

50¢

37 years of community service

Gasoline	337¢
Propane	347¢
Heating Oil	359¢
Electric	299¢

Memorial Day Ouch!

Oregon gas prices heading into the Memorial Day weekend soar past the record high national average of \$3.20 a gallon.



Opera is Her Dream

See Career & Education special section, inside

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

Blazers Win Draft Lottery

The Portland Trail Blazers beat the odds and will pick first in next month's NBA draft. With just a 5.3 percent chance of winning the No. 1 pick, the Blazers won the top position Tuesday night, earning the right to draft a potential franchise player from what's considered to be a deep class. They will almost certainly choose between Greg Oden, the Ohio State center or Kevin Durant, Texas' high-scoring forward.

Bush Criticized by ex-Prez

The gloves came off when former president Jimmy Carter took a verbal swipe at President Bush in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Saturday, calling the current administration the worst in the country's history. Carter, 82, has since retracted his statement, calling it "maybe careless or misinterpreted," but not before a White House spokesman labeled it "irrelevant."

Baghdad Violence Increases

A parked car bomb at an outdoor market in southwestern Baghdad exploded Tuesday, killing 25 people and injuring 60 others, despite a 3-month-old security crackdown to reduce violence in the capital. The blast left the Shiite-dominated neighborhood of Amil in devastation, police said.

Richardson Enters Race

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson became the latest Democrat to officially enter the crowded 2008 presidential race Monday. Richardson has been running for months but officially announced his candidacy in Los Angeles where he said he hoped to repair what he called the ravages of the Bush administration.

Teams Change Owner

Merritt Paulson, the son of U.S. treasury secretary Henry Paulson, will be the new owner of the Portland Beavers baseball team and Portland Timbers soccer team. Paulson, manager of Shortstop, LLC, and his wife, Heather, are in the process of moving from New York to Portland, to be full-time president of both teams.

'Dying Boy' Exposed

Joshua Kistler of Beaverton was sentenced to more than 24 years Monday in federal prison after posing online as a teenage boy dying of leukemia to coerce 12 to 14-year-old girls into sending him sexually explicit images. The 31-year-old chatted with them to gain sympathy and nude photos.

High-School All Star Classic

One-of-a-kind event to highlight community

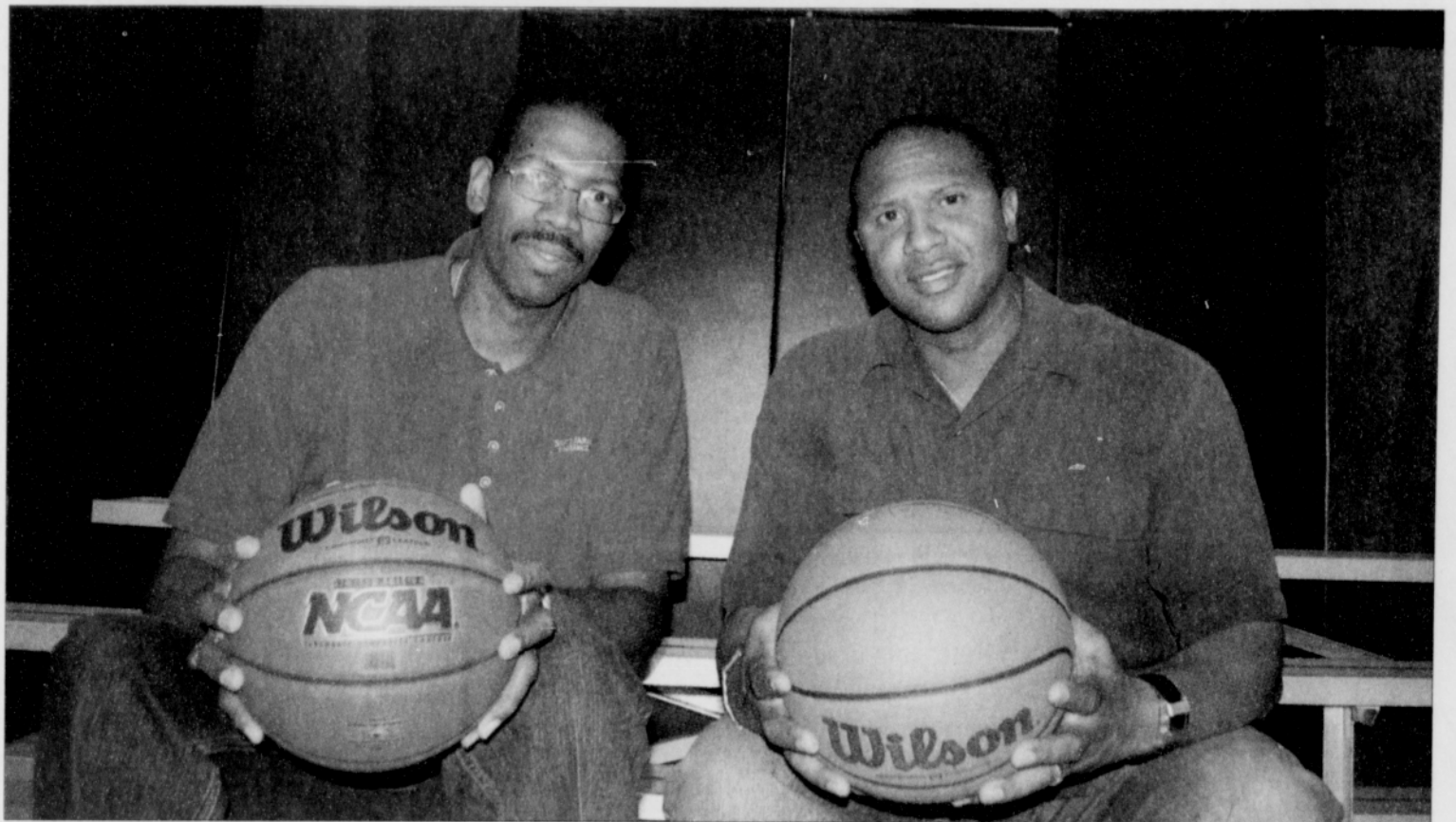
BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Joyce Washington Classic is the only basketball tournament where the rosters of Portland Interscholastic League all stars actually play against one another. It's also the only high-school tournament coached by two former Trail Blazers named Michael who both happen to work for State Farm Insurance.

