



Detroit Lions Pick Joey Harrington
Former Oregon quarterback and Central Catholic standout
drafted No. 3

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

2 Dead, Hundreds Hurt in Train Collision

PLACENTIA, Calif. — A Metrolink commuter train and mile-long freight train collided in Orange County, killing two and injuring hundreds when two cars full of passengers buckled and derailed. Firefighters carried the most seriously injured to triage areas.

Sharon: War's Latest Phase Over

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Israeli tanks and troops pulled out of two West Bank cities after a three-week occupation. But troops remained in Ramallah to confine Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to his compound and held positions in Bethlehem, where Palestinian gunmen are holed up in the Church of the Nativity.

Criticism of Bush Increases in Volume

National unity shielded President Bush from criticism after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but his immunity is fading. Bush is under fire from some friends, foes and pundits for his handling of the Middle East and the administration's confusing response to upheaval in Venezuela.

Blake Charged with Murder

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors portrayed a murder long-planned by TV actor Robert Blake and his bodyguard. The *Baretta* star, 68, was formally charged in Los Angeles Municipal Court, Van Nuys Division, with the shooting death on May 4 of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, 44.

Girls Softball League Takes Oregon City to Court

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Six girls, all members of a softball team called the Blaze, sued in federal court on claims that the city is violating federal and state laws that require equal access by males and females to government facilities.

Pentagon: Iraq Threatens U.S. pilots

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein is moving surface-to-air missiles into Iraq's northern and southern no-fly zones at the fastest pace in at least two years, the nation's top general said.

Three Winning Tickets for \$325M Jackpot

ATLANTA — Three lucky people are holding winning tickets for the \$325 million Big Game jackpot, lottery officials announced. A Georgia Lottery spokesman said winning tickets were purchased in Dacula, Ga., Illinois and New Jersey.

College Students Feeling Crunch of Longer Work Hours

More full-time college students are working longer hours than five years ago, and nearly half of those who work more than 25 hours a week report that it is interfering with their academic achievement, a report says.



Democratic candidate for governor Jim Hill speaks with audience members Friday after a debate in Salem. The former state treasurer and lawmaker says, as governor, he would be accessible to north and northeast Portlanders.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jim Hill Makes Governorship Run

African American is a top candidate for Oregon's highest governmental office

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Growing up in Georgia, Oregon Democratic candidate for governor Jim Hill attended schools that were "second class by law."

He had the cards stacked against him early, but he has proven himself time and time again. The African American politician is considered a top runner for the state's highest office.

Hill has the credentials to lead. He has served 18 years in state government from his home in Salem. During his 8 years as state treasurer, Oregon increased its investment portfolio from \$23 billion to \$32 billion dollars.

Hill cites economy and education as the two major issues facing Oregonians.

"The economy to me is always the most important issue, because it's the machine that generates the revenues. You need to have balance in your tax system so when the economy slows down the whole revenue system doesn't go down as fast and as hard as it does."

Hill has criticized Oregon's overreliance on the income tax, which during slow times can leave schools begging for cash.

"Stable funding for our schools will take tax reform," he said.

The former legislator recommends the formation of a task force which would study states that achieve this kind of stability and to

test its compatibility with the Oregon economy. He also stresses diversification of the economy, and notes Oregon's overdependence on the high tech industry, which has suffered in recent years.

He plans to support more programs like the "Oregon Growth Account" he created while serving as treasurer. The investment program provides seed money and investment capital to small and emerging businesses.

Hill favors allocating resources to schools with significant achievement gaps between white and minority students. He calls the gaps "unacceptable."

He is the only candidate who supported Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposal to increase tobacco, beer and wine taxes to avoid further education cuts.

His concern for Oregon's aging population has led him to chair the Oregon Retirement Task Force. The task force helps Oregonians plan and invest for retirement.

He has also stressed the importance of affordable housing for everyone and encourages creating more opportunities for people to own their own homes.

Hill will be at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 5828 N.E. 8th. Sunday, April 28 at 11 a.m. as part of a community celebration of "Womens Day."

Kroeker Pushes for Job in LA

Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker on Monday said he would like to return to his Los Angeles roots to lead one of the nation's largest police forces.

