

Power Takes A Loss

Portland Power lose thier 4 game winning streak to Philadelphia.



See Sports, page B3.

Merry Christ And Happy Holidays

University of Oregon Knight Library, Newspaper Section Eugene, OR 97403

Album. ... Christmas

See Entertainment, page A5.

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

NATO Urged To Boost Responsibility

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pushed her 15 NATO colleagues recently to take a bigger share of responsibility in Bosnia. "The United States will continue to do its share. But in key areas such as this, other members of the alliance need to do much, much more," she said. The NATO leaders approved a proposal to give military planners four options for extending the peace mission before its current mandate runs out in June. The generals will study them and report back next month.

Mandela: S. Africa Race War Continues

President Nelson Mandela said recently that leaders from the apartheid era in South Africa are fighting a clandestine campaign to destabilize the country's all-race government. He said in a farewell speech to the African National Congress that the National Party, which still represents the Afrikaner minority of Dutch-descended white settlers, remains "imprisoned by notions of white supremacy." The National Party implemented apartheid but eventually abolished it.

Clinton Announces Science Funds

President Clinton honored Medal of Science and Medal of Technology winners with announcement of new, \$96 million government-assisted programs to develop chip-sized supercomputers, handheld video phones and radio-transmitting ID cards to locate lost children. The \$96 million, already provided by Congress for this budget year, combined with industry funds, would leverage roughly \$200 million for research and development, Clinton said. The Defense Department and semiconductor industry are teaming up to pay for long-term university projects.

Gov't Says Microsoft in Contempt

The Justice Department asked a federal judge to hold Microsoft in contempt of an earlier order to quit forcing computer makers to install its Internet browser as a condition of buying the popular Windows software. The federal request is the latest step in an antitrust lawsuit the government filed. It accuses the Redmond, Wash.-based software company with leveraging its dominance in Windows software to gain business in the Internet browser market. "Microsoft has gone from tying its products to tying the hands of its vendors," said Joel I. Klein, assistant attorney general for antitrust.

Clinton To Keep US Troops in Bosnia

President Clinton is about to announce he will keep U.S. troops in Bosnia as part of a NATO-led force past next June, when their mission is set to expire, administration officials said today. No deadline for the mission is likely to be set this time. Clinton is due to visit U.S. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia early next week. Some 8,000 U.S. troops are serving there with about 22,000 others drawn from the NATO allies, Russia and other countries.

Escaped Lion Captured In Florida

Zoo keepers today fired tranquilizer darts and captured a 450-pound lion that had escaped from a roadside exhibit near Walt Disney World and roamed free for two days. The 2 1/2-year-old female lion named Nala was spotted by a search helicopter in a cypress swamp near the zoo. The animal was hit with three darts fired by zoo keepers guided in by the helicopter crew.

Kitzhaber Visits North East Portland

By NEIL HEILPERN

Governor John Kitzhaber was in Northeast Portland last Wednesday to take the pulse of community leaders and their concerns.

A few dozen people sat down with the governor for a brown bag lunch at the Self Enhancement Inc. facilities on Failing Street, to discuss economic development, education, public safety and other issues. Sam Brooks, a local employment company owner, urged the governor to help create more "ownership and wealth in economic development, to create opportunities for small businesses to grow, hire local people and keep money in the community.

"We need to get out of the distressed community category," he said.

"A lot of people in the legislature think of economically distressed communities as rural," answered Kitzhaber, "and don't think of Multnomah County."

Carl Flipper, an economic development specialist, noted the low percentage of new businesses owned by African-Americans, American Indians and Hispanics.

"Business ownership is a central concern to an economically distressed community," he said, calling for "ownership and equity, not just a job."

Flipper called for the hiring of more people of color in state agencies and "people who understand the real problems in the community. How soon can we expect to see more people that look like us?"

Kitzhaber replied that more people had been hired recently and recent discussions with agency heads revealed they are currently reviewing hiring criteria.

