

### Halloween and the Dia de los Muertos

Ghosts, goblins, skeletons (calaveras) and witches blow into town this week.



See Metro, page B1.

### Portland Observer & Observador Picks

Stroll to the polls with our handy Election recommendations.

See Special Election Edition, page B5.

### Clinton Theater

Janice Scroggins, Theresa Demarest, Chata Addy and friends play the funky folk-blues jazz thing.

See Arts & Entertainment, page B3.



# The Portland Observer 25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Dole ends California swing

With just a week left before the election, Bob Dole's campaign is struggling to put together a travel schedule for the stretch run. The Republican presidential nominee completed four days of campaigning in California today and promised to return over the weekend. Polls showing Dole trailing in many key states.

### Clinton addresses colleges

President Clinton addressed college audiences today as he solidified his lead in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Clinton spoke at the University of Pennsylvania after earlier addressing students at Ohio State University. At Ohio State, Clinton outlined his ideas to raise standards in public schools.

### Testimony undercuts O.J. Defense

Testimony today in the O.J. Simpson murder trial appeared to undercut Simpson's strategy of claiming a police frame-up. A Los Angeles police detective said his partner, Mark Fuhrman, was never alone with the evidence in the early morning hours following the killings. Detective Ron Phillips also testified that he inspected the crime scene and saw only one bloody glove. Simpson's lawyers have claimed Fuhrman planted one of two bloody gloves found at the murder scene at Simpson's residence to falsely implicate the former football star.

### Two GM plants strike

The United Auto Workers union is turning up the heat in its contract negotiations with General Motors. The automaker says about 7,500 unionized workers at plants in Indianapolis and Janesville, Wis., have gone on strike. GM has had no formal response to the walkouts, which threaten to paralyze much of GM's highly profitable light truck production. The strikes come as GM and the UAW are locked in negotiations over a new national labor contract covering 215,000 hourly workers.

### Koop: Obesity a disease

Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop today urged American doctors to view obesity as a dangerous and chronic disease that can be treated with diet, exercise and drugs. Koop called obesity the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Obesity has been linked to heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, gall bladder disease, arthritis and certain cancers.

### Investigating Jewell probe

The FBI says it is investigating the "propriety" of the manner in which agents questioned former Olympic bombing suspect Richard Jewell. The FBI brought Jewell to its Atlanta office three days after the bombing under the false pretense of participating in a training film on how to question a witness. Without telling him he was a suspect in the bombing, Jewell was then pressured to sign a waiver of his right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present. Jewell was cleared of any role in the bombing Saturday.

### Women pulled from Cairo Collapse

A Los Angeles woman and her Egyptian friend were found alive today, 36 hours after they were buried in the collapse of a Cairo apartment building. The 11-story building caved in on Sunday, killing at least 20 people. Authorities say the rescued women suffered minor abrasions.

## Hispanics, Blacks will vote together

BY SEAN CRUZ

**M**otivated by Republican attacks on Affirmative Action programs and legal immigration, African-American and Hispanic citizens are preparing to vote in record numbers on November 5th.

The nation's two largest minority ethnic groups are finding that they have a great deal in common as Election Day approaches.

### The Black example

Hispanics are determined to close the representation gap that separates their historical political presence from their actual numbers, and the example of African-Americans who successfully organized themselves in voter registration drives in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s is a key part of Hispanic strategy.

It was a scant 30 years ago that African-Americans were even more disenfranchised than Latinos are today, and many Black citizens were murdered simply because they wanted to exercise their right to vote. Latinos are more often deported than lynched.

### California's Proposition 209

California continues its role as the nation's ideological testing ground with Proposition 209, which will end affirmative action in the state. Previously, California's Proposition 13 (predecessor to Oregon's Measure 5) gutted what was once the nation's finest public education system. Prop 209 has the support of Republican Senator Bob Dole and former head Ku Klux Klansman David Duke.

### The Projects

Earlier this year, the Southwest Voter Registration Project (SVRP) declared a goal of registering 1 million new Latino voters for this year's election. SVRP served as an umbrella organization for a number of statewide registration drives, such as the Oregon



African-American Outreach staffers react to Bob Dole's stand against Affirmative Action. Dole called such programs "a blind alley."

### Latino Voter Registration Education Project (OLVREP) in Oregon

#### 1.47 million new Latino voters

The outreach campaigns that these organizations conducted resulted in 1.47 million new Hispanic registered voters, a surge of 28.7% from the 1992 presidential election.

