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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

President Promises Reforms

MANILA, Philippines - President Joseph Estrada, in response to allegations that he accepted more than \$8 million in illegal gambling payoffs and \$2.8 million from tobacco taxes, promised to reform his government but insisted he would not resign over a corruption scandal that has battered business confidence in the country. Estrada, in a nationally televised speech, asked that critics seeking his resignation allow the impeachment case against him to take its course.

N. Korea Gives Warning

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea warned the United States that it will exercise its "right of self-defense" if American military planes invade its airspace again, its official media said. The U.S.-led U.N. Command apologized to North Korea for a brief, accidental incursion of two U.S. military jets into the North's airspace during military exercises two days earlier.

NASA Plans Exploration

WASHINGTON - NASA officials announced a new program of Mars exploration. Officials said six missions will be sent to the red planet this decade, and a mission to bring back rock samples could come as early as 2011. The search for Mars for evidence of life, past or present, is the underlying theme of a long term robotic exploration that will include orbiter, landers and wheeled vehicles that may explore many miles of surface.

Bin Laden Linked to Cole

Senior U.S. intelligence officials said that they have obtained hard evidence linking Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden to the Oct. 12 bombing of the USS Cole at the port in Aden, Yemen. The intelligence officials declined to describe the evidence in detail, but they said it shows that bin Laden financed the attack and sent one of his top lieutenants to supervise it. The attack on the destroyer, which was refueling at Aden, killed 17 sailors and injured 39.

Peru Eyes New Elections

LIMA, Peru - Peru's government agreed to hold new elections in April, and President Alberto Fujimori ordered the army confined to barracks while he and his security forces hunt for his feared former intelligence adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. The rapid-fire developments came in a nation thrown into political turmoil by Montesinos' return from Panama. Many speculate that the former spy chief still commands the loyalty of much of the military and came back to force a power showdown with Fujimori.

Albright Demands Disclosure

SEOUL, South Korea - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that North Korea must remove lingering uncertainty about its nuclear weapons activities if efforts at accommodation with the United States are to succeed. There are concerns that Pyongyang may have stockpiled one or more weapons before a 1994 U.S. - North Korean agreement was to freeze a suspected weapons program.

Serial Killer Sentenced

SPOKANE, Wash. - Serial killer Robert L. Yates Jr., although tearful and apologetic, offered no motive - not even to his sobbing daughter - as he was sentenced to 408 years in prison for killing 13 people. Last week, the 48-year-old Army veteran and National Guard helicopter pilot admitted to 10 Spokane-area slayings, the deaths of a young man and woman in southern Washington, and the death of a woman in the state's northeastern corner.

Measures Facing Voters are Critical

The Nov. 7 General Election has 26 ballot measures - the most since 1914. We asked some of our elected representatives to comment on the measures they deemed most important. The following recommendations and opinions are provided by Margaret Carter, Debra Kafoury and Erik Sten.

Yes on Measure 1:

"The people of Oregon want education as a priority. This initiative mandates that cause." - Margaret Carter, candidate for State Senate in Dist. 8.

Yes on Measure 6:

"As an elected official who's raised money in the past for political campaigns, I think it can be done, but far too much time by candidates is spent raising money and people who donate money have a disproportionate interest in the campaign process. I think having public financing in the long run would save the taxpayers money. It's a very well thought-out program that will make it possible for a much wider range of candidates to run for office and that's good for the state." - Erik Sten, Commissioner for City of Portland.

No on Measure 7:

"This measure will cost the state \$5.4 billion per year which is the state general fund. It is the most expensive end zoning regulation." - Debra Kafoury, House Rep. for Dist. 18.

"It's a kind of tricky measure. On its face, it sounds like a good measure because it says if a government takes away the value on a property owner's property, it has to pay them back. What I think is that it will actually make it so government really can't pass any laws at all. If the government can't do any land use planning, we can't have the type of city and state that we're use to. Measure 7 sounds good, but in practice won't work." - Erik Sten, Commissioner for City of Portland.

No on Measure 8:

"This measure would hinder the state from federal funding. It cuts basic services and education." - Debra Kafoury, House Rep. for Dist. 18.

No on Measure 9:

"I think Measure 9 is one of the worst measures on the ballot. It would make bigotry legal by discriminating against gays and lesbians. It's a huge step backwards for the state." - Erik Sten, Commissioner for the City of Portland.

"We want to be sure that we are to live with decency and respect all people in this state. Human rights is a very strong issue for the people of Oregon and they have never supported any kind of opposition against gays and lesbians in this state." - Margaret Carter, candidate for State Senate in Dist. 8.

