

50¢

37  
years of  
community serviceMarch is Women's  
History Month  
See special coverage inside

Humiliated Couple Cries Foul

A local family feels embarrassed and victimized by a city nuisance complaint.

See story, Metro section

The  
City of Roses

# The Portland Observer

Volume XXXVII, Number 12

Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversitywww.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • March 21, 2007

## Week in The Review

### PGE Worker Wins Lottery

A Portland General Electric worker stepped forward Monday to claim the \$182.7 million Powerball jackpot. Oregon Lottery officials said Daniel Gannon, 60, of Milwaukie matched all five numbers (7-17-44-47-54) and the Powerball number of 3 in Saturday's multi-state lottery game. Gannon and his wife Candy bought \$5 worth of lottery tickets at a local Safeway store.

### Disney's Black Princess

The Frog Princess will be Disney's first film featuring an African-American princess. The animated movie will focus on Maddy, a young New Orleans princess. Randy Newman is currently writing the score for the film. Newman wrote songs for Disney's "Toy Story," "A Bug's Life," "Toy Story 2," "Monsters Inc." and "Cars."

### Infant Death Investigated

Portland police are investigating the death of an 18-month-old infant whose body was discovered Sunday morning in the 3900 block of Northeast 12th Avenue. An autopsy failed to determine if the little boy's death was homicide or SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) also known as crib death. The boy's great-uncle, Mike Richardson said the boy was his usual happy self before being put to bed Saturday night.

### Officers Charged in Bell Case

Three New York City Police who fired shots at Sean Bell's car outside of a nightclub turned themselves in ahead of their arraignment on manslaughter charges Monday. One officer allegedly fired 31 shots and other fired seven. Bell, 23, was shot at his bachelor party Nov. 25 outside of a strip club in Queens. See story on Page A2.

### Pet Deaths from Food

One dog and nine cats died from kidney failure after eating contaminated pet food, but the toll is expected to rise. Food and Drug Administration officials suspect contamination from wheat gluten in pet foods sold by Menu Foods, which announced a recall Friday of its wet "cuts and gravy" dog and cat food, including such brands as Eukanuba, Iams and Science Diet.

### B.I.G. Richer after Death

Just three days before the 10-year anniversary of the death of Notorious B.I.G., Bad Boy Entertainment released greatest hits CD. The compilation of songs recorded before the death of Brooklyn bred B.I.G., aka Christopher Wallace premiered at number one on Billboards Pop charts.



# Growing Discontent

## On fourth anniversary of invasion

BY AARON CLARK

Marking the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, an estimated 15,000 demonstrators crowded into a grassy stretch of downtown and then marched through the city on Sunday to call for an end to the war.

At the end of the hourlong march a small group broke off for a series of scuffles with police and a standoff that lasted into the evening. At least 15 protesters were arrested.

Families, students and older citizens participated in the earlier demonstration, with scores of officers on bicycles and on foot keeping watch.

Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi and human rights activist, told the crowd that only a few Iraqis collaborate with U.S. forces, so the war is now between the occupiers and almost everyone else in the country.

The war "is happening because of the occupation, not in spite of it," said Jarrar, who left Iraq after Saddam Hussein was toppled and now lives in the United States.

"There are Iraqis who can rebuild their country," he said. "They don't need someone to come from thousands of miles away to tell them how to treat their neighbor. They are the only ones who can end this violence."

Steve Weiss of Salem accompanied a group of people with children who are in the military and said



A peace march estimated at 15,000 fills downtown Portland streets on Sunday marking the fourth anniversary of the Iraq War.

his 18-year-old son will leave for Iraq April 11.

"Kids go in for all sorts of reasons," he said. "I think physically he's really well trained, but mentally, I think he has no idea what he is getting into."

Susan Hay, a high school teacher from Portland, marched with her two children and husband.

"This is a war to establish U.S.

hegemony," said Hay. "This is a war to be able to consume everyone else's resources."

