



Designs Honored

Students from Humboldt Elementary design Max safety campaign
See page A3, inside



Merry
Christmas
Happy
Kwanzaa



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Week in The Review

Jail Time for Monkey Business

In the United States a man has been sentenced to 57 days in jail for wildlife smuggling after customs officers found a pair of pygmy monkeys hidden down his trousers. When officers stopped Robert Cusack at Los Angeles airport they found four rare birds and 50 orchids in his suitcase. Asked by agents if he had anything else to tell them, Cusack responded: "Yes, I've got monkeys in my pants."

Gymnast Banned for Adult Movie

Romania has banned three former Olympic medallists from refereeing and coaching in official events for five years after appearing in an adult movie in Japan, officials say. The Romanian Gymnastics Federation decision came the day after Romania's team escaped a Japanese Gymnastics Association ban from a contest in Yokohama next year as the trio was found to be no longer affiliated to the national association. Federation head Nicolae Vieru says the athletes could use their own images but had no right to use the emblems of the national federation.

Water Park Has No Water

A pub with no beer is one thing but Goondiwindi, in southern Queensland, has a new water park with no water. The \$5 million "recreational water park" will remain empty until there is rain and a decent flow in the Macintyre River, on the Queensland/New South Wales border. An application for 470 million litres of water from a local dam to fill the water park has been rejected.

Guinea Pigs Destroy House

Hundreds of guinea pigs did so much damage to a house that authorities called in a demolition crew to raze it. The owner had given more than 440 guinea pigs free run of his house in a prosperous subdivision of brick ranch houses near Detroit. A demolition crew leveled the three-bedroom house and hauled away the rubble. The rodents were crawling through every room as well as in the walls, ductwork and furnace, said city building department spokesman Robert Hudson.

Man Bites Bat Burger

What would you like on your burger? Lettuce? Mayo? Pickles? Perhaps some bat? A Lexington, Ky. teenager faces up to six years behind bars for placing a dead bat on a bun as a joke and giving it to a man who took a bite, thinking it was a burger, police said. The girl, whose identity is being withheld because she is a juvenile, will be charged with violating a new law that prohibits tampering with someone's food and giving it as a gift, according to Lexington Police Investigator Donna Hetherington.



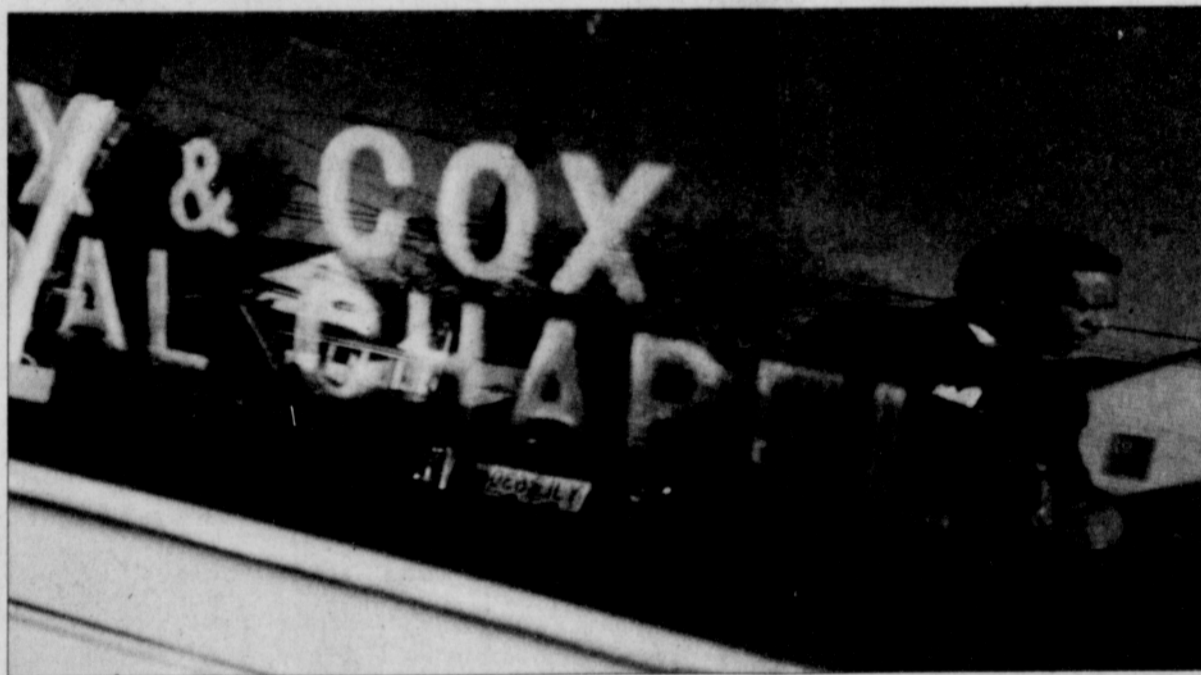
PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Holiday Generosity

