



Zoo lights Attract

Celebration of lights and animals expands

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Mentoring Kids

Fire star Stacy Thomas on what it takes to succeed

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Week in The Review

Hate Crime Backlash



Arabs and Muslims have increasingly become targets of intimidation or vandalism. Hate crimes in Oregon increased 50 percent last year, according to new statistics released by the FBI. See story on A2 inside.

Dairy poetry?

Any artist can paint cows. Nathan Banks paints ON cows. Banks, a 22-year-old student at Purchase College in New York, painted single words (from "a" to "existential") on the flanks of about 60 cows near his upstate New York home, then let them wander around to see if they could compose poetry.

Golfer bites back

A journeyman pro golfer whose finger was bitten by a dog has filed a \$1.5 million lawsuit in London, contending the injury seven years ago ruined what would have been a world-class career. Andrew Raitt told a High Court judge Monday the little finger of his left hand was two-tenths of an inch shorter and lacked sensation after the bite by an Alsatian at St. George's Hill Golf Club in Weybridge.

Burgler caught napping

Authorities in southeast Ohio didn't have to search very long for a burglary suspect. That's because he was found fast asleep in the house he's accused of breaking into. A man called police after confronting a burglar in his home. The resident told sheriff's officials that the suspect had gone into one of the bedrooms. When deputies arrived, they found the 19-year-old suspect asleep in the room.

Strippers want equality

Under Norway's strict gender equality laws, men and women can demand equal treatment for doing the same job, even if it involves disrobing on stage. Norway's Gender Equality Ombudsman Kristin Mile on Friday said she was investigating a complaint that tax authorities define female strippers as entertainers while male strippers pay a lower tax rate because they are considered artists.

Pelican hikes south

A white pelican rescued from the cold North this week had a broken wing, but its sense of direction appeared to be fine. Phil Thieme found the bird trudging south, first along his driveway and then down the road near southeastern Wisconsin's Horicon Marsh. Fearing for the pelican's life, he and his neighbors corralled it Monday using a net and a blanket.

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Cars speed by the brightly lit shops near the Alberta Cooperative Grocery on the corner of northeast Alberta and 15th Ave. The Alberta neighborhood, once a place of high crime rates and empty store fronts, has in recent years become a cultural mecca for arts, business and entertainment.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

ALBERTA STREET

Tapestry in Transition

A neighborhood reinvents itself and African Americans question the course of 'progress'

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Alberta Street is changing. That much is clear. There are more businesses, community centers, galleries and restaurants than ever before. There is less crime. There are more opportunities. But for whom?

As those with higher incomes move in, will those with lower incomes be forced to move out? Or will everyone be included in the change, and benefit from the evolution of the inner city?

Craig Fondren of the Sabin Community Development Corp. has been involved with the Alberta community for the last 10 years.

"I think the displacement we're looking at is a sense of newness," Fondren said. "I don't think you need to be pushed out to feel a little displaced."

"The last three years have been amazing," he said. "With the new streetscape you will probably see the merchant base double."

The city is revamping Alberta's look, by



Nathan First-Rider and local children help paint the exterior walls of Joe's Place, an African American owned tavern and longstanding icon on Alberta Street.

PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

adding street lamps and improving intersections and bus stops.

Fondren says neighbors have been working diligently to create a safe, livable community.

"As the community develops, the merchants develop," he said.

Fondren asserts that the rental assistance, job development projects and home

ownership programs provided by Sabin CDC have helped locals establish ownership in the community and participate in growth.

"We want people to employ themselves," Fondren said of the emerging business district. "This is an exciting time."

But some groups and individuals say the community is setting itself up for disaster. Camille Kent is a member of Sisters In

Action for Power, a local group that encourages young women of color to become leaders in their communities.

"A lot of people say revitalization is good for the community, but a lot of people are being displaced by revitalization," Kent said. "People from higher incomes are benefiting. People from lower incomes aren't."

Another 'sister,' Chirece Jones, contends that black businesses are disappearing.

"People who have lived here a long time have a lot to say about businesses they used to go to, but aren't there anymore," she said.

Jones points to the construction of the Fremont Bridge, Emanuel Hospital and Memorial Coliseum as development that displaced blacks from established neighborhoods.

She thinks the current situation along Alberta is a symptom of the same pattern.

Dora's Barber Shop at 2330 N.E. Alberta is struggling to avoid the ranks of retired African American businesses.

Dora Montgomery has occupied her small shop on Alberta for over seven years. She says the rising cost of rent on the street is making it hard for her to stay in business.

"I can't afford six to seven hundred a month for a place along Alberta," she said.

To offset expenses, Montgomery is moving her barbershop to a space along side her house at 5312 N.E. 27th Ave. She is positive her customers will follow but she isn't looking forward to leaving Alberta.

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Holiday Sounds and Fury

... plays his trumpet for downtown shoppers. Thousands of enthusiastic spenders hit the streets over the weekend eager to get the best deals on post-Thanksgiving sales.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Affirmative Action Case

Justices to decide if race counts in college

(AP)—The Supreme Court re-entered the debate over affirmative action Monday, agreeing to decide if minorities can be given a boost to get into public universities.

The court will rule by next June if race can be used in college admissions, an issue that the justices have dealt with only once before, in a cloudy 1978 ruling that led to more confusion.

The justices will consider whether white applicants to the University of Michigan and its law school were unconstitutionally turned down because of their race.

The cases give the court an opportunity to ban affirmative action in higher education or say how much weight universities may assign to an applicant's race. The stakes are high because many colleges have race-conscious admissions policies.

Affirmative action supporters argue that without policies that encourage diverse student bodies, the top public colleges in the country would not be representative.

Opponents contend that those policies discriminate against white students, giving slots to less qualified minorities. A divided appeals court upheld the law school's practices in May, saying the Constitution allows colleges and graduate schools to seek "a meaningful number" of minority students, so long as the school avoids a fixed quota system.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has not ruled in a

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