

**Herb Ritts Exhibit**

Herb Ritts will exhibit his photographs at the Gallery of Contemporary Arts.



See Entertainment, page B3.



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Special Edition

See inside, Section C.

**Northwest Passage**

Oregon Group find their own passage to the future.



See Entertainment, page B2.

# The Portland Observer

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Cowboys Coach Stepping Down**

Barry Switzer, who took the majority of the blame for the Dallas Cowboys' 6-10 season and failure to reach the playoffs for the first time since 1989, has reached an agreement with owner Jerry Jones to step down as coach, a source has told The Associated Press. The Cowboys are expected to hold a news conference later this week to discuss the decision that Jones and Switzer reached.

**U.S Sends Officials to Indonesia**

The Clinton administration and the International Monetary Fund, responding Thursday night to a worsening economic crisis, dispatched top officials to Indonesia to discuss salvaging a faltering bailout effort. President Clinton called Indonesian President Suharto from Air Force One to discuss the economic situation after the Indonesian currency sank to an all-time low Thursday, losing a quarter of its value in a single day.

**Clinton Continues Unveiling Agenda**

President Clinton is continuing to promote a grand agenda covering new initiatives from Social Security to global warming. Installment of the piece-by-piece unveiling of that master plan: adding \$70 million to the federal work-study program for college students. In speeches at two Texas high schools and a pair of political fund-raisers Clinton will primarily seek to resuscitate his campaign for national education standards and testing. At the same time, Clinton is arguing for everything from pollution controls and child care subsidies to making overdue payments to the United Nations.

**Kaczynski on Suicide Watch**

Unabomb defendant Theodore Kaczynski's mental health is at center stage, a day after authorities say he tried to hang himself with his underwear, recently, he also sought permission to defend himself at the murder trial. Prosecutors and defense attorneys are to confer with psychiatrists who will examine Kaczynski. They must report to the court on whether he is competent to stand trial at all and whether he can represent himself. The apparent suicide attempt will be an issue in Kaczynski's competency examination, psychologist Paul Mattiuzzi said.

**Tax Cut Not Americans' First Choice**

More Americans would prefer using a federal budget surplus for health, education and Social Security spending over tax cuts, a poll finds. The USA Today-CNN-Gallup Poll shows that 43 percent of those surveyed favored using extra money for Social Security, Medicare and education. Thirty percent supported reducing the \$5.4 trillion federal debt. The nationwide poll found only 22 percent of the people backed tax cuts. The telephone poll of 1,015 Americans was conducted last Tuesday and Wednesday. It has a margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

