

Observing Vancouver

Senior Triathlete route

Senior Triathlete's Route Passes Through Vancouver

At 64, Jack Riley is a record-holding senior triathlete battling heart disease and prostate cancer. In the Triathlon of Hope, he plans to cycle, run and swim from Canada to Mexico to promote awareness and research about breast and prostate cancer.

Riley will have worked his way from Vancouver, B.C. to Vancouver, Wash. by Thursday, June 5 when Riley and his wife are scheduled to meet with Mayor Royce E. Pollard.

Riley originally planned to swim

across the Columbia River but has changed to bicycling due to the currently dangerous high water conditions. His plan is to cross the river on a bicycle on Friday, June 6.

In 1996 Riley completed his first Triathlon of Hope by crossing 3,300 miles from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast in 84 days to promote cancer research and awareness. In 1984 his name was entered into the Guinness Book of Records for completing 52 triathlons in one year.

Call Karen Gee, Danville, Calif., 510-736-6732, for details of Riley's schedule.

Charles Royer to lead "Community Conversation"

Former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer to Lead "Community Conversation" on Revitalizing Vancouver

Charles Royer, former Seattle mayor and director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, will lead a public forum entitled "Vancouver Renaissance: a Community Conversation," Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at Clark College's Foster Auditorium. Sponsored by the City of Vancouver, the event will explore how redevelopment of the city's downtown and waterfront can revitalize the entire community.

"Back from the Brink: Saving America's Cities by Design," a television program produced and narrated by Royer, will be shown at 6 p.m. at Foster Auditorium on June 23 and will serve as a catalyst for the community conversation. The video looks at how several cities, including Portland, redeveloped their waterfronts and showcased their historic attractions, while bringing them together with their downtown areas, to benefit the entire community.

A panel of citizens and commu-

nity leaders will then begin the discussion on how design and community planning can unite Vancouver by revitalizing the city's downtown and waterfront and emphasizing its historic assets. "Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this important forum," says Vancouver City Manager Vernon E. Stoner. "We are excited to have Charles Royer guide a community conversation at this significant point in Vancouver's history."

The Community Conversation on June 23 is free and open to the public. "Back from the Brink" will also air on CTV Channel 47 and is available to community groups.

Royer was Seattle's mayor from 1978-1990. He was director of the Institute of Politics and a lecturer at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University from 1990-1994.

During his three terms as mayor, Royer was a national spokesperson for American cities in housing, the arts, health care, energy, civil liberties and the needs of children and youth. In 1988, he was named one of the top 20 American mayors by U.S. News and World Report.

Planning Commission vacancy

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission serves as a citizen advisory body to the city council. Commissioners work in a voluntary capacity to conduct studies and public hearing on subdivisions, comprehensive plan amendments, rezoning requests and zoning text amendments.

The commission makes recom-

mendations to the city manager to give to the city council for review and final decisions.

Applicants must live within the city limits.

For applications or further information contact Peggy Furno in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, 210 E. 13th St., P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA. 98668 or call 696-8121 (fax 696-8049). Applications must be submitted by Thursday, June 19.



YOUR MONEY & YOU

Q. I'm a senior citizen and can't get around the way I used to. Stuck at home on a fixed income, I'm wondering if I should pay my monthly bills by mail with money orders?

A. Maintaining a checking account with its monthly service charges, per-check charges and other user fees can drain the financial resources of seniors on fixed incomes. Purchasing and paying bills with money orders by mail has become an increasingly popular alternative with seniors. Money orders have been a reliable form of payment in America for more than a century. They work like checks, but have several advantages. There's no minimum balance to maintain when using a money order. And the cost of purchasing a money order is minimal compared to the costs associated with a checking account. Other advantages:

- **Convenience.** Money orders can be found, usually, just around the corner. They are available in convenience stores, supermarkets, financial institutions, and in some states, liquor stores.
- **Safety.** A properly drawn money order is extremely difficult to cash by anyone but the intended recipient.

- **Record.** If a properly completed money order is lost, it is usually possible to replace it using the number imprinted on the receipt. Copies of processed originals are stored on microfilm for seven years, providing a reliable personal or auditor record.

Q. Am I correct in believing that ordinary folks this year can sock away more retirement money tax-free than they could in past years?

A. It's not exactly "tax-free," but among the 650 changes in the federal tax code is a provision for single-earner married couples to shelter more money in tax-delayed Individual Retirement Accounts. Last year the limit was \$2,500 per year. This year each spouse in a household will be allowed to shelter \$2,000 per year. How much a household earns is a factor, so the rules vary from case to case.

Do you have a question about money matters or your financial well-being? Write to Travelers Express, 1850 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85077-2452. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a personal reply. For individual financial guidance, or specific stock or bond advice, seek professional advice.

