



See Metro
Classical
Chinese
Gardens

Celebrating
30
Years
Of Service to Our City



See Focus
Smokey
Robinson
comes to
Chinook Winds

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

The Portland Observer

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

Volume XXX.
Number 36

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
September 6, 2000

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

World Leaders Meet for Millennium Summit

UNITED NATIONS—Kings, Generals, Presidents and Prime Ministers are assembling in New York with the lofty goal of turning the 21st century into an epoch free of war, poverty, ignorance and disease. But they are also using the U.N. Millennium Summit—the largest gathering of world leaders in history—as a soapbox for issues in their homelands. At the summit's conclusion, world leaders are expected to adopt the so-called Millennium Declaration, which commits to eradicating poverty, promoting education and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

46,000 School Buses May Have Brake Problem

PORTLAND, Ore. — Thomas Built Buses, one of the country's largest school bus builders, is warning that 6,000 of its school buses may have defective brake systems and as many as 40,000 other buses may be affected nationwide. The defect involves the Bendix anti-lock brake system on buses manufactured between March 1998 and last month.

Rebels Demand \$10M for Hostage's Release

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines—Muslim rebels have demanded \$10 million for the release of an American kidnapped this week in the southern Philippines, despite a U.S. refusal to pay any ransom, negotiators said. The Abu Sayyaf rebels, who earlier threatened to behead Jeffrey Schilling, pledged not to harm him while negotiations continue. They asked that food and medicine be sent for the 24-year-old Oakland, Calif., resident, who U.S. officials say has serious health problems. The Abu Sayyaf group is still holding six other foreigners and 12 Filipinos.

Geraldo Considers NYC Mayor Job

NEW YORK CITY—Lookout, Big Apple. Talk show host Geraldo Rivera wants to make a run at the mayor's job in New York City after current Mayor Rudy Giuliani leaves office in 2001. Rivera wants to run a self-financed, independent campaign in an effort to get the job. The 57-year-old CNBC host says he is only just considering a possible campaign and would like to see results of an upcoming poll about his running, to determine if he would in fact run for mayor.

Al Fayed Files Suit Against United States

WASHINGTON—The lawyer for Mohamed Al Fayed says he will file suit against the U.S. government, the CIA, the Department of Defense and several other government agencies. The goal, according to Al Fayed's lawyer, is to obtain documents and audio in hopes of resolving what happened the day of the crash. Al Fayed said he hoped the lawsuit would force the release of new information on the cause of their deaths.

More Fatalities Linked to Tires

WASHINGTON—More fatal accidents have been linked to the brand of Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. tires that are the subject of a national recall, federal investigators said. A National Highway Transportation Safety Administration spokesman declined to specify the exact number, but previously it said it was looking into 62 deaths as a result of tire problems.

A good time is had by all at DiversityFest



The Highland United Church of Christ choir warmed hearts with some favorite gospel tunes at the first ever Portland Observer Diversity Fest Community Picnic.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five Portland area residents were given special recognition for public service at the Portland Observer's first DiversityFest Community Picnic Saturday.

The Labor Day weekend celebration at Oaks Park in southeast Portland drew a big crowd despite a smattering of showers. Music was provided by Kirk Green, Ron Steen, the Ramsey Embick Trio and the Highland United Church of Christ Choir.

The Portland Observer presented community service awards to Mariah Taylor, a North/Northeast Portland nurse practitioner; Greg Holbrook, manager of two Popeye's restaurants on Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard; The Rev. Johnny Pack of the Missionary Baptist Church; Maggie Gibson, a community activist with Habitat for Humanity; and Jack Chung of the Korean Grocers Association. Music Millennium, McDonalds, Washington Mutual, Gunderson, Inc., and Starbucks Coffee were also thanked for making this event so successful. Additional sponsors made free rides available to kids.

(See additional coverage inside)

Minimum wage is a high priority for President Clinton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Declaring Democrats "committed to breaking the legislative logjam," President Clinton huddled Tuesday with his party's leaders to plot strategy for a fall congressional session destined to be dominated by the presidential campaign's final stretch.

The president sat with House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., to discuss how Democrats will deal with, among other things, Republican efforts to push through election-year tax cuts.

Clinton said the highest priority for Congress should be passing a \$1 increase in the hourly minimum wage, rather than trying to corral enough votes to override his veto of a bill repealing the estate tax.

"They've got a right to try to override any veto that I make. That's the way the Constitution works," Clinton said. "But I wish they'd try just as hard to muster up the two-thirds to raise the minimum wage."

House Republican leaders have promised to pursue the veto override—and, if the override fails, to argue that the estate tax would itself die if George W. Bush is elected. White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the White House is confident that the estate tax veto

and Clinton's previous veto of a tax cut for couples will be sustained.

Clinton defended the vetoes, saying they were necessary to stave off tax cuts that would eat away at projected budget surpluses without taking into account the costs of whatever spending programs the Republicans plan to offer.

"We are committed to breaking the legislative logjam," Clinton said. "Unfortunately, the strategy pursued by the Republican leaders in Congress, I believe, would squander (the surplus) on massive and reckless tax cuts for the privileged few. This isn't fiscally responsible. It isn't fair."

Daschle noted that, during the Republican National Convention, GOP lawmakers called for passage of a patients' bill of rights and prescription drug coverage for senior citizens.

"We intend to give our Republican colleagues a chance to make their rhetoric match their record," Daschle said. "If they really believe in these things, all they have to do is stop blocking them. We will support them and the president said today, again, he will sign them." Gephardt said Republican lawmakers have said little about the large tax cut that they touted last year, because they discovered

(Please see 'Minimum Wage' page 6)



President Clinton laughs along with Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., right, and others as Clinton's chief of staff John Podesta, second left, cracks a joke Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, about Republican presidential candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush's recent gaffe at an open microphone about a reporter. Others with Clinton in background are Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., left, and Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., center.

Little League Champs return home



Members of the Hazel Dell Little League team from Vancouver are guests of honor at last week's Portland Rockies final game at Civic Stadium. The little leaguers won the Western Region tournament, and won their first two games in the Little League World Series, but failed to advance because of a tiebreaker.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER