

**A Season For Non-Violence**  
 Come Join Us as We Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 70th birthday with remembrance.



See Martin Luther King: A Season For Non-Violence, Section C.

**City Approves New Modern Street Car**  
 "The \$42 million dollar vehicle not only offers the best price, but smoothest, quietest ride."



See Metro, Section B

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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Olympic Scandal

Investigators are uncovering a possible scandal involving cash payments made by Olympic officials of the International Committee in Utah to I.O.C. members from Africa and Latin America. Individual payments ranging from \$5,000 to \$70,000 came from the bid committee's \$14 million privately financed operating budget.

### The President's Defense

President Clinton formally defended himself during his impeachment trial, arguing that he had not committed any high crimes or misdemeanors. His lawyers wrote in a 13-page brief that the charges do not permit the conviction and removal from office of a duly elected president. In the beginning of the President's testimony, he admitted to "inappropriate intimate contact."

### The Falling Dollar

The American dollar has fallen nearly 25 percent against the yen. The reasons are unknown, especially as the nation's federal budget has turned into a surplus that is estimated to hit \$76 billion. The news of a weakening dollar is welcome news to many American farmers, steel makers and some big manufacturers. The strong value of the dollar has contributed to killing their business abroad and undermining their efforts to compete with cheap imports.

### Jordan Retiring

Michael Jordan, National Basketball Association's best-known athlete will retire for the second time in five years. He plans on making a formal announcement soon. Jordan has helped the Chicago Bulls win six league titles. Fortune magazine estimated Jordan's career financial contributions to the N.B.A. as \$10 billion.

### Tobacco Wars

State legislators nationwide are debating on how to spend the tens of billions of dollars from tobacco settlement deals. Only four states - Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas started receiving installment payments from the tobacco companies that total \$40 billion over 25 years. This amount is part of a \$206 billion to be divided among all the states.

### Birth Control Pills

A long-term medical study by British scientists reported their findings in the British Medical Journal that it was just as safe to take the pill for more than 10 years as it was to take it for 2 years - the average length women take it. The ongoing study involved tracking the health of 46,000 British women on the Pill for 25 years.

## NBA ratifies deal; promises fan-friendly league

Understanding it has relationships to repair, the NBA recently revealed plans to become more fan-friendly as its Board of Governors unanimously ratified the new six-year collective bargaining agreement.

The league will have a schedule of approximately 50 games per team that likely will begin February 5th, with each team playing about five or six games out of conference. The playoffs will retain the same 16-team format and will begin approximately May 1st, running to the last week in June.

Stern said each team will have open workouts, play a pair of fan-friendly exhibition games and offer discounted tickets of \$10 by next season at the latest.

"There are many people who say the proof will be in the pudding and the surveys we have read say there are many fans who will remain NBA fans," Stern said. "We are comfortable that if we work hard, our fans will give us the opportunity to redeem ourselves."

"We owe a lot to our fans, and we plan to work with our players and the NBA to win back the fans' loyalty and trust," Players Association executive director Billy Hunter said.

The lockout will not officially end until the agreement has been formalized, but team facilities have opened to players and trainers. Training camps will officially open no later than January 18th, signifying the onset of what should be the wildest offseason in league history.

"It's definitely going to favor either the players or the teams," Stern said. "I'm sure it is going to be a mad scramble. These things have a way of working themselves out. It will probably be a combination in different cities."

With each team playing 50 games over a period of less than three months, teams occasionally will be forced to play on three consecutive nights. The league will average more than eight games per night.

The lockout erased 437 games from the schedule and cost both owners and players hundreds of millions of dollars.



The Rose Garden welcomes back its fans from the NBA lockout.

## New Postal Rates Takes Effect

Postal rates increase last Sunday for the first time in four years, raising the cost of the basic first-class letter a penny - to 33 cents.

Despite four straight profitable years, the post office says it needs added cash to buy equipment, cover rising costs and reduce outstanding debt.

Originally, the rate increase had been expected to take effect last summer, but it was postponed at the urging of the Postal Rate Com-

mission and Congress.

The first 33-cent stamps went on sale recently, with first-day ceremonies in Los Angeles. In addition, there are millions of undenominated "H" rate stamps available at post offices to cover the 33-cent rate, as well as 1-cent stamps that can be added to left-over 32-cent stamps.

Mail without enough postage will be delivered postage due. If the recipient declines to pay the

extra postage, the item will be returned to the sender.

While the U.S. stamp price goes up for the basic one-ounce letter, there is a one-cent reduction - to 22 cents - in the charge for each additional ounce.

That means someone sending a two-ounce letter would pay 55 cents, the same as at present. A three-ounce letter now costs 77 cents, a penny less than the old rate.

The new rates cover most types of mail. In other typical price changes a priority mail package will rise from \$3 to \$3.20; sending a local newspaper will cost 15.7 cents, up from 14.5 cents; the price to mail a national magazine will rise from 27.1 cents to 29.1 cents and a basic parcel post package that cost \$2.42 to send will rise to \$2.74.

The increase does not affect international mail.



Photo by M. Washington

## A Gift Of Life

Drew Ross, Manager of Marrow Donor Services of American Red Cross with Anissa Ayala-Espinosa in Northeast Portland. Anissa was diagnosed with CML, Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia at the age of sixteen with a prognosis of 3-5 years to live. She received national interest for her parents conceiving a child that would serve as a possible bone marrow donor, especially as there were no right matches for Anissa through the national bone marrow registry.

The risks involved turned out to be a worthwhile success. Anissa is now a Bone Marrow recruitment specialist for American Red Cross with a focus on educating the Hispanic community. More on this in El Observador de Portland.