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Celebrating Women's History Month Special Edition coverage inside



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Week in The Review

War Anniversary Protested

Thousands of marchers carrying signs and beating drums, including challengers to Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, lawyer Steve Novick and Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley, paraded through downtown Portland in late winter rain on Saturday to protest the fifth year of the Iraq War.

Obama: End Racial Stalemate

Americans must move past a "racial stalemate" to solve long-term problems, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Tuesday, using the lingering controversy over comments made by his former pastor, Jeremiah Wright, to illustrate what he considered a central struggle nationally. See story, page A3.

Economy Near Tanking

An ignominious end for one of Wall Street's most storied investment banks this week brought a bargain-basement deal fast-tracked by the federal government to avoid a bankruptcy. Investors had it rough as well, only slightly mollified by a three-quarter point interest-rate cut on Tuesday.

Police Shooting Outrage

A white police officer accused of fatally shooting a black woman as she held her year-old son during a drug raid in Lima, Ohio, was charged with two misdemeanors Monday with a maximum of eight months in jail, outraging NAACP activists and relatives of the woman who said he should face tougher penalties.

Paterson Sworn in

David Paterson was officially sworn in as New York's governor on Monday, becoming the state's first black chief executive and vowing to move past the prostitution scandal that has rocked the state Capitol.

Who Killed Tupac?

Hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs has denied a report by the Los Angeles Times that his associates were responsible for the 1994 shooting of Tupac Shakur at a New York recording studio, and that he knew in advance about the attack that triggered the feud between East and West Coast rappers. See story, page B3.

Disturbing Climate Trend

The thickest, oldest and toughest sea ice around the North Pole is melting, a bad sign for the future of the Arctic ice cap, NASA satellite data showed on Tuesday, adding to the litany of disturbing progress in global warming.

Duo Championships

Grant and Jefferson sweep state

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The city got several reasons to celebrate following state triumphs of two boys' basketball teams from the Portland Interscholastic League. Grant won the 6A division and Jefferson the 5A division during the state tournament in Eugene.

At Grant, a celebration of the team's 63-56 victory over Oregon City, took place Monday during an assembly that also saw the commemoration of a new basketball court donated by the Portland Trail Blazers.

At Jefferson, the team's 55-52 victory over Corvallis doubled up on the school winning the girls 5A basketball tournament just a week earlier. The championship also follows a winning season in football where the Democrats made it to the 5A quarterfinals.

"All we heard every day for a while was 'the girls have won, so now you have to win,'" says Jefferson shooting guard Henry Williams.

On the court, several players agreed that Williams served as the "sparkplug" to the "glue" of point guard Kalonji Paschal. While preparing for a victory tour in Jefferson's hallway on Tuesday, Paschal gripped a game net that Coach Marshall Haskins had given him while declaring he deserved to be the MVP of the tournament.

"It all started with the football season," Paschal says. "Ever since the barbecues out on the field, the alumni have been coming to our games and everything has changed for the positive."

Assistant coach Paul Kelly has helped with all of Jefferson's basketball teams since the Demos won

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Grant High School players and coaching staff celebrate their 6A tournament triumph in an assembly Monday.



Jefferson High School players and assistant coach Paul Kelly gather for a team photo Tuesday in front of their north Portland school after winning the 5A boys basketball tournament Saturday in Eugene.

