Freedom Struggle Pays Price

Lives are lost in the 1964 battle to vote in Mississippi. These brave men and women are remembered during Black History Month.

See page A6.

Housing Jump Starts

There are several ways to get started in the pursuit of securing a loan to buy your dream home.

See Metro, inside.

The Portland Observer

25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Election May Change Campaigns

The conventional wisdom that negative advertising is effective in political campaigns will no doubt change after the Senate election of Ron Wyden, said University of Oregon Professor Jim Lemert. "Wyden's decision to stop negative advertising had a positive affect," Lemert said. "However, I think what was more decisive in the voter response was (Gordon) Smith's decision to continue his negative campaigning."

Vote May Undermine Mail Ballots

If the majority of new voters in Oregon's vote-by-mail Senate election cast their vote in favor of Democrat Ron Wyden, support for the experimental mail balloting process could disappear in the state's Republican-controlled legislature, Priscilla Southwell, a University of Oregon political scientists, predicted last week.

Rose Festival Dedicates Profits

The Portland Rose Festival Association has announced that it will donate an estimated $450,000 in profits from last year and anticipated 1996 revenue toward improvements at Waterfront Park, Portland International Raceway and dredging the Willamette River for expanded shipping trade.

Hill Seeks Re-Election

State Treasurer Jim Hill announced last week that he has filed for re-election to a second term. Hill is Oregon's first African-American statewide office holder. Hill said his priorities include a review of the state retirement funds, further investment in Oregon's economy and control of state debts. Hill, 48, is a resident of Salem.

Juvenile Crime Studied

A newly created Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Crime Prevention will be chaired by Oregon Attorney General Ted Kulongoski and include Hill Walker, an expert on prevention of youth violence. Walker is the director of the University of Oregon Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior.

Community Center Breaks Ground

Construction of the Brentwood-Darlington Community Family Resource Center began last week with a groundbreaking ceremony at 7211 S.E. 62. The site is the location for the first community center to be build in Portland since 1920. "This project will serve as a model for future projects," said Multnomah County Commissioner Tanya Collier, one of the primary promoters of the project.

Nordstrom Salutes SEI

To embrace Black History Month, Nordstrom is honoring children's programs for their positive contributions. Self Enhancement, Inc., the Urban League, the African American Local Hero's School Project and the Cultural Recreation Band were given an honorarium of $1,000 from Nordstrom and window space to display their successful programs.

WYDEN SWORN IN AS SENATOR

Portland Democrat Ron Wyden was sworn in as U.S. Senator for Oregon Tuesday, cutting the Republican majority in the Senate to 53-47.

Wyden won a special election last Tuesday, defeating Republican Gordon Smith to fill the last three years of Republican Bob Packwood's term. Packwood resigned Oct. 1 because of sexual harassment charges.

Vice President Al Gore gave Wyden his oath of office in the Senate chamber as fellow senators and Wyden's family and friends applauded.

Oregon Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield, who is retiring at the end of the year, escorted Wyden to the podium and held a bible for Wyden as he took the oath.

"Senator Wyden has proven he is dedicated to the people of Oregon," Hatfield said after Wyden was sworn in.

