

**American
Choreographers
Showcase**

American Choreographers Showcase has 12 upcoming performances.



See Metro, page B1.

Helen Baylor

Helen's vocals are still the heart behind the music that speaks most powerfully.



See Religion, Page B4.

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

Mini Master

Tiger Woods on Sunday became the youngest golfer in history to win the Masters.



See Sports, page A6.

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

FBI crime lab faulted

The Justice Department's inspector general is strongly criticizing the FBI's crime laboratories for providing flawed evidence in key cases. The report demands the removal of the heads of some laboratories and the overhaul of their operations. But the report also contains a scathing denunciation of the "whistleblower" employee who first noticed the problems. The report says some important allegations made by FBI lab expert Frederic Whitehurst were substantiated.

Cancer Therapy?

Researchers at the Yale School of Medicine have identified salmonella as a possible means of fighting cancer. Yale cancer biologist Dr. John Pawelek said his team has genetically altered salmonella, a food-poisoning bacterium, to seek out and destroy tumors in mice. "It's potentially a huge step forward," he told Reuters. Yale has licensed a New Haven, Conn.-based company, Vion Pharmaceuticals, to develop a clinical product. Vion said it anticipated clinical trials in humans by the middle of next year.

U.S. Bank donates nearly \$300,000 to non-profits

U.S. Bank of Oregon has announced a contribution of \$299,450 to 37 organizations throughout the state, as the result of its first cycle of charitable funding for 1997. "Our customers and our communities are the reasons we're in business," explained John Eskildsen, president and CEO, U.S. Bank of Oregon. "By supporting efforts that help to build healthy and productive communities, we are able to show our appreciation for the trust our customers place in us."

US gives more food to N. Korea

The United States has announced it will provide \$15 million in additional food aid to feed children in famine-threatened North Korea. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns says the new donation is being offered because the communist nation's food shortages will reach a critical stage this spring. This brings the total U.S. food aid to North Korea to \$33.4 million since late 1995.

Court bars candidate drug tests

Since 1989, the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of drug tests for student-athletes, government workers and railroad employees. But the justices yesterday exempted politicians. In an 8-1 ruling, the court struck down a Georgia law requiring that political candidates pass drug tests before they can get on the ballot. In previous cases, the court allowed drug testing out of concern for public safety.



Dr. J. (Julius Erving) prepares to sign autographs at the Hayden Meadows G.I. Joe's during his visit to Portland on March 27, 1997.

Senate allows seeing-eye dogs

Embarassed by a blind congressional aide being kept off the Senate floor in a dispute over her guide dog, the Senate unanimously agreed Tuesday to make the chamber more accessible to people with disabilities.

A congressional fellow, working for Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., was kept out of the Senate chamber because she insisted that her guide dog, a big yellow Labrador named Beau, remain with her.

It took less than 18 hours Tuesday for the Senate to realize its gaffe and engineer a delicate retreat.

The senators agreed unanimously to lift any prohibition against guide dogs and directed the sergeant at arms to allow staff members with disabilities to bring into the chamber whatever aids they consider necessary.

"This is the right thing to do," said Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. He said the interim step was taken, pending a review of a proposed permanent change in Senate rules on access involving people with disabilities.

The change will not expand the list of people allowed on the Senate floor while the Senate is in session. That generally is restricted to members and former members of Congress and staff aides.

The issue surfaced Monday when Wyden had sought unanimous consent from his colleagues to allow Moira Shea, an energy policy expert, to accompany him onto the floor for a debate on nuclear waste.

But a Democratic senator, later identified as Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., telephoned the cloakroom to object. That was enough to keep Ms. Shea and her dog waiting at the door.

Byrd issued a statement Tuesday saying that he objected because he wanted to ensure "proper procedures" were followed before the Senate considered changing its rules on access.

After the vote Tuesday, Byrd said he was "pleased that the Senate agreed to accommodate on a case-by-case basis the special needs of disabled Americans" who have business on the Senate floor. During a brief discussion with a reporter he explained he had nothing against dogs.

"I have a dog myself, Billy Byrd," said Byrd, appearing a bit embarrassed by all the uproar.

Ms. Shea, 41, an economist who has worked for the government for 20 years and since January as a congressional fellow in Wyden's office, said she was delighted at the Senate's change of heart.

When Wyden took to the floor Tuesday to

speak about the turn of events, Ms. Shea sat nearby with Beau at her feet along the Senate's center aisle.

"We're delighted you are on the Senate floor with your dog. It's an historic day for the U.S. Senate," Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., intoned. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, called it "historic and unprecedented."