Kroeker said he will apply for the job of Los Angeles Police Chief.

The announcement came just hours after Bernard Parks, the current chief for the city of Angels announced he will resign.

Kroeker, 58, served a 32-year law enforcement career in Los Angeles before coming to Portland.

"This is a job I am equipped for, made for," Kroeker said. "I have a



Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker

good shot at this."

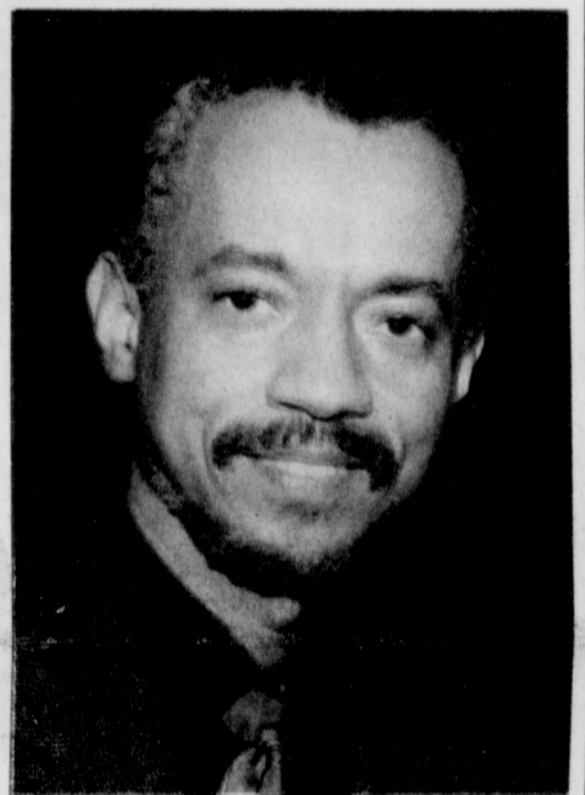
Kroeker will stay on the job in Portland as Los Angeles conducts a national search, a process that could take three to four months.

In the meantime, Mayor Vera Katz accepted Kroeker's promise to stay focused on the day-to-day operation of the Portland Police Bureau.

"In the weeks and months ahead we have critical public safety issues to deal with including the budget, staying vigilant in our community policing to keep the crime rate low, and maintaining the necessary number of officers on the street," Katz said.

Ron Herndon Speaks

Northeast Portland leader tackles issues 'unfiltered' in exclusive interviews



Community leader and activist Ron Herndon.

The Portland Observer is proud to publish a series of interviews featuring community leader and activist Ron D. Herndon.

Herndon is no stranger to our readers. His long history of service to this community is well documented.

For more than 30 years, he has taken part in issues that include school desegregation and reform, police misconduct, and social and political activism.

He is the cofounder of the Black United Front, the Black United Fund, the Rainbow Coalition, and serves as board chair of the National Head Start Association.

Currently, Herndon leads a group of community leaders in an effort to eliminate the achievement gap in education among minority and poor white children enrolled in Portland Public Schools.

This exclusive series reveals Herndon's candor and thoughts on a range of topics.

We asked Yugen Fardan Rashad, a past contributor and correspondent for the Portland Observer, to conduct the interviews.

Yugen: Why did you choose the Portland Observer to share your thoughts?

Herndon: The Portland Observer has a legacy of advocating for Portland's black community well over 60 years. This paper has been a voice speaking out against injustice and inequities, since the Second World War.

And, one of the most influential human beings in my life was Bill McClendon, a co-founder of the Portland Observer. And so I thought this would be a great opportunity for me to speak on some issues, unfiltered.

Yugen: What do you mean unfiltered?

Herndon: I don't believe that most people in the press purposely set out to distort a story. But I have found that a number of individuals in the media are uncomfortable with black people who aggressively confront and challenge the pervasive racism in Portland.

All of us approach circumstances in life with our own history, culture, and personal experiences. Most members of the mainstream media are white, and the status quo in America has worked fairly well for them. They, nor their ancestors, had to protest, demonstrate, boycott or risk death to get the right to vote, fair housing, access to public education, drink water from a public fountain, or eat in a restaurant.

They don't understand at a visceral

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