

Laboratory nears completion

Local 48 is ensuring that the results are efficient, effective, and aesthetically pleasing.



See Housing, page A7.

Othello

Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company presents Othello. It continues through Sunday, Nov. 10, 1996.



See Metro, page B1.

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper University of Oregon Libr Eugene, Oregon 97403

New Line Cinema kisses traditional action films goodbye in *The Long Kiss Goodnight*.



See Arts & Entertainment, page B3.

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Mexican and US

Electronics firms link up

Elektra, S.A., Mexico's largest retailer of home electronics and appliances has joined forces with Circuit City, one of the U.S.' largest retailers of name-brand consumer electronics and appliance products. The new service, called "Bien Entregado", or "Well Delivered", will enable U.S. customers to purchase goods at Circuit City stores and ship them to family and friends in Mexico via the Elektra stores.

Thousands march in D.C.

Thousands of Hispanics marched on the Capitol October 12 to demand justice, an end to anti-immigrant paranoia and a \$7 hourly minimum wage. Organizers plan to make this march an annual event to help Hispanics coalesce and gain political power.

New hope for arthritis sufferers

There is new hope today for the estimated 40 million Americans who suffer from arthritis. Medical researchers say a drug has been developed that fights arthritis effectively and protects patients from the potentially life-threatening side effects of current treatments. The researchers say the new treatment combines the most widely used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and a drug used for treating and preventing gastric ulcers.

Telephone rules on hold

A three-judge appeals court panel in St. Louis has put on hold key provisions of a landmark federal rule designed to break open the nation's local telephone monopolies to competition. The court today suspended the vital pricing components of the Federal Communications Commission's rule aimed at opening the local phone market to long-distance carriers, cable-television operators and others.

No US Peacekeepers in West Bank

The Clinton administration is rejecting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's suggestion that the United States provide peacekeepers to help patrol the tense West Bank city of Hebron. Arafat made the proposal as he hosted Jordan's King Hussein in the West Bank town of Jericho. Arafat notes that U.S. peacekeepers have been stationed in the Egyptian Sinai and elsewhere, so there's a precedent for his suggestion.

California closer to gas chambers

A challenge to the state of California's use of the gas chamber to execute death-row inmates has suffered a setback. By a 7-2 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court today set aside a lower-court ruling that had deemed the method cruel and unusual punishment. A federal appeals court had held California's method of execution by lethal gas violates the Constitution because inmates may not become immediately unconscious and may experience pain.

Study: TV violence drops

A new study indicates violence on broadcast television is declining. The study by the UCLA Center for Communication Policy monitored every network prime time and Saturday morning entertainment program aired during the 1995-96 television season. The study found the total number of series that posed frequent concerns about violence dropped to five in the latest season from nine the year before.

Republicans violating campaign laws?

BY SEAN CRUZ

In apparent violation of campaign finance laws, the Republican National Committee is pouring money into Oregon to influence the outcome of the contest between Democrat Tom Bruggere and Republican candidate Gordon Smith.

The money is being used to run television and radio ads attacking Mr. Bruggere, some of which contain misstatements or misleading information.

"What's especially corrupt about this coordination between Gordon Smith and the national Republicans is their willingness to try to steal this election and then pay whatever fine they receive later. They truly don't care about breaking the law if it wins them the election," said Lauren Moughan, Communications Director for the Tom Bruggere for U.S. Senate organization.

The national Republican organization spent its entire legal \$289,000 budget in support of Mr. Smith during the primary race, and is now funneling additional money through a quasi-independent group called the



Tom Bruggere, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate.

Photo by Timothy Collins

National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) to attack Mr. Bruggere.

Campaign finance rules allow such expenditures only if there is absolutely no contact between the national and the local organizations.

The Portland Observer has learned, however, that the advertising purchases which the NRSC and the Smith campaign have been making, appear to be coordinated. The organizations have managed to buy a great deal of advertising time without duplicating their efforts.

The NRSC has purchased time on stations KBBT, KWJJ, KKCW, KUPL, KKRZ and KGON. The Smith campaign, however, has ignored all of these stations and bought time on KKJZ and KXYO.

The Oregon Senate race is seen to be crucial to Republican strategies for several important reasons.

Perhaps the most critical reason to readers of the Observer is that a Republican winner will most likely cancel Ron Wyden's votes on social, educational and environmental issues.

Oregon food products to Russia

Several impressions of the Russian Far East were left with Phil Ward, assistant director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, as he returned home from a recent trip to the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

One was the friendliness and generosity of the Russian people. The other was the gigantic opportunities that U.S. agricultural exports have in that region of the world—particularly many of the things grown and processed in Oregon.

"There is a fair amount of trade between the Russian Far East and our West Coast states right now," says Ward, who attended a meeting of an ad hoc working group formed to further trade between the two regions. "But frankly from what I saw, there are significant opportunities for more U.S. products to be marketed in the Russian Far East if we can get rid of some of the major barriers

to this process."

The facts bear Ward out. The Russian Far East has seven million consumers but also supplies the Siberian regions of Russia and its 55 million people. The Russian Far East imports \$400 million worth of goods each year. About 85% of those imports are food. Because of the region's inability to grow or process its own food, nearly half of the food consumed in the Russian Far East is imported.

"Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the subsidization that enabled the manufacturing sector in the Russian Far East to be competitive is gone," says Ward. "That sector is not providing processed foods. It's not providing some of the things that the Russian people would like access to. It appears to me there is a tremendous opportunity available for Oregon companies to move some of these products into the Russian Far East, particularly some of our processed food products."

