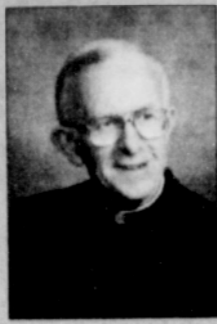


**An African American Welcoming to the Most Rev. John G. Vlazny**



See Page B4

**Miracle Theatre Hosts Two Performances of Entre dos Mundos**



See Page B6

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# The Portland Observer

50¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Amtrak Crash

Fourteen people were killed and 119 injured in the nation's worst train wreck since 1993. A collision occurred between an Amtrak train and a tractor-trailer at a rural crossing near a steel mill about 50 miles south of Chicago. Dead bodies were found in a double-deck sleeping car that was three cars behind the engines of the 14-car train.

### NATO

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will be formally joining NATO. The three governments and most of their citizens are enthusiastic about the alliance. This new venture would require that these countries meet NATO's military requirements for integrated air defense, security procedures and language training.

### Aid To Schools

A bipartisan bill called ed-flex was passed by the House and Senate. This new legislation would give states and schools more flexibility in how they spend \$11 billion in federal money. Some schools have already earmarked the money to be spent on programs that benefit poor children. Schools would be eligible as long as they show signs of academic improvement.

### Dole For President

Elizabeth Dole is preparing to run as a presidential candidate in the 2000 Race. She considers herself a conservative Republican that would appeal to conservative Democrats and Independents. Mrs. Dole is also an active Christian who is pro-life concerning the abortion issue.

### Clinton's Police Initiative

Due to recent reports of police misconduct, in the public's faith in the police has been shaken. In response, President Clinton proposed that Congress spend more money to expand ethics training for police officers, establish academies to build rapport between the police and citizens, increase recruiting of minority police officers and put more police officers on the streets. Clinton made a \$42 million budget request before Congress to support this program.

### Stabilizing Oil Prices

A coalition of major oil producers recently announced that they would cut production by another two million barrels a day, a move that would help stabilize oil prices. The informal coalition included members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran and Venezuela. The new cutback would need to be reviewed and approved by OPEC and non-OPEC producers in Vienna on March 23.

## Diamond Lane Cuts Commute



For a six-month period, beginning on October 12th, ODOT will be studying the effectiveness of a carpooling in the Diamond Lane.

If you ride on I-5 heading north between Going Street and Delta Park, you'll soon be seeing white diamond shapes down the middle of the third lane on the left. You've heard of king of diamonds, baseball diamonds, Neil Diamond. Consider these Rush Hour Diamonds...between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., the Diamond Lane is reserved for vehicles carrying at least two people - a driver and a passenger of any age - plus buses and motorcycles.

Whether it's soccer practice at Delta Park or the employees you're looking after, try out the diamonds ... and cut the commute.

## New Board Member for the Multnomah Education Service District



Gerl Washington, newly elected board member for the Multnomah Education Service District, unseats incumbent.  
Read more on page A7

## Public Forums on Education



Photo: Tony Sidley

Senator Avel Gordley and Stan Bunn, Superintendent of Public Instruction hosted a public forum at Madison High School on March 13, 1999.

Several public forums are scheduled throughout the greater Portland area, to discuss with local residents their thoughts on education funding, testing and other topics designed to improve public instruction in the state of Oregon.