Noting Kitzhaber's possible trade mission to China next year, State Senator Avel Gordly asked the governor to look into the "emerging markets of Africa" during a possible second term. Local business and community leaders have recently traveled to Africa to develop trade and make new con-



Gov. John Kitzhaber and Joyce Harris, of Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory during brown bag discussion at Self Enhancement, Inc. facilities December 17, 1997. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

tacts, she noted.

Kitzhaber said he liked the idea and would be open to creating a "set of criteria" for an African trip.

The group also discussed concerns about people being taken off the welfare rolls when they obtain low income level jobs that take them just above the federal poverty levels but don't alleviate family economic problems.

"Our purpose isn't just to get them off welfare," said Kitzhaber, "but make them independent."

Mildred Olee, of Portland Community College, noted that educating a person to land a job was not sufficient, but the process must "make an appreciable difference in the that person's life."

She observed that people of color are often tagged with labels such as "learning disabled" and find themselves facing "excessive barriers" to a complete education.

Some people urged Kitzhaber to take a closer look at how education dollars are spent, to strengthen teacher accountability for the outcomes desired.

"We definitely need to tie dollars in the budget to the outcome desired," said the governor. "If the Portland School District asks for more money, I want to see how it would be spent to improve student performance."

Issues of student harassment based on race, gender and national origin were also brought up and the governor was asked if his office could initiate statewide forums to discuss the subject.

Kitzhaber noted that racial tension is more of a problem in Oregon than most people realize, and likened it to domestic violence which is present but not discussed sufficiently.

Kitzhaber noted a probable ballot measure next fall that would provide more money for prisons and expand punishments beyond those approved in last year's measure 11 crime bill.

Mediation Program Seeking Applicants

In hopes to recruit a committee of eight to twelve

The city is putting together a committee to decide the future of the embattled Neighborhood Mediation Program, and is seeking members for it.

City Council voted last spring to cut the program's funding for the current fiscal year from \$330,000 to \$200,000, and to have it transition out of city operation by year's end.

Following the death last month of director Emmanuel Paris, and a related groundswell of support for the program, Council appropriated \$93,000 more to operate it until next June.

Former staffer Jamie Damon has been appointed acting director. Another former

staffer, Mary Forst, has been awarded a contract to create a plan for the program's future.

Forst told a public gathering last week that she hopes to recruit a committee of eight to 12 interested people that will develop a draft plan by February, followed by public review.

Whether the program will continue under city direction, combine with some other program or agency, or become an independent non-profit corporation has not been determined, she said. "We can't do a quality job if all the options aren't on the table," she said.

Mediation staffer David Little, who criticized the decision to cut city funding at Paris' funeral service, took ONA director Diane

Linn to task for not seeking other funding sources.

For instance, he said, money could have been requested from the Portland Police Bureau or Multnomah County Animal Control, which regularly refer disputes to mediation.

"The reason we didn't do that during the budget crisis was that every other bureau was looking for dollars," Linn replied. "We have put people on notice that we will be aggressive in pursuing this in the future."

Linn later said that if the program hoped to operate primarily through private funding it might be best to do so outside the city structure, since people

are reluctant to contribute funds to public agencies already supported by tax dollars.

Little said city affiliation is important in making the process work because it gives the program "credibility." Others said that charging fees for services is undesirable because it makes parties to disputes reluctant to participate.

Jeff Bauman, a mediator already recruited to the committee, said, "I speak for everyone involved that not having a mediation program is not an option."

Those interested in participating on the committee are urged to call the mediation program at 823-3152.

Annual Sleigh Ride With Santa And Santa's Workshop One Christmas Day!

2:00-4:00 Elf - Time!
Two Locations For toys!
Portland Miracle Revival Church
4828 N. Williams Ave just south of Alberta

For the little Northeast Elves and The Housing Authority of Portland, 8920 N. Woolsey Ave, Columbia Villa

For the little North Elves We need donations of multicultural dolls, non-violent toys, action figures!

All Donations Tax Deductible!
For more information call Head Elf in Charge, Lisa at 284-6152 or Mrs. Santa at 287-8577 SOS, an Elf-Help Program



Children celebrate the holiday season at St. Andrew's Church. This years event was sponsored by Angel Tree, and Lake Grove Presbyterian Church.

(Photo by M. Washington)