No on Measure 86:

"Measure 86 would put a kicker in the Constitution. It doesn't belong there. Kicker is over and above what the bureaucrats in Salem estimate what tax collections would be. The money should be used for a rainy day fund." - Debra Kafoury, House Rep. for Dist. 18.

No on Measure 88 and 91:

"Measure 88 and 91 are two versions of the same measure. They increase federal deductibility and hurt basic services. Money only goes to the wealthiest Oregonians. Most Oregonians won't get a tax break." - Debra Kafoury, House Rep. for Dist. 18.

"I'm urging a no vote on Measure 91 because it will cut way too many services that many people really need and most of the tax relief it will provide will be to most wealthy people. I think cutting taxes on the wealthy to cut services is really a bad idea." - Erik Sten, Commissioner for the City of Portland.

Yes on Measure 94:

"We are spending so much time in this state with the issue of our children, but not looking very carefully in terms of whether a kid has committed a crime for the first time. To discriminate put so many of our kids in prison today based upon sentencing guidelines serves no purpose to any of us." - Margaret Carter, candidate for State Senate in Dist. 8.



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Al Gore speaks at Portland Community College Tuesday.

Oregon Vote Could Tip Election

(AP) - Intensifying his campaign to win this state on Nov. 7, Al Gore said Tuesday the presidential race is so close that Oregon's seven electoral votes conceivably could decide the election.

Speaking at a rally a few hours before George W. Bush arrived in Portland, Gore said the election could be even closer than the race between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960. "It may come down to Oregon," Gore said at a rally at Portland Community College.

With polls showing a virtual dead heat between the two candidates in this state, Gore and Bush are paying more attention to Oregon than any presidential contenders in

recent history, showing how important they view Oregon's seven electoral votes.

"We usually get one visit from the presidential candidate in most election years," said Chet Orloff of the Oregon Historical Society. "It is exceptional to get so many visits. It looks like more than in any time in the past."

Bush and Gore have campaigned on the same day in other closely contested states, but Tuesday marked the first time they have campaigned on the same day in Oregon.

"This is not an accident," said Paddy McGuire of the Oregon secretary of state's office. "They are trying to step on each other's

message in the battleground states."

Gore's campaign in recent days has been especially aggressive about bringing in a cavalcade of politicians and celebrities to stump for him in Oregon, including Bill Bradley, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, rocker Melissa Etheridge, the band Everclear, actor Martin Sheen and director Rob Reiner.

Vote Al Gore

The Portland Observer strongly recommends a vote for Democrat Al Gore as the next President of the United States.

We encourage democratic solidarity to keep Republican George Bush from narrowly winning a close race.

Supreme Court nominations, affirmative action, hate crime legislation and continued economic progress for people of color and women are at stake.

There's too much to lose not to use your voice and vote Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Mail in your ballot or drop it off at an official election site. It's your right and your responsibility to be informed about your vote and what your vote will mean.

Neighborhood Grocery Defies Odds



Melonie Blair rings up the groceries for customer Paula Chin at the Renaissance Market during a 4 year anniversary and Grand Reopening celebration Saturday. (Photo by Michael Leighton/Portland Observer)

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER

A local church and its surrounding community celebrated the 4-year anniversary of Renaissance Market Saturday.

The grocery store at 919 N. Killingsworth has defied the odds by successfully operating a community owned and operated market.

Thin profit margins have made the grocery business difficult for many retailers, but Renaissance has succeeded even as it refuses to sell alcohol, tobacco or lottery products.

The store was developed as a community enrichment venture under the leadership of Bishop A.A. Wells and his Emmanuel Temple Church.

Community leaders and area residents celebrated many of these achievements Saturday, including the installation of the most up-to-date cash registers and checkstands, with food and festivities during a Grand Reopening.

Urban League Support

Scott Thomason met with the staff and students of the Urban League of Portland Monday to donate a new Ford Windstar seven-passenger minivan.

Thomason, CEO of Scott Thomason Motors, wanted to show his interest in the community and the work the Urban League does with youth and seniors.

Dr. Daniel Bernstine, President of Portland State University and board chair of the Urban League greeted Thomason and accepted the gift along with Margaret Carter, Urban League president.

Carter said the gift is greatly appreciated. Just last week, she said, she had to transport students from the Urban League's Portland Street Academy in her car to get the students to their PE class. The van will be used to transport people for different Urban League programs.



Margaret Carter (left) and Dr. Daniel Bernstine (right) of the Urban League of Portland are handed the keys to a new Ford Windstar from Scott Thomason. (Photo by Mark Washington/Portland Observer)

Thomason toured the Urban League facilities at 10 N. Russell. He said he was glad for the opportunity to see the facility and visit with the students.

The students from the Portland Street Academy seemed more interested in meeting Scott Thomason. As one student put it, "He really is the guy on TV."