Outside the Senate chamber, Wyden told reporters that "it's been a very good day ... The Senate made a judgment that a double standard won't be tolerated." The day before, he had accused the Senate of violating the American with Disabilities Act by excluding Ms. Shea's dog.

Beau seemed to take all the attention with the calm that marks most guide dogs. "He graced the chamber with his presence," said Ms. Shea, amid the hubbub of the Capitol. Just then Beau shifted suddenly. A passerby had stepped on his tail.

James Earl Ray gun test authorized

James Earl Ray may finally get what he's been asking for—a comparison of his rifle with the bullet that killed Martin Luther King Jr.

The State Court of Criminal Appeals said Wednesday that a Tennessee judge has the authority to order the test, which did not exist when King was shot to death on a motel balcony in 1968.

Ray, 69 and suffering from liver disease, claims the test will show his hunting rifle was not the gun used in the assassination.

Wednesday's ruling opens the door for Ray's lawyers to ask the judge presiding over the case for permission to conduct the tests. Prosecutors were skeptical about the ruling's effect.

"Other than the fact that it's going to

continue the circus atmosphere, whether this is going to produce anything, who knows," prosecutor John Campbell said.

Ray avoided a possible death sentence when he pleaded guilty to the slaying and received a 99-year prison term. He recanted soon after, although his plea has been upheld seven times by state and federal courts.

In 1994, Memphis Judge Joe Brown tried to order the new tests, but was overruled by the appeals court. Now the same court has said Brown has the authority to order scientific testing on evidence under his supervision.

Whether he will do so, and whether such testing would lead to a new trial, remains to be seen.

Ray maintains he was set up, and that he

brought the rifle to Memphis on instructions from a gun runner he knew only as Raoul. Even members of the King family have said they believe him.

But prosecutors said new test results would not be enough to overturn Ray's guilty plea. "He was convicted on a lot of other evidence, too," Campbell said.

Ray bought the rifle, brought it to Memphis and used an assumed name to rent a room a few hours before the shooting in a rooming house across the street from The Lorraine Motel, where King was shot, investigators said.

Ray's fingerprints were on the rifle, and there was evidence he had stalked King in other cities. A bundle found with the rifle contained a radio identified as belonging to

Ray, according to investigators.

In the 1970s, the FBI and the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations tested the rifle, but could not establish that it was the murder weapon. The House committee eventually concluded Ray killed King but may have had help.

Bill Gibbons, the state's chief prosecutor in Memphis, said he is convinced of Ray's guilt but will ask Tennessee's congressional delegation to open the House committee's investigative files, which are under seal until the year 2029.

"If there is some information in there involving someone else's possible involvement in addition to James Earl Ray, then we would certainly be prepared to pursue that," Gibbons said.

Wrong suspect chosen

A woman who police say saw the killer of Ennis Cosby has failed to pick the suspect out of a police lineup, and even chose other men instead, according to media reports.

The woman "categorically eliminated" 18-year-old Mikail Markhasev during at least one lineup held after his March 12 arrest, defense attorney Charles Lindner said in today's editions of the Los Angeles Times.

She also picked out other men in the lineup, according to WCAL-TV.

The shooting took place Jan. 16 on a stretch of road where the 27-year-old son of entertainer Bill Cosby was changing a tire

on his Mercedes-Benz.

The witness was called by Cosby, who wanted her to light up the area while he changed the tire. As she waited in her car, the suspect knocked on her window and told her to get out.

She fled, then returned to find the doctoral student shot dead.

A drawing of the suspect was based on the woman's description. Police, receiving several tips, arrested Markhasev and claim an informant led them to the murder weapon.

LAPD Cmdr. Tim McBride declined to discuss whether a witness was able to identify Markhasev. The district attorney's office also refused comment.

Social (in)Security

The Social Security Administration said it had shut down an Internet site that supplied information about personal income and retirement benefits because of concern that it might violate privacy rights.

Thousands of people have obtained such data on the World Wide Web, by requesting "personal earnings and benefit estimate statements."

A computer user seeking the information needed to supply a name, address, telephone number, place of birth, Social Security number and mother's maiden name. Experts on computers and privacy law expressed con-

cern that such personal information was not enough to keep people from obtaining confidential electronic data about others.

The acting commissioner of social security, John Callahan, said their service was shut down at 3 p.m.

"The Internet is a new world," Callahan said, reflecting on the effort to balance customers' needs and privacy rights. "We want to provide the highest level of security for our beneficiaries and wage earners."

Callahan said the agency would hold public forums around the country in the next 60 days to hear from beneficiaries and experts on privacy and computer security.

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