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**Beer Tax
Brouhaha***Controversial
beer tax would
pay for addiction
services*

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Habitat Builds Green*Non-profit builds
homes with highest
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Gang War Front Lines

Experts say violence was allowed to fester

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When a rash of gang violence broke out this winter it left several young black men dead, a community in shock, and a city scrambling to put people back at ease. The city reacted quickly to put a lid on the violence, and shuffled funds to put more gang outreach workers on the front lines. But how effective will these efforts be?

People combating gangs know that the game has changed. Decades of gentrification in north and northeast Portland has rearranged the African American community. Programs to address the problem have been unevenly applied, according to experts in the battle, allowing the problem to fester.

According to gang outreach workers, getting services to people who need them is now increasingly difficult.

North and northeast Portland was where the city's African American community once laid down their roots. People shopped, socialized, did business, went to church, and raised families together. The area was described as blighted with crime, but there was a network of people who looked after knew one another.

"Those were the days when you could leave your door unlocked," said Avel Gordly, who grew up near Prescott and Going Streets and went



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rob Ingram, director of the Portland Office of Youth Violence Prevention, tackles an upsurge in gang violence at the site of a recent gang-related shooting. The March 19 violence during the lunch hour on North Killingsworth Street and Haight Avenue, one block from Jefferson High School and Portland Community College, sent the high school into lockdown.

on to be elected the state's first female African American state senator.

Gordly remembers stopping at Maxine's Grocery on the way home from school and consistently being asked about school and goings on in the neighborhood. Adults cared about the next generation and were quick to put kids back on track if they strayed from the straight and narrow.

"It really was an extended family," said Gordly of the area.

"We found time to break the ice," said Charles Ford, who has lived in the area since 1967. Since then he watched the community lose its anchor, and become less stable.

In the early 1970s, things began to change. After the building of the freeway and Memorial Coliseum cleared

homes and churches, an aborted expansion by Immanuel Hospital pushed out black-owned businesses and demolished homes even more. The expansion went unfinished leaving a large vacant space.

"It was like an open wound," said Gordly.

As the African American community was being scattered, gangs

started moving in.

Gordly, who was one of the first people to sound the alarm when she noticed that young people were beginning to identify as Bloods and Crips early in the late 1970s, while she was working for community organizations.

But the plea for more attention to the

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Rental Fees Blindside Youth Sports

Leagues scramble to pay costs

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Each spring and summer, Portland's sports fields are filled with the city's youth playing games that have been cherished for generations. This year will be no different, but it'll be more costly.

In the past, Portland Parks and Recreation has imposed an hourly rate on adult sports leagues while applying a less-expensive flat rate to youth leagues, making it more affordable for the area's younger athletes.

However, with severe budget cuts in the offing and an increasing demand for sports fields, the parks bureau has been phasing in more expensive rates. Last year youth sports leagues began paying an hourly rate for the first time. This year it jumped substantially.

The jump has blindsided Portland's youth sports leagues, and left them scrambling to pay for it.

Mary Dunn, the president of Peninsula Little League—which serves 215 kids, said that she doesn't know how bad the costs will be for her league off hand, but said that they were bad enough to put it in the red.

She said that Peninsula didn't hear about the fee increases until they had collected annual registration fees from fami-

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Peninsula Little League President Mary Dunn takes to the Irving Park athletic field with players turning out for the spring softball season. Sports leagues in the city have been hit with higher rental costs because of city budget cuts.

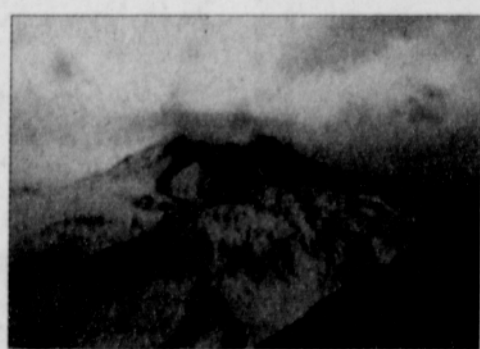
Week in The Review

Spring Break Hate Crime

Authorities say they are investigating an assault on two men on the beach at Seaside as an anti-gay hate crime. Two 22-year-old Washington state men reported early Sunday that three to four people beat them unconscious. The two were treated at an area hospital.

Top-Flight Soccer Coming

Major League Soccer Commissioner



Don Garber and Portland Timbers and Beavers owner Merritt Paulson announced Friday that Portland has been awarded the league's 18th team, with MLS play to begin in 2011 at a renovated PGE Park.

Volcano Spews Ash

New tremors at Alaska's Mount Redoubt are prompting speculation that the volcano could be in a phase that will lead to more instability. The 10,200-foot volcano erupted six times Sunday and Monday, spewing clouds of gritty ash high into the sky.

Regulating Financials

The nation's top economic officials argued Tuesday for unprecedented powers to regulate and even take over financial golems whose collapse

could imperil the entire economy. President Barack Obama agreed and said he hoped "it doesn't take too long to convince Congress."

Wage complaints Bungled

The Labor Department regularly bungles its handling of complaints from workers who say their bosses are cheating them on overtime pay or committing other labor violations, an undercover investigation found.

Gas Prices Inch Upward

Gas prices in Portland and the rest of Oregon jumped up this week. According to AAA, the price of a gallon of

regular gas in Oregon bumped up to about \$2.07 a gallon Tuesday, which is about three cents more expensive than it was a week ago.

39
years of
community service