Ward attended a meeting of what is known as the Gore-Chernomyrdin working group—named after the U.S. Vice-President and Russian Prime Minister respectively—which is trying to tear down some of the trade barriers existing between the two nations. Ward was an official delegate from Oregon at the high level meeting. Delegates from Washington and California were also in attendance.

"The working group identified a number of significant issues such as financing, the Russian taxing structure, high interest rates, and various other laws in both countries that restrict trade," says Ward. "Another need is the development of more infrastructure in Eastern Russia so that its people can access the kinds of western goods they would like to have."

"The Russian Far East is opened for business—that's the message," says John Kratochvil, international trade specialist.

Unthank Park diverters may go

BY LEE PERLMAN

Commissioner Charlie Hales and his Office of Transportation are thinking of removing four traffic diverters near Unthank Park.

The diverters, installed in 1967, are located at North Kerby Avenue and Shaver Street, North Gantenbein Avenue and Mason Street, North Borthwick Avenue and Beach Street, and North Haight Avenue and Failing Street.

Hales first approached Tony Hopson of Self-Enhancement, Inc., which is building a new community center on a portion of the park, about the proposed removal. "He asked

me, 'Do you want them taken out?'" Hopson told the Boise Neighborhood Association at a meeting last week. "I said yeah, I do personally, but you'd better check with the neighborhood association first."

Lolita Allen of the Office of Transportation told Boise, "My understanding is that these diverters have always been a problem."

Charles Ford, former Boise president, said the diverters were installed with federal funds in conjunction with the development of the park. "The park was intended for small children, so we wanted to keep traffic away,"

he said. In practice, however, they have proven to be "nothing but a hinderance. We've been trying to get rid of them for at least ten years."

Current president Sonja Tucker said, "I'm all for it. Emergency vehicles seem to get lost going in or out of there."

A police officer present said that the diverters allow drug dealers to flee successfully on foot from patrol cars. "If you want them taken out of there, the police will help," he said. "I personally hate them. A stop sign would do just as well there. Just don't put in any of those stupid speed bumps."

Road improvements improve traffic safety

Road improvements such as upgrading two-lane roads to four lanes, adding a median, widening highways and widening and paving shoulders can play a significant role in reducing traffic accidents and fatalities, reports a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C.

"Our nation needs to increase its focus on traffic safety issues this Car Care Month because traffic fatalities increased for the past three years after declining from 1988-1992," says William M. Wilkins, executive director of the Road Information Program (TRIP). "This reversal in highway fatality trends comes about even though we now have safer cars and trucks that are replacing older vehicles and states are enforcing tougher driving laws."

Wilkins said the nation needs to examine all factors, including road and bridge conditions, that play a role in traffic safety in order

to truly assess what can be done to reduce traffic fatalities, which kill more than 40,000 Americans every year.

"One of the most overlooked aspects of traffic safety is the role that road improvements can play," Wilkins said. "Statistics show that the number of traffic fatalities and accidents have been reduced when certain road improvements are made."

TRIP's analysis, based on data by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation, also found that:

- The fatality rate on roads with four-lanes or more is less than half that it is for two-lane roads. The fatal accident rate per hundred million miles traveled on two-lane roads was 2.03, while the fatal accident rate on roads with four or more lanes averaged 0.95.

- In 1994, 77 percent of fatal accidents

occurred on two-lane roads, which carried 51 percent of total travel.

- The Federal Highway Administration has found that when medians were added to roads, traffic fatalities decreased by 71 percent.

- Widening or modifying a bridge can reduce fatalities by 49 percent.

"Widening a lane has been found to reduce fatalities by 21 percent," Wilkins said. He said the nationally recommended width for a lane to be considered safe is 12 feet. Excluding interstate highways (which have at least four lanes), TRIP estimates that about three-quarter of the nation's 159,000 miles of major roads are two-lane, and 15 percent of those have lanes less than 12 feet in width.

"It simply stands to reason that if drivers have more room to operate and additional space to return a vehicle to the road, then traffic accidents can be reduced," Wilkins said.

Oregon kidnapping suspect arrested

In a case that involves jurisdictions in three states, a woman who abducted four children from Hillsboro, Oregon in February of this year was arrested in Ogden, Utah recently.

The woman fled the state to avoid a summons involving a domestic case in Vancouver, Washington.

Gina Frischknecht Nielson, a former resident of Hillsboro, Oregon and Battle Ground, Washington, was indicted by a Washington County grand jury in July for felony custodial interference after she took the children out of school and disappeared in February.

Mrs. Nielson hid the children in a motel on the Oregon coast and in various locations in Washington and Idaho as she fled the state to avoid having to bring them to court. Process servers were searching for Mrs. Nielson when she dropped from sight.

The children have stated that they were forced to sign false statements regarding the abduction and about their father. These statements, which were submitted to a Clark County court as sworn affidavits, were written by Kory Wright, of Eden, Utah, and by unnamed attorneys hired by Mrs. Nielson, according to the children.

The statements were submitted to the court in order to undermine the children's father's credibility, and to attack his joint custodial rights, as well as to hinder his efforts to bring the children to appear personally in the civil case.

Other members of Mrs. Nielson's family and acquaintances of hers also submitted false statements.

The Clark County court has been slow to investigate allegations of perjury and coercion.

Mrs. Nielson was taken into custody on the criminal charge and released on bail. Trial has been set for December 12 in Washington County Court.

Utah authorities have not been fully cooperative with the Washington County District Attorney's efforts to prosecute this case, which may have religious overtones. Mrs. Nielson and her accomplices are all members of the Mormon church, and some may have acted in official capacities to aid and abet in the abduction.

This case was the subject of an editorial appearing in the Oregonian on August 25, titled "Say yes for kids."