

METRO

The Portland Observer

Portland Observer All Stars

Our Boys and Girls
All-City Basketball
Team selections
See Sports, page B6



Ducks Make It to 'Sweet 16'

University of Oregon Coach
Ernie Kent leads University of
Oregon to the NCAA semifinals
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37
years
of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Bike Fair at PCC

Portland Community College is hosting a Bicycle Safety Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 in front of the Public Service Education Building at the Cascade Campus in north Portland. Children will receive a free bicycle helmet (while supplies last) and get to navigate a bicycle safety course.

Black Museum Action

Thursday, March 29, and Thursday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m., the Black Museum committee will be meeting at King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave., to establish the foundations structure. To be involved, visit blackmuseumoforegon@yahoo.com or call 503-284-0617.

African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000 for more information.

Spring Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., thousands of Spring Beach Cleanup volunteers are needed to help restore the coastline to a pristine condition. Volunteers can call 800-333-7658 or visit solv.org to register.

Zoo Teens Needed

The Oregon Zoo needs 300 high school students for the summer to assist in educating zoo visitors. If you love animals and teaching others, call 503-220-2449.

Spring Break Art Journeys

Monday, March 26 thru Friday, March 30, the Portland Art Museum hosts the instructional art series for children ages 7-12. Contact 503-226-2811 or visit portlandartmuseum.org, for more information.

Used Book Sale

Wednesday, March 28, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., the Multnomah County Library used book store at 216 N.E. Knott St. will celebrate its 19th anniversary by offering all used merchandise at 55 percent off.

Zoo's Gone Wild Spring Break Party

Through April 7, the Oregon Zoo will host a week of tropical island fun and events. The event is free with zoo admission. For more information call 503-226-1561 or visit oregonzoo.org.

Rabbit Romp

Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Oregon Zoo will host this anticipated spring celebration for all ages. Events include a 20-minute Easter egg hunt for children ages 2 - 10 years old, games and fun at the petting zoo. Visit oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561 for more information.

Life After High School

Monday, April 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., PSU's Smith Ballroom, will host the Career and Educational Opportunities Fair, a venue for local businesses, trade apprenticeships, summer work programs and educational organizations to present career opportunities available within their organizations. For more information call 503-230-9427.

Fostering Diversity

Thursday, April 26 thru Friday, April 27, Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University, will host the two-day conference to address critical diversity-related issues in the Portland and Gresham communities, with educational, business and cultural leaders. Call 503-491-7254 for more information.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahe-portland.org.

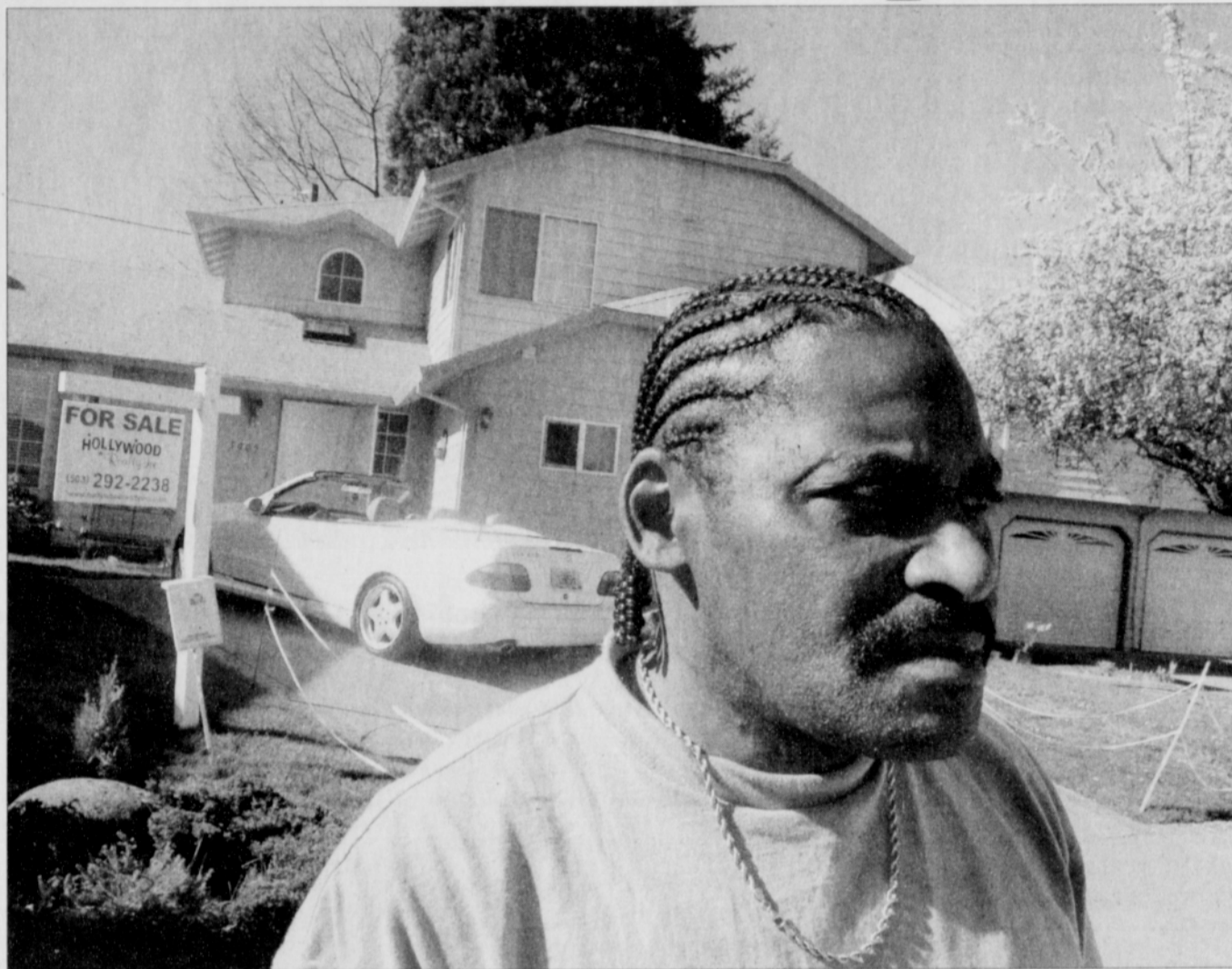
Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Humiliated Couple Cries Foul