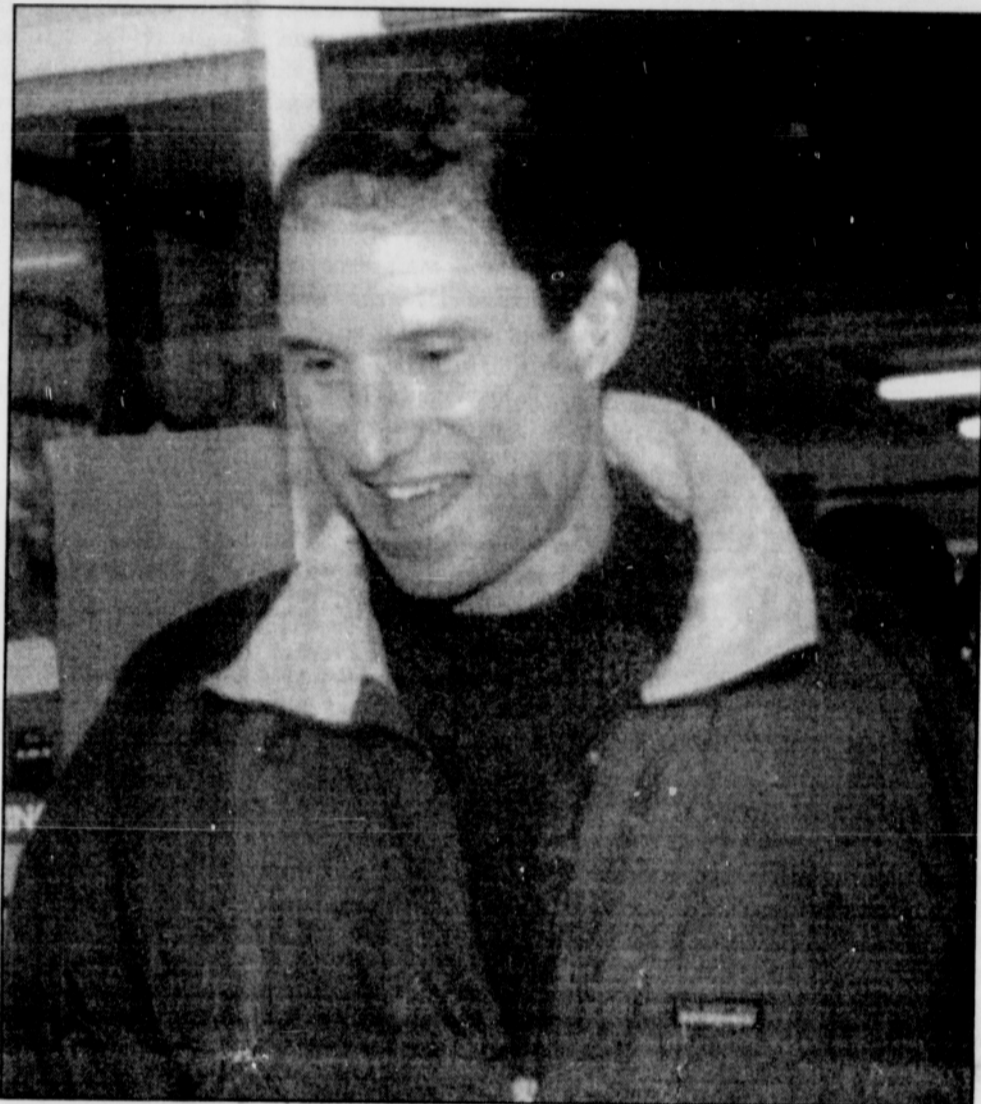"I welcome our newest colleague," Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole added.

Hatfield's retirement will mean Oregon will have two new senators in less than a year. Packwood and Hatfield had served together since 1968.

Wyden, 46, is the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Oregon in 34 years. He comes to the Senate after 15 years in the House, where his departure leaves 236 Republicans, 196 Democrats, one independent and two vacancies.

Maryland Democrat Kweisi Mfume is resigning from the House on Feb. 15 to become president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wyden's narrow victory last week improves Democratic chances for regaining control of the Senate in November, but they still face long odds.

Of 33 Senate seats at stake, 18 are held by Republicans and 15 by Democrats, but eight Democratic incumbents are quitting, compared to only five Republicans.

Ron Wyden visits north Portland's E&M Community Market just days before his election to the U.S. Senate. Wyden started his political career as an advocate for senior citizens.

In the 1994 Senate elections, Republicans won all six seats held by retiring Democrats and held all of theirs. They also defeated two Democratic incumbents.

The Democrats need a net gain of three seats if President Clinton and Gore are re-elected. That would create a 50-50 tie which Gore, as presiding officer of the Senate, would break in favor of the Democrats.

If a Republican president and vice president are elected, Democrats would need a net gain of four seats for a majority.

