

Rose Court  
Selection  
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# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Church Fire Results Vague

The congregation of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church may never know what happened to their place of worship. According to Metro arson task Force, the status is closed with undetermined. A neighborhood fixture since 1919, Morning Star went ablaze and brought together the community in an effort to rebuild faith without a place of worship. See story on page A2.

### Busta Rhymes Busted



Busta Rhymes was prevented from filming a movie this weekend after NYPD voiced safety concerns over the rapper's appearance. Rhymes, real name Trevor Smith, was scheduled to film his role in "Order of Redemption" in Manhattan. NYPD has voiced displeasure with Rhymes' lack of cooperation with the investigation into the shooting death of Israel Ramirez, a man who was fatally wounded last year on the set of Rhymes' "Touch It" video.

### Diabetic Woman Tasered

Portland Police used a taser to subdue Brandi Hess, a diabetic woman who was allegedly behaving aggressively. Police were called on Saturday night to assist medical personnel who were attempting to aid Hess, 26, who was experiencing a diabetic episode. According to a police report an officer was kicked several times in the stomach and groin and a firefighter was also punched more than once.

### Wrestling, Football Great Dies

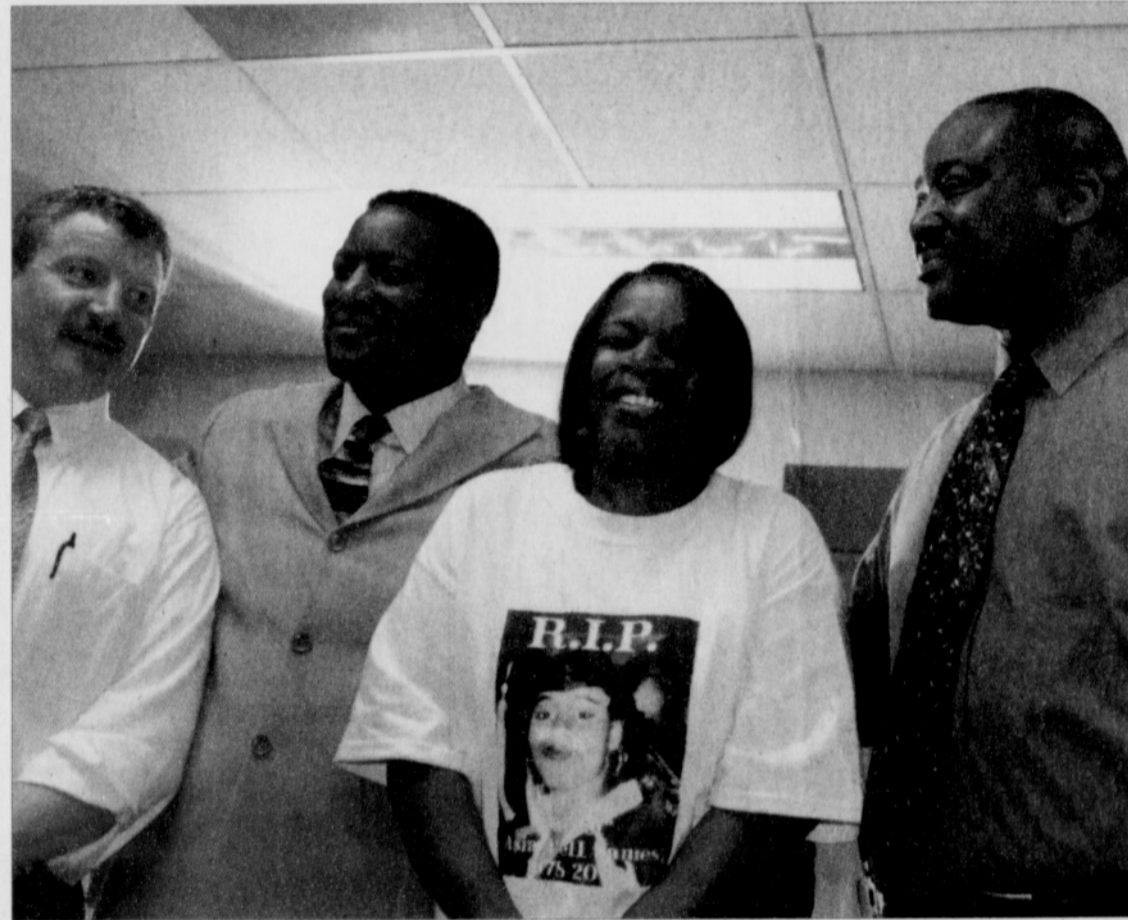


Ernie "Big Cat" Ladd was in the American Football League and the World Wrestling Federation Hall of Fame. Ladd died Saturday night due to cancer. In 2005, doctors gave Ladd three-to-six months to live. He instead believed in "Dr. Jesus" and lived two years longer. Ladd helped the Kansas City Chiefs go to Superbowl in 1967 and 1970.

### Bush Wraps up Latin Tour

President Bush, working to rebuild strained U.S.-Mexico relations, promised Tuesday he would do his best to get a deeply divided U.S. Congress to change American immigration policies that are hated south of the border. "My pledge to you and your government, but more important to the people of Mexico, is I'll work as hard as I possibly can to pass comprehensive immigration reform," Bush said. See story on page A2.

