

Dave Frishberg

The well known Pianist is coming to Portland in a rare concert February 22.



See Entertainment, page A8.

Black History Month with Disney

Disney Channel will feature themed movies and specials this coming February.



See Entertainment, page A8.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Clinton Urged on Affirmative Action

Liberal activists are urging President Clinton to remain steadfast in his support for affirmative action. Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress, suggested that Clinton talk about race in the annual State of the Union address. Clinton did not indicate whether he would do so, but said he would try to discuss his race initiative with House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Iraq Blocks U.S. Weapons Inspectors

Iraq made good on its threat and prevented an American-led weapons inspection team from doing its work, prompting the U.N. Security Council to meet and try to draft a statement on Baghdad's failure to comply with U.N. resolutions. British Ambassador John Weston said Iraq's actions "will certainly have consequences, and those consequences will not be the early lifting of sanctions." The inspectors are trying to verify that Iraq has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction, a condition that must be met before the United Nations will lift trade sanctions.

Huge Hamas Bomb Factory Discovered

Palestinian police discovered 1,540 pounds of explosives in a storage room last night, fueling Israeli fears that the Islamic militant group Hamas is plotting new attacks. Authorities haven't revealed the nature of the explosives found tucked away in an unoccupied building, except to say they were enough to cause serious damage within a 1,300-foot radius, according to one Palestinian official at the scene. Some of the explosives had already been assembled as bombs, officials said. The materials were the same as those used in two suicide bombings in Jerusalem last summer.

Microsoft, Judge Argue Over Order

A government witness has told a federal judge that Microsoft's own technical literature tells how to delete its Internet Explorer from Windows 95. The judge ordered Microsoft to delete the Web browser as part of a federal suit against the software giant. The government wants Microsoft to be found in contempt for failing to make that change.

Woman Sprays Paint in White House

A woman touring the White House today sprayed rust-colored paint in the Blue Room and was taken into custody by Secret Service agents. A White House spokesman said the woman caused more than \$1,000 damage and defaced two "rather priceless" busts of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci.

Court Reviews Police Force Case

The Supreme Court considered whether a SWAT team went too far when an officer with a search warrant broke into a residence without knocking first. Several justices said the search-and-seizure case from Boring, Ore., posed questions about how much force police can use. "We all have in mind what happened at Waco," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said about the siege of the Branch Davidians in Texas in 1993. Federal prosecutors want the court to overturn lower court rulings that barred use of weapons seized in the Oregon search as evidence.

MLK Blvd. Plans Praised By Officials



Mayor Vera Katz chats with Carl Talton, chairman of the Portland Development Commission, about progress on the upgrade of Martin Luther King Blvd. (Photo By Neil Heilpern)

By NEIL HEILPERN

City, state and regional officials gathered on Martin Luther King's birthday last week to applaud progress on the refurbishing of the Northeast Portland thoroughfare that bears his name.

"We are Honoring one of the greatest men in U.S. History and celebrating a street named after this great man," said Mayor Vera Katz.

When the proposal for safety and beauti-

fication changes to the street was made during her first session in the state legislature, Katz said, she "took a ride along the boulevard and realized we have a lot of work to do to honor this man in this community."

"I wasn't a transportation expert, but I realized something was keeping people away (from the shops)," she said. The first thing she noticed was the median strip which made MLK Blvd. "seem like a freeway."

Changes would provide the "opportunity for people to own their own businesses, find new jobs, have new shops and give people places to sit on the boulevard with a coffee and meet friends -- a meeting place."

"We are not going to walk away from north and northeast Portland," she vowed. "We will continue to make this street great."

Carl Talton, chairman of the Portland Development Commission, said the secret to success of

MLK Blvd. change is "community vision."

He noted the input by many segments of the surrounding neighborhoods, saying "a community ought to look like the life-style we want. This process emulates Dr. King's dream."

Portland Commissioner Charlie Hales agreed. "This was not a plan hatched in an office building downtown, or Salem, or Washington, D.C."

"We are implementing ideas that come from the neighborhood," He said, praising "the collective wisdom of people, working together to create change."

The community input was shared at the

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governor's community solutions team meetings, said Grace Crunican, director of Oregon Department of Transportation. "It is important that transportation officials are flexible and understand that the community provides the vision," she said.

What comes next? Hales talked of increased on-street parking to benefit business, more signal lights and better pedestrian crossings for safety, and more trees for beauty. He said several businesses and organizations had taken on the role of financial "partners" to make the dream become a reality.

Katz said the city will soon "unfurl banners" that will decorate the street.

This section of northeast Portland has "always been a community," said Metro executive Mike Burton. "It just needed a main street. And streets aren't just about cars and sidewalks, but about people." "MLK needs a combination of the toughness of a serpent, the softness of a dove and a tender heart," said Katz. We have no lack of these in North and Northeast Portland."

Placed throughout the large room were large drawings and maps showing a section of MLK Blvd., between Fremont and Shaver streets, describing upgraded "commercial nodes" to serve various neighborhoods, parking plans and new street trees, grade of Martin Luther King Blvd.

Tobacco Program Gets Underway

Oregon's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program is underway and its presence is beginning to be felt in communities throughout the state. The program is a direct result of voters' passage of a tobacco tax initiative last fall, which earmarked revenues to the Oregon Health Division for a tobacco prevention and education program. It was legislatively approved during the 1997 session.

"Our efforts are dedicated toward one goal, to decrease tobacco use and its impact on the health and economic well-being of Oregonians," says Elnor Hall, Health Division Administrator. The program being launched is innovative, co-

ordinated and comprehensive and has been designed in consultation with other state and national experts. "Oregon is benefitting from successful models throughout the country," Hall states.

A fundamental strength of the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program is that it operates through a mix of local and statewide activities. Total budget for the program is \$17 million over two years, and the money is being distributed in five critical areas:

Community-based activities: School-based activities: Statewide public awareness and education: Statewide and Regional Projects: Evaluation of the Tobacco Reduction Program.



Dr. MLK Jr. Statue Foundation Board members along with Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, presented replicas of the King statue to Major Donors who donated \$10,000 or more. (Photo By Larry Jackson Sr.)



Marcus E. William (left) and Sharmon Grey both of Bank of America march along in the March For Wellness as a part Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration. (Photos by T. Washington)



YMCA participates in the Wellness Walk sponsored by The World Arts Foundation.