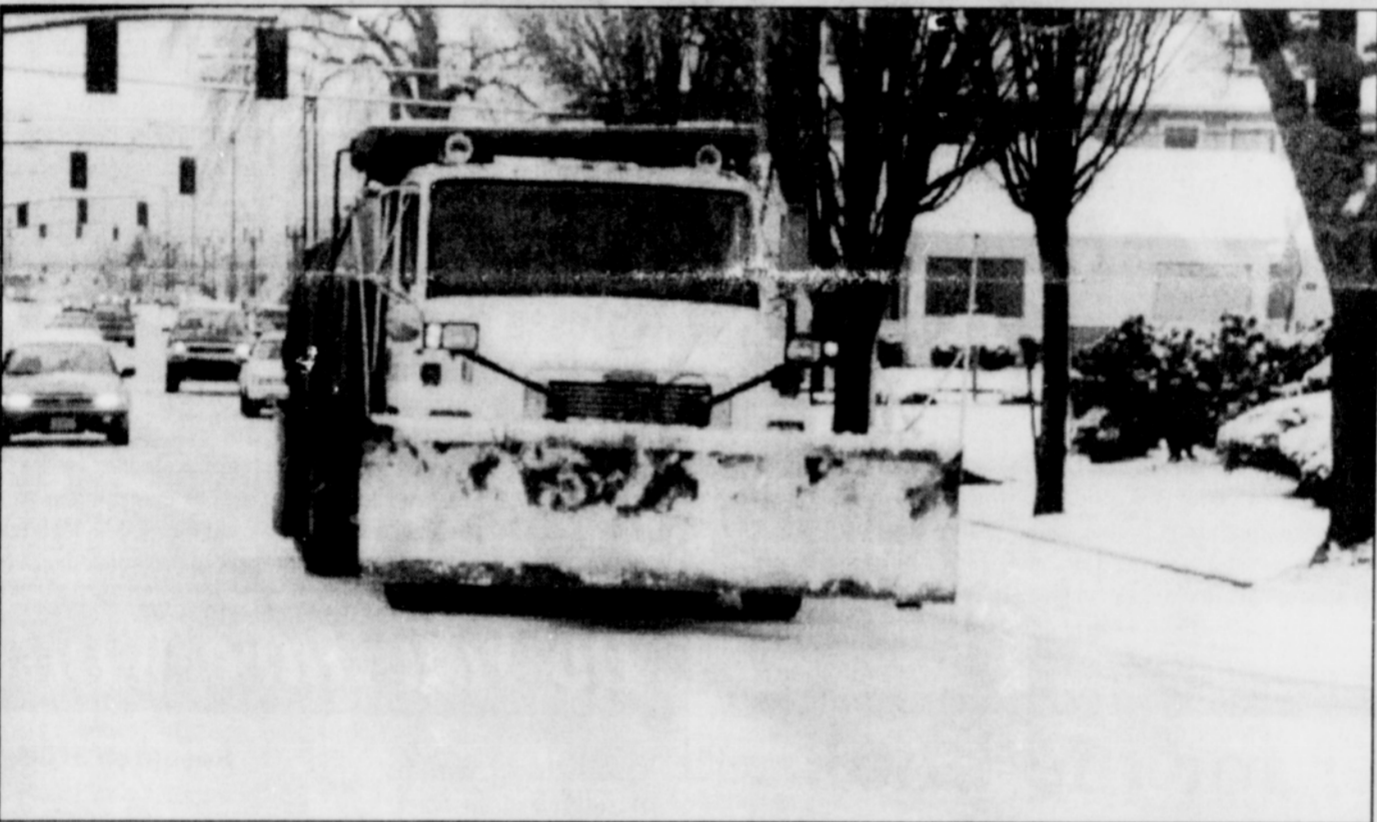
**Balloonists Prepare for Flight**

Two pilots hope fly to their balloon today in their bid to make aviation history by circling the globe without stopping. Weather conditions forced Dick Rutan and Dave Melton delay their flight last Tuesday. The \$1 million assault on one of aviation's last frontiers is the third such attempt by a balloon team since Dec. 31. Two balloonists in Switzerland also plan to launch soon.



Winter Paralyzes the Metro Area with a strong arctic blast from the North. Portland road crew's do their best to keep travelers moving. Warmer weather is in the forecast.

(Photo by M. Washington)



## Neighbors Of Abused Kids to Become Activists

By NEIL HEILPERN

Where is our rage about abuse of innocent children who can't fight back?" the state's top social worker wants to know.

Kay D. Toran, director of the State Office for Services to Children and Families, visited the Portland Observer last week, urging people to be more involved helping neighborhood children and asking decision makers at all levels to "refocus the dollars so kids have a fair chance at becoming healthy, productive adults."

When people notice abusive situations in their neighborhood, she noted, there is nothing wrong with a friendly message like, "I heard a loud argument at your house last night. It sounded pretty scary and I recognized domestic violence in your home. How can I help?"

Toran envisioned a return to values that required neighbors to help neighbors, noting that approach is better than removing a child from mom and dad.

Applauding efforts of several programs -- public and private -- that provide educational opportunities to diminish abuse, Toran said she wants more coordination between various programs to make those efforts more effective. Greater networking would provide a "better map of community resources for children and connect people to those resources", she said.

Toran applauded effective grass roots public education campaigns, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) which popularized the phrase "designated driver" and raised the awareness of drunk driving tragedies.

"When the Never Shake a Baby campaign started four years ago, we discovered many

parents who just didn't know that shaking causes a baby's young brain to rattle within the skull, causing major injury or death," she said. "Some people knew it but couldn't control their anger in certain situations."

Toran cited several fuses that explode into child abuse, including substance abuse, violence, pressure of having incarcerated parents and lack of training.

"Unless we eliminate or diminish violence in the home, these kids become damaged goods and have less of a chance (in society)," she said. The bottom line, Toran asserted, is "never allow the abuse of a child, or abuse in the home." She expressed hope that would be the next grass roots education campaign which local groups could start.

"There are a lot of well-intentioned people who don't know how to be a good parent," she noted. "We spend money teaching children how to drive safely, so why can't we also start at a young age to teach children about parenting?"

Once community awareness increases to realize need for early family education, the next step is to pressure the state department of education and the legislature to provide the means, she said.

Recalling the rage many people expressed about the Viet Nam War and racial injustice -- and how they acted on that rage -- Toran asked, "Where is the rage about our children? More children died of guns since 1973 than the sum total of all victims in wars since Viet Nam."

"Change the inner rage to outrage and public action," she said, also complaining about overwhelming mass media coverage of negative aspects of society.

CONTINUED TO PAGE A6



Kay D. Toran, director of the State Office for Services to Children and Families. (Photo By Neil Heilpern)