

INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

page 3-5

HEALTH



page 6-7

OPINION



page 8-9

CLASSIFIEDS

page 15

GENERAL NEWS

page 17-18



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 10-13



FOOD page 20

Disaster Hits Home

Local residents have loved ones in Haiti

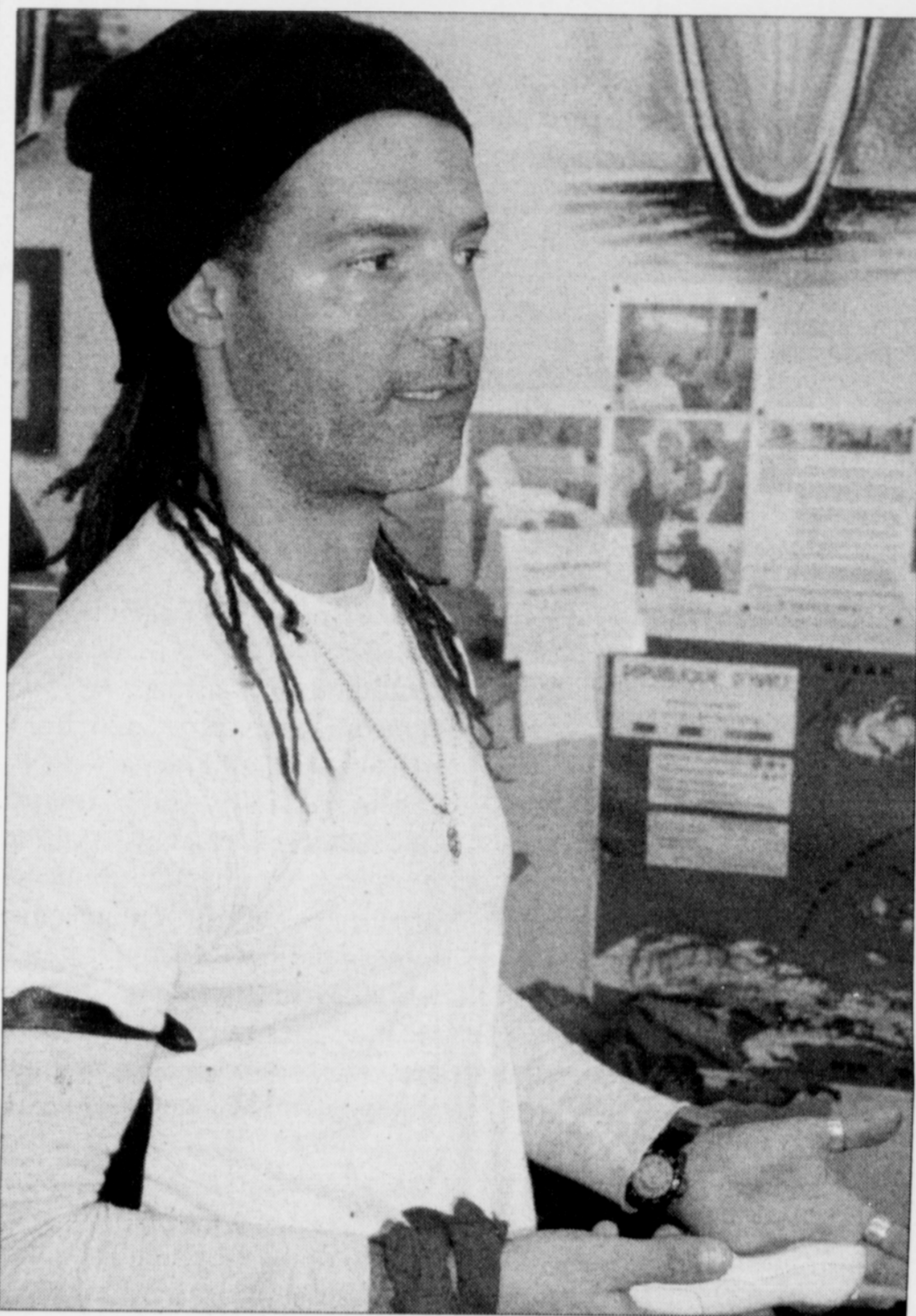


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Haiti native Ben Ferere, co-owner of the Begal Land shop on Northeast Fremont Street, mourns the loss of extended family members killed in Haiti's 7.0 magnitude earthquake. He still awaits word from other family members in Haiti.