## Answers at Last in Asia Bell Murder



Perlia Bell is joined by Portland Police Sgt. Wayne Svilar (left), Sgt. Paul Weatheroy and Sgt. George Weatheroy during last Friday's press conference announcing four arrests in the 2002 murder of Bell's daughter, Asia Bell.

### Perlia Bell never let the community forget her daughter

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five years after a spray of bullets took Asia Bell's young life, police have finally cracked the north Portland murder. The breakthrough brought relief to her mother, Perlia Bell, who never ceased to keep her daughter's case in the public eye. Bell, a 23-year-old mother of four, died instantly on Nov. 20, 2002, after at least 17 bullets were fired onto the porch of her home on North Mississippi and Jessup. Her husband Tyrone James was permanently blinded and friend Robert Millhouse was wounded.

For years nobody came forward with enough information, deepening the mystery since neither Bell or James were affiliated with gangs or had any known enemies. Finally, on March 9 Portland police announced four arrests in what they called a gang-related retaliation, but not a murder intended for Bell. The Cold Case Squad said the shooting was related to her father's and his cousin's gang activity.

Arrests were held last Friday for Rico Gonzales, 34, for federal drug charges related to the possession of crack cocaine, and Sonja Hutchins, who has a child with Klein, for one count of conspiracy to commit murder. Arraign-

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## A Mother's Loss Eases a Father's New Grief

### Advocate helps a family friend

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On March 5 Perlia Bell accompanied David Moaning to the Portland Observer. Bell was there as a friend and advocate to Moaning, the father of 23-year-old Jermaine Nyron Davis, who lost his life in an unexplained New Year's shooting. She wanted to

help her friend through the most difficult trial he would ever face — losing a child, because she went through the same grief five years earlier. Her 23-year-old daughter, Asia Bell, was senselessly murdered in 2002.

After Asia's death Perlia founded a nonprofit, Senseless Violence Leads to Silence, to help persuade witnesses of violent crimes to come forward despite fear or retribution or being labeled a snitch. She also provides grief counseling for African Americans, which is how she was reconnected with Moaning, a family friend of more than 30 years.

In early January, as the media reported Davis' death as the first of the year, Bell stared at her television and wondered if this young man was from a family she knew.

Later, she called Cox and Cox funeral home to find out his identity.

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This photo of Asia Bell was taken shortly before her fatal shooting

## Will Your Kids Be In by Curfew?

### If not, north and northeast parents could be fined up to \$1,000

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Spring Break could mean a later bedtime for children and a hefty fine for parents, if they live in a certain area. But for the duration of this students' holiday, police will target north/northeast and downtown Portland for curfew violations, to test a new program that could cost parents up to \$1,000.

When a child under the age of 14 and not yet in high school breaks the curfew, parents will have to appear in juvenile court where they are urged to attend the a six-session program — a preventative measure aimed at helping parents and children realize the dangers of being out past curfew.

"People in northeast Portland were asking us what we could do. There were many community meetings held," said Sgt. Frank "Bob" Gorgone, Western Regional Administrator for the federally funded program G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training).

Curfew laws have always been in place in Portland, but what has changed is the option for families to work with the program. Currently there are six families in the program and they meet at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club on N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The focus of the curfew sting starting in that particular part of town may have citizens wondering if the program is racially motivated.

"I'm sure most people realize that the biggest concentration of minorities in Port-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
If these kids were at the intersection of N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Killingsworth St. past curfew, it could cost their parents \$1,000.

land, reside in north and northeast, why are we singled out?" said Yvonne Boss, whose daughter Schuyler is 14.

"I realize not all children are the same, but to target specific areas of the city smacks of profiling."

The Portland Police have recent allegations of racial profiling. According to Police Officer Brian Schmutz, the reason for north and northeast and downtown being the starting point is because large crowds tend to congregate there. Many venues that cater to the underage crowd, like The Zone downtown, stay open until 3:15 a.m. — way past

curfew for even 17 year olds. Officials say that the later the time, the more likelihood for crime.

"Statistically shots are fired late at night," said Schmutz. "Kids who are out that late are more likely to get in trouble and find themselves in high-risk behavior." The program is another option in having communication between parent and child.

"They don't have to attend [the program] but the process is designed to get parents and children talking together and discouraging criminal behavior," said Schmutz.

"Some kids are lacking direction and we want parents to take a more active role in

their children's lives."

The second time a child breaks curfew, the punishment isn't as friendly. A hefty fine for parents up to \$1,000 is assessed. A price that north Portland resident Yvonne Boss calls, "astronomical."

The curfew may be confusing for some, on weeknights if a child is under 14 and not yet in high school, the curfew is 9:15 p.m. and on weekends 10:15 p.m.

"I don't think it's normal for any 14 year old to be out late at night," Gorgone.

See commentary on A4, "Wrecking Kids' Lives."



Sgt. Frank "Bob" Gorgone (above), Western Regional Administrator for G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program

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