

The PO



Multiculturalism

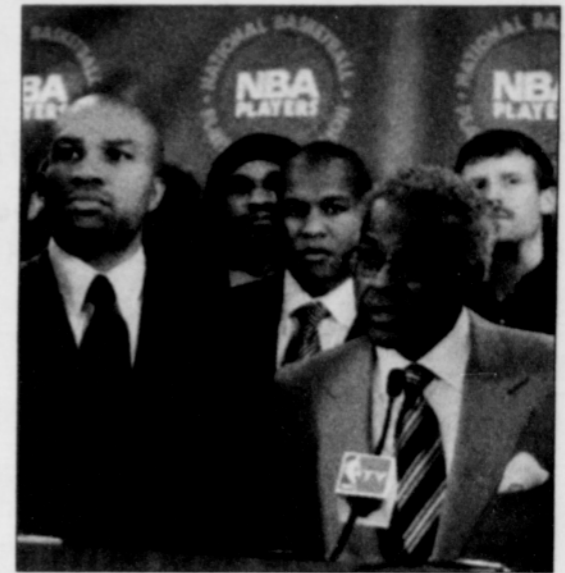
Debating the semantics and interpretations

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NBA Season Looks Doubtful

Players reject offer; will move to a courtroom

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Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Occupy Protesters Regroup

Eviction from parks mostly peaceful

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Despite their eviction from two downtown parks, Occupy Portland demonstrators have developed into a face of what democracy can look like while peacefully standing up for change.

A weekend confrontation, filled with thousands of protesters, ended on Sunday after the dismantling of the encampments at Lownsdale and Chapman Squares, which resulted in the arrest of more than 50 individuals.

The parks, which have served as a Portland home for a movement that originated with the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations in New York City, was cleared of both trash and people by Monday morning, yet spirits remain hopeful that the movement will continue to make real change in the future.

With signs that read: 'I am non-violent' and 'Police, listen to your hearts', the weekend crowds avoided riots by chanting 'be polite' and singing songs of solidarity. Candles were held sporadically in honor of the individuals who had camped out in the squares since Oct. 6.

Huddled together under an oak tree around 12:30 a.m. on Sunday in Chapman Square, two Occupy Portland demonstrators were an example of the protestors who waited to be arrested in their stance against



Police officers arrest a protester in the Occupy Portland encampment on Sunday, downtown. (AP photo)

economic injustices reflected in the top one percent of those who control most of the country's wealth against the remaining 99 percent.

The couple, who wanted to remain anonymous, waited for the moment the officers would arrive and tell them to leave.

"We'll be okay," said the male. "We are doing this to show solidarity because others are not as brave to do it."

Taylor Olfert, 18, took his stance under a tarp tent in Lownsdale Square. Throughout the weeks of the occupation, Olfert, along with others from the movement, chained themselves to each other to peacefully assemble.

"We're sitting here to protect every one's First Amendment rights," he said.

Hundreds of other individuals gathered outside in the streets and on the sidewalks throughout the night, creating a line around the encampments to show solidarity with those who remained inside.

"So many people believe, but they don't take action," he said. "But action is the way. That is what has got to happen."

According to Lt. Robert King, the public information officer for the Portland Police Bureau, those who were taken into custody made it very clear they would rather be arrested than leave the encampments. "Implicit by their actions, explicit by what they said, they wanted to be arrested, and they were," he said.

King said, however, they wanted the confrontation to be a peaceful one.

"When you have hundreds of cops and thousands of people together like that there is the potential for large-scale confronta-

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Gang-Related Death a Wake-Up Call

Murder victim was youngest in a decade

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A 13-year-old boy has become Portland's youngest gang-involved victim in over a decade, raising community concerns.

Julio Cesar Marquez was found dead on Nov. 7 when

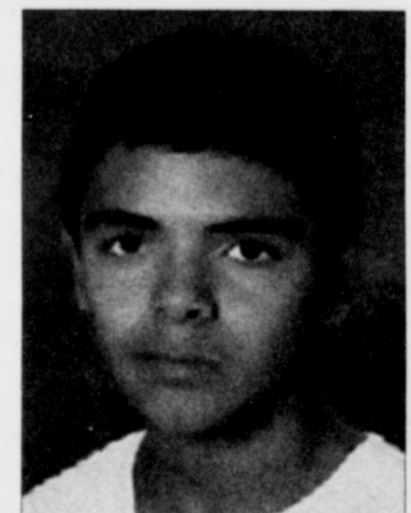
another young person, an eighth grader who took a shortcut to school through an alley to catch a bus at 7:30 a.m., found his body near Northeast 107th and Halsey. Police said Marquez died from multiple gunshot wounds and blunt force trauma to the head.

Shaken residents of the adjacent Colonial Villa Apartments said they heard screaming, and as many as six gunshots perceived to be coming from the outside of the building, where nobody noticed the body in the unlit alley until the next morning.

Although the motive, Police said, remains unknown at this time, the death of Marquez, who was an eighth-grade student at an alternative school, makes him the youngest gang-involved victim in Portland in over a decade.

In the past 12 months gun violence has claimed the lives of nine young people in the city, largely due to gang shootings. Throughout the year, however, there have

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Julio Cesar Marquez