Sam Howard stands in front of his northeast Portland home, the subject of a city nuisance complaint lawsuit that he said left him and his wife victimized by discrimination.

Calls for city to back off lawsuit

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A large two-story home in northeast Portland is the catalyst for the city's renewed vigilance when it comes to what

they call chronic nuisance properties.

The four-bedroom home, once owned by KOIN news anchor Ken Boddie, didn't garner much attention until Samuel and Elizabeth Howard moved in last summer.

Within four months the property was the subject of 52 police calls, having become a spectacle of countless allegations from neighbors claiming witness to wild partying and drug activity. By November, these complaints culminated in an early morning police raid. A civil lawsuit from the City of Portland followed shortly after. If the city wins, they can legally force the Howards from their home for up to a year.

Meanwhile, the Howards have earned enough bad press locally that their reputation has landed them a humiliating spot on the *Geraldo Show* on Fox.

Now they say all they want is to sell their house and move on, preferably in the country somewhere.

The Howards date the beginning of their trouble to their \$2.6 million winnings from the Oregon Lottery. They opted for a lump sum payment of around \$800,000—money that has been “nothing but a nightmare,” Sam, 54, said.

They purchased their home on Northeast Emerson Court for \$285,000 in July 2006 and live there with their son Westley, 20 (named in the lawsuit with son Sam Jr.), De-Shawne, 15 and daughter Tierra, 13.

Once settled in, they say trouble really began to brew when one hateful neighbor, instead of approaching them about complaints, made several of the 52 calls police received. Sam said the first incident happened when this neighbor asked him to remove his car from blocking his driveway.

“We own six cars,” he said. “We’re in a cul-de-sac so it’s going to be an issue.”

From that point on, they said police officers issued the Howards complaints “at every opportunity.”

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Bringing Diversity to the Table

