

Recording America's Mood

Anna Deavere Smith is a playwright, actor and educator who will appear in Portland with "Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change."

See Arts and Entertainment, page B3.



Join In Celebrating Our

25th
ANNIVERSARY

Music Plays To The Heart

Portland's Charles Patton has taken his artistic talents to the best in contemporary Christian.



See page B4.

The Portland Observer

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Poll Shows Clinton Support

According to recent polls, voter approval of the job President Clinton is doing is on the rise, primarily due to his stand on the budget. The New York Times reports a poll showing Clinton's positive rating at 52 percent with the Republican Congress at a low of 34 percent. The support is attributed to "moderates, women and the elderly, voters who might find the Republican's budget proposals threatening."

Bull Run Conduit Repairs Needed

Portland is repairing to two conduits damaged by a landslide last week. The breakage reduced the city's water transmission capacity from the Bull Run reservoirs.

Preparation For Freeze Urged

Portland's Water Bureau is encouraging the protection of pipes in case of freezing weather. Broken pipes or even pipes dripping to avoid freezing could increase water demand dramatically. Tips to prepare for freezing weather include caulking around pipes where they enter the house and to close all foundation vents, protect outside pipes with wrappings and to drain and shot off all outside lines.

Republican Budget Faulted

An editorial in the New York Times claims the GOP has undercut its own position in the budget debate by inserting wind-fall profits to the American Medical Association. "If the Republican budget legislation were a consistent, logical effort to cut federal spending, it would deserve respect. If it put fiscal goals ahead of the wishes of big contributors, it would deserve respect. If it resisted ideological lusts, it would deserve respect. It fails all those tests," the Times said.

Alexander Criticizes EPA Cuts

Presidential Candidate Lamar Alexander slammed fellow Republicans for failing to protect the environment in attempts before Congress to gut the Environmental Protection Agency. "The Republicans in Washington are missing out on an historic opportunity to seize the high ground on the environment," said Alexander.

Peace Corps To South Africa

An historic agreement has been signed that will send Peace Corps volunteers to South Africa. By living and working at the grass roots level, the Peace Corps volunteers are expected to help further strengthen the personal ties between Americans and South Africans. Currently more than 2,500 Peace Corps volunteers are working in 36 African countries.

Rights Commission Seeks Volunteer

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission seeks a volunteer member to help it deal with the issues of protecting human rights, eliminating bigotry and enhancing a sense of community. If interested, call Helen Cheek at 823-5136.

Bank, Tri-Met Clash Over Bus Stop

By PROMISE KING
Venerable Booker of America State Bank had good intentions when he decided to immortalize the late Gladys McCoy with a memorial on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Booker did not think his monument and park named after McCoy, former Multnomah County Commission chairperson and revered community activist, would strain his relationship with Tri-Met and the Elliot Neighborhood Association.

But Booker has found himself deep in disarray over the memorial because the site also serves as a bus stop location, a designation he opposes.

How did it happen?

At the time Booker's bank considered the memorial at the intersection of Northeast Knott Street adjacent to the bank, there was already a bus stop shelter in front of the lot where the memorial was to be situated.

The bank asked Tri-Met to move the bus stop one block north to the intersection of Northeast Graham because of fears the bus stop would open the memorial to trash and drug-related activities.

Tri-Met reviewed the request and agreed. But barely five months later, the Elliot Neighborhood Association started receiving complaints from area residents that Tri-Met had not notified neighbors that the bus stop had been moved.

In response, Tri-Met on Sept. 21, wrote the bank and the neighborhood association indicating that it was relocating the bus stop back to the front of McCoy Monument.

Tri-Met spokesperson Steve Johnson told the Portland Observer that the decision to remove the bus stop in the first place was opposed to the public transportation agency's own standards.



Bank president Venerable Booker worries that a new landmark on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in honor of the late Gladys McCoy will draw litter and vandalism if Tri-Met allows a bus stop to remain in front of the memorial.

(Photo By Michael Leighton)

He said Tri-Met policy requires it to review the effects a bus stop would have on the surrounding neighborhood. Often property owners would like bus stops moved elsewhere, while riders go for more convenient location.

"We wanted to do everything we could to try to accommodate the bank's request, clearly the neighborhood association and our customers were opposed to that move," Johnson stated.

He said the location at Knott make more safety sense and was also recommended by local residents who offered solutions to trash and security concerns.

But the bank is not buying Tri-Met's explanation. It believes the agency is pandering to the neighborhood association for political reasons.

"Tri-Met is a political organization. It should not be surprising that it's new decision to move the stop again is based solely on political pressures," the bank's attorney John

Berman wrote in a letter to Tri-Met General Manager Tom Walsh.

The attorney argued that when the decision to move the bus stop was first made, all criteria were known and reviewed.

The bank, Berman said, is also troubled that Tri-Met did not furnish the names of the committee that made the decision to put the stop back in front of the Gladys McCoy's Memorial. He says the bank was never given

Continued to page A7

Both Parties Hail Hatfield

Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield, powerful chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, said Friday he will retire when his fifth term ends in 1996, ending a 46-year career in politics.

"The time is here to come back to Oregon," Hatfield said after touring a hospital in Silverton.

Hatfield, 73, a former governor of Oregon who first was elected to the Senate in 1966, is the 11th of 33 senators up for reelection next year who have said they are retiring.

His decision sets off a scramble to fill his seat just months after fellow Oregon Republican Bob Packwood resigned amid scandal after 27 years in the Senate.

A moderate Republican, Hatfield was an early opponent of the Vietnam War who has served in elective office since winning election to the Oregon Legislature in 1950.

His votes frequently have put him at

odds with fellow Republicans, most recently this year when his vote caused the defeat in the Senate of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

"While we have disagreed on issues from time to time, I have never

doubted that Mark Hatfield always stood for what he believed was right for Oregon and America," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

"Mark Hatfield is a most honorable and courageous man," said Sen.

Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the senior Democrat on the Appropriations Committee. "The Senate is losing one of its very best."

Hatfield's announcement comes in the midst of a mail-in primary election to fill Packwood's Senate term, which expires in 1998.

Gordon Smith, the multimillionaire Republican president of the state Senate, and Democratic Rep. Ron Wyden are favored to win the right to face off in the special general election next month.

Portland Observer Marks 25th Anniversary

Oregon's oldest and largest minority-owned newspaper, the Portland Observer is celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

Since its first publication in November 1970, the Portland Observer has dedicated its pages to enhancing community awareness and development.

It has also maintained credibility as a source of community news and information while striving towards journalistic excellence.

The newspaper draws its strength from its openness and its commitment to diversity.

"A city like ours calls for a newspaper that's willing to provide a diverse service. We are proud that over the years we have held this commitment," said newspaper editor Chuck Washington.

A gala celebration to mark this anniversary is scheduled at Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Cascade Plaza at 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8. A keynote address by Portland Police Chief Charles Moose and community awards to deserving recipients will be the highlights of the ceremony.



A Christmas tree framed in wrought iron expresses the mood of the holidays at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

(Photo By Michael Leighton)

EDITORIAL

HOUSING

HEALTH

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGION

CLASSIFIEDS

A2

A3

A4

B2

B3

B4

B5