Michael Harper and Michael Holton played for the Blazers in the '80s, gaining much popularity during their professional careers by a commitment to serving the Portland community.

For Holton, who was also head basketball coach for five years at the University of Portland, the urge to give back runs deep.

"I certainly learned as a Blazer the value of community involvement," he says, "but I



Former Trail Blazers Michael Harper (left) and Michael Holton get ready to coach the top basketball players from Portland area high schools this Saturday at the Portland Observer Joyce Washington All-Star Classic.

think it goes back further to when I was a youth and people reached out to help me in my struggles."

Harper, who also coaches basketball at Riverdale High

School in southwest Portland, sees Saturday's all-star classic as an entertaining, citywide occasion to benefit kids and build community ties.

"It not only celebrates the life

of Joyce Washington (the late publisher of the Portland Observer)," he says, "It's also that the atmosphere is electric with this opportunity for unity in a city with so many star players."

In keeping with this community spirit, the event's proceeds go to a scholarship fund for local high-school grads.

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Sanctuary City for Soldiers

Group promotes refuge for war objectors

BY CHARITY PRATER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Imagine Portland acting as a Sanctuary City where soldiers and war veterans opposed to returning to active duty could live peacefully while transitioning back to civilian life.

Brian Barnett and Dan Shea are working together to open the door for conversations about just an idea this Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 26 at 7 p.m. at north Portland's Bread and Roses Center.

Around the country, there is a growing movement of soldiers who are reaching a consensus that the war in Iraq is a fallacy. Soldiers like Kevin Benderman, Sarah Olson, Carl Webb, and others are refusing deployment, going AWOL, or sim-

ply refusing to fight for one reason or another.

The anti-war movement is also growing in such strength that many students at colleges and universities around the country have joined together to drive army and military recruiters from their buildings and lawns.

According to Shea, a Vietnam Veteran who lost a child to war in 1981, last year alone there were more than 3,000 active-duty soldiers who deserted the army.

"Some soldiers refuse to deploy on the basis that they are being

asked to commit an international crime because the war is illegal," says Shea. "Others, like Suzanne Swift, refuse to return for more personal reasons like sexual crimes or mental health concerns."

While the paperwork is processing, where do these soldiers live, work and receive healthcare? Many of them do not have any safe refuge because they have warrants out for their arrest for refusing to deploy. They are persecuted by their colleagues and officers, or they are

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Some soldiers refuse to deploy on the basis that they are being asked to commit an international crime because the war is illegal.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Augustana Lutheran Church preschool teacher Sam Earle surveys the grounds of the northeast Portland church a few days after the property got tangled up in a police standoff with a motorist.

Church Questions Police Action

Standoff on sacred property upsets pastor

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A pastor who marched against the 2003 police killing of Kendra James, the unarmed African American woman who tried to drive away from a north Portland traffic stop, is trying to open up a dialogue with the mayor and police leaders about the issue of a safe haven brought up by another suspect pulled over in a car.

This time an armed, suicidal man parked directly across from Augustana Lutheran Church on

Northeast Knott Street last Thursday, and the police used the sanctuary's entranceway as a staging area for the ensuing SERT standoff.

The action needlessly violated the peacefulness of holy ground for Rev. Mark Knutson, who wants police to address community concerns.

"What we're looking for first is a conversation from our mutually shared religious traditions about ancient faith-based practices of sanctuary coming in conflict with modern public-safety concerns," he says.

In the coming week, he hopes to announce an assembly in the

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PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A passer-by walks past a political statement chalked onto the sidewalk in front of the U.S. Army Recruiting Center on Northeast Broadway.

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