

Carlesimo Taking New Steps

P.J. Carlesimo coaches the Portland Trail Blazers in his first year in the NBA.



See Sports, page B2.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR

25th ANNIVERSARY

King Birthday Issue

The Portland Observer pays tribute to the life of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



See special Section C, inside.

The Portland Observer 25¢

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Brown Says He's Staying

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown has denied rumors that he will quit his post in order to head up President Clinton's 1996 re-election bid. Brown called the rumors "pure speculation." He said he had the best job in the world and had no plans to resign.

Economist Sees Inner City Gold

Hailed economist Michael E. Porter, author of the cluster theory of global economic growth, says inner cities in America can be turned into economic boom towns. The Harvard professor argues that even though the incomes of inner city residents are low, their concentration in relatively small areas near downtowns represent tremendous purchasing power.

Jackson Considers Another Run

Rev. Jesse Jackson took his "Rise up and vote" message to London during the recent holiday period. Jackson delivered an address on British television accusing the country's ruling Conservative Party and the increasingly powerful Republican Party in America of both pushing policies which are harmful to blacks, other minorities and women. He also indicated that he is considering challenging President Clinton for election in 1996.

Independent Party Finds Favor

Two surveys show that at least 50 percent of African Americans would join an independent political party. Experts say that independent politics is rapidly becoming a viable option to blacks tired of a two-party system which has not delivered and many say has taken the black vote for granted. Dr. Ronald Waters, of Howard University, says, "It seems that in the last decade the number of blacks who said they would join an independent party has doubled."

Jurors Chosen in Simpson Trial

The primary and alternative jury has been seated to hear evidence in the O.J. Simpson trial. The primary panel includes eight women and four men of which eight are African-American, two Hispanic, one white and one mixed-race. The alternate jury panel is comprised of nine women and three men of which seven are black, four white and one Hispanic.

Nation's Population Grows

The U.S. population is about 261.6 million people, an increase of 2.5 million or about 1 percent over New Year's Day last year, according to the Census Bureau. The country's largest states are California, Texas and New York.

New Murder Rates Compared

According to the Justice Department, young black men were almost 14 times more likely to be murdered during 1992 than the general population. Black males age 12 to 24 were victims of homicide at a rate of about 115 per 100,000. Young black males constituted 17.7 percent of all homicide victims, even though they were only 1.3 percent of the U.S. population.

'It's Going To Be Gorgeous' Work Moves Forward On King Statute

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON

A series of clay prototypes have added life to the plans for erecting a statue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Artist and sculptor Michael Dente has produced a new series of models for the work.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Sculpture Project has been a grass roots effort over several years to erect an 8-foot monument of King and three supporting figures.

Organizers are hoping fundraising will be in place to cast the monument later this year with dedication just a year away. Space for the statue has already been reserved on the convention center grounds on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Dente said he expects to create the bigger than life size oil clay, plywood and styrofoam mold by this spring or summer, which would then be ready for casting at the foundry. The finished product would be cast of bronze.

This great monument is to be dedicated to the sacrifices of Dr. King and the countless number of people who believed in his dream for freedom and the on-going march for truth and justice.

Placed at the convention center, it will send out a message to the world that Oregon remembers and believes in King's dream and struggle.

"It's going to be gorgeous," Dente said, describing the work from his home in north Portland.

His models have evolved by incorporating his own experience with the ideas of committee members of the non-profit memorial project organization.



Artist Michael Dente shows the sculptured prototype, a model in miniature of the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial statue, promoters plan to erect at the Oregon Convention Center.

The prototypes show Dr. King stepping forward to deliver his message of universal equality, freedom, and justice.

A young man has his sleeve rolled up symbolizes a readiness to continue King's work. A little girl lets go of

King's coat tail to represent the process of moving ahead in life with independence. A young woman represents the immigration of our society with the hope of a land with great potential.

Dente, a professor at the University of Portland, was selected as the sculptor in 1992. His works include the life size bronze monument of St. Francis of Assisi with a wolf and a lamb at the Grotto in northeast Portland.

Other works include the "Naming of Mt. Jefferson," depicting Captain William Clark in 1806 from Wauds Bluff on the University of Portland campus. This monument also includes figures of York, a black slave, later freed by Clark, and a Willamette Valley Cushook Indian guide.

