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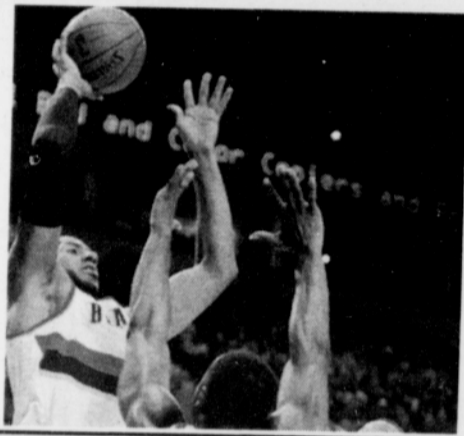
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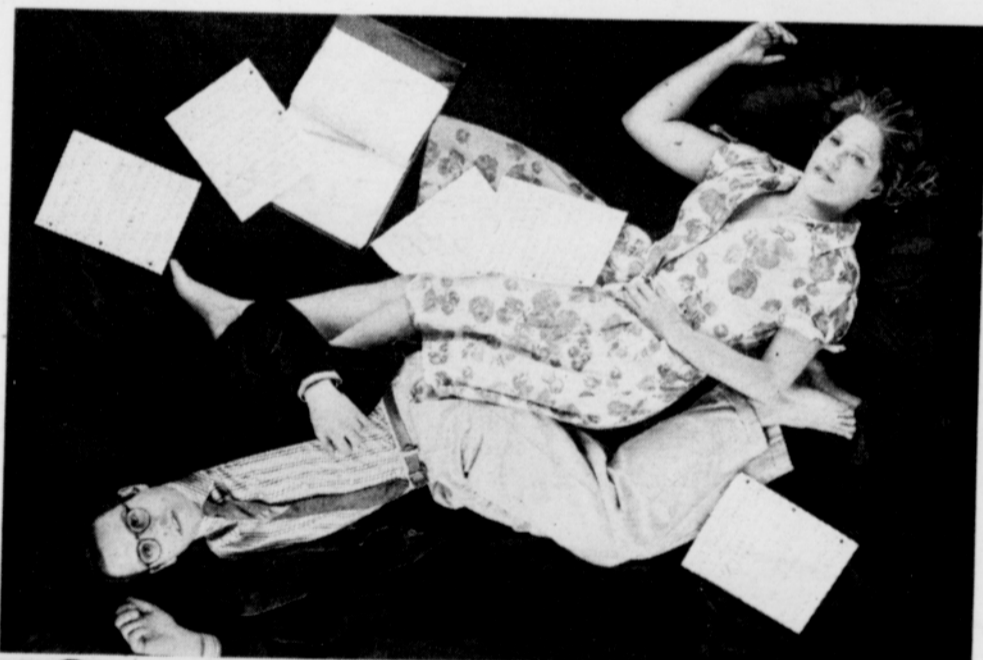
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What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith (left) and Teresa Raiford, one her election opponents, address housing issues during a recent candidates forum in north Portland.

## Ballots Going Out

### Commissioner's race highlights May 20 Primary

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A Multnomah County Commission race has the only elected official from Portland's African American community in a faceoff against three other black candidates and highlights the upcoming May 20 Primary.

Ballots in the vote-by-mail election start going out Wednesday and should start arriving in mail boxes by the weekend, county election officials said Tuesday.

Smith who came into her position three years ago, says she is seeking re-election against the backdrop of what she's accomplished in office and being a staunch advocate for senior and housing issues.

Her challengers include public access TV show host and a perennial candidate for other elected positions Bruce Broussard; Concordia University master's student Kevin Hall, and Portland businesswoman and activist Teresa Raiford.

Smith calls economic issues and what being done to combat poverty her most important priorities.

"I stand up for the most vulnerable. When they wanted to take away tax cuts for our seniors, when

they wanted to take away our budget for parks, I'm the one that put in an amendment to bring full funding back," Smith says.

She says more services are needed in east Portland where there's been an influx of people with lower incomes. The movement of social needs away from the city core is reflected in the growing number of students on free and reduced lunches in the David Douglas and Reynolds school districts.

"I think that poverty has extended itself from central Portland to east county, so now we must figure out how to deliver our social services, our wraparound services," says Smith a former longtime field representative for U.S Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

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## Championship Coach Remembered

### Jack Ramsay led Blazers to the only NBA title

His colorful coaching style was matched only by his equally colorful fashion sense on the sidelines. But sadly, the most prolific head coach in Portland Trail Blazers history has died.

Dr. Jack Ramsay, who coached the franchise to its first and only NBA Championship in 1977, lost his battle with cancer Monday in Naples, Fla. Affectionately called "Dr. Jack" by Trail Blazers fans and all around the NBA, Ramsay was 89.

Ramsay coached the Trail Blazers from 1976-1986, highlighted by



1977 Trail Blazers head coach Jack Ramsay

defeating the Philadelphia 76ers for the 1977 NBA Title. Overall, he accumulated a record of 864 wins and 783 losses in 21 years of coaching with four NBA franchises -- Philadelphia, Buffalo, Portland and Indiana. In 1992, Ramsay was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, along with the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. The Number "77" hangs retired in the rafters of Moda Center in his honor.

"The Portland Trail Blazers and indeed the NBA have lost an authentic original in Dr. Jack Ramsay. In leading this franchise to its first NBA Championship, Dr. Jack set a standard of excellence for his players, coaches and all who crossed his path," said Trail Blazers Owner Paul Allen.