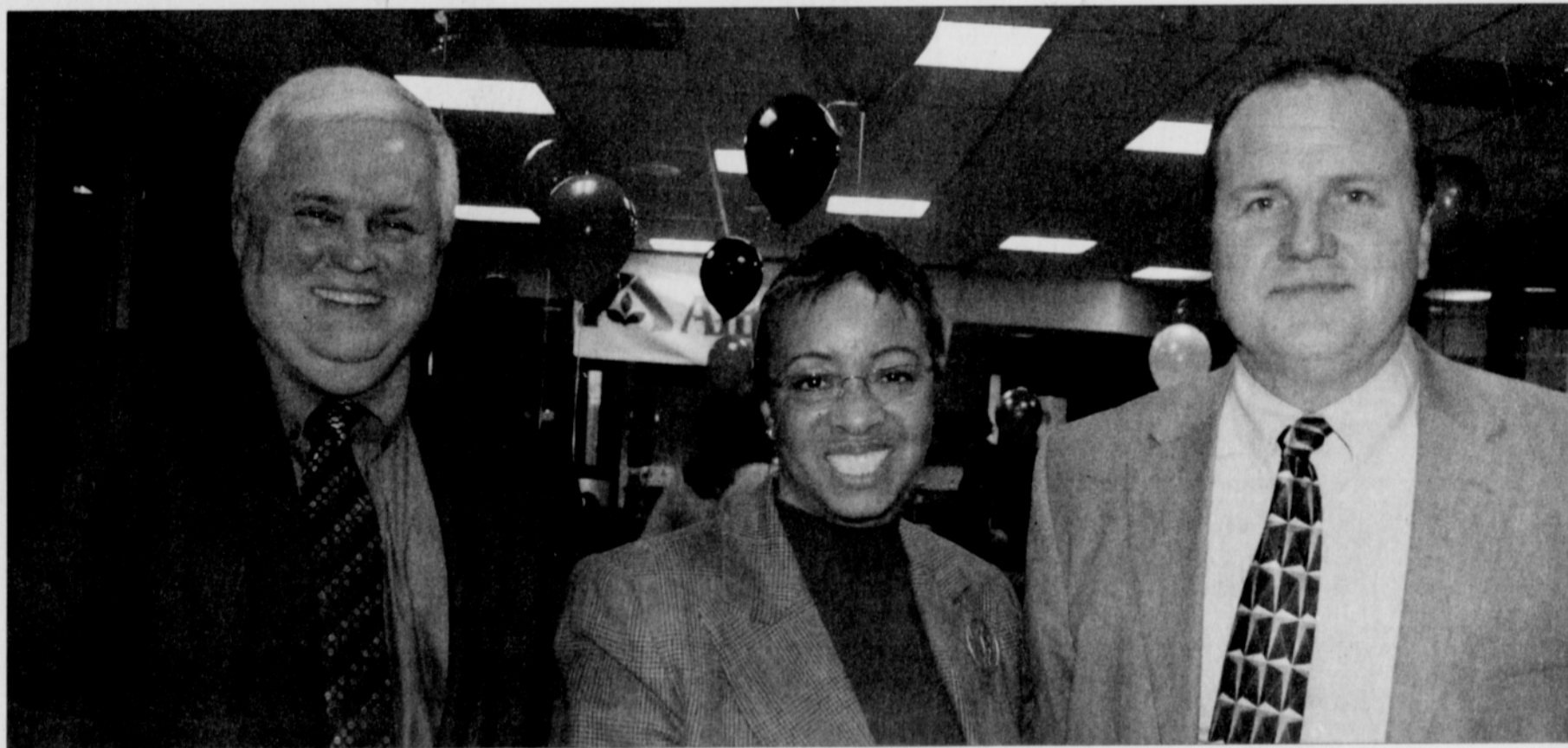


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ella Booth builds community partnerships with Steve Hutt of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. (left) and Randy Stewart of Albertsons.

Advocates focus on new leadership

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Considering the good deeds of non-profits in Portland's communities of color, surprisingly few minorities represent the organizations making critical decisions for their own neighborhoods. That's because white members still make up the majority of the boards that govern these organizations.

The volunteer group Hands on Portland is working to connect minority business leaders with non-profit and government institutions through a program called Civic Leaders.

“There is a growing percentage of people of color in Portland, but if you look at boards they remain homogenous,” said Andy Nelson, executive director of Hands on Portland.

A pilot program for Civic Leaders traces its roots three years prior when now-city commissioner Sam Adams paired with diversity advocate Vicki Nakashima to rec-

ognize the obvious diversity shortcomings.

“A common thing I hear from leaders is they are interested but don't know how to get connected,” Nelson said. “What I hear from the boards is they are interested in increasing diversity, but don't know how.”

“The goal is to create a network of leaders who can share stories of similar

“No, the boards don't represent the diverse number of students, especially in community colleges, but they're working on it.”

— Ella Booth, Associate Dean of Diversity at Oregon Health Sciences University's School of Medicine

struggles of being the only person of color on a board,” said Hands On program manager Brenden Butler. “It has been educating to see how many barriers there are.”

Ella Booth is a good example of a leader of color who found the right fit.

As associate dean of diversity at Or-

gon Health Sciences University's school of medicine, Booth joined the Portland Community College Foundation Board in July through the help of Civic Leaders.

She serves on the board's finance subcommittee, which reviews and recommends scholarships to students throughout the district.

After Nelson learned a little about

able to get back to the type of institution that got her going.”

Booth said as a product of a community college, she was interested in being involved in helping future PCC students.

“Because many students are disadvantaged economically, I find it a humbling experience to read their stories and recommend a scholarship.”

PCC serves a broadly diverse population. Yet Booth is only one of two African American board members, joined by two Hispanic members and 14 white members, which raises the question, can the board more accurately reflect PCC students?

“No, the boards don't represent the diverse number of students, especially in community colleges, but they're working on it,” Booth said. “Any time you can diversify any board, it's to everyone's advantage.”

Campfire USA, an organization that has diversity as one of its core values, has worked closely with Civic Leaders since the program's inception. They haven't placed a board member yet, but CEO Keith

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