

**The Age of Jazz**

Belafonte shows face in Altman's latest flick, Kansas City.



See Arts & Entertainment, page B3.

**Passing a life line**

Volunteers benefit community kids in the back-to-school frenzy.



See Metro, page B1.

**Guiding soul**

Carol Ettman brings years of musical experience to her original, heartfelt blues.



See Arts & Entertainment, page B2.

# The Portland Observer

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Democrats sound centrist theme**

After an emotional opening day at their national convention, Democrats turn their attention today to adopting their platform and defining the issues that separate them from Republicans.

**Clinton touts trade record**

President Clinton's whistle-stop train trip took him to Toledo, Ohio today where he touted his economic record. At a Chrysler Jeep Plant, the president watched as the two millionth Jeep Cherokee rolled off the assembly line. This particular vehicle, with its right-hand steering, is intended for export to Japan. Clinton said it's evidence of America's economic might under his stewardship.

**Dole unveils drug ad**

Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole and his running mate Jack Kemp are in Santa Barbara, California, for a day of quiet campaigning. But beginning today in selected markets across the country the Dole campaign is launching a new ad that blasts the Clinton administration's policy on illegal drugs.

**Three hurt in Amtrak derailment**

Amtrak officials say a passenger train slammed into an empty logging truck and derailed, injuring at least three people. The accident happened this morning near Roxbury, Vt., about 15 miles southeast of Montpelier.

**Hijacking ends peacefully**

Police say the hijacking of a Sudanese Airways plane has ended peacefully at London's Stansted airport. A police official says the hijackers were Iraqi nationals who were apparently seeking political asylum. He says there may have been as many as eight of them, and that seven have been arrested.

**Food Poisoning outbreak on ship**

More than 800 passengers aboard a cruise ship in the Greek isles have been hit by food poisoning. Greek officials say doctors are treating the passengers aboard the ship, but that hospitals have been put on alert in case any of the passengers require further treatment.



**"Hood To Coast"**

The annual charity run from Mt. Hood to Seaside, took place last Friday and Saturday. The runners did a relay race to win medals like those shown on the participants above.

## CIA aided crack plague

It's been a shock to most and it will take years before the Central Intelligence Agency can polish their tarnished reputation.

It has been confirmed that throughout the 1980s, a drug ring in the San Francisco Bay area sold tons of cocaine to L.A. street gangs and channeled the profits to some of the CIA-run Contras in Nicaragua.

Repeated attempts to prosecute the ring's kingpin were thwarted by the CIA, possibly to cover up ties between the traffickers and Contra leaders, the San Jose Mercury News reported in a series of articles after a yearlong investigation.

The newspaper's report, based on recently declassified federal reports, court testimony and interviews, also alleges that the drug network was partially responsible for the ongoing "crack" problem in Los Angeles.

The money pipeline was created after the CIA combined several armies to create 5,000-member anti-communist FDN Fuerza Democratica Nicaraguense (Nicaraguan Democratic Force) in mid-1981, the newspaper reported.

The same year, the drug ring sold almost a

ton of cocaine to the Crips and Bloods, notorious Los Angeles gangs, for \$54 million, former FDN leader and government informant Oscar Danilo Blandon Reyes said. "There is a saying that the ends justify the means," Blandon testified in 1994. "So we started raising money for the Contra revolution."

The Mercury News identified the primary buyer as Ricky Donnell Ross, or "Freeway Rick," a notorious South-Central Los Angeles dealer who bought powder cocaine, turned it into crack and sold it wholesale throughout the city and the nation.

Blandon spent 28 months in U.S. prison for dealing drugs, the Mercury News said.

He was released from prison in 1994 to become a full-time informant for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, a job which has since paid him more than \$166,000.

While Blandon is now free in Nicaragua, Ross was convicted of conspiracy to sell drugs and is scheduled to be sentenced in San Diego on Friday.

How much of the drug ring's profits went to the FDN before it disbanded in 1988 still

is unclear. But in his testimony, Blandon said, "whatever we were running in L.A., the profit was going to the Contra revolution."

Blandon's boss, Juan Norwin Meneses Cantarero, was a major drug dealer and smuggler who ran the FDN operation out of his homes in Burlingame and Pacifica in Northern California, the paper reported.

Although records show that the U.S. government was aware of Meneses' dealings since 1974, the Mercury News reported that he has never been in a U.S. prison.

Meneses currently is serving time in Nicaragua after being arrested in connection with a 750-kilo shipment of cocaine.

Federal prosecutors blame the CIA and other federal departments for Meneses' relatively sweet treatment in the U.S., the Mercury News said.

"The Justice Department flipped out to prevent us from getting access to people, records — anything that would help us find out about it," said Jack Blum, former chief counsel to the Senate subcommittee that investigated alleged cocaine trafficking to the Contras. "It was one of the most frustrating exercises that I can ever recall."



