

We Do More Than Grab Loose Balls!

*TrailBlazer Ball Boys
Andrew Gilbo, Ronnie
Geawood, J.R. Shockley,
and Thomas Moyer.*



See Metro, page B1.

Phuture Flava, Volume 1

RCA Records debuts the first of an anticipated continuing series of black music compilations.



See Entertainment, page B3.

New Shirley Caesar project

Outreach Convention Choir recording marks a first for Caesar.



See Religion, page B5.

The Portland Observer ^{25¢}

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University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Simpson jury sees new evidence

Jurors in the O.J. Simpson wrongful death civil trial saw some new evidence today over the objections of Simpson's lawyers. The defense lawyers were caught off guard by a videotape that was introduced into evidence by attorneys for the families suing Simpson. The footage showed a gap in dense foliage near the spot where a bloody glove was found on Simpson's estate. The glove matched one found near the bodies of Simpson's murdered former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. The videotape seemed to back up the theory that Simpson secretly climbed over the fence to get back on his estate after committing the murders.

100,000 still don't have power

Some 100,000 households are still without power more than three days after storms roared through New England, burying the region in snow and rain and killing five people. Some 650 emergency crews from Canada, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are working around the clock trying to restore power to various New England utilities' customers. The storms on Friday and Saturday blanketed the region with up to 24 inches of heavy, wet snow that felled trees and powerlines. With temperatures dropping into the low 20s, the melting snow froze, making it more difficult for crews to reach fallen powerlines.

Texans Vote for Representatives

Texas voters returned to the polls Tuesday in special congressional run-off elections to fill the final three seats in the U.S. House. Poll-watchers are monitoring voting in two counties where blacks were harassed in early voting that ended last week and allegations of voter fraud were lodged against the campaign of freshman Republican Rep. Steve Stockman.

Sex predator law weighed

The Supreme Court is poised to decide whether a state can legally confine dangerous sex offenders to mental institutions after they serve their prison sentences. The nine justices heard arguments in a challenge to a Kansas law by a convicted, repeat child molester. His lawyer argued that a state cannot constitutionally continue confinement once the prison sentence has been served because that amounts to permanent punishment.

Transplant debate begins

Federal health officials have stepped into one of the most contentious issues in medical ethics. The Department of Health and Human Services has opened three days of hearings into whether the federal government should regulate how to allocate livers for transplants. Livers for transplants are in short supply, with about 4,000 available each year for 7,000 people who are waiting. Last year, 800 people died while waiting for a new liver. A key issue is whether there should be a national waiting list.

Kwanzaa 1996 is coming



BFL Children proudly display their Kwanzaa tapastries.

BY FRED HEMBRY

Holiday cultural celebration is rapidly changing in the United States. Portland, Oregon is not an exception.

A fat red-nosed santa is no longer politically correct in 1996. What is it to the German, the Chinese, and the Islander, the Continental African, or the ever evolving African-American? In the next two issues we will explore what this period means to many people.

The focus opens with a holiday ritual known as Kwanzaa. It is a burgeoning African-American celebration. The word itself is

derived from the Swahili language of East Africa. Kwanzaa means

"First Fruits of the Harvest." The concept was founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1965. Dr. Karenga's motivation for the observance was a desire for African-Americans to create customs that reflect their true culture. Kwanzaa is a time to enjoy family and friends, share food and exchange presents.

It is a wonderful way to foster unity, teach, and learn about World History, and black culture. Here in Portland, the Black Education Center (BEC), and the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) are the official

information centers and co-activity coordinators for Kwanzaa. The BEC has been in this role since its origination 26 years ago.

The BEC is a neighborhood based, community funded grade school. Its focus is to orientate children from the perspective of truth: The originators of civilization, and high technology were of African descent. Others in the human family who came later, benefitted from their foundation.

This particular education benefits all students who attend based on the proper order of human achievement. Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated from December 26, through January 1 annually.

"Snow Queen": a paper cutting for the stage

Listen... Hans Christian Andersen would say as he began his stories. His hands were busy creating fanciful images with paper and scissors, while children eagerly anticipated the unfolding.

Inspired by these intricate cuttings, Other Hand Productions puts paper creations in motion in this classic story.

Using a unique form of puppet theater called "Czeck Black", a curtain of light illuminates a world where puppets dance, float and disappear.

Writer and composer, Jodi Eichelberger researched at Andersen's home in Odense, Denmark and his music reflects the classical and folk music traditions of Andersen's homeland.

Mary Harrison, designed the puppet characters with European paper cutting techniques, crafting each one from paper and

paper products. Gerta, who loves flowers, has hair made from paper which contains Marigold seeds, for instance.

The styles of script, music, and performance are as delicately balanced as a snowflake.

Tickets are available by calling the Tapesstry Theatre Box Office at 245-6919. Adult tickets are \$8.50 and children tickets are \$6.50. Group discounts are also available.

Performances will take place at the Miracle Theatre located at 525 SE Stark. The show opens on Friday, January 10th at 7:30 p.m.; continues Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; and Sundays 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Portland's Leikarringen will feature Danish folk dances before the show on opening night and at other select performances.

There will also be a lobby exhibit displaying items from the Danish and Scandinavian cultures.



Other Hand Productions unfolds a story of friendship and steadfast love

Girl Scouts Serve The Homeless Christmas Morning

Every year since 1988, Girl Scouts have been collecting clothing, preparing personal kits, coordinating food and volunteering their time to serve breakfast to Portland's homeless on Christmas morning.

The Columbia River Girl Scout Council's annual Breakfast for the Homeless began as a Gold Award project eight years ago when a senior Girl Scout saw a need in her community and did something about it.

"The breakfast is a great way for parents, grandparents and other members of the Girl

Scout community to teach their families the real meaning of Christmas as they start the day by helping others less fortunate before opening their own gifts. Participating in this tradition makes you appreciate what you have so much more," says Columbia River Girl Scout director of Membership support Linda Lagoy.

Girl Scout volunteers dedicate their Christmas morning to helping others and to promoting the value of giving.

Girl Scouts begin setting up at 5:30 a.m. Christmas morning in Pioneer Courthouse

Square to serve breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This year's menu will include eggs, pastries, muffins, coffee and hot chocolate. Leftovers are distributed to local shelters and tables are broken down from 11 a.m. to noon.

Last year 250 homeless people attended the breakfast. Girl Scouts distribute fliers around the Portland metropolitan area to let homeless people know the Girl Scouts are donating goods and serving a hot meal at the Square.

In addition to Girl Scout volunteers, adults,

family and community members participate at the breakfast, greeting guests, helping to serve food and find the right size clothing, singing carols and listening as guests share stories.

The Columbia River Girl Scout Council continues to prepare girls to be their best. The Homeless Breakfast is one event through which Girl Scouts continue their tradition of service to the community.

To volunteer to help with the Homeless Breakfast or to make a contribution, call 1-800-338-5248 or (503) 620-4567.