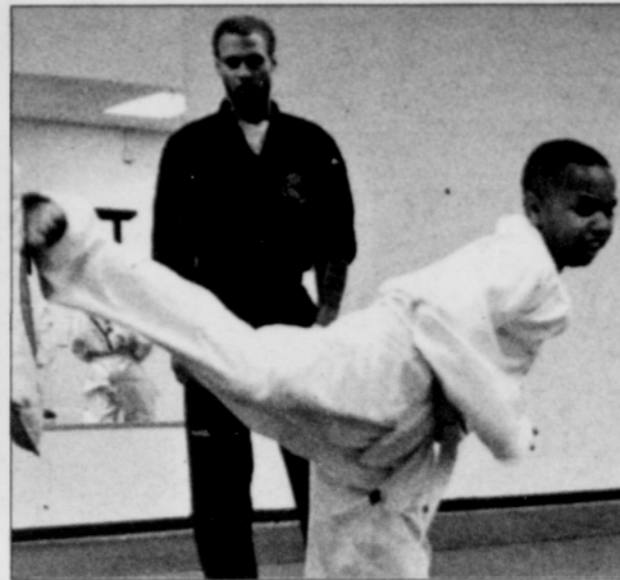


# The

## Confronting Exploitation

Survivors of the  
sex trade bring  
awareness to  
the issue

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## Empowering Youth

Master of  
Korean  
martial arts  
shares  
expertise

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# Portland Observer 42

'City of Roses'



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# Whatever It Takes

## Occupy activist follows arrests with run for mayor

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Inspiring the community through his dedication and proactive efforts for change, one local 20-year-old, arrested several times in solidarity with the Occupy Portland movement, will fight social injustice by entering the race for Mayor.

Cameron Whitten, a resident of northeast Portland, has been an active member of the movement since it took roots in Portland last October, when thousands of residents showed up downtown to share their discontent with the nation's socio-economic condition.

Although the movement, which originated with anti-Wall Street protests in New York City, has inspired individuals from all walks of life, Whitten's dedication to change has stood out in his willingness to do whatever it takes to address issues, including economic equality, police accountability, political transparency, and foreclosure reform.

"We are in a state of crisis, both locally and globally. We have been deceived by career politicians who answer to their paycheck before listening to the people," said Whitten. "We must influence the culture of our government, and embrace the standards of direct democracy in order to empower our community for our own survival."

Leading by example, he said he encourages the people of Portland to make more demands of their politicians and reject their private agendas.

"It is not my hope, it is my determination that people will be making more demands of what they want to see different and won't take no for an answer," he said.

Whitten first gathered his papers to register for the mayor's race on Nov. 14, the day after he was forcefully evicted with other protestors from Lownsdale and Chapman parks. He was arrested at the time for refusing to cooperate with police orders and standing his ground. Overall, he has been arrested four times during Occupy protests.

"Our political system isn't perfect, and our legal system facilitates our system, and it is not perfect," he said Friday, hours after his latest arrest during an Occupy the Courts

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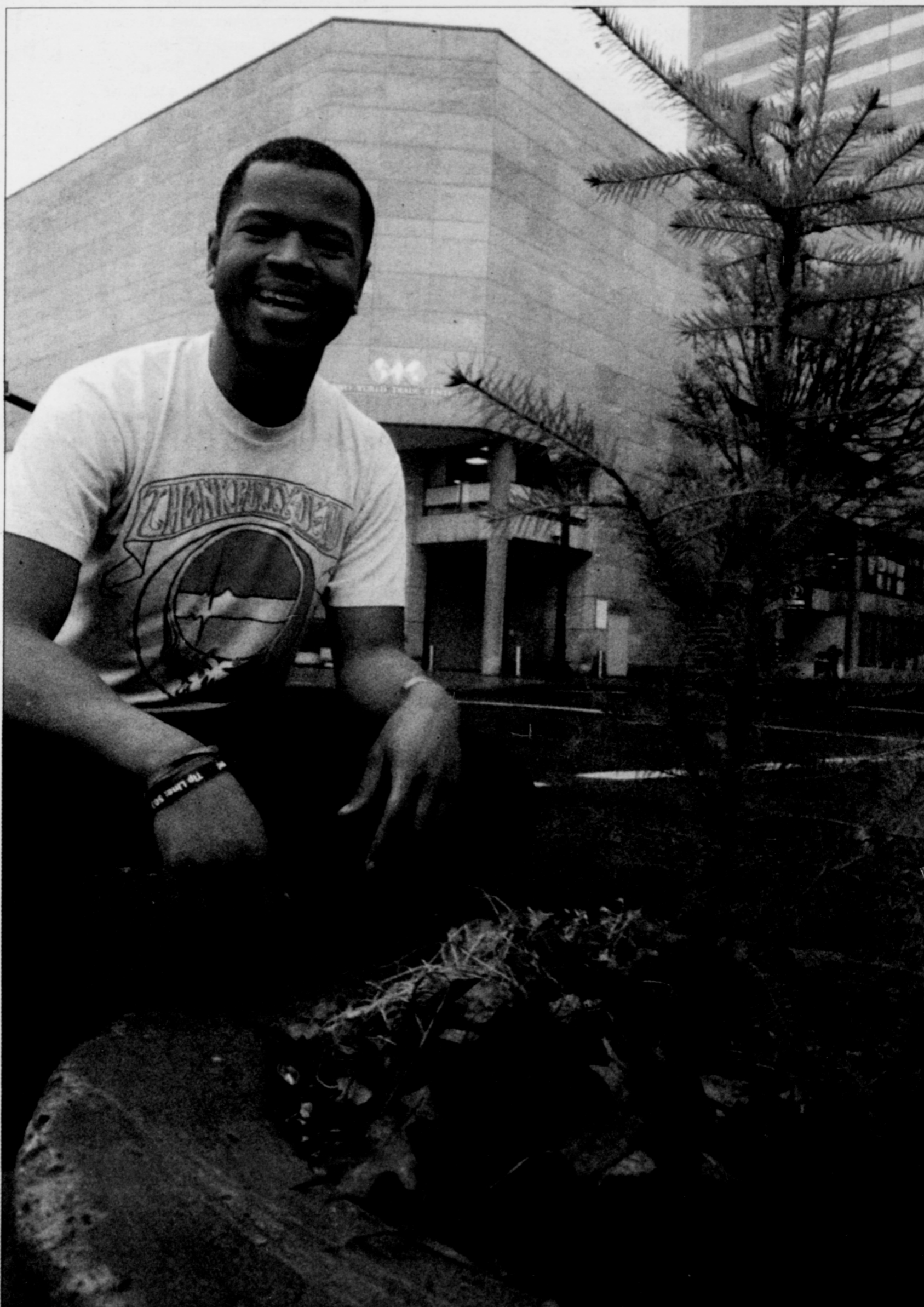


PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cameron Whitten, 20, returns Sunday to Mill Ends Park in downtown Portland where he was arrested last month for not following police orders during Occupy Portland protests. The park is the world's smallest, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.