



Iraqi army soldiers patrol Mosul after a U.S. soldier was killed and three others were wounded in a shooting in 2008 at an Iraqi police station.

## Timeline Set to End Iraq War

All troops would leave in 2010

Obama Plans President Barack Obama plans to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010, administration officials said Tuesday, ending the war that defined his upstart presidential campaign three months later than he had promised.

The withdrawal plan — an announcement could come as early as this week — calls for leaving a large contingent of troops behind, between 30,000 and 50,000 troops, to advise and train Iraqi security forces and to protect U.S. interests.

Obama built enormous grass-roots support for his White House bid by pledging to withdraw troops 16 months after taking office. That schedule, based on removing roughly one brigade a month, was predicated on commanders determining that it would not endanger U.S. troops left behind or Iraq's fragile security.

The contingent remaining will include intelligence and surveillance specialists and their equipment, including unmanned aircraft, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of

anonymity because the plan has not been made public.

The complete withdrawal of American forces will take place by December 2011, the period by which the U.S. agreed with Iraq to remove all troops.

Marine Maj. Gen. John Kelly, who just left his job overseeing U.S. operations in Anbar Province, said Tuesday that he saw violence drop to an almost "meaningless" level over the past year.

Kelly told reporters Tuesday that in the area that was the home ground of the Sunni insurgency, American combat forces don't have enough to do and most could have pulled out months ago.

According to officials, Obama had requested a range of options from his top military advisers, including one that would have withdrawn troops in 16 months. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had recently forwarded withdrawal alternatives to the White House for Obama's consideration.

## Young Poet Achieved Despite Adversity

Feb. 4, 1977 - Feb 16, 2009

Samuel Monroe "Marcel" Irving III, a Portland native, beloved son and brother, went home to be with the Lord on Feb. 16, 2009 after a 15 year-long struggle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Sam was a person that thrived despite adversity. His amazing strength of character, ability to withstand the challenges of life, maintain his faith, and remain optimistic, was evidenced by his truly indomitable spirit.

Until his last day, he was convinced that he would beat MS and walk, unassisted, across the stage to receive his Bachelor's of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Concordia University in May. The degree will now be awarded posthumously.

Pushing past his physical limitations Sam was challenged the boundaries of what the world said he could and could not do. He was determined to accomplish his goals and walk into his future y undaunted, without giving up.

As evidence of his continual striving for excellence, Sam was recently appointed to President Obama's Committee on Disability Power and Pride where he was to be instrumental in bringing issues of the disability community to the forefront of the presidential agenda.

During the summer of 2007, Sam served as an American Association for People with Disabilities Information Technology Fellow for the Office of Disability at the Department of Health and Human Services where he is remembered warmly by his colleagues.

Sam also battled an immense sense of loss, grief and shame due to his rapidly progressing illness. By writing poetry, he opened up a window to healing and allowed for the reclamation of his feelings, his voice, and all that mattered to him in life. Until the end, poetry guided him through rough times and transformed him to profound levels. Sam's last poem, albeit brief, spoke of transcending the boundaries of this world and escaping to the solace that awaited him in glory.



Daily Evening  
by Samuel M. Irving, III

*Fantasies of my life  
with the freedom to steps  
no longer crooked*

*as my blinded eyes  
overshadow the standards of everyday  
drawn in a self reflection  
relived in nightly spasms  
and monthly flare ups  
of needles scorching the tears  
of a present past*

*becoming the lines between  
what I truly feel  
as myself, in a condition  
that invades my body.*

*However I no longer  
allow society to place badges  
of special treatment on my chest  
while placing kick  
me signs on my back*

*because I am a survivor  
of daily struggle  
and a child of promise.*

*For I seek not  
to befriend mistaken ignorance  
of " can I help you with that?"  
or  
"do you want me to read this for you?"*

*because I am a descendant  
of God's destiny  
and with every spasm  
my lips can take,  
every thing that  
my eyes cease to see,  
incorporated in my  
dragging left sided years.*

*Just believe that my pain  
exits beyond this page  
and my soul rests  
In God's hands.*

Sam was the author of four books of poetry: Quiet in the Storm, Open Meditations, Round Midnight (co-authored with Marquis Stoudamire) and his most recent work, Manipulating Another Noun (MAN). His poems are also featured in Poetry Collection anthologies in the Library of Congress and the National Library of Poetry.

Sam has been featured in newspapers and magazines. He was the keynote speaker at several children's book fairs and regularly produced poetry slams in Oregon and Indiana. He was a regular guest on Portland's KBOO radio.

A two-time winner of the National Society's Poet of the Year Award, he was the recipient of the National Association for Therapeutic Poetry Counseling's 2003 Distinguished Service Award and was designated as a Poetry Counselor in the field of poetry therapy.

Sam presented free writing workshops to children in Portland public schools and was very proud of the work he had done with King Elementary school. He was a member of the Midwest Slam Team; host of Poetic Journey, a weekly television show in Indiana and the founder and chief executive officer of Abstract Visionz, a small press publishing company in Portland.

