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**Looking for Big Brothers**  
Shortage of Positive adult role models  
See inside page A2

**Baby's Garden Blooms**  
A space for children ages 3 and younger to play at the Portland Children's Museum.  
See inside, page A3



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Obama Backs Merit Pay for Teachers

President Obama announced his backing for merit pay for teachers, which links their pay to student performance. Obama will almost certainly run into opposition from teachers' unions, an influential constituency in the president's party, which have strongly opposed such proposals in the past.

### Madoff Appears to Plead Guilty

Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is expected to plead guilty on Thursday to charges that he swindled investors out of millions of dollars in an elaborate ponzi scheme that has been called one of the biggest acts of investor fraud ever committed.

### Brown Charged with Felonies

Singer Chris Brown has been charged with two felonies: assault and making criminal threats. The charges stem from a fight last month between Brown and his girlfriend, singer Rihanna, which occurred shortly before the Grammy Awards. Brown allegedly attempted to push Rihanna out of a car after she confronted him with a text message on his phone from another woman. See inside, page A6.

### Major League Soccer Deal Struck

The Oregonian reports that Mayor Sam Adams and Commissioner Randy Leonard have hammered out a tentative deal with Timbers and Beavers owner Merritt Paulson. Under the deal Merritt could take out more than \$60 million in city-backed loans to renovate PGE Park for a new Major League Soccer team. The deal still needs to get the green light from the rest of city council, where it will certainly meet skepticism.

### Metro Begins Spending Stimulus Money

Metro Council began spending \$102 million of federal stimulus money. The cash will go to a variety of projects in the three county region including road and sidewalk improvement, bike lanes, and mass transit, among others.

### EPA Drops Investigation

The U.S. EPA has dropped an eight-year investigation into Portland's plans to reduce sewage spills into the Willamette River, the Portland Tribune reported. The agency had previously claimed that the city's work in reducing spills was inadequate and potentially in violation of federal law.



## GIRLSTRENGTH

Girls participating in GirlStrength, a pilot program sponsored by the Portland Police Bureau that teaches self defense to girls 10 to 14, huddle in a gym at West Hills Christian School with program coordinator Carolyne Haycraft. The program is currently funded by a private donor and is available to any school in the Portland area.

## Supreme Court Nixes Minority Legislative District

Ruling could have implications for results of 2010 census

(AP) - The Supreme Court ruled Monday that a part of the Voting Rights Act aimed at helping minorities elect their preferred candidates only applies in electoral districts where minorities make up more than half the population.

The decision could make it harder for some minority candidates to win

election and for southern Democrats, in particular, to draw friendly electoral boundaries after the 2010 Census.

The 5-4 decision, with the court's conservatives in the majority, came in the case of a North Carolina plan that sought to preserve the influence of African-American voters even though they made up just 39 percent of the population in a state legislative district.

Although not a majority, the black voters were numerous enough to effectively determine the outcome of elections, the state argued in urging the court to extend the civil

rights law's provision to the district.

But Justice Anthony Kennedy, announcing the court's judgment, said the court would not extend the law to those so-called crossover districts. The 50 percent "rule draws clear lines for courts and legislatures alike," Kennedy said in striking down a North Carolina legislative district.

In 2007, the North Carolina Supreme Court struck down the district, saying that the Voting Rights Act applies only to districts with a numerical majority of minority voters. The district also violated a provision of the state constitution keep-

ing district boundaries from crossing county lines, the court said.

Kennedy said that, absent prohibitions like North Carolina's rule against crossing county lines, "states that wish to draw crossover districts are free to do so." But they are not required, he said.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito signed onto Kennedy's opinion. Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas agreed with the outcome of the case.

The four liberal justices dis-

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## Youth Golf Coach Finds His Calling

Difficult game builds life skills

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Quincy Heard turned 21 he wanted to try something he'd never done before: golf. Shortly afterwards, he adopted a new goal: retire by 35 so he could play golf for the rest of his life.

