

inside  
**Robert Ball works  
to restructure  
city government**  
Page 17

Portland, Oregon FREE

## Talk of the town

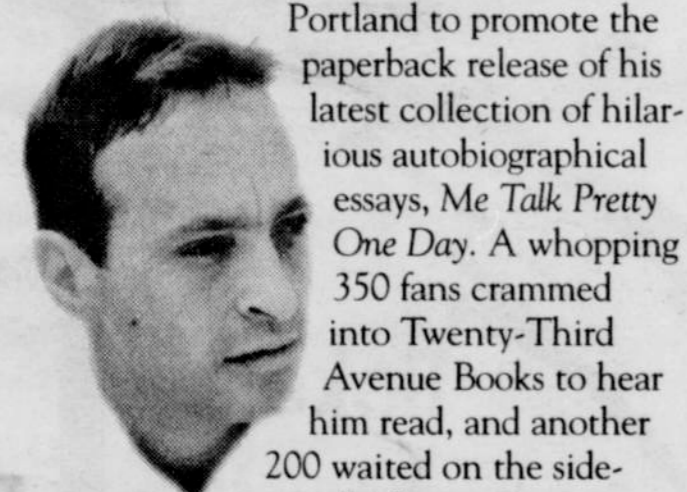
Speaking well  
of David Sedaris

BY MARC ACITO

I've interviewed some people so reluctant to speak I wanted to reach across the table and tear the words right out of their throats. Writer David Sedaris is not one of those people.

Considering the 43-year-old humorist is best known for his regular appearances on National Public Radio and Public Radio International's *This American Life*, it came as no surprise to me that he is a good talker. What did surprise me, however, is that the man who *Publishers Weekly* referred to as "Garrison Keillor's evil twin" and whose wit often is called "razor-sharp" and "acid" is so completely, unfailingly nice.

I got to have coffee with the best-selling author last month while he was in



David Sedaris

Portland to promote the paperback release of his latest collection of hilarious autobiographical essays, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*. A whopping 350 fans crammed into Twenty-Third Avenue Books to hear him read, and another 200 waited on the sidewalk! For our interview we sat outside the

Heathman Hotel so Sedaris could smoke, and he told me why he thought it was important to be cordial to his fans. "I went to a signing once—it was Sandra Bernhard—and she had a friend with her and she talked to her friend the whole time," he says, incredulous. "All any of us wanted was a kind word or some eye contact even...had she given it to any of us we would have been there when her next book came out."

Continued on Page 36

## So Far, So Good

\*  
The Rural Organizing Project  
has been pulling together  
people from every corner of  
Oregon for 10 years

Page 26

# BUILDING BRIDGES

## Pride 2001 exceeds all expectations

Page 46



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



Pride participants in Eugene (upper left and right) and Portland have fun in the sun