

**Guitar Trio**

Trio creates power of an orchestra at unique Portland concert



See Focus, page B3

This is for you Lord Reverend Jackie McCullough returns to her Homeland in Jamaica to lead thousands



See Religion, page B4

HOW MANY CHICKENS!  
**POPEYES**  
CHICKEN & BISCUITS  
See Popeye's  
Coupon  
Inside!

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# The Portland Observer 50¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Nigeria's next president**

Gen Olusegun Obasanjo; was declared Nigeria's next president, Final results in the presidential elections showed the retired general winning a decisive victory, with 63 percent of the popular vote. The vote holds the promise of democratization for the country's 108 million citizens.

**New-car Buyers**

For many reasons, the average age of new-car buyers is rising faster than the average age of the overall population. Until recently older Americans have shown little interest in buying vehicles tailored to their needs, and automakers have paid little attention to selling such vehicles.

**Credit Card Business**

Millions of Americans have been facing the same choice — to take new terms or leave them as the credit card business gradually consolidates into fewer and larger hands. But new owners of credit-card businesses are free to impose whatever interest rate the traffic will bear.

**Census Bureau**

There are 43.4 million Americans, at the Census Bureau's last count, who do not have health insurance. For more than a decade, an average of a million Americans a year have either lost their health insurance or have failed to obtain insurance for which they are eligible.

**Mexico in Fighting**

President Clinton Friday defends his efforts to cooperate with China to promote political freedom, Mexico in fighting drugs and to bring peace to Kosovo. Clinton's Administration has faced criticism for setting peace between Serbs and Albanian.

**The Senate Bill**

The Senate approved a military pay and pension increase that is bigger than a plan Clinton proposed two months ago. The bill was approved 91-8, with most democrats supporting the measure. The Senate bill authorizes 4.8 percent pay raise next year, that allows bonuses of up to 10.3%, compared to 9.9%, and provides for better pensions.

**The Statute**

Senate hearings into the statute authorizing independent counsels. Among the many proposed revisions are limits on who would be covered so that only the senior government officials, like the president and vice president could be investigated. The Statute requires the Attorney General to seek independent counsel when there is substantial and credible evidence of a crime committed by the President, Vice President, or any government officials in the Cabinet or White House Staff Members.

**Fight against Drugs**

The President declared his intent to certify to Congress that Mexico is cooperating in the fight against drugs, despite the widely held view in his Administration that corruption in the Mexican government has resulted in less cooperation in the last year.

## THE PROPOSED NEW NORTHEAST Drug Free Zone Shrinks, Encounters Opposition

By LEE PERLMAN

Whether it is ever enacted at all depends on who shows up at the eventual City Council hearing: Those who fear the influence of street-corner drug pushers, or those who fear the Portland police. Both have joined the fight on this issue. In late January deputy district attorney Jim Hayden told the Sabin Community Association that the proposed zone's original boundaries had been redrawn, reducing the area from 4.1 square miles to 3.2. East of Northeast Seventh Avenue, the southern boundary had been pulled northward to Prescott Street, except for Irving Park. The eastern boundary, which once extended to Northeast 33rd Avenue, would go only as far as 27th Avenue, and that only between northeast Wygant and Jarrett streets. The northwest corner of the old zone, bounded by North and Northeast Ainsworth and Lombard streets and North Concord and Northeast Mallory avenues had also been eliminated, with the exception of Peninsula Park. The redrawn boundaries eliminate all of Irvington and Kenton, most of Sabin and about half of Piedmont neighborhoods. Hayden has since told the Observer that the zone's area is being reduced still further.

In part, the reduction represent an attempt to draw the zone tightly around the areas with the worst statistics for drug-related arrests, thus making it less vulnerable to legal challenges, deputy district attorney Jim Hayden says. In part, it is based on the reception the concept has received.

So far the boards or membership of the Alameda, Arbor Lodge, Boise, King, Humboldt, Overlook, Piedmont and Woodlawn neighborhood associations have endorsed the proposed zone by unanimous or overwhelming votes, as has the Hope and Hard Work Committee. So did the Eliot Neighborhood Association, but by a much closer

seven to five vote. The Irvington Community Association voted to ask that the zone not be extended to its neighborhood except for Irving Park, based in part on lack of a perceived problem. After a long debate, the Sabin Community Association put off a vote on the issue until its February meeting. In early February the Concordia Community Association voted by 22 to five, with five abstentions, to oppose the zone. The opposing camps, generally, are those concerned about the effects of street drug dealing, and those concerned about abuse of civil liberties by the police in pursuing that problem. Where one lines up on the issue "depends on where your primary concerns are," in the words of Concordia community liaison officer Joe Churella. Asked how many of those who turned out for the February vote were regular meeting attendees, a Concordia board member replied, "About 25 percent."

Several people at both the Concordia and Sabin meetings complained that they, or their friends, are stopped more frequently by the police if the person involved is African-American. Within the zone, those recently arrested or convicted for drug-related arrests could be re-arrested on sight, and people feared this would intensify the problem.

"Are we willing to give up our freedom to deal with this threat?" attorney Chris Larson asked.

"No one is giving up any freedoms for the drug free zone," Churella said. "I can't stop you unless I know you were arrested for crack cocaine (sale) and were excluded."

Others questioned the effectiveness of the proposed zone. Would it allow the police to eliminate suspected drug houses faster?

"No, it wouldn't," Churella stated. "It won't allow us to kick in a door because we think there are drugs inside. But we can do something about the people on the streets outside." Free Zone is getting smaller



## PRESIDENT HONORS THE NAACP AT 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

President Clinton recently honored the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the oldest and largest civil rights organization in America, during a reception celebrating the groups 90th anniversary.

The audience included Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo West, Jr., Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, members of Congress, members of the civil rights, business, legal and academic communities.

The NAACP, was formed in 1909 in New York City by a group of black and white citizens committed to helping to right social injustices. Chief among the groups founders were W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington and Ida Wells-Barnett. The NAACP has 2,000 branches throughout the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Japan and Germany, and boasts a membership of more than 500,000. Prominent members of the civil rights group include Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women, and members of the Little Rock Nine, among many others.

The NAACP began a year-long celebration of its 90th Anniversary with the reception and their Annual Board Meeting in Washington D.C. on Saturday, February 20, 1999.



Left to right: Kweisi Mfume, President and CEO, NAACP, President Clinton and Julian Bond, Chairman, NAACP