Police Issues Draw Fire in Debate

Mayoral candidate spar over positions

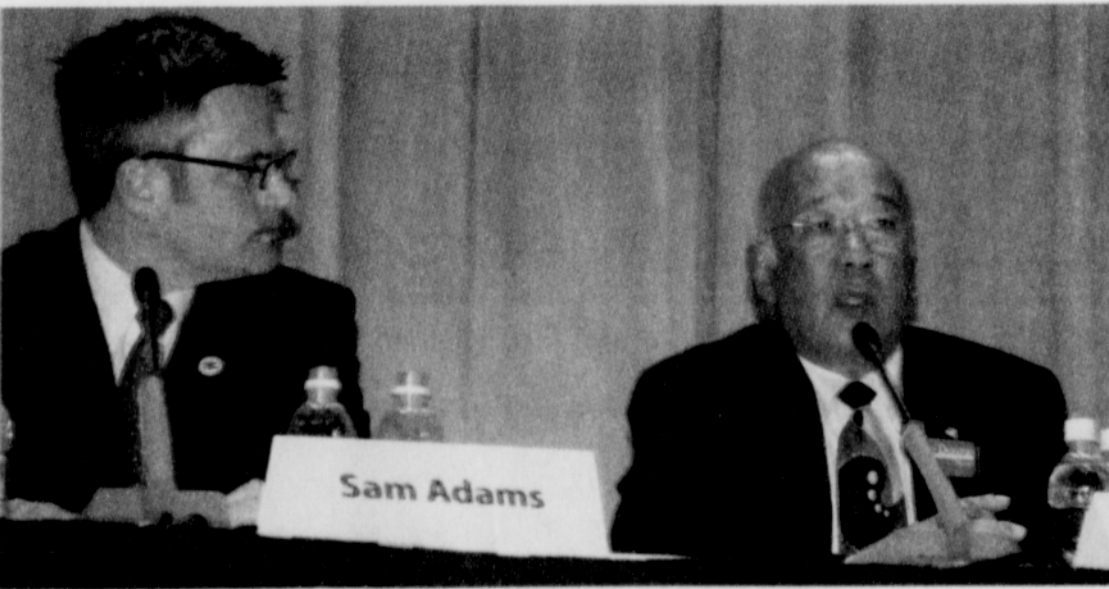
BY LEE PERLMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Police Bureau's interaction with people of color and other issues important to the African American community caught fire in the first debate between candidates for Portland Mayor.

The session, at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland last Friday night, was sponsored by the Urban League of Portland, NAACP, African American Alliance and African American Chamber of Commerce.

Moderator Ken Boddie, news anchor for KOIN-TV, asked the mayoral candidates appearing for the forum, Sam Adams, Sho Dozono, Craig Gier, Beryl McNair and Chris Rich, to respond to five issues: housing and home ownership, education, economic development, health care, and the management of the Portland Police Bureau. Questions submitted in writing by some of the 100 people who attended the session were also presented.

A hot button issue centered over



Mayoral candidates Sam Adams (left) and Sho Dozono argued over the management of the police bureau during a debate sponsored by leaders in Portland's African American community.



Craig Gier



Beryl McNair



Chris Rich

City Council oversight of the Portland Police Bureau.

Adams said the bureau has made

"significant progress" under Chief Rosie Sizer and indicated he may allow another city commissioner to

oversee the police bureau if he were elected mayor.

Dozono accused him of "passing the buck." He added that Oregon has the highest rate of per capita incarceration, yet ranks 49th in funding for drug addiction treatment. "We should turn those figures around," he said.

Adams replied that there are women and African Americans running for two City Council seats this year, and if they were elected it

would not be "passing the buck" to assign the bureau to them.

Gier and McNair were sharply critical of the police bureau.

Gier charged that the bureau has "a lack of accountability. How many people need to be tazed, to be shot?" he said. "There are a lot of good cops, but a lot of bad ones too, and they need to be rooted out."

Gier said he would set up a volunteer commission to oversee the police, he said.

McNair, a patient services assistant, said the police are "not accountable for what they do," and should be monitored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission.

She also proposed having city health insurance policies cover counseling and drug testing for police officers.

Rich said the police have been guilty of "despotism and flat-out murder." He said a Police Accountability Board should have binding authority and officers should be subject to mandatory drug testing.

"You need to pass a drug test to flip a hamburger, but if you're given a badge and a gun and control of someone's life? There are individual rights, but also society's rights." He called for a "fair" grand jury system and "get-

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