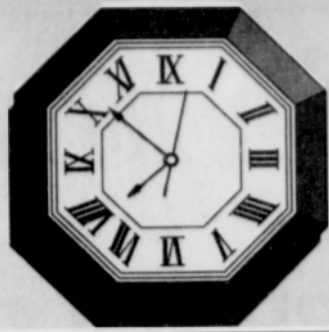


**It's Time
Again to
Spring
Ahead**



**Galeria Cecily
Quintana Presents
Agustin Portillo**
*Tierra, Mar Y Cielo
(Land, Sea And Air)*

See Page B4



POPAYES
*See Popeye's
Coupon
Inside!*

50¢
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1610

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

The Portland Observer

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

NATO Strikes Milosevic

NATO launched a series of air strikes in Kosovo that targeted bunker positions of the Yugoslav military hierarchy in the Belgrade area as well as army and police outposts. President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia was denounced by NATO officials for waging a "scorched earth" siege where seven Kosovo villages were placed under assault and burned. In the past year, half a million ethnic Albanians had fled their homes due to the war.

Kevorkian Convicted Of Murder

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a national figure that has assisted over 130 people commit suicide was convicted of 2nd-degree murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was convicted in the death of Thomas Youk, a 52-year old who suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Dr. Kevorkian faces a minimum of 10 to 25 years in prison.

China Enters World Trade Organization

The United States and China are collaborating for Beijing to enter the World Trade Organization. White House administrators are requesting that China loosen their restrictions on foreign insurance companies to sell policies, open the telecommunications and financial services markets to wide-scale foreign investment, and reduce or eliminate China's requirements that outsiders deal through state-run companies.

Social Security

The booming U.S. economy has enabled Medicare and Social Security from being depleted by several more years. Trustees report that the Medicare trust fund will last until the year 2015 and bankruptcy for Social Security will be postponed for another two years, to 2034. Congress had recently agreed to set aside Social Security funds so that they cannot be used for other spending or tax cuts.

Dow At 10,000 Mark

U.S. stock traders pushed the Dow Jones Industrial average above the 10,000 mark—closing at 10,006.78. This historic market activity reflects an unparalleled strength of the U.S. economy and American corporations' dominance of the world stage. The recent interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve Board had also contributed to the stock market's remarkable growth.

Diabetes Drug

Rezulin, a prescription drug designed to treat Type II diabetes has been reported by a scientific committee and consumer safety advocates as a threat to public health. Rezulin has been known to cause liver damage and death among many taking it. Endocrinologists who specialize in treating diabetes begged in a medical hearing over the drug to keep it on the market.

City, County Look at Plans For Warehouse

By Lee Perleman

Many northeast residents would like the government take over the Grant Warehouse and turn it into something positive, and several elected officials are ready to help.

First, however, there are some details that would have to be taken care of, such as acquiring the badly polluted property at 3368 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from owner Everett Grant.

These were some of the conclusions of a public meeting on the issue last week, attended by about 80 people and called by the Eliot Neighborhood Association.

Jeff Rodin, manager of the cleanup by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, said the cleanup, which removed a variety of hazardous substances, was complete. There remains a residue of heavy metal dust, which would make it unfit for residential use, but it is "not a threat to public health," he said. His bureau did not consider the property's high density residential zoning, he said, but treated it as an industrial building. He added that any remaining pollution would be taken care of by demolition or extensive remodel of the building.

Jennifer Chacon of the state Brownfield Health Awareness Project said that of the 20 individuals known to have resided on the property, five were tested and found to have "no evidence of toxicity." Officials also took and tested soil samples from nearby properties, and "The data we have shows no contamination from this site," she said.

Greg Dyson, organizer of the meeting, said he was disturbed by the "disconnect" that the building is now only fit for industrial use, something not allowed by the zoning. Gary Strom of the Portland Bureau of Buildings indicated that this is a mute point. To use the structure for anything but storage, he said, it would have to be brought up to 1999 code standards. Such an upgrade would "cost a lot more than tearing it down and starting from scratch," he said.

Despite this, he said, the city could not tear the building down. To do so, "It must be an immediate threat to the environment or neighbors, and this doesn't qualify. It's



Jeff Rodin, manager of the cleanup by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, said the cleanup, which removed a variety of hazardous substances, was complete. There remains a residue of heavy metal dust, which would make it unfit for residential use, but it is "not a threat to public health," he said. His bureau did not consider the property's high density residential zoning, he said, but treated it as an industrial building.

structurally sound."

Some residents said they feared Grant would once again put the building to illegal use if it was returned to him. Strom said they should report any evidence of illegal activity to his bureau.

Several people said they would like to see the building demolished and replaced with a more positive use. Former state representative Bob Boyer noted it would be a good location for a supermarket. "Doggone it, we want that building demolished!" he said. "It has been a contaminant in the community, and we want it out, period."

First however, the "community," however defined, would have to acquire the property. Rodin and U.S. attorney Neil Evans says there is a lien on the property for the recovery of the cost of the cleanup, which now amounts to almost \$1 million. However, they said, the EPA or some other agency would have to go to court to collect this, and in any event it would not affect Grant's ownership.

Multnomah County commissioner Serena Cruz, city commissioner Dan Saltzman and Lindley Rees of mayor Vera Katz's office all pledged support to a neighborhood effort for the property's future

good use. Cruz suggested that the property could be condemned.

"I'm very interested in seeing this turned into an asset," she said. "I want to see a willingness by the community to work toward that end."

In support of this, several residents and public officials agreed to meet on April 23 to try to come up with an action plan.

Grant, and several friends, attended the meeting. Grant at first said he would make no statements on the advice of his attorney, but later accused the EPA of stealing or destroying his personal effects during their cleanup efforts.



New Langston Hughes Library

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton cuts the ceremonial ribbon opening the new Langston Hughes Library at the Children's Defense Fund's Black Community Crusade for Children's (CDF's/BCCC's) Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn. On Friday, March 19. The unique library design, by Vietnam Memorial designer Maya Lin, uses an existing historic Southern cantilevered barn for its inspiration and dimensions. Pictured with Mrs. Clinton are (from left) Clinton Mayor Frank L. Diggs, CDF President and Founder Marian Wright Edelman, library benefactor and Barnes & Noble Books CEO and President Lenoard Riggio and Ms. Lin. The Hughes Library, which includes the John Hope Franklin and Maya Angelou Reading Room and the Mrs. Rosa Parks Sitting Area, is a key component of CDF's/BCCC's training and conference center headquartered at the Haley Farm.

The Farm is used to train more than 300 interns who work in CDF's/BCCC's Freedom Schools around the country each summer. Additionally, another 200 young people, between the ages of 18 and 30 are trained each year in CDF's/BCCC's Advanced Service and Advocacy workshops, a series of leadership development forums.

Throughout the year the Farm provides a retreat setting for intergenerational and interracial meetings of children's advocates who are working to improve the lives of America's 14.4 million children trapped in poverty.

For additional information, contact Sarah Howe at (202) 662-3609.