



# The Portland Observer

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Wednesday • July 4, 2007

## Week in The Review



### Greg Oden Welcome

Basketball superstar Greg Oden acknowledges the fans who packed Pioneer Courthouse Square for his arrival in the City of Roses one day after being drafted by the Portland Trail Blazers as the number one draft pick in the NBA. See story in Sports, page B6.

### Doctors Charged in Terrorism

An investigation into failed car bombings in Glasgow and London has swept up at least five physicians and a medical student, including a doctor seized at an Australian airport with a one-way ticket. Many of the men had ties to Iraq, Jordan and India — and worked together at hospitals in Scotland or England, officials said.



### Pardon May Come Next

President Bush on Tuesday refused to rule out an eventual pardon for former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, one day after commuting his 2 1/2-year prison term in the CIA leak case. Bush said Monday that the jury's conviction of Libby should stand but that the 30-month prison term was too severe.

### Movie on Black Soldiers

Spike Lee announced plans Tuesday to make a movie about the struggle against Nazi occupiers in Italy during World War II that he hopes will highlight the contribution of black American soldiers who fought and died to liberate Europe, despite suffering discrimination back home.

### Priest, Woman Found Dead

The search for a missing Jesuit priest and a woman friend from California ended Sunday when searchers found their car and their bodies in a ditch off Highway 26 in northwest Oregon. It appeared that David Schwartz, 52, and Cheryl Gibbs, 61, had been traveling east toward Portland when they veered off the road.

## Will Roy Make a Run for Mayor?

### Business leader says it's all talk for now

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Businessman and civic leader Roy Jay faces a question that will pop up increasingly as we approach 2008: will he run for mayor?

Jay, a tireless leader who has helped shaped Portland business while significantly raising the profile of minority businesses, has been asked to run for City Council twice before but declined. He says he is flattered to be considered in the 2008 mayoral race, especially since it wasn't even his idea.

"I'm not saying yes or no," Jay, 59, says of a possible run. "It's way too early, and I've got to weigh my options."

One thing is for certain: Jay said he won't even consider a run if his good friend and Mayor Tom Potter decides to campaign for a second term. Potter has said he'll decide whether he'll run closer to his birthday in September.

But is Jay giving the prospect a little more thought this time around?

"No," he says. "I run a business, I'm not going around running campaigns."

In all fairness, Jay's popularity and business clout has others doing the early "campaigning" for him. And it's not just city insiders elbowing Jay and peppering him with questions.

Upon checking into Good Samaritan Hospital last month for an emergency procedure, Jay recalls a nurse asking him if he was running for mayor, and where she could sign up to help.

"I didn't even know this woman," he said. "I told her if I die I can't help anybody."

Even folks who run a blog called the NW



PHOTO BY SEAN O'CONNOR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local businessman Roy Jay says it's all just talk that he's running for Mayor in 2008, but he won't rule out a campaign to win the top seat in Portland's City Hall.

Republican praised Jay last May in a post discussing his credentials and possible campaign. Bloggers described him as "high energy and all about Portland."

The GOP endorsement came as a surprise to Jay, who won't reveal his political affiliation (though everyone asks, he says) but admits he donates money to both Democrats and Republicans.

"I don't play the 'D and R' game because you wind up losing," he explained. "You've got to have friends all over the place."

Jay's friends include a broad sampling of Portland politicians and business leaders, including former mayor Vera Katz, a Democrat. And during an interview in front of Portland's City Hall last week, Jay greeted or was approached by nearly every individual passing by.

But though he admits individuals interested in a Roy Jay campaign have called meetings with him, he considers himself an unlikely candidate because he lacks political experience.

"But if Potter and (former Portland mayor Bud) Clark can do it..." he says, considering the possibilities.

Some might say Jay's business expertise overshadows his lack of elected experience, possibly in the same way Potter gained credibility as police chief, and businessman and restaurateur Clark won over the city with a Reuben sandwich at his northwest Portland tavern, the Goose Hollow Inn.

Jay launched his entrepreneurial career as a teenager in the 1960s in Columbia Villa, the Portsmouth neighborhood now called New Columbia. He says his first job was sorting bottles at a grocery store, and when he saved up enough money to buy a motorcycle he charged other kids 10 cents for rides. His first car, a 1959 Ford, was used to ferry classmates to Roosevelt High School.

continued ▼ on page A6



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kids of all ages are drawn to Irving Park in northeast Portland for First Step's All-American Youth Basketball Camp and other summer activities.

## Basketball Camp and Much More Program includes health fair

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

All-American Youth Basketball Camp coach E.J. Penn scans his childhood hangout of Irving Park at Northeast Seventh Avenue and Fremont

Street. As he sits underneath a tent with First Step camp program director Melissa Knight and their partner Geri Washington of Oregon Action, Penn is happy to see a couple dozen kids have shown up to shoot hoops

and eat some lunch despite the rain, which means an automatic cancellation for the day.

As the rain falls harder and the wind kicks up, Penn directs the kids under the pavilion. They practice techniques, shoot free throws and joke around. Many of the kids say that if not for the camp, they'd be at home playing video games.

The kids are taking part in a summer-long basketball program sponsored by First Step Sports Academy and held at Irving Park for youth of all ages to sharpen their athletic,

mental and social skills.

Penn also feels lucky the camp has made it to its third summer. Earlier this year when some grant money fell through, Mayor Tom Potter gave the camp a much needed two thousand dollars.

"We wouldn't be here if not for him," Penn said.

The camp appeals to boys and girls as young as five as well as alternative high school students who can serve as youth leaders. Their summers are spent on courts that were home to future NBA stars

Damon Stoudamire and Fred Jones. It's also a park where many ordinary folks, now grown, recall their childhood as they watch their own children play.

But as gentrification displaces some of these neighborhood residents who often travel in from neighborhoods farther north or east, Penn wouldn't have it any other way. He says Portland Parks and Recreation suggested the camp take place somewhere closer to many of the partici-

continued ▼ on page A6

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