A 1995 graduate of Ulysses S. Grant High School, Sam attended Hampton University in Virginia for a short time before his disease progressed and he had to return home. Later, he worked briefly as a personal assistant to East Coast music producer Teddy Riley.

Besides Oregon, he has lived in Indiana, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia and New York and has traveled extensively in the Caribbean. Most recently he realized a lifelong dream of basking in the sunlight on the beaches of Trinidad, West Indies.

Friend and counselor to many, Sam's life and legacy will not be forgotten.

He was preceded in death by his baby brother Simone Marcus Irving. Survivors include his mother Wanda Cox-Irving and sister Dr. Shalon M. Irving, both of Maryland; his father Samuel M. Irving Jr. of Portland, the Sellers family of Cincinnati, the Rivers family of New Jersey and the Irving family of Portland and California; and many, many friends from coast to coast.

As per his wishes, he was cremated on Feb. 23, 2009 at Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore, Md.

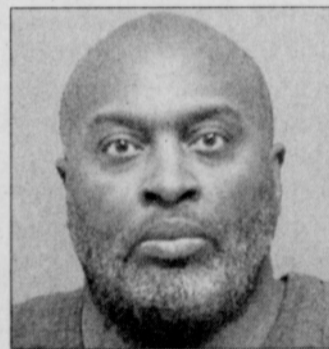
A home-going celebration will be held on Saturday Feb. 28 at 2pm at Irvington Covenant Church, 4046 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A celebration of Sam's life will also be held Sunday, March 1 at 3 p.m. at the Albina Christian Life Center, 2149 N. Willamette Blvd.

## Coach Charged with Sex Abuse

A local basketball coach has been arrested and charged with five counts of sex abuse involving a 17-year-old female student athlete.

Howard Avery, 51, is scheduled for arraignment Friday on charges of sodomy, sex abuse and unlaw-



ful sexual penetration.

A Clackamas County prosecutor says Avery coached the victim both in group and on-on-one settings.

Howard  
Avery

## Ask Deanna!



Real People,  
Real Advice

An advice  
column  
known for  
reality based  
subjects!

### Dear Deanna!

I walked away from a long marriage, a new home and a family because I wasn't happy. My husband and kids took me for granted and walked over me. I did all I thought was necessary such as counseling, hiring babysitters for the kids and losing weight. No one in the family has noticed or cared about my pain, or cries for help or attention. Now that I'm gone, ignoring everybody, they don't know what to do and are begging me to come home. What do I do? --Torn Wife; St. Louis, Mo.

### Dear Torn Wife:

You need to have a major discus-

sion with your husband who appears to be part of the problem. Your children don't have a choice but to fall in line because they don't pay any bills. Provide a list of your needs and wants and present them to your husband so you can get on the same page. If he's willing to accommodate the important things on your list then you have a chance of restoring your marriage and regaining personal balance and footing in the household.

### Dear Deanna!

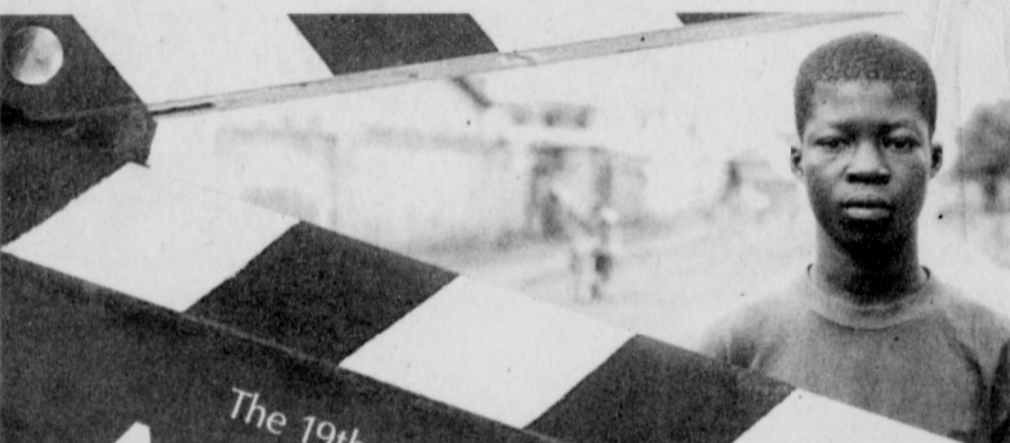
I'm a Christian and there are things that I do that people don't agree with. I feel as if I can drink wine, enjoy music and wear what I want to wear. Don't get me wrong, I love the Lord and do what I'm supposed to do. My life is fine but other people don't think so. I don't like being judged when other people at church do the same thing but pretend to be super holy. Do I need to go ahead

and change churches because these people aren't going to change? --Honest Christian; Charleston, S.C.

### Dear Honest:

If you were as rooted and tooted in your faith as you pretend to be, you wouldn't worry about what other people think. You need to put your stones away and come out of the same glass house that everyone else is in. You're just as guilty because you just so happen to know their business they way they know yours. Do yourself a favor and mind your business, live according to God's word and seek to receive growth and understanding in your worship instead of human acceptance.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com



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