

Trent For Home Team

Trail Blazer rookie Gary Trent is in northeast Portland's King Neighborhood. What's he's doing?



See Metro, inside.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th ANNIVERSARY

Jazz Sensation Boney James

Contemporary Jazz Saxophonist Boney James and his new album, Seduction.



See Arts And Entertainment, page B3.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Civil Rights Leader Chosen

President Clinton has named A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. of Massachusetts to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Until he retired in 1993, Higginbotham served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals. He has more than 60 honorary degrees. The commission was established in 1957 to investigate voting and civil rights discrimination complaints.

Schools Get Gloomy Report

The nation's schools have made few academic gains and in some cases even lost ground since its 10-year quest to reach ambitious improvement goals by the year 2000. According to last week's report by the National Education Goals Panel, infants are healthier, parents are reading more to their children and math scores have climbed. But reading scores of high school seniors have dropped and student drug use has climbed.

Assassination Report Ignored

The Israeli secret service, already under attack for letting an assassin approach Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin unchallenged, acknowledged on Sunday it had received a tip in June about the confessed killer's intentions and did not follow-up. The disclosure shocked the grieving nation.

Seattle's Mayor Is Funniest

Seattle Mayor Norman Rice won a "funniest mayor" contest last weekend by comparing his rain-soaked city to a moisturizing pad and speaking in an underwater gurgle. The African American leader was on HBO's "Comic Relief VII" show. Rice also made humor about Seattle's green image.

Glickman Leaves Trail Blazers

Marshall Glickman, who rose from ball boy to president of Portland Trail Blazers, Inc. and the Oregon Arena Project, resigned on Friday. Glickman, the son of Trail Blazer founder Harry Glickman, said he wanted to explore future career opportunities. But there was speculation of power play moves in the Blazer front office.

James Brown's Wife Recants Abuse

James Brown's wife now denies he hit her and wants to drop domestic violence charges against him. "This has been a total mistake," Adrienne Brown said in an affidavit released Friday in Columbia, S.C. Brown, 62, was arrested Oct. 31 after his wife called 9-1-1 and told deputies he hit her in the face. She said in the affidavit, she accidentally hit a mirror.

Governor Finds Approval Rating

After 10 months in office, Gov. John Kitzhaber has an approval rating of 69 percent among fellow Democrats and a respectable 43 percent among Republicans, according to a recent poll. The ratings are among the highest of any Oregon governor in recent history.

Maxey Honored For Lifetime Achievement

A longtime Portland resident who was denied a teaching job in the city because he was black and then went on to become a successful businessman was honored Saturday with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Charles B. Maxey was flatly turned down when he applied for a teaching position in Portland in the 1940s. He had experience as a teacher and coach before coming to Oregon, having graduated from Texas College in 1940 with a major in economics.

But he was told for a black man he was "too young" to be teaching young white women.

Maxey pushed aside the racism and built a successful life as an entrepreneur and community activist.

He said it was a move he never regretted. A native of St. Augustine, Texas, he moved to Portland in 1943 to work in the shipyards before applying for a teaching job.

In recalling the school system rejection, Maxey said, "It was hideous.

"I could have been discouraged and broken when I wasn't able to make a living in the area that I was trained," he said.

Maxey had options because of his college training. He opened Maxey's Barber Shop, originally on Northeast Weidler Street.

His other ventures were Maxey's Better Buys Grocery, an appliance store on Weidler, a liquor store on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Fremont Street and a three-store commercial property investment in northeast Portland.

Maxey has served as a leader in the

Urban League of Portland and the NAACP's Portland branch. He has been a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and is a founding member of the groups' local graduate center and undergraduate chapters at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

He and his wife of 56 years, Johnnie Obina are the parents of five adult children; Caroline Avidon of Israel; Virginia Johnson of Virginia; Donna Easter of Oakland, Calif.; and Charles W. Maxey and Johnathan R. Maxey of Portland.

A long-time member of Bethel AME Church, Maxey also is active in youth and church activities.

Maxey was among six African American men honored for "taking a stand and making a difference," by the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during a banquet at Shenanigans's on the Willamette.

The others honored for going "beyond the 9 to 5 to ensure our community's growth," were Lorenzo Poe for youth services; Roy Jay and Bernie Foster for business achievement and Charles Jordan and Art Alexander for community service.

Poe is director of Multnomah County's Department of Community and Family Services. Foster is publisher of the Skanner newspaper of Portland and Seattle.

Jay leads Roy Jay Enterprises and the Oregon Convention and Visitors Services. Jordan is director of the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Alexander serves as executive assistant to Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg.



