

Sara Jessie Shines

University of Oregon runner dominates at track and field.



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Latest Styles On Revue

The Ebony Fashion Fair comes to Portland.



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Coleman Leaves Hospital

Former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young was released from the hospital recently after a week-long stay for pneumonia complicated by chronic emphysema. Young, 76, was known as a heavy cigarette smoker during his five terms as mayor of Detroit.

Rights To Image Awards Sold

The rights to the NAACP's annual Image Awards has been bought by Don Cornelius, the producer of the long-running Soul Train program. The NAACP show was blamed for draining \$1.4 million from the civil rights organization. Under the new contract, the awards will move from the NBC network to Fox.

FBI Pays Shabazz Informer

Court hearings have revealed that the FBI agreed to pay the informer in the alleged murder-for-hire plot against Louis Farrakhan \$45,000. Michael Fitzpatrick recently told the U.S. District Court in Minnesota that he already has been paid \$34,000.

Car Lending Bias Examined

According to published reports, the federal government is investigating whether the finance departments at the big three U.S. auto companies have discriminated against racial minorities by charging them higher interest rates on car loans.

Law Would Open Bank Books

Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn has introduced legislation to require banks and other commercial lenders to open up their books for greater scrutiny. The reason: Wynn is convinced the lenders are discriminating against minorities when it comes to mortgages and business loans.

Xerox Praised For Diversity

The Glass Ceiling Commission has bestowed the Xerox Corp. an award for diversity and excellence in management. The Stamford, Conn. company employs 47,200 people of which 32 percent are women and 26 percent minority. Of Xerox's U.S. vice presidents and directors, 18 percent are minorities and 15 percent are women.

Poll Rejects Affirmative Action

A new ABC News/Washington Post survey finds that nearly 75 percent of white Americans oppose affirmative action programs for black and other minorities. Affirmative action programs were designed to give preferences to minorities for jobs, scholarships and government contracts as a way to make up for past discrimination. Only 52 percent of blacks interviewed voiced support for the programs.

Keyes Joins Race For Presidency

Conservative African American Alan Keyes has announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. He sounded a theme which included opposition to abortion and called for the beating of fathers who fail to support their children. Keyes is a controversial figure who has been accused by mainstream African American leaders of being anti-black.



Tri-Met Makes Tracks

Ties and rail for Westside Max are in place between Southwest 185th and 170th in Washington County. Rail that has been welded into 960-foot sections is stored next to the track. By the end of the year, tracks will be installed from Southwest 158th to the west tunnel portal near Sylvan.

(Photo by Tim Jewett)

Tiernan: Enemy Or Emissary?

BY PROMISE KING

Robert Reis Tiernan, 39, a Republican state representative from Lake Oswego, is a former lawyer with the National Labor Relations Board who is now in private practice as counsel to over 60 businesses.

As chairman of the Oregon House Reform Committee, he is charged with making necessary changes in the way government does its business.

Tiernan has served in the Navy for about 12 years. He is a reserve Navy lieutenant-commander and recently he was in Panama, busting drug lords. He is a Vietnam veteran activist.

The impression you begin to draw from Tiernan is that of a high-profile businessman, a no-nonsense politician and a courageous naval officer.

You are right in as far as it relates to his portfolio and not his attitude to life.

Tiernan is not your ordinary politician placated by rhetoric or bullied by intimidations.

He is fearless and relentless in his pursuit of what he believes is good for Oregonians. He forays his beliefs unrepentantly, even to the verge of insensitivity. Consequently, creating many enemies even among his political peers.

Tiernan recently spoke from his heart, exclusively with the Portland Observer, in the state capitol. He talked about his life in politics, his legislative plans to undo "big government" and about his friends and his enemies.

Ironically, this two-term legislator de-



Rep. Robert Tiernan, R-Lake Oswego

tests being defined as a politician.

He said the word connotes something negative in his mind.

"Like you flip-flop like a fish," Tiernan said. "That is not the way I am. I'd like to consider myself an emissary or a diplomat for the people."

Tiernan's understanding of what Oregonians want, fits well with the conservative

slogan of "less government and lower taxes."

"I think most Oregonians want a more efficient government, they want smaller government and at the same time they want criminals that are convicted to do their term," he said, in a manner of prosecutorial indignity.

Tiernan's interest in politics dates back to his high school days. But his resolve to

seek public office came during his tenure with the Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C., watching federal politicians shuffle issues to create laws.

He returned to Oregon in 1983 and three years later tried unsuccessfully for a seat in the state senate. He lost to Lake Oswego Democrat Joyce Cohen.

Tiernan tried again in 1990 and lost. He won his current seat in 1992.

His fame or if you wish, his notoriety, came early when he headed a judicial subcommittee as a freshman lawmaker.

Tiernan has used his hard-won political mandate to undo legislation that was unbeneficial to big businesses.

Last year, he successfully nipped the state employee unions over pension plans. A move that made him famous among employers and notorious among state employees.

But that was not the beginning of Tiernan's notoriety.

"The first big fight I had here (Salem) was trying to defeat the sales tax on the floor last session," he said.

Tiernan also clashed with a coalition of Republicans and Democrats over increasing gas taxes and vehicle registration fees.

He fondly recalls the maneuvers he took to kill the bill.

Tiernan may sing like a good Republican and bark like the Newt Gingrich new-breed conservatives, but when it comes to respecting others he doesn't allow politics to get on his way.

"There are people I don't respect around here" Tiernan said. "They are the ones who say one thing and do something else."

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Gordly Refused Minimum Wage Hearing

Rep. Avel Gordly, D-Portland is protesting the hearings process in the Legislature in Salem after being refused a hearing on her proposed law to raise the minimum wage.

Gordly's bill would raise the minimum wage in Oregon from \$4.75 to 6.35 an hour. But the legislation is stalled in the House Labor Committee chaired by Rep. John Watt, R-Medford.

Watt has refused to give the bill a hearing unless Gordly could nail down the

necessary 31 votes to pass the measure in the House.

Gordly responded on the floor with the following statement:

"I question a process that is supposed to be democratic and deliberative that says you must have 31 votes before you can get a hearing on any issue.

"Something is wrong with a process that says you must commit before you have heard any public testimony, before there has been any thoughtful deliberation of an issue.

"On behalf of the folks, most of whom are women who are trying to pay rent, feed and clothe their families, and pay child care on \$4.75 an hour, I protest the process and say that not hearing the minimum wage bill is no way to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable folks in our state - woman and children," Gordly said.

It's estimated there are over 40,000 people in Oregon making the minimum wage of \$4.75. Fifty-eight percent of them are women, Gordly said.

VIEWS NOT SUPPORTED

The Portland Observer wants to publicly issue a retraction to a letter to the editor in last week's edition regarding the Oregon Judicial System.

The article, entitled "Who Will Ask," does not reflect the views of the publisher or members of the Portland Observer staff.

We apologize for not realizing that this letter was written by Stressla Johnson, 38, a murderer of two African-American women in our community. Johnson's death sentence was overturned in 1993. He is currently at the Oregon State Penitentiary, serving two life sentences without the possibility of parole.

Joyce Washington, Publisher

EDITORIAL

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