Nautilus Plus sponsored the "Straight Up Sports Conditioning Program" on Saturday at Peninsula Park that started at 8:30 a.m. and ran into the afternoon. 150 kids participated, along with 40 coaches, trainers, and both PSU and professional athletes. Pictured is Kristin Rauls, a Nautilus staffperson, "talking fitness" with participating kids.

## Inhumane child labor exposed

Though reliable statistics are rare, available information suggests that the number of working children remains extremely high. No region of the world today is entirely free of child labor.

Although the internationally recommended minimum age for work is 15 years and the number of child workers under the age of 10 is far from negligible, almost all the data available on child labor concerns the 10-14 age group.

The greatest numbers were found in Asia—44.6 million (13%)—followed by Africa—23.6 million (by far the highest rate at 26.3%)—and Latin America—5.1 million (9.8%).

The International Labour Office's (ILO) doctrine on child labor is clear: it should be abolished.

International labor standards reflect that conviction, but observance of those standards needs to be reinforced.

While ratifications of child labor standards are set to increase, to date only 49 of ILO's 173 member countries have ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138).

Of the 49 ratifications, only 21 are from developing countries, and none from Asia,



Children producing for export are substantially fewer than those employed in activities geared to meeting domestic needs.

where over half of all working children are to be found.

The belief that childhood should be devoted to education and training, not work, is already reflected in Convention No. 5 (1919),

which prohibits the work of children under the age of 14 in industrial establishments.

Because child labor is so linked to other key obstacles to economic and social development, technical cooperation is a necessary element in efforts to eradicate it.

"Trade unions," the report continues, "are the logical leaders for bringing child labor abuses to light."

The good reputation of companies, even of entire sectors, can also be at stake. Bad publicity tying a product to child labor can ruin years of marketing efforts.

Big companies can avoid such risks by "setting high standards on workers' rights and the use of child labor, not only for themselves but also for the contractors they work with and the sub-contractors of the latter." They can thus become a model of others.

"In this respect," says the report, "recent initiatives by important firms to establish their own codes of conduct or sourcing guidelines which prohibit the direct or indirect employment of children in producing their products merit more general extension to both national and international companies

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## CIA tied to New Black Holocaust: Nation's media finally runs with story

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

As disturbing as this news may be, we find it equally as frightening that, given the persistent rumors and allegations of the past decade—that the U.S. government is America's biggest drug dealer—none of the respective White Houses, or even a "Family Values" Congress reacted at an expected level of alarm. Now, this!

The belated response from our vaunted free press whose "vigilance guards the liberties of us all", is no assurance at all that the entire story has been told. I have at hand the 1993 best-selling book written by Michael Levine, former Drug Enforcement Agent, "The CIA and the Cocaine/Crack Epidemic." (Thunder's Mouth Press, N.Y.). I assure you that our daily press is just scratching the surface. Too busy with the O.J. Simpson trial?

(p.123) "A DEA agent in Tegucigalpa, Honduras documented that the Honduran military—which was then helping Oliver North and the CIA to support the anti-Sandinista Contras in Nicaragua (1982)—was the source of more than 50 tons of cocaine smuggled into the United States in a 15-month period or half the U.S. consumption!"

A former student of mine who is on the local police force and who has two teenagers had the following comments, "that's the quantitative analysis, let's look at the 'qualitative' analysis. Do you realize what's being said here in terms of an unprecedented war conducted upon its own citizens by a government gone mad. And I'm not just thinking of my own daily confrontations with hopped-up kids who have been poisoned by these obscene barbarians, allegedly the product of our finest universities; medical, education and other urban facilities are devastated."

And that was just a white cop; I can't quote her what a "brother" in the ranks had to say. But, far and wide across this nation, millions of Americans have been shocked beyond belief by the treacherous actions of a government they loved, trusted, revered and fought and died for. They are sickened, and are letting it be known on the internet, on talk shows, by e-mail and fax, by letters and phone calls to their congresspersons and letters-to-the-editor at their daily newspapers; seminars, focus groups in planning.

And it is not all just empathy for an unfairly maligned group of their fellow citizens (though there is plenty of that). Several of my neighbors have said, "there goes Mr. Dole's tax cut, these crazy escapades are going to cost Uncle Sam a bundle"—then adding plaintively—"I mean cost 'us' a bundle." I know what is implied if the future in Portland is indicative of the national situation. I've had to refer several callers to the bar association, people wanting the "name of a good lawyer"—with the idea of seeking monetary redress for lost loved ones or property or both.

As I was polling my sources around the country for this article, I heard from a correspondent close to the Attorney General's Office of a southern state. Officials are seriously considering filing a suit against the government; litigation similar in nature to the 'tobacco company' suits in a number of jurisdictions. Such a suit also would ask for repayment of massive expenditures in law enforcement; medical facilities and support of social institutions—all directly attributable to the federally-sponsored crack/cocaine epidemic.