Dente was chosen as the sculptor of the King statue because of his experience in ethnic themes and his remarkable ability to capture the passion of humanity in his figures.

Memorial Needs Financial Support

You can help make the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Sculpture a reality through your financial support.

It's expected to cost up to \$150,000 to complete the project on the grounds of the Oregon Convention Center.

Donations can be sent to the Martin Luther King Jr. Sculpture Fund, P.O. Box 1809, Portland, OR 97207. For more information you can call 283-1638.

Katz Prepares The State Of The City Address

During last year's State of the City address, Mayor Vera Katz stressed her commitment to re-bridging the gap between the people and their elected officials by providing a more responsive and accessible city government. Through the Portland/Multnomah County Progress Board and the Office of Ombudsman -- both Katz creations -- she is working to mend what she called a "rupture of trust" between government and the people.

On Friday, January 13, Mayor Vera Katz will reflect on the year 1994 -- a year of economic growth and prosperity in Portland -- and will outline her goals for '95. Katz's commitment to her top priorities -- public safety, economic enhancement and development, and government efficiency and responsiveness -- has remained consistent throughout her term. Join us, as Mayor Katz discusses the state of our city, and shares her vision for a challenging New Year.

Benson Hotel, Mayfair Room. Program



Mayor Vera Katz

12:15-1:15 p.m. Luncheon reservations and cancellations, call 222-2582 by 2 p.m. Thursday, January 12; \$11 members, \$15 non-members. Coffee tickets available at the door, limited free seating in back. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Musical Tribute To Martin Luther King Jr.

KOIN-TV will broadcast a one-hour prime time musical presentation, "Now is the Time, A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr." featuring James DePreist and the Oregon Symphony, Sunday, January 15 at 8 p.m. The program, highlighting the work of Joseph Schwantner, opens with remarks from Ed Bradley of the CBS News magazine 60 Minutes and is hosted by NewsCenter 6 weekend

anchor Ken Boddie. Included in the program is an interview with Mr. DePreist and a special story about local area school children who are emulating Dr. King's dream.

The program highlights the Schwantner work, "New Morning for the World: daybreak of Freedom" which includes sections of narration by baritone Raymond Bazemore.

Coretta King To Visit

Coretta Scott King will come to Portland Thursday, Jan. 19 to celebrate the recording release of the Oregon Symphony's special tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

Music Director James DePreist leads the orchestra for the world-premiere recording of Nicolas Flagello's "The Passion of Martin Luther King" and Joseph Schwantner's "New Morning for the World: Daybreak of Freedom."

Mrs. King, the widow of the late civil rights leader, wrote the forward for the booklet the accompanies the recording, available on tape and compact disc.

The Urban League of Portland will be the beneficiary of a reception to celebrate the release, inspired by the life and words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Patron Party with Mrs. King and James DePreist will take place at the Heathman Hotel at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person.

A second Community Reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Lobby of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Urban League or Oregon Symphony; \$35 for non-members.

The Community Reception will feature a performance by the Cultural Recreation Band, a Northeast Portland youth orchestra. At 7:30 p.m. all guests will move into the Concert Hall to hear remarks by James DePreist and Coretta Scott King and see a screening of the Symphony's September performance of "New Morning for the World." A video excerpt will also be broadcast on Sunday, Jan. 15.

"Music can be an incredible mediator," said Urban League President and CEO Lawrence J. Dark. "We thank the Oregon Sym-



Music Director James DePreist

phony for selecting us as the beneficiary of this reception and for honoring the memory of another great mediator, Dr. King."

"I believe this music to be the finest inspired by the life and words of Martin Luther King Jr.," said James DePreist. "It is gratifying to see a product of such artistic merit receive such a high level of national attention." The recording received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copland Fund for Music, Bank of America, Nike, and R.R. Donnelley and Sons. The Portland release party is being co-sponsored by Nike and Bank of America.

Reception tickets are on sale now at the Urban League, 10 N. Russell St., (503) 280-2600. Copies of the recording (KOCH International Classics CD 7293) will be available at the reception and in record stores after Jan. 15.