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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

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Week in The Review

Dozono Steps into Ring

The race for Portland's next mayor became more interesting Monday with the candidacy of Sho Dozono challenging Commissioner Sam Adams.

Apology for Slavery

New Jersey, the last Northeast state to abolish slavery in 1846, became the first Northern state to apologize for slavery.

Tigers Win Championship

The second-ranked Louisiana State University Tigers danced, dodged and darted their way into the end zone Monday night for a 38-24 victory.

Trackers Called Invasive

MAP Information Technology Corp. plans to test a tracking system in Middletown, R.I., by putting computer chips on grade-schoolers' backpacks.

U S Last in Health

In a report released Tuesday in the Health Affairs journal, France, Japan and Australia rated best and the United States worst among 19 industrialized nations.

Twisters Rattle Arkansas

A tornado was reported blowing across eastern Arkansas Tuesday, a day after a freak cluster of January twisters sprung up in the unseasonably warm Midwest.

Refuge Rangers Kill

Classified as a "problem animal," Tusker, a towering 50-year-old bull elephant who had become a favorite for Charara safari camp visitors in Zimbabwe, was executed Sunday after New Year's party-goers provoked the animal into trampling several cars.



Presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama with his wife, Michelle and daughters, Malia (left) and Sasha, on stage after winning the Iowa Caucuses Tuesday.

Obama's momentum

Expectations rise for first black president

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Walk into various public spaces in the city, and murmurs of Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama can be heard on everyone's lips.

"Obama brings hope to the American people and a fresh outlook," Dolly England told the Portland Observer on Tuesday amid the line of people that she was helping serve drinks.

Reflections co-owner Gloria

McMurtry chimed in, saying, "It feels so good that the charisma he has is overcoming money and power."

With a victory in the Iowa Caucuses on Thursday and running neck-and-neck with Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire at press time on Tuesday, Obama is building momentum to make history.

Portland's black community could have been described last week as tentatively excited. But now his populism has even spread to the radical sector.

"I can only see it as more good

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Obama represents King's dream coming to fruition, and that reality is based not on his color but on the content of his character.

- Rev. Renee Ward

An Anti-War Legacy that Resonates

Two soldiers reflect on Martin Luther King Jr.



PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jessica Acosca served two deployments in Iraq and may be called up for a third. She is careful not to dispute her Commander in Chief, President Bush, but feels it is appropriate for others to question whether or not the war is right.



PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Adriana Moyola refused to deploy to Iraq and was discharged from military service. 'I thought that the war was racist and unjust. I couldn't find one reason to go,' she said.

BY CHARITY PRATER THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

What would Martin Luther King Jr. say about the war in Iraq?

Two Oregon women with military connections have their opinions. One went AWOL rather than be deployed and the other awaits a possible third tour of duty.

Jessica Acosca, 28, the veteran of two deployments, finds solace in King's legacy of advocating non-violent, peaceful solutions to conflicts and his opposition to the Vietnam War.

She feels King would say it is time for the world to acknowledge its differences and stop dividing itself.

Acosca was first deployed to Iraq in the 2003 invasion.

"Our mission was to save Iraq from Saddam Hussein," she said.

Due to a family emergency, she returned home a few months later only to be redeployed again in 2005

for a full year.

Active soldiers are not allowed to dispute their commander-in-chief, currently President Bush, or oppose any war that they are engaged in, despite how they may feel in their hearts. Doing so can bring

referees on the playground."

She also understood that being a soldier could be very dangerous.

"World War II and Auschwitz were situations that needed force to intercept," she said. "This time it is very different. If violence is nec-

If violence is necessary then send me, but I pray that those (the political leaders) that have told you to do it have the integrity to do what is right.

- Jessica Acosca

about criminal charges.

When Acosca signed up for military service, she did so with the understanding that soldiers were also peace mediators in conflicts. President Bush called them "the

essary then send me, but I pray that those (the political leaders) that have told you to do it have the integrity to do what is right."

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