# Dog Fighting Scandal Rings Home

### Investigators say schemes are hard to break up

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The underground world of illegal dog fighting is in the national spotlight with the federal indictment of NFL star Michael Vick. But Portlanders who were paying attention to former Trail Blazer Qyntel Woods a few years ago were probably already aware of this clandestine crime.

Woods was convicted of staging dog fights at his house in 2004. He pled guilty to first-degree animal abuse and was given community service, ordered to pay \$10,000 to the Oregon Humane Society and was soon dropped by the Blazers.

The humane society played an instrumental role in Woods' conviction when their investigators assisted federal authorities in criminal investigations involving dog fighting and other forms of animal cruelty.

Kenneth Miller.

Miller's body was found on the sidewalk in front of Leon Scott's north Portland home. While pursuing her first priority of investigating the homicide, she came across six dogs with visible facial and head injuries and scars all over their legs and chests - the unmistakable signs of dog fighting.

Scott now awaits trial on murder and drug charges, and dog fighting charges due to their accidental dis-

A sentiment, echoed by the humane society and Multnomah County Animal Control, is that authorities and the general public don't know much about dog fighting, and that the cruelty to the animals is something people really don't want to know too much about.

"If you don't see it, it's not there," Daul says. "The other aspect is dog fighters are very secretive about it.

David Lytle of the Oregon Humane Society shelters Walter, a pit bull and German shepherd mix. Pit bulls are the most common breed used in dog fights, with the losing dogs often killed or abandoned on the street.

РНОТО ВУ SARAH BLOUNT/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If you don't see it, it's not there. The other aspect is dog fighters are very secretive about it. It's a small circle.

- Molly Daul, Portland Police homicide detective

Sharon Harmon, the group's ex- It's a small circle." ecutive director, says the agency is currently involved in two local dog fighting investigations, but because dog fighting rings are mostly conducted underground they are

"They (dog fighters) are involved in gambling, drugs and money laundering, and they're good at hiding it," Harmon said.

Portland Police homicide detective Molly Daul received busays she wasn't prepared her for ily," she said. the situation she encountered last February, when called in to

The few cases of known dog fights are rarely penetrated by law enforcement, Daul explained, since news of the clandestine "matches" are usually spread through the mail and there's no informant present to obtain a felony conviction.

present are not all gang members or sports celebrities.

"It's usually an event, with reau training on dog fighting but popcorn, hot dogs, kids and fam-

which the animals are often

sive to most people, but because this blood "sport" dates back at least a hundred years, family members have long encouraged acceptance through the generations.

Only in the past 20 years, she said, has it been viewed as a crime, prompting dog fighters to retreat underground.

She believes cases like Vick's, which bring the grisly scenes she has personally encountered into the national consciousness, are

Daul stresses the importance of people speaking up when they She says those who are suspect dog fighting activity. Especially since the lack of resources limit how far Portland Police officers can go to help the dogs they encounter.

"As far as I'm concerned it's in Daul says dog fighting, in every city in the United States," she said. "It's important the public knows investigate the death of James maimed and killed, may be repul- it is still going on and is still popular."

A memorial service will be held at

3 p.m. Thursday, July 26 at Ever-

green Memorial Gardens, 1101 N.E.

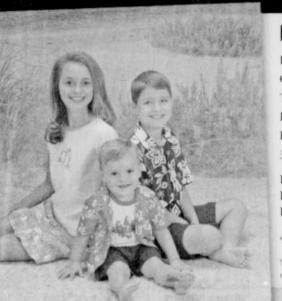
112th Ave., Vancouver; and an in-

formal potluck in Bernard's memory

will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, July 27 at da Vinci Arts Middle

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## **Principal Remembered Fondly**

Bernard Harvard, principal of da Vinci Middle School and a beloved northeast Portland educator, died Saturday.

The 41-year-old joined Portland Public Schools in 2000 as a performing arts-music teacher at Madison High School. He also taught at Humboldt and Alameda elementary schools.

He leaves behind his wife Wendy and their five year old son Gabriel who is autistic.

Harvard, a native of New York City started performing at the age of 16. He then went on to receive his bachelors and masters from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. He was also the lead vocalist for Portland group Soul Search.

On Sunday, when students and parents learned about the death of Harvard, they gathered at Alameda playground, where Harvard was the



Bernard Harvard

former vice principal.

The cause of death is still unknown, but according to Portland Public School officials, Harvard had complications following knee surgery.

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# **Custodians get \$14.5 Million**

were laid off from Portland Public before taxes. Schools after their jobs were outsourced to a private contrac- voted to outsource custodial tor will be compensated for the work to save money. violation of state labor laws.

Jelderks signed off Monday on law when it hired Portland Habilitathe school district's settlement offer of \$14.5 million. The order follows the agreement announced in April, giving each were laid off have been hired back.

The 280 local custodians who custodian around \$37,000 each

In 2002, the school district

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled U.S. District Judge John in 2005 that the district violated the tion Center workers to replace the union custodians.

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