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SPORTS, PAGE B2



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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Clinton Asks Senate To OK NATO Plan

President Clinton made a renewed pitch for the Senate to approve NATO's expansion next year into Central Europe. "The admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will be a very important milestone in building the kind of world we want for the 21st century," Clinton said. The vote would be a historic affirmation of the United States' commitment to Europe. The Senate is expected to approve the NATO expansion in a vote.

### King Family: Let Ray Die at Home

A son of Martin Luther King Jr. says the state would be cruel to deny a medical furlough to James Earl Ray for his final days on earth. "Here's a man who's close to death," Dexter King said of his father's convicted assassin. "The humanitarian aspect is not being considered." Ray, who suffers from a serious liver disease and was briefly in a coma, was in fair condition today at a hospital. His lawyer has been talking to prosecutors about a possible furlough after 30 years in prison.

### Boeing To Cut 20,000 Jobs by 2000

Boeing, the world's biggest commercial aircraft maker, is cutting more jobs. Boeing will cut 8,200 jobs in the next two years because it will stop building two McDonnell Douglas jetliner models. The job cuts are in addition to a 12,000-person reduction in commercial airplane employment announced in mid-December. Boeing also said it would close several plants and laboratories by 2000 as it cuts costs and streamlines production following its recent merger with McDonnell Douglas.

### Study: Surgery Costly for Smokers

Researchers have found hidden costs of smoking in a place patients might not normally expect: joint replacement surgery. In a new study, surgery cost more, took longer and was more complicated for smokers getting new hips and knees even though the group was younger and outwardly healthier than nonsmokers, concluded Dr. Carlos Lavernia, an orthopedic surgeon. The smokers also took longer to recover from anesthesia and healed slower, Lavernia said.

### Yeltsin Fires Entire Government

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that he needs a new team to focus on economic reforms and lead the country to a powerful breakthrough in the economy. Yeltsin fired his entire government because he believes members have lacked initiative and fresh ideas. Many Russians blame reforms for the nation's economic woes and believe their lives were better in the Communist era.

### 2 Rafters Killed in Ore. High Water

A surge of water turned the already treacherous Illinois River deadly, killing at least two rafters, stranding four and leaving as many as 25 unaccounted for. A helicopter search for the rafters was delayed by fog and rain but got underway. The rising waters prevented a boat search. The severe weather and snow melt caused the water volume to more than double in a day and a half and deputies say it could be 10 times higher before the water crests.

## Tri-Met's General Manager announces departure



Tom Walsh, Tri-Met's General Manager

Tom Walsh, Tri-Met's General Manager for the past seven years, announced today his departure from the agency following completion of the Westside MAX project in September. He has informed the Board of Directors of his intention to leave.

During his tenure, Walsh led the final design and construction of Westside MAX, emphasized a commitment to customer service, expanded transit service throughout the region resulting in record ridership, advanced the South/North light rail project and worked with regional partners to bring the opportunity of an Airport MAX extension.

"For seven years, I've had the privilege of working with immensely talented Oregonians to complete another segment of this region's light rail system, and to advance an ethic of outstanding customer service in all that we do daily. This opportunity has left me truly grateful and filled with pride at the capabilities of our public and private citizens."

Walsh will continue doing what he has had fun doing for nearly 35 years—help shape this community as private citizen. He will also chair the planning committee for the Lewis & Clark Bi-Centennial in 2005.

Board President Phil Bogue will chair the Board's search committee. They will begin their search immediately. The new General Manager is expected to be on board September 1.

The following is Congressman Earl Blumenauer's statement regarding the announced departure of Tom Walsh, Tri-Met's General Manager:

"Tom Walsh's tenure at the helm of Tri-Met is perhaps the most important chapter in his illustrious career. While delivering the Westside light rail project on time and on budget, he set standards for land use and transportation planning that have shaped the future of Portland, the region, and the state.

No one has done more for Oregon in the last 30 years, and I look forward to working with him as he begins the next chapter in his career," said Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

## "Workers' Center" For Migrant Laborers

By LEE PERLMAN

The Central East Side Industrial Council says that putting up a "workers' center" and hiring hall for migrant laborers in the inner southeast would encourage illegal hiring of illegal aliens.

The Workers Organizing Committee, and city commissioner Erik Sten's office, dispute this, and further say that CEIC is missing the point.

WOC, a non-profit corporation, proposed setting up such a facility, and Sten's aide Serena Cruz suggested allocating city funds for it. Currently such workers hang out at the intersection of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and East Burnside Street, waiting to be hired. They are sometimes cheated out of their money and sometimes recruited to deal drugs. WOC says a workers center could screen out both problems.

Such plans fell through when CEIC announced that they would oppose any such proposal. CEIC says that according to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service, 75 to 80 percent of those on the corner are in this country illegally.

John Kuechler, a district police officer who works with CEIC, asks, "Do we get to ignore the federal laws we disagree with? Does the city get to support a place where illegal activity takes place?"

Cruz doesn't see it that way. "If that were so, the INS could handle it," she says. "The reason they can't is either that most of these people are documented, or that the problem

is much bigger than that little corner. If CEIC has a solution to the flow of immigrants to this country, legal and illegal, they should put it on the table. To focus on the INS is to see that the problem isn't addressed."

Teresa Enrico of WOC adds, "CEIC can ignore the fact that those people are doing work that is in demand, that other people are unwilling to do, and they're doing it to feed their families."

Both know from first-hand experience. Cruz's mother was an undocumented alien before becoming a citizen. Enrico, the daughter of a Phillipino father and Native American mother, saw her parents work multiple low-wage jobs to make ends meet. She herself encountered bad working conditions in the food services trade. "I determined early on that something was wrong," she said.

Immigrants, who make up a substantial part of the work force, often wind up in low-paying jobs with poor working conditions and few benefits, she says. (WOC helped bring a lawsuit against a hotel that hired workers to do asbestos removal without proper protection.) They often move from job to job frequently, not staying at one place long enough to acquire seniority or move up the ladder.

A workers center, if funded, could be used to educate workers about their rights and how to defend them, Enrico says.

"This is about people's fundamental right to eat," she says.

## Oregon Number two In Nation Safety Belt Use

Oregon now ranks second in the nation for safety belt use with 85% of vehicle occupants buckled up, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Dr. Ricardo Martinez, NHTSA administrator, made the announcement at a recent Portland event. California ranks first with a reported use rate of 88%, while the nationwide rate is 69%.

## Urban League's "Career Connections '98"



Urban League of Portland President Lawrence J. Dark with Career Connections volunteers, Helloise Hill (Left) and Myrtle Carr. Career Connections '98 is April 2.

Thousands of job seekers and employment recruiters will go prospecting at the fifth annual "Career Connections" job fair sponsored by the Urban League of Portland and its Employer partners. The event takes place Thursday, April 2, 1998 at the Memorial Coliseum Exhibit Hall. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Career Connections attracts job seekers and employers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. The event showcases employment opportunities in Oregon and Southwest Washington, with a special emphasis on recruiting a diverse work force. Anyone looking for a new job or employee is in-

quired. "We want to give employers a chance to recruit the best job candidates from Portland beyond," said Urban League President Lawrence J. Dark. "And we expect employers to come with more than 2,500 job openings to fill." A full house of 90 employers, including many of the region's largest companies and those with a strong commitment to diversity, are reserving booths at the job fair.

Employers represented include Bank of

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