

The Portland Observer

Summers Biggest Blockbusters:
From A.I. to Tomb Raiders, Movies to See!

See Focus Section B



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"The City Of Roses"

Volume XXXI
Number 26

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
June 27, 2001

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

U.S. Consumer Confidence Rises for Second Month

NEW YORK—Consumer confidence rose for the second consecutive month in June, as Americans' outlook toward the nation's struggling economy continued to brighten. The New York-based Conference Board said that its consumer confidence index rose to a better-than-expected 117.9, up from 116.1 in May. The May figure was revised upward from 115.5.

Pope Prays for Victims of Nazi Massacre in Kiev

KIEV, Ukraine—On the third day of his historic and controversial pilgrimage to Ukraine, Pope John Paul II prayed for the dead at the Babi Yar memorial, site of a Nazi massacre of Kiev's Jews in 1941. Jewish leaders have criticized the pope for failing to condemn more strongly the Roman Catholic Church's passive role during the Holocaust. John Paul II has tried to assuage those concerns.

190,000 lbs. Meat Recalled

WASHINGTON—The Excel Corp. is recalling about 190,000 pounds of fresh ground beef and fresh ground pork because of possible contamination by the potentially deadly E. coli bacteria. The meat bears a production date code of "01.05.23" or "01.05.24."

Study Flags Radioactive Threat

WASHINGTON—Thousands more people than anticipated face health and pollution threats from plutonium and other highly radioactive elements that fouled vast amounts of uranium recycled by the U.S. nuclear weapons program over the past 50 years.

U.N. Meets for AIDS Talks

UNITED NATIONS—At the opening of the first global gathering on HIV/AIDS, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged world leaders to set aside moral judgments and face the unpleasant facts of a disease that has killed 22 million people and ravaged many of the world's poorest nations.

Saudi Defense Minister:

Khobar Case is Internal Issue

SAN'A, Yemen—Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan called the 1996 Khobar bombing case solely an issue for the kingdom, seeming annoyed by the U.S. indictment of 14 people—including 13 Saudis. "This issue concerns Saudi Arabia alone. The American side should send all the documents, complete proof and a list of the names of the accused to us, because Saudi authorities alone are concerned with this case," Sultan said.

Carroll O'Connor Dies

CULVER CITY, Calif.—Carroll O'Connor, whose portrayal of irascible bigot Archie Bunker on *All in the Family* helped make the groundbreaking TV comedy part of the American dialogue on race and politics, has died from a heart attack. He was 76.

Thousands Gather for Total Eclipse

LUSAKA, Zambia—Thousands of tourists, scientists and new age mystics gathered in Zambia to watch the first total solar eclipse of the new millennium sweep across southern Africa. Eclipse day was declared a national holiday.

Runway Safety Problem Persists

WASHINGTON—At least once a week on average, a runway collision is avoided in the United States only when a pilot moves his airplane out of harm's way at the last moment. There were 68 such serious incidents last year, out of 431 runway incursions reported.

Neighbors Worry About Historic Church



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A group of local residents fear that new development in the Rose Quarter/Convention Center area could bring about the demise of a historic African American church.

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A neighborhood group is making a plea to save a historic church. The land use committee of the Eliot Neighborhood Association worries that the old Mt. Olivet Baptist Church at 126 N.E. Schuyler could be sold and the distinctive building demolished at a moment's notice.

Rev. Edward Williams, who oversees management of the property, says the fears are probably based on a decision to consider selling the church's attached parsonage.

Williams would not say what the future plans are for the church building itself.

The 1916 church is listed on Portland's inventory of historic resources, but is not on the National Register of Historic Places, and thus has no legal protection against demolition, advocates for its protection say.

The building sits just a half block off Broadway in the vicinity of the Rose Quarter and Oregon Convention Center. Pauline Bradford of the Eliot neighborhood says new development and proposals for even more development in the area may put the church in jeopardy.

Kathy Galbraith of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation has said that in her professional opinion, the building is the most important piece of African-American architectural history in Oregon.

During its construction, lumber was supplied by the Ku Klux Klan in an effort to facilitate moving black people from the west side of Portland to the east side.

More than three generations of Oregon's African American community have attended the church. The Mt. Olivet congregation moved to a new facility several years ago at north Willis and Chataqua streets and the old church has been leased to a smaller church congregation.

PCC Board Supports Property Condemnations

By LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Community College board voted unanimously last week to authorize the condemnation of property in the path of the planned expansion of the Cascade campus.

The board acted despite expressions of concern and dismay by several affected property and business owners present, and a plea by the Humboldt Neighborhood Association that the action be delayed.

In a written statement, Humboldt chair Susan Erickson told the board, "The vote before you tonight is far too broad a stroke for such a serious action. This is particularly true if PCC just wants to have it available as an option at this point and does not necessarily intend to use it on all of the properties listed."

"By virtue of your power as a community college, you already have this as an option without passing this resolution. Condemnation should be used with surgical precision in a very limited capacity and not on entire blocks of neighborhood property," Erickson said.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE B6

Immigrant Workers Convey Plight

A six-day march through the Willamette Valley to highlight the plight of immigrant workers culminated in a rain-soaked rally Sunday at the state Capitol. Organizers say farmworkers are often forced to work in deplorable conditions with no overtime. Under federal labor laws, growers are not required to enter into collective bargaining agree-



ments with farmworkers, who cannot legally strike but can be fired for complaining.

The event brought together labor unions, immigrants, activists and members of the religious community from around the country, forming a crowd of close to 400 people that marched through the streets surrounding the Capitol before gathering on its steps. Gov. John Kitzhaber put in a surprise appearance and joined protesters to show his support for the cause. "Thank you for the work that you do. Thank you for breakfast, lunch and dinner," Kitzhaber said.

Men Look Their Best for Charity

Just Men in Recovery will be having their 5th Annual All Male Fashion Show on Saturday, June 30, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Miracles Club, 4069 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Area residents are invited to bring the whole family to this entertaining event featuring recording gospel stars Disciples in Song. Tickets can be bought at Geneva's Sheer Perfection, 5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and at Miracles. There will be a 50/50 raffle, and dinners will be sold at the event. Bring the whole family. Proceeds will go towards a fund that grants financial assistance to men in recovery who can't afford the cost of attending the organization's annual retreat.

Other upcoming events by Just Men in Recovery include an anti-drug march in July; a charity softball game Aug. 11 and the retreat Aug. 24-26. For more information about any of these activities, contact Michael R. Booker at 503-267-3192 or Morris Price at 503-515-8152.

Traveling Playground Begins Summer Tour



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A newly painted "Rec 'n Roll" bus is introduced to Portland area kids by Parks and Recreation Director Charles Jordan. The bus brings summer playground programs to many children who don't have access to playgrounds or pools in their neighborhoods.

Portland Parks & Recreation's portable playground program made its first stop of the summer on Friday at the Mt. Scott Community Center in southeast Portland.

Tri-Met and Amalgamated Transit Union graphic artist Sam Harper created the "Rec 'n Roll" bus' signature look. The bus will bring summer playground programs, including sports and crafts, to neighbor-

hoods, including north/northeast Portland, that have limited or no access to these programs. Some children dread summer because they have no place to go—no playgrounds nearby, no pools in their neighborhoods.

The idea behind the bus was that if kids couldn't get to the city's summer program sites, the city would get its programs to the

kids! Several brainstorming sessions later, a portable playground program was developed. "We knew it had to be on wheels and be large enough to carry all the balls, parachutes, craft supplies and PP&R recreation staff needed for a fun summer experience. And, we knew we needed some partners in order to get this exciting project on the road!" park officials said.