Ann Huntwork, 75, manned a stall where peace organizations gave workshops on topics such as "verbal nonviolent direct action" and said she belonged to a group of women who have protested at military recruiting centers.

"We're exploiting our age," she said.

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumauer, an early critic of the war, addressed the crowd before the march.

"Missing the chance to build a more coherent foreign policy is wrong. We can't just be right, we've got to end this war," said Blumauer.

As the march along 24 blocks

ended, a group of young people led police on bicycles, horses and motorcycles through downtown. A few of the protesters wore black and called themselves anarchists. A few wore the green of the University of Oregon.

A few scuffles broke out, police used pepper spray at one point,

continued on page A5

# Roosevelt Reflects on Racial Taunts

## School not accustomed to hateful displays

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Roosevelt boys basketball team received three surprises this year — earning the school's first state basketball title since 1949, seeing their leader Robert Key named 5A league coach of the year in the Portland Interscholastic League, and weathering an ugly display of bad sportsmanship — displayed toward them on and off the court — at the state playoffs held two weeks ago in Eugene.

From March 7-10 Roosevelt students, faculty and the basketball team said they endured threats, racist taunts and obscene gestures from four Eugene area high schools. Eugene School District athletic director Pat Latimer is conducting an investigation into 64 allegations with private investigator Dan Davis. Latimer said they are about three weeks away from a conclusion. He added that there was no violent activity, rather general perceptions of inappropriate behavior.

Roosevelt Principal Deborah Peterson stated that white female students called black female students from her school "whores" after the March 7 game against Eugene's Churchill High School.

Peterson also alleged someone yelled at her "Principal, we're going to burn your school down."

Later, on Friday night, March 10,



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Roosevelt Coach Robert Key (from left) with Sophomore Larry Richards and Senior Willie Holloway reflect on the racial taunts the team endured during the state 5A basketball tournament in Eugene.

Key and his team endured more of the hatred at an Outback Steakhouse restaurant in Springfield.

Many of the students were not accustomed to some of the names they were called or the tactics their peers displayed.

"One kid pulled down his pants and started showing his backside," said senior Willie Holloway. "I've

never experienced that, I felt totally disrespected."

The slurs even surprised Key — words used by grown men that offered him "a reality check."

"There were different terms I haven't heard before," he said. "When you get called 'porch monkey' and 'coon' — that's hate. That comes from the household."

Many students and parents from

Portland think the playoff's Eugene location — a far cry from the diversity of their north Portland school — only aggravated racial tension.

"I'd like to see the state tournament in a central area, in the inner city," Key said. "I don't know why it happened, but the Coliseum was the thing back in the day."

Basketball playoffs have been held at the University of Oregon

since 2004. Portland's Memorial Coliseum hosted the tournament for 37 years prior to that, according to OSAA representative Steve Walker. He said UO athletic director Bill Moose offered them a package we couldn't refuse, but 2008 marks the final year of the five-year contract. There is a possibility playoffs could move back to Portland, but "any talks with folks in Portland area haven't occurred yet," Walker said.

After such a high profile incident Key said counselors have met with his team, and a March 15 game at South Eugene High School ended more positively, even though they lost.

Key has moved on from the incident, jumping right into spring's baseball season as coach of the junior varsity boys team.

Meanwhile, Latimer, who was a principal before becoming athletic director, said the district takes each allegation very seriously. He said he is disappointed in the lack of sportsmanship, but acknowledged there is an element of curiosity on behalf of his students.

"The minute you have a group of people come in that are physically different, whether in color or size, it creates some curiosity," he said. "It's a 'why are you guys here' kind of thing."

On March 22 the Eugene district will meet to discuss a better understanding of the outside community.

"We're doing what we need to do to make sure this doesn't occur again," he said.

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT  
NO. 1610



Portland Observer  
1111 W. 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97203-1299  
Phone: 503-253-1299