside their partisan differences and improve education and health care for Oregon's children.



Powerful cultural images are the trademark of Portland mural artist Isaka Shamsud-Din, who stands next to his latest work on the south wall of the Portland Musician's Union Hall at 325 N.E. 20th Ave.

Mural Artist Packs Passion into Work

Powerful cultural images adorn local buildings

BY LEE PERLMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER When asked to reflect on the upcoming Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Isaka Shamsud-Din scratches his long, white beard and says, judiciously, "As an orator, he was one of the greatest who ever

lived. As a symbolic figure, he's great. But elevating King to the point where he's a solitary figure is wrong." Shamsud-Din is a famed Portland mural artist whose work adorns the sides of several local buildings with powerful cultural images that

speak to civil rights, economic justice and life in America for historical African American figures and others. He appreciates the accomplishments of the icons of the modern Civil Rights Movement, but reminds us that the movement itself included so many people. "It wasn't just one black woman on a bus; there were a whole lot of things going on before that. Hundreds of white leaders we learn

about in school are put on a level with Dr. King, and he's the only one black leader. There's a concentrated movement to select who the leaders are we learn about in history. "If you watch your TV with the sound off you'd think there were no black people in this country. Even on the Spanish channel there are no non-white people in a position of authority. There's an absence in black leadership in not recognizing this or bringing it to the

fore. I call it cowardice." Shamsud-Din has spent decades bringing positive images of African American culture through his own mural art. His murals adorn the Salvation Army's Moore Street Center in north Portland, the University of Oregon Dental Clinic and the Oregon Convention Center. The latter portrays African-American continued on page A5

Harry Jackson Retires After 26 Years

Officer with ties to community reflects on his service

BY SARAH BLOUNT THE PORTLAND OBSERVER 2006 was a rough year for Portland police Lt. Harry Jackson. Events piled on one another by early spring, beginning with a public criticism of racial profiling within the police bureau. April revealed a scandal and subsequent demotion of police chief Derrick Foxworth, and the summer heat brought a culmination of youth and gang trouble in north and northeast Portland.

By mid-November, Jackson began to experience intense chest pains. By Nov. 20 he underwent bypass surgery. Having endured enough to make even a veteran cop fold, Jackson also faced an impending change in his police pension. So, after 30 years in law enforcement, he made a decision he'd been considering for the past several months. His retirement announcement came shortly before his surgery, and on Dec. 29 Jackson spent his last official day as a police



Lt. Harry Jackson

officer quietly at home, away from the pressure cooker of the force. Born in Oklahoma, Jackson moved to Portland at age 10. He began his career in 1976 at the Oregon State Police Department. He then became an officer with the Port of Portland for three years, before embarking on a 26-year career with the city's police bureau. For 13 years Jackson reported to the old North Precinct in St. John's, moving into detective work at central precinct followed by a promotion to sergeant. Jackson received his final promotion, to lieutenant, in 2004 and was transferred from northeast to southeast precinct. How-

ever, political forces brought Jackson back to northeast Killingsworth after only eight months - an absence of minority lieutenants and sergeants sparked controversy under Foxworth's leadership. At 62 years old, Jackson begins a New Year feeling blessed. The deaths of a few of his contemporaries in 2006 were not lost on him, including famed Knott Street boxers Halim Rahsaan and Wade Smith, and Multnomah County circuit court judge Clifford Freeman. Having avoided a heart at-

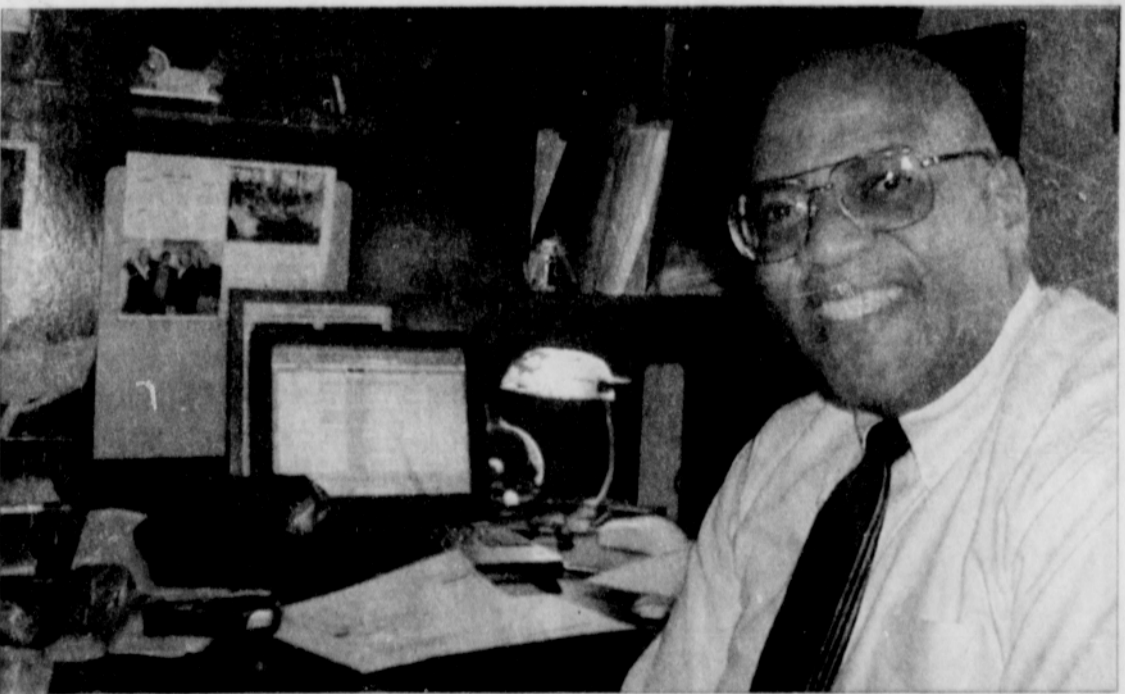
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The Making of an MLK Celebration

Portland tribute precedes birth of federal holiday

BY SARAH BLOUNT THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Portland's annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. began 28 years ago, when three men were drawn together to honor King through a three-night showcase of oral history. From its humble beginnings, this celebration has evolved into one of the largest annual MLK Day events in the country. Dr. King said "we must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." Portland's diverse cultures and communities

have exemplified this ideal year after year, through their support and assistance to the World Arts Foundation Inc., who showcases an annual tribute, "Keep Alive the Dream." The Portland non-profit's annual celebration is rooted in a rich history of African culture and African American Gospel, but crosses continents to feature Irish and Latin American performances as well. "The main thrust is to be educational as well as culturally diverse," said Michael "Chappie" Grice, director of the annual event. Grice, executive producer Ken Berry, and Herb Cawthorne have staged "Keep Alive the Dream" since its first official service 22 years ago - one year before King was



Ken Berry is the longtime executive producer of Portland's annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. "Keep Alive the Dream," to be held this year at the Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. honored with a federal holiday. But the roots of this special service go back to May 1978, at a modest service staged at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in north Portland. continued on page A3

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