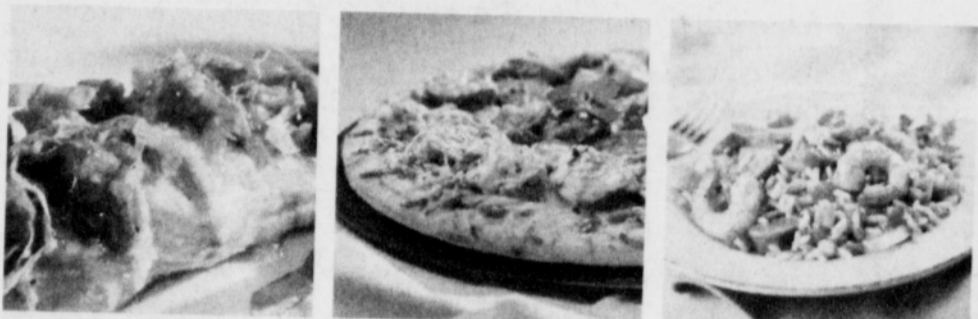


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IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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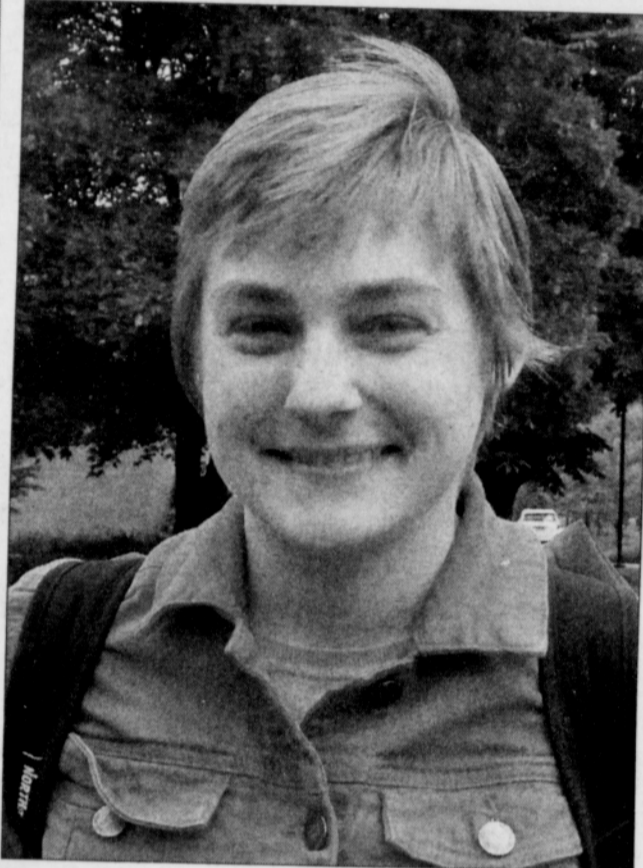


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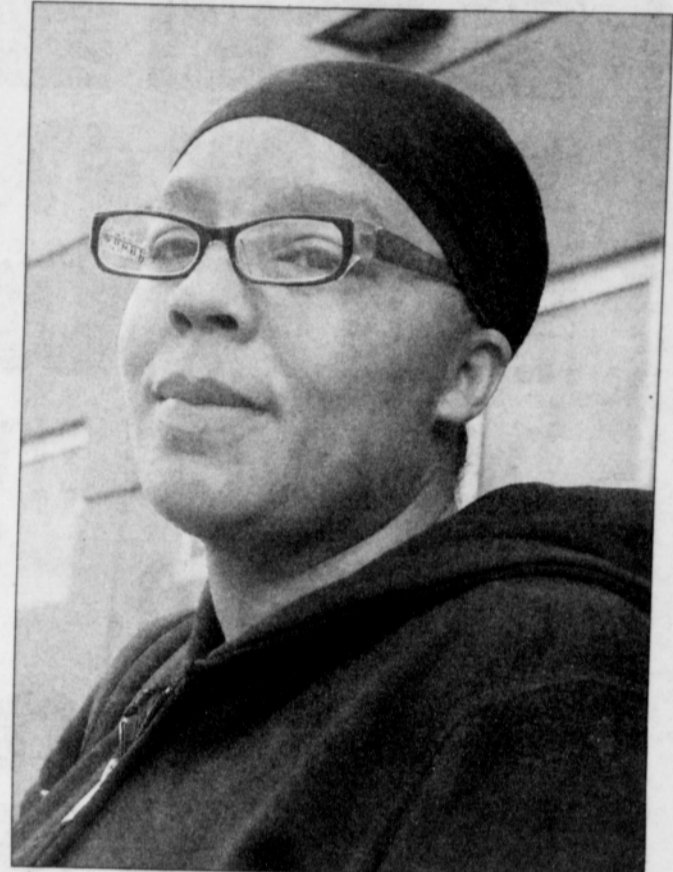
Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



Kelly Kennedy



Lamilcia Colbert

Rulings Spark a Conversation

Gay marriage goes to states in wake of court action

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many people are looking at two recent Supreme Court decisions as victories for gay rights, but last week's rulings to strike down a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and pave the way for same-sex marriage in California, also leave many of the decisions on gay marriage up to states.

There are currently 12 states where same-sex couples can legally wed. Oregon is not one of those states. The Portland Observer took to the streets immediately after the

court's decisions to get people's reactions.

"I think it's long overdue and I'm glad they made that ruling" said Kelly Kennedy

"You can't control the race, religion, or sex of the person you love. I think it's a good thing," said Greys Frankie.

Steven Moss says people have a right to be with whomever they choose, but on the issue of marriage he feels differently.

"Everybody has a right to be with who they want. If you want to be with the same-sex that's your right

but to be married, no," Moss said. Moss, however, draws a line on laws against same sex relationships, because of his belief in basic human rights.

"I just don't think you should be punished for your lifestyle, and that's what that law was doing," he said.

Lamilcia Colbert was happy about the Supreme Court's decision, but thinks there is more work to be done.

"I think it [referring to same-sex marriage] should be legal all over, you can't control who you love," she said.

Mayor's Aide Suspended 1 Week

After some questionable moves by Baruti Artharee, a long-time Portland African-American executive, and one of Mayor Charlie Hales' top aides, the mayor has decided to suspend Artharee from his job for one week without pay and ordered him to complete diversity training.

The controversy was sparked on June 6 when Artharee made some suggestive comments towards Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, another African-American official, at an event for black community leaders.

Smith and a legion of witnesses confirmed Mr. Artharee as stating "Here is our beautiful Commissioner Loretta Smith-mmm,mmm,mmm,she looks good tonight," while introducing the public official at the event.

A letter signed by 23 women



Baruti Artharee

leaders and advocacy groups mailed to Hales and made public over the weekend condemned Artharee for "sexually suggestive and demeaning public comments towards

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith" and urged the mayor to punish his aide soon. After the incident, both Hales and Artharee apologized to the Commissioner.

Artharee maintained his regular duties as Hales' public safety adviser as the city's Human Resource office investigated.

A report by the office issued Friday found that Artharee was in violation of a city code against harassment but also concluded he did not intend for his comments to be demeaning.

The investigation found that Artharee also had prior occurrences in which he commented on the commissioner's physical appearance, but could not verify an allegation that he made a suggestive motion with his hips.