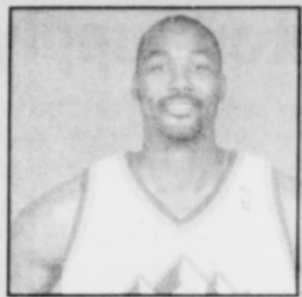


**The Moment We've All Been Waiting For Is Here**

*Bulls Vs. Utah Wednesday!*



See Sports, page B2.

**African American Senior's Get Early Graduation**

*Urban League to celebrate the achievements of African American graduating students.*



See Metro, Inside.

See Pope, Coupon's Inside!

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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Head Start

A battle is underway about who will operate Head Start next year. In Portland, the school district is considering relinquishing its program to a different provider. Depending on the provider, Head Start may expand services to needy preschoolers or operate a full-day program.

### Bull Run Water

Portland's Water Bureau is proposing a new \$185 million dam in the Bull Run watershed to produce water for the entire region, for the next 60 years. It will be built as soon as the year 2015. Both Tigard and Wilsonville face potential water shortages and are seeking an alternative water source.

### USS Missouri

The USS Missouri, a World War II battleship had arrived in Astoria. It was on this ship that General Douglas MacArthur presided over the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945. The vessel will be a national monument at its own permanent pier in Pearl Harbor.

### Prineville Flood

Hard rain had dissolved an already slushy snowpack in the Ochoco Mountains, flooding the desert town of Prineville. Fifty homes built on the ancient Ochoco River bottom were flooded. Governor Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency to allow about 80 National Guard troops to assist local emergency crews.

### Nuclear Testing

Pakistan detonated its sixth nuclear bomb in two rounds of tests, threatening to increase tension with neighboring India. The nuclear device was 18 kilotons, the same size as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Pakistan's latest testing drew international condemnation.

### Springfield Memorial

A public memorial service was held for the slain couple, William and Faith Kinkel who were shot by their son before going on a shooting rampage at the Thurston High School. The memorial service drew more than 1,700 people, including recent and former students of the Kinkels, fellow teachers school administrators, neighbors and friends.

### 10% Tax Refund

Oregon taxpayers may receive a 10% tax refund in their state income taxes next year despite a slowdown in high-tech manufacturing and exports to Asia. State law calls for a refund when tax revenues exceed official estimates by 2 percent or more in a two-year budget period.

### School Reform

Republican Bill Sizemore presented an eight-part reform plan for changing the education system. Several proposals were recommended. One proposal would deny driver's licenses to students who drop out of high school and require students to maintain at least a C average to play interscholastic sports.

## Hail To The Queen...And King?



Queen Alisha Moreland

By JOY RAMOS

Fourteen Rose Princesses waiting gathered on May 28th at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall that was "rocked" by wild enthusiasm from teenagers attending the coronation event.

Only one young lady would be Queen of the Rose Festival.

Every year since 1908, Portland royalty has kicked off the Rose Festival in high style. In its early years, a King ruled mythical Rosaria.

King Rex Oregonus was shrouded in mystery wearing bright court clothes and artificial blond whiskers. By tradition, he would appear riding a rose-covered barge down the Willamette River. His identity was revealed at the closing of the Festival. "Next week, he may be back running the elevator once more or reigning at the ribbon counter. But this week, he is King," wrote a reporter.

Royal power later shifted to the Queen. In 1914, the line of Rosarian Kings was broken. This was two years after Oregon women were allowed to vote that the first Queen, Thelma Williams was crowned. In an interview, Thelma fondly related the good times she had. "We rode in splendor. At every stop, we made a speech and planted a rose bush."

Selection of the Queen has been a long and evolving tradition.

The 1950's idea of beauty deemed that the leading Princess be tall and white with long, dark hair. This stereotype was challenged and broken in 1967 when Ana Maria Enriquez was chosen as the first Queen of Cuban heritage.

In that same year, Lois Johnson of Girl's Polytechnic High School became the first Black Princess. "A screaming ovation by the school's 500 girl students attested to their overwhelming approval. They were so joy-



Rose Festival Queen Coronation Presented by Self Enhancement. (Photo Larry J. Jackson Sr.)

ous, half of them were in tears. They smothered Louis' weeping mother with so many hugs that they knocked her hat off," recalled an eyewitness.

The coronation ceremony was usually held outdoors. Queen Mary Sue Woolfolk, in 1957, was crowned before an audience of 25,000 in the pouring rain.

Once the Memorial Coliseum was built, the ceremony moved indoors. A revolving stage was placed in the center of the basketball floor as the Princesses made their debut wearing huge, wire hoops under their gowns. They had traveled together to the Coliseum, being made to stand up in the back of a truck so they wouldn't wrinkle their dresses.

The 1972 coronation event was damaged by protesters and a bomb threat. Representatives of "Women Against the Rose Festival Queen Selection," presented a skit illustrating what they termed the "exploitation of women". Demonstrators outside the Memorial Coliseum yelled "Free our sisters, free ourselves!"

This year's young candidates characterized 1990's idealism: sophisticated, professionally minded women in pursuit of personal fulfillment, recognizing their power to influence.

Brandy Alexander, an African American Princess from Wilson High School, like the other competitors, epitomized that ideal. Brandy demonstrated her fluency in Japanese and spoke about her interest in Public Relations work. "I like to combine selling and interpersonal skills," she explained.

Among the fourteen contestants, only one Princess was chosen for the coveted title of 1998 Rose Festival Queen of Portland. Anticipation mounted as "the chosen one" was called forth. The moment arrived as the Festival's President read off the name of Alisha Moreland from Jefferson High School.

Alisha was given royal treatment as the fourteen-carat ruby and sapphire diadem was ceremoniously fitted on her head and the scepter placed in her hand. She now reigns supreme as Queen in the City of Roses for a year.



## Dear Portland Observer Readers:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 90th Annual Rose Festival and all of our exciting family events, both new and existing, that begin today.

The Portland Rose Festival Association has always sought to create and promote top notch civic events involving community-wide participation. One of our strategic goals over the past few years has been to add more cultural diversity to our event line up. By taking a look at our events, we saw a need to make our events more interesting to a broader group of citizens and to be more inclusive of the rich and growing ethnic diversity of our community.

As a result, our efforts have led to a number of new elements in the Rose Festival calendar and programs including: a cooperative effort with the Mayor's Office of International Relations; an event called the International Showcase presented by Thriftway; an international section in the Southwest Airlines Grand Floral Parade lead by Mayor Vera Katz; inclusion of culturally diverse entertainment at existing events; a part-

nership with Self Enhancement, Inc. as they present our Queen's Coronation; increased participation in Rose Festival Family Club; and, once again, inclusion of cultural diversity in the Rose Festival Commemorative Poster.

We will continue to look for other opportunities in future years. We invite those groups interested in participating in, and volunteering for, the International Showcase, or any other Rose Festival events to come see us this summer with fresh, new ideas.

I invite you to enjoy your favorite events during the 1998 Rose Festival, and I encourage you to visit new and different events as well. From the International Showcase, the Rose Festival Queen's Coronation and our three spectacular parades, to world class sporting events and the new Portland Arts Festival. The Rose Festival is sure to be your "Ticket to Adventure."

Kathy Taylor, President  
Portland Rose Festival Association

## It's Fun Center Time!



This Year's Fun Center In Tom McCall Water Front Park. Enjoy it while It's hot!

(Photo by M. Washington)