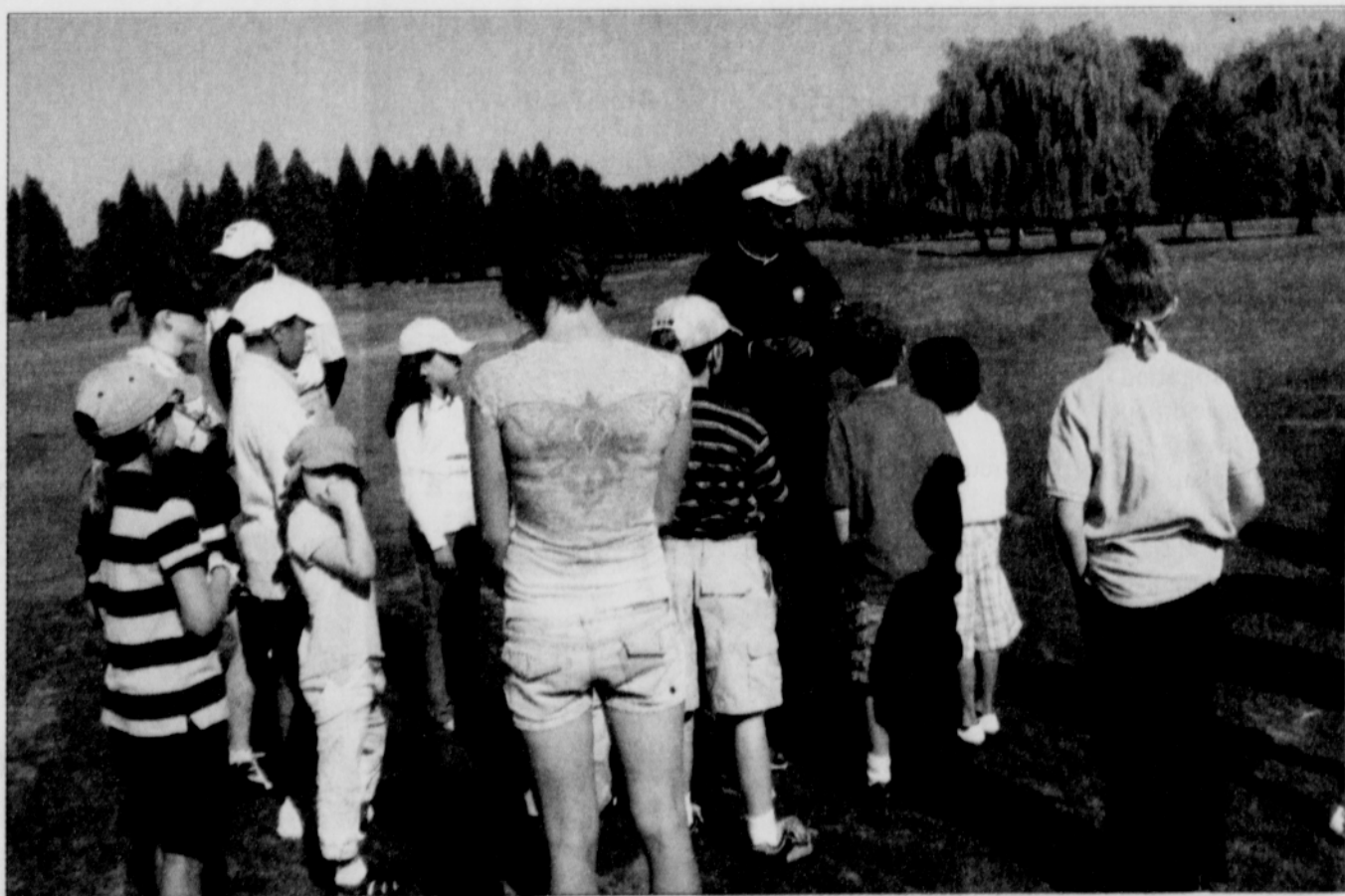
At 39, Heard hasn't reached his ultimate goal,

but he has found his calling by working as executive director of the Portland Youth Golf Association.



Quincy Heard

The organization runs the First Tee of Portland golf program for local youth,



Quincy Heard mentors a group of young people in the game of golf by incorporating life skills such as character development, family values and personal growth.

helping them develop life skills by playing a game that is as frustrating as it is fun.

First Tee enrolls kids who wouldn't normally have access to the game. That in-

cludes young people from north and northeast Portland, but also kids from

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39  
years of  
community service