

The PO

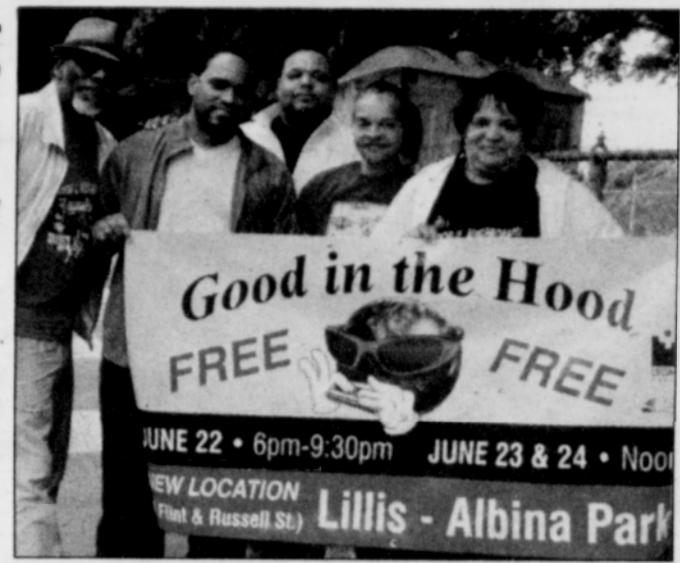


Waters of Change

Tour remembers
city of Vanport
See Metro, page 11.

Changing Course

Good in the Hood
sets table with a
new location
See Local News, page 3



The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



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years of
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PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Stuart Walker said being a parole officer in domestic violence cases isn't easy, but he gets satisfaction in helping victims and knowing that a lot of how well they will do in the future depends on how diligently he works on his cases.

Taking Aim at Abuse

Domestic violence work has its rewards

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Stuart Walker, 40, has worked his entire career to ensure Portland homes are healthy, safe and abuse free.

As a parole officer for the domestic violence unit in the Multnomah county Department of Community Justice, Walker is determined to reduce violence or physical abuse directed toward spouses or domestic partners that more than often happens behind closed doors.

"The goal of what I do is to reduce recidivism—to have less crime over time," he said.

Walker, a resident of north Portland, was just named Oregon's parole and probation officer of the year by the Oregon Department of Corrections.

"It is an immense honor," said Walker. "There are a lot of POs doing a lot of great work. Just to be noticed, let alone to be picked as the PO of the year, is a great honor."

Walker said there have been a number of profound moments throughout his career, when he felt the importance of his job.

On a home visit to one of his clients, an older man on probation who had previously broken his wife's wrist during an argument, Walker interrupted another assault once he arrived. Because the man was in such bad health, Walker said his client had ordered one of his sons to also assault his wife, who was boy's mom.

"It was a profound moment because you could see all of the risk of another generation using the same violence in relationships, but in the most extreme way."

Although Walker said being a parole officer isn't easy, there are

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Finding Inspiration in Haitian Roots

Honored graduate determined to make a difference

When a devastating earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, Ewald Estanis couldn't reach his mother, five brothers and five sisters.

"I was really fearful," said the 27-year-old Estanis, who was in his first year at Portland Community College when the quake struck.

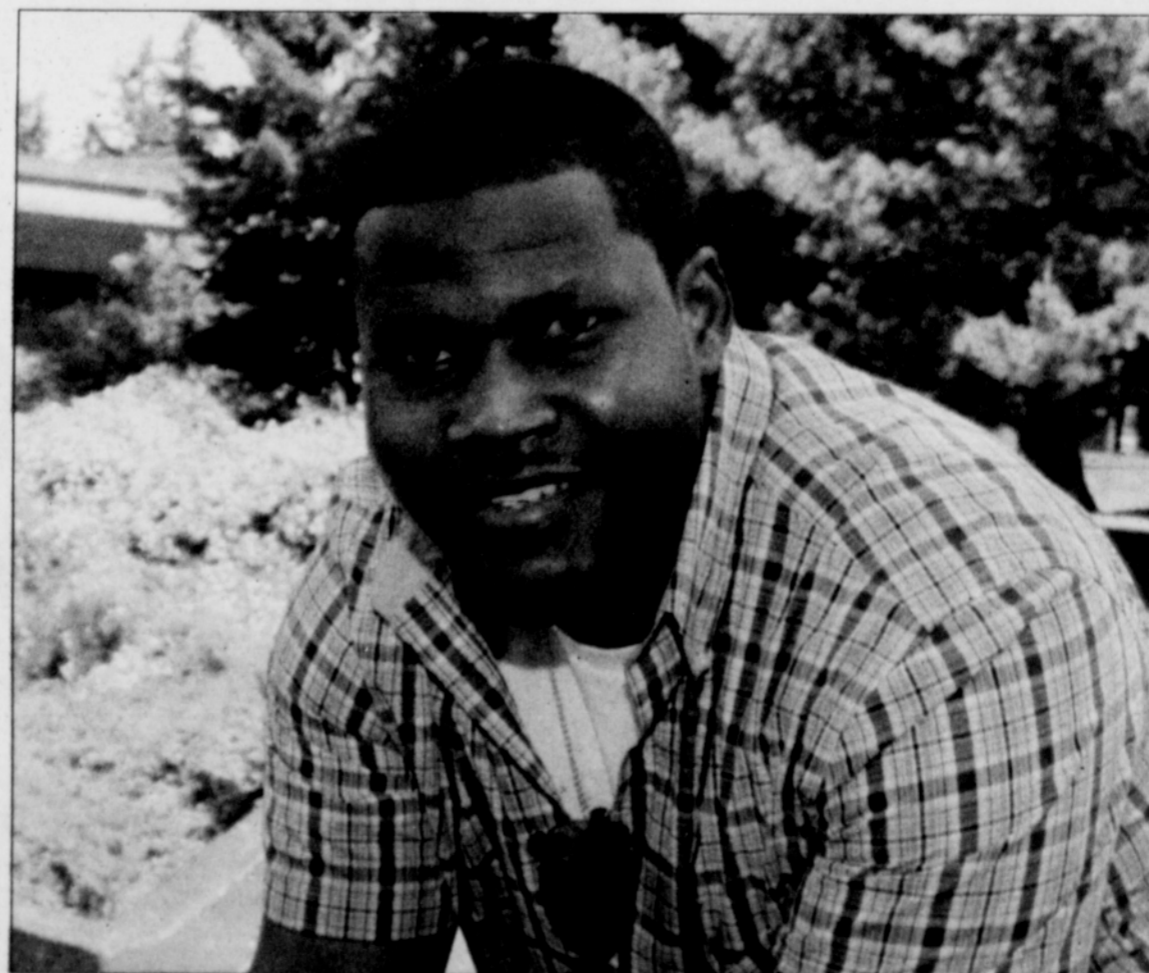
"It's one of those times where you

definitely want to be with your family, especially when you haven't heard from them for over a week; no phone calls or any other communication," he said.

Without really knowing the fate of his family, the northeast Portland resident boarded a Haiti-bound flight with a medical team to help with the rescues and recovery.

A fluent speaker of Creole, French, Spanish and English, Estanis served as a medical interpreter for two weeks

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Ewald Estanis preserved past obstacles in his native Haiti, and bumps adapting to his new country, to graduate from Portland Community College. He will deliver the student address at Saturday's commencement ceremony.