The registration drives' successful campaigns depended upon a threefold strategy of registering previously unregistered citizens,

encouraging eligible legal immigrants to become citizens and then registering to vote, and educating one and all on the importance of voting.

### Battle focuses on Congress

Now that the Republican Party has all but conceded defeat in the presidential race, strategists are focusing on congressional and senatorial races, particularly on close ones like the Senate contest between Democrat Tom

Bruggere and Republican Gordon Smith, and the House contest between Democrat Elizabeth Furse and Republican Bill Witt.

The closeness of these races and the wide chasms that separate the views of the candidates make these two contests ones where literally every vote will count. On issues important to Hispanics and African-American

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## 300 welcome new MHCC president

**A** crowd of 300 turned out to greet Dr. Joel Vela October 15 at a reception to welcome him as Mt. Hood Community College's new president.

Vela, the fourth president in the college's 30-year history, was hired by the MHCC District Board of Education in mid-August. He previously was president of Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas.

Vela was joined at the reception by college leaders, current and past MHCCD Board members, several legislators, faculty and staff, local school superintendents, Gresham city councilors, members of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders.

Current MHCCD Board Chairman Greg Lutje spoke of how Vela has performed in the time since he took over the previous president, Dr. Paul Kreider.

"Now that two months have passed since Dr. Vela came...I'm proud to report that he has exceeded our expectations," Lutje said. "We have successfully negotiated a two-year labor agreement."

"We have formulated a bond proposal to be presented to the public in March that has obtained unanimous board approval and goes a long way toward providing the college with technological improvements to usher us into the 21st century and protect the investment in the plant infrastructure of the 30-year-old



Dr. Joel Vela (left) is greeted by Kim Freeman of MHCC's Steps to Success.

facility.

"But most important, Dr. Vela has provided us all with a leader who instills the willingness to recommit to education as the product of this college."

Vela is a native of Kerrville, Texas, and the first generation of his family to attend college. His parents left school in the first and fifth grades, but later completed their GEDs. His heartfelt motto is "Education should be a

right, not a privilege."

He brings to the college a proven track record of innovation and bridge-building.

The MHCCD Board hired Vela for his leadership qualities and vision, and has charged him with raising enrollment, passing a bond measure, and strengthening the college's connections to the community.

Under his leadership, Palo Alto College experienced phenomenal growth. Vela initiated several innovative projects to expand the college's service area, including dual-credit classes with surrounding school districts, tech-prep courses with local high schools, an Agribusiness Institute, and a Mariachi Curriculum with Campanas de America. He also served on the faculty, teaching history.

At each of the institutions he has served, he created new programs and partnerships, and worked to build bridges to the Hispanic community.

Vela holds a doctorate in education, a master of arts in education an history, and a bachelor of arts in social studies. His wife, Maria, is a Reading Recovery teacher. They are the parents of a son and daughter.

Currently, Vela is active in the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz Board, the Private Industry Council Board and the Region 2 Workforce Quality Committee.

## Democratic Congress could see historic gains

**S**everal members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) are inline for senior positions if the Democrats win back the House this election year.

Representative John Conyers (D-MI), the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, said "If the Democratic party regains control of the Congress, African American legislative power will be at an all time high. African Americans would have a strong hand in shaping

the nation's policies. That's why Newt Gingrich is trying to scare voters away from electing a Democratic Congress."

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), who himself would be in line to become Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the committee which oversees all civil rights matters, added, "The Republicans are trying to paint all the black members into Willie Hortons. They want voters to think black leadership is somehow a dangerous thing, but people can see through

their demagoguery."

Conyers said a Democratic Congress would not be as extreme as the Republican Congress has been. "The Republicans shut the government down twice and led attacks on our cities, education, Medicare and working people. That's what voters are afraid of. They don't want to see Gingrich in power next year."

The following African Americans would be selected as a chairmen in a Democratic Congress, while other would be selected for

host of other leadership positions:

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), Judiciary Committee; Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Ways and Means Committee; Rep. William Clay (D-MO), Education & Labor Committee; Rep. Ronald Dellums (D-CA), Armed Services Committee.

The CBC has 40 members from all over the country, counting Sen. Carol Mosley Braun, the only African American to serve in the U.S. Senate.