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ben Ferere hits the green button on his wireless phone after concluding a conversation with a relative in Port-au-Prince, the epicenter of destruction from last week's 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti.

Ferere stands cross-armed and tense with the phone firmly in his grip while the day's business at Bagel

Land, a northeast Portland shop he owns with his wife Jackie Ferere, winds down.

The last few days have been tense for the couple. Since the disaster, Ferere has steadily gotten updates from friends and relatives in Haiti, the place where Ben was raised and met Portland native Jackie while she was a Peace Corp volunteer in the late 1980s.

"We've not had good news today," says Ben Ferere, in his thick Haitian accent, which has a tinge of Belgian from his days serving in the country's military.

He found out that his 6-year-old nephew died in the earthquake. His cousin, Sabrina, was presumed to be buried under a pile of rubble, until rescuers heard her calls and spent the entire night digging through it before pulling her to safety.

For years, the Ferere's have kept a colorful map of Haiti in the shop they've owned since 1990. Nowadays, a donation jar for the Caribbean and Haitian American Organization of Texas, a non-profit founded by his brother, can be found next to the map, just an arm's reach away from the coffee and sugar for customers' coffee.

A steady stream of customers, wet from the rain outside, trickle into purchase bagels, cups of coffee, and stuff dollars into the jar. Several know the couple, and warmly shake hands while expressing regards.

"The community is definitely responding," says Jackie Ferere, who has counted \$915 in donations in just two days.

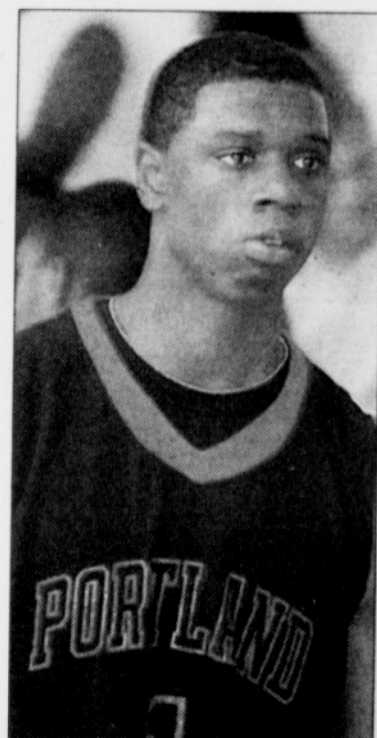
But despite the outpouring of support, the outlook for Haiti is bleak, says Ben Ferere.

The country, which became the first republic ruled by people of African ancestry when it gained independence from France in 1803, is one of the poorest places in the hemisphere and struggles with chronic food insecurity.

Ben Ferere said that the country was just beginning to recover socially and economically from the strife that marked the presidency of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in 2004, and the brutal hurricanes that shook Haiti in 2008.

Now he has no idea how a coun-

continued on page 4



25th MLK Celebration

The 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. World Arts Foundation of Portland celebration Monday recognized 25 Oregonians for their community activism. The MLK holiday event at the Highland Christian Center also featured children's choirs, gospel music, interpretive dance, blues, and jazz.

Jones on National Team

Jefferson High School's Terrence Jones has been selected to the USA Junior National Select Team and will take part in the annual Nike Hoop Summit on April 10 at the Rose Garden, USA Basketball announced

Monday.

SWAT Training Blasted

A Southwest Washington Regional SWAT team training for a "school shooting" stirred controversy Monday at the Vancouver campus of Washington State University. Some students and professors said conducting the exercise on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday undercut King's message of peace and social change.

Man Dies in Cistern

A southwest Portland man was

Week in The Review

found dead after apparently falling into a 35-foot sink hole in his back yard Sunday. It wasn't until emergency workers

began to pump water from the hole, believed to be an old cistern, that they discovered the body of Michael Zerwas, 57.

Hotel Fall Kills Man

A 20-year-old Yakima man died from injuries he sustained after falling out of a fourth-floor window early Tuesday at the Inn at the

Convention Center hotel at 420 N.E. Holladay. Portland Police responded to the call around 3 a.m.

Education Funding Wanted

President Barack Obama announced Tuesday he'll ask Congress for \$1.35 billion to extend an education grant program for states, saying that getting schools right "will shape our future as a nation."

