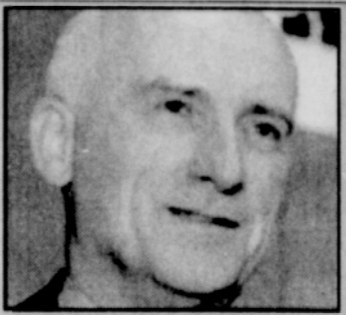


Schrunk Puts DA's Into Neighborhoods

Multnomah County's District Attorney Michael Schrunk wins praise for community policing effort.



See Metro, inside.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th ANNIVERSARY

Famous Dancers

The Alvin Ailey dancers perform at Portland's Schnitzer Hall.



See Entertainment, page B3.

The Portland Observer 25¢

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Row
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Leaders Stand By Foster

With hearings coming up later this month for his confirmation as U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster is gaining broad support among black organizations and their leaders.

Portland Hosts Affirmative Action Group

The American Association for Affirmative Action has selected Portland for its 21st annual conference, April 5-8 at the Portland Hilton Hotel.

Jackson Talks Presidency Again

Accusing President Clinton of not putting up much of a fight against Republican attacks on civil rights, Jesse Jackson recently indicated that he was considering a third run for President of the United States.

"The Stones" Tour Gets Snub

The Rolling Stones recently performed two concerts in South Africa, attracting nearly 100,000 people. But very few of the country's black population attended.

Selma March Anniversary Noted

Hundreds of blacks and other supporters of civil rights recently commemorated the historic Selma to Montgomery March with a reenactment.



Portland Police make a stop at the Portland Observer, 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., after finishing a training session for bicycle patrols at the nearby Northeast Precinct.

(Photo by Charles Washington)

Governor Supports Toran In CSD Tiff

BY PROMISE KING

Gov. John Kitzhaber has come out strongly in support of Kay Toran, Oregon's Childrens Services Division (CSD) administrator and gives her critics hard knocks for what he describes as unfair criticism.

The governor told the Portland Observer in an exclusive interview in his office last week, that he won't fire Toran because he has full faith in her ability to perform her duties.

Toran has come under recent criticism since the state agency took away six children from a Portland area family after a spanking, accusing the parents of child abuse.

Rep. Bob Tiernan, a Republican from Lake Oswego, has led the charge.

Tiernan even stormed a press conference organized by CSD and spewed attacks on the social agency administrator.

"Quite frankly, I'm upset with the tone of the criticism, which is inappropriate,"



Gov. John Kitzhaber

Kitzhaber said.

Tiernan told the Portland Observer Monday, he would not apologize to Toran "for anything apart from interrupting her press conference."

He admitted it was bad manners.

But Tiernan said he's waiting for Toran to apologize to the family involved in the alleged child abuse case.

He's demanding a full investigation of the case workers involved and said those responsible for the childrens' removal should be fired, even if it includes Toran.

Meanwhile, support is piling up for Toran from both from in and outside the African American community.

Some leaders want Tiernan to offer an immediate public apology and a commitment to change his behavior.

"His immature, disrespectful and insulting behavior, in breaking in on the CSD press conference and publicly calling for the firing of Ms. Toran, was unbecoming of a member of the House of Representatives and it brings shame to other responsible legislators," said Maceo Pettis of the Coalition of Black Men.

The incident made some question whether Tiernan has some special problem with people of color or with women.

The African American Legislative Roundtable has also expressed concern over Tiernan's behavior.

Toran said over the weekend that she has not faced this kind of criticism since she joined the agency as administrator and stressed that these incidents were very upsetting.

Before coming to CSD four years ago, Toran had garnered incredible credentials as an administrator.

She previously served as CSD Metro Region Administrator, Clackamas CSD Branch Manager and purchasing division administrator at the Department of General Services.

She served as director of affirmative action for former Gov. Vic Atiyeh and was an assistant professor of social work at Portland State University.

She has a master's degree in social work and bachelor degree in sociology, psychology and philosophy.

She sits on many board and advisory committees.

Toran told the Portland Observer, that the criticism won't stampede her into abandoning her priorities for the agency.

Her agenda includes a continued emphasis on family preservation and readiness to implement a plan to enhance community participation and effective partnerships.

She said she wants to ensure a smooth transition from CSD to a new office for services to children and families.

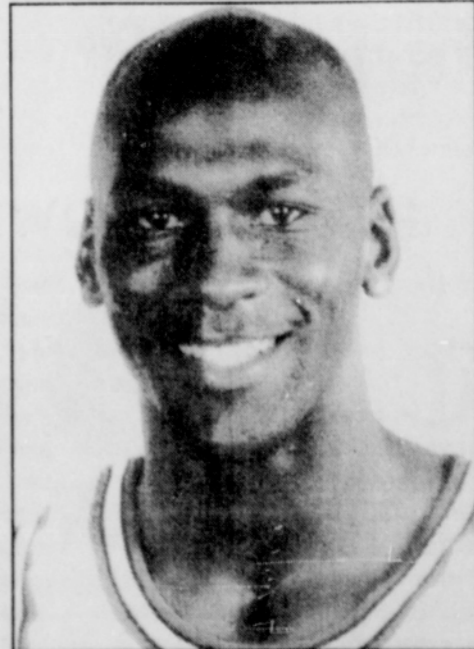
Her top priorities also are to play a key role in new laws in Oregon's juvenile justice system and to advocate for a balanced approach in juvenile corrections, while expanding county partnerships and community-based programs.

Michael Jordan Soars Again

BY ERIC NOON

It's been along time since Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team and it's been 17 months since he walked away from the NBA at the very pinnacle of his career.

With three world championships in a row (91-93), seven scoring titles and three league most valuable player awards, Jordan was the best player the world has seen. But what brought Jordan back to tryout again for varsity in high school, brought him back to



Michael Jordan

Continued to page A3



Congratulations to the 108 honor roll students at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. Two students, Comara Thomas and Shania Price-Hale had a perfect 4.0 grade point average. The others had a grade point of 3.0 or higher.

(Photo By Donn Thomas)

EDITORIAL

A2

HOUSING

A4

HEALTH

A5

SPORTS

A7

RELIGION

A8

ENTERTAINMENT

B2

CLASSIFIEDS

B5