Charles B. Maxey, recipient of the Kappa Alpha Psi Lifetime Achievement Award, pictured above with his wife Johnnie Obina Maxey.

Powell Won't Run For President

Colin Powell, a black son of Jamaican immigrants whose father came to America on a banana boat, seemed formidable presidential material as a soldier-hero with the popular appeal of a Dwight Eisenhower.

But Powell, 58, a retired four-star general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced on Wednesday after a long period of private agonizing that he will not run for president in 1996 despite heavy public pressure to do so.

That deflated a "Powellmania" phenomenon fanned by polls suggesting he could beat Democratic President Bill Clinton and provide a fresh, exciting new brand of national leadership.

But the speculation had also been tempered by talk that perhaps the general — a dignified if not Olympian figure — could not stomach the sort of wilting public scrutiny and questioning a White House candidate must endure.

That point seemed prophetic as Powell admitted at a news conference that a presidential run would require "a passion and a commitment that despite my every effort I did not yet have."

The sense of letdown among supporters high and low was sharpened by his record of integrity and glittering achievement. He had raised himself up from obscurity to rarified heights as the first black chief of the U.S. military in the sort of rags-to-riches saga success story people love.

Many simply assumed he would seek the White House — how could he not? — and his saga inevitably sparked comparison with the Eisenhower epic of 1952.

"Ike," a popular idol since his days as allied commander in Europe in World War II, was drafted into presidential politics by Republican leaders who knew a winner when they saw one. He rode a wave of "I Like Ike" enthusiasm to an easy victory, and two White House terms.

Powell was always uneasy with the "black Ike" parallels.

"I'm not Dwight Eisenhower," he told television interviewer David Frost. "I'm Colin Powell."

And there were some hard realities he was well aware of.

Recent polls showed him running behind Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole among Republicans, even though he did better than Dole when matched against Clinton.

Many conservative Republicans consider Powell too liberal because of his stated support for abortion rights, gun control and

New York.

He was commissioned a U.S. Army second lieutenant in 1958.

His career assignments ranged from two combat tours as a junior officer in Vietnam, where he survived a helicopter crash, to plum Pentagon jobs, military colleges and White House advisory stints. It was quickly apparent he was on the fast-track and he climbed steadily to four-star general rank.

His tenure as chairman of the joint chiefs ran from Oct. 1, 1989 under Republican



Gen. Colin Powell and one of his many honors, the Spingarn Medal presented by former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks.

affirmative action programmes promoting equal opportunity for minorities in jobs and education. Some of them pledged to oppose a Powell candidacy with all they had.

Colin Luther Powell was born April 5, 1937, in New York City's tough South Bronx district, the son of a seamstress and a shipping clerk who, Powell likes to recall, arrived in America aboard a United Fruit Company steamer in 1920.

Powell's own ticket to success was the Reserve Officer Training Corps, a programme for university students that absorbed most of his energies when he was, by his own admission, a so-so student at the City College of

President George Bush until Sept. 30, 1993, under Clinton, when he retired after 35 years of service.

He caught the public eye during the 1990-91 Gulf War against Iraq, when he bore much of the burden of selling the effort to the public with crisp, clear televised briefings.

Since retiring he has worked on an autobiography that has become a runaway best-seller and, along with lucrative lecture fees, has reportedly made him a millionaire.

Powell and his wife Alma, who expressed strong misgivings against a White House run, have a grown son and two daughters.

Sternwheelers Race Sunday

The Great American Sternwheeler Race between Oregon's two famous rival sternwheelers, the "Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge" and the "Steamer Portland" is set for 2 p.m. Sunday.

The race takes place on the Willamette starting at the St. Johns railroad bridge and ending between the Fremont and Steel bridges, downtown. It's a re-match of last year's classic, in which the "Portland" narrowly defeated the "Columbia Gorge" in the first race of its kind in over 40 years.

The race also is a grand celebration of river heritage. Last year, a large number of pleasure craft and thousands of on-lookers watched from bridges, overpasses, riverbanks and waterfront parks. This year, a new inclusion in the event will be other notable boats including the members of the "Antique & Wooded Boats Society", the Sternwheeler "Cascade Queen" and the historic replica of the sailing ship "Lady Washington."

Seats are available on board the "Columbia Gorge" for guests to ride during the race.

A good location to watch the beginning of the event is at Swan Island. The best location to watch the finish of the event is Waterfront Park.

Join us as we celebrate The Portland Observer's 25th year in the community by placing an ad in our Silver Anniversary Souvenir Book.

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