"Gracie's Place"

An emergency and homeless shelter serving inner north and northeast Portland, has been named in honor of long-time resident Gracie Knapper.

Knapper is the mother and mother-in-law of the owners, Johnnie A. Gage, executive director of the House of Umoja, Johnnie W. Gage, former executive director of MYCAP and Debra L. Rily.

"I would hope that at this facility, we can provide the same care most of us received from our mom's house," Johnnie W. Cage said.

The shelter opened in November under the premise that a family should be able to receive needed services in their own neighborhood rather than traveling across the Willamette River to downtown. Located at 820 N. Killingsworth, the shelter can accommodate up to 17 families.

Gracie Knapper is circled by Lolenzo Poe (left), her sons, Johnnie W. and Johnnie A. Gage and Portland Mayor Vera Katz.

Civil Rights Drama

In his one-act play, "The Meeting," playwright Jeff Stetson explores the best avenues for advancing black liberation, using the vehicle of a fictitious meeting between two epic African-American historical figures, Malcolm X and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Director Winston Williams brings the debate to life playing King, with the help of Michael Lange as Malcolm X and Darrel Keyes as Rashad, Malcolm X's bodyguard.

"The Meeting" is performed at Portland State University Thursday, Feb. 8. at 7:30 p.m. in the Nordic Room (Room 26 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway). A donation of $2-$5 is suggested. For information call PSU's Black Cultural Affairs Board, 725-5660.

The play has been presented to standing-room-only audiences in schools and theaters around the Northwest.

The performance is one of the highlights of PSU's Black History Month Celebration, organized primarily by the Black Cultural Affairs Board (BCAB).

Director/actor Winston Williams graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with degrees in art education and sculpture and a minor in arts.

Michael Lange as Malcolm X delivering the speech "The Ballot or the Bullet"

Michael Lange has been an actor, director, playright, teacher, and political activist for many years.

"It is our goal," says Mandisa Shareiff, coordinator of BCAB, "to use the theater medium as a conduit to re-examine the personalities of two of our most celebrated historical figures and to provoke contemplation and debate in a broad audience as to the contributions and relevance of these men to the future of African-Americans. How will black consciousness be shaped and what direction will it take?"

Albina Condos Proposed

BY LEE PERLMAN

The Durham brothers and the city both want housing built at North Fremont and Mississippi. Now, as planner Mike Hawakawa says, it's a matter of "putting the pieces together."

Charles and Ed Durham plan to build 22 row house units on the vacant 1.5 acre site. Their plans have several unusual features.

Most of the units will have garages at street level - 10 feet or more above the street as they descend from a hillside into the lower Albina industrial area to the south - with two stories of living space above.

The proposed houses would face inward toward an open area owned collectively by all the units and developed as a play area on the southern end.

In three units, fronting North Cook Street, the lower portion will be designed for commercial activity, allowing the owner to have an office or shop below and a home above.

Ed Durham says he hopes to begin construction by the fall.

The long-vacant property was rezoned from industrial to a combination of high-density housing and mixed use. The change was made several years ago in the Albina Community Plan (over the strong objections of then-owner Whitcomb Crichton).

The zoning on the western portion requires at least 15 units of housing where the Durhams propose six. They, and architect Kelcey Beardsley of Portland Community Design, originally proposed to make the project a Planned Unit Development, allowing them to use the whole property to meet the density requirement.

However, at a conference last month, Hayakawa suggested that instead they seek an adjustment from the code, a much less costly and difficult step.

Ed Durham feels that owner-occupied housing is a better use for the site than the high-density multi-family it is zoned for.

"I could build an apartment building there and probably rent it out, but that's not what this community needs," he told the Boise Neighborhood Association last year.

▼

Joyce Washington In Hospital After Heart Attack

Joyce Washington, publisher of the Portland Observer newspaper, suffered a heart attack early Tuesday afternoon.

She was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital by ambulance and was listed in critical condition. The hospital was conducting tests and trying to determine the extent of damage and the course of medical care.

"Our family can use all of your prayers," said Chuck Washington, senior editor.