Black conservatives urge return to morality

Rap music producer Bill Stepney told a gathering of black conservatives and clergy Saturday that "it probably seems rather strange that the likes of me is addressing you." The 34-year-old co-founder of the rap group Public Enemy told the Black Conservative Unity Summit that he came because he was fed up with what's happening to the black family.

With video clips from newscasts, he clicked off the evidence: single mothers who stabbed, beat or poisoned their children to death.

Those tragedies are an urgent call to return to morality, Stepney said, laying out the central theme of the Howard University gathering of about 60 black conservatives who want to infuse a new way of approaching problems among African-Americans.

"The past 30 years of leadership has not answered the spiritual, moral and ethical questions" of the young, said Stepney. He blamed the welfare system for pushing fathers out of families and replacing them with a government check.

In his attempt to counter the collapse of the family, Stepney said he produced a music video "We Must Be in Love," which is a love song to the institution of marriage, delivered in soft tones by the group Pure Soul. It was the biggest-selling single his company has ever produced, Stepney said. He pointed to rock magazines and rock stars that are beginning to discuss spiritual values.

Stepney was clearly preaching to the converted at the conference of a still tiny but increasingly visible segment of the black community,

including a handful of ministers, community organizers and professionals.

"We are beginning to make ourselves heard," said Brian Jones, who helped start the Washington-based research group Center for New Black Leadership.

"There is growing dissatisfaction with the political leadership in the black community," Jones argued. "The black community, like most other Americans, see that there's a

Blackwell, one of two black Republicans holding statewide office, said that the national problems stem from pushing God and faith out of the "public square" and giving government "primacy" instead of individuals.

"It's time to let faith-based and local community efforts solve the problems," Blackwell said, drawing warm applause.

As an example, he pointed to the past 20 years in which the federal

can-American community has been the clergy," said the Rev. Levon R. Yuille, pastor of the Bible Church in the Detroit suburb of Ypsilanti.

"We have failed," he said. "We have bought into worshipping at the altar of the (Democratic) donkey instead of the cross."

Moreover, he said that the clergy have gone soft on sinning. "Preachers don't want to say 'fornication' and 'adultery,'" he said, and they excuse lying and stealing.

Now, he said, "the chickens have come home to roost" in the form of sexually transmitted diseases and an abandonment of morality.

"There are going to have to be some conservatives who are brave enough" to speak out, despite the unpopularity of the message, Yuille said, conceding that among blacks, conservatives are still lonely. "When you're the only one, it's hard," said the minister, who admits that many of his own flock disagree with him. "But you have to do it."

Atlanta conservative activist Teresa Jeter Chappell echoed that sentiment in an interview. "If I truly believe, I must walk into the lion's den and take on the black, liberal leadership," she said. "They have failed the community."

She said that she has grown "impatient" with the conservatives for being too conservative in their tactics. "We've got to make more noise," she said, to compete with the established leaders.

Organizers of the unity conference have promised to finalize an agenda this fall for urging action on school vouchers, the moral decline in the black community, the black church and the family.

"There is a growing dissatisfaction with the political leadership in the black community. The black community, like most Americans, see that there's a moral dimension to the problems."

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Jones held that three decades after the passage of major civil rights laws and anti-poverty programs, the black community is in worse shape, not better, with poverty about the same but now added to the plague of drugs, crime, teen pregnancy and family disintegration.

Blacks own fewer banks than in the years 1884-1930, and they have watched new immigrant groups establish profitable businesses in black neighborhoods, he said.

Established leaders are not dealing with these problems, he said, because "the black leadership is obsessed with racism as public enemy No. 1."

Ohio state treasurer Ken

government granted disability benefits to alcoholics, who frequently had the monthly checks mailed directly to their local bartenders.

An avid promoter of tax cuts to boost economic growth, Blackwell said that the cost of government at all levels now exceeds 50 percent of gross personal income. "That is communism under another name," he said.

Blackwell, who has announced that he will run for governor of Ohio next year, is an exception to the rule that most black Americans remain entrenched in the Democratic Party.

For conservatives at the unity meeting, that alliance, especially with the black church, is a major problem.

"The greatest failure in the Afri-

OLCC Cancels Mama Mia's Liquor License

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission voted May 28 to cancel the liquor license held by Mama Mia's Restaurant and Lounge in Beaverton.

The Commissioners adopted an OLCC administrative law judge's

proposed order to cancel based on violation of illegal drug use, disorderly activities, 15 incidents of sale of alcohol to minors, and serving alcohol after hours.

The decision comes after 13 days of hearing held last year, and a

reconvening on March 6 to hear a witness recant part of her testimony.

The cancellation will take effect 10 days after Commission mails the formal final order to Mama Mia's, or in about two or three weeks.

The licensee has the right to request the Commissioners reconsider the decision.

The licensee can also choose to appeal the Liquor Commission's decision to the Oregon Court of appeals.

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