Leandra Alanis (left) and Amy Robben of the North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic at 5311 N. Vancouver Ave. help distribute turkeys to needy families for the holidays. Area schools collected 260 turkey donations on behalf of the clinic, serving hundreds of low-income women and children from north and northeast Portland.

Black Burials

African American funeral home meets diversity needs with sensitivity



Cox and Cox Funeral Chapel is the last African American-owned funeral business in Oregon and one of just a handful of independent mortuaries in the state.

PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's a dying business — that of the independently owned funeral home. In the Portland metropolitan area less than 10 funeral homes are privately owned and in the entire state of Oregon, only one is African-American owned.

When Anne Galisky's 86-year-old neighbor, Clydie Mae Towner, asked to arrange her funeral services, Galisky had a luxury many relatives don't have — time to shop around. What she started noticing all of these similar orate logos on the brochures," Galisky said. "The homes had different prices but their pricing packages were the same."

So she chose Cox and Cox, a third generation African-American owned and operated funeral home located at 2736 N.E. Rodney. Galisky said owners Jerome Cox-Tanner and Shawna Tanner went above and beyond her expectations of service. She said they remained conscious of her budget but offered flexibility with the arrangements that she felt could not have been matched by the corporate homes.

Her neighbor, who Galisky calls "Granny" even though they are not related, had a small insurance policy. Galisky wanted to get the most for her money and finally narrowed it down to two providers.

Then something made her decision easier.

"The man at one home asked me point blank, 'Well, when do you think she's going to die?'" and I thought, 'He's going to have to find a better way to ask that question,'" Galisky said.

Most importantly, Galisky said Cox and Cox showed extreme sensitivity and kindness.

"They didn't treat her like she was

continued on page A5

New Year Moves Good in the Hood

Neighborhood group takes sponsorship of multicultural party

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The popular Good in the Hood celebration will be back for an 11th year this summer but with new sponsors, a new location and a new name.

The multicultural community party has parted ways with Holy Redeemer School and in 2003 will be sponsored by the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

The new sponsors are insisting that the event change its name to "Good in the Neighborhood." It will move from the north Portland Catholic school to King School Park, just off Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The dates for this year's celebration are tentatively scheduled for June 28 and June 29. Washington Mutual Bank will continue to be a major backer.

The annual festival showcases inner north and northeast Portland through performances by top jazz and pop musicians, ethnic dance and music, a variety of local foods, booths and information from organizations, public and private agencies, and goods for sale by local artisans.

It's long been a showcase for the positive side of north and northeast Portland, a flip side to news about gangs and drugs.

The celebration attracted thousands of people each year, which in turn led to a problem for the former sponsors because they could no longer afford the risks involved.

"The archdiocese of Portland, and the Catholic Church throughout the nation, is going through a transition," festival board chair Cheryl Roberts told the Portland Observer. "They've really starting scrutinizing local parish activities and budgets. Also, insurance costs were escalating at a rate that was just ridiculous."

The school and organizers came to a "mutual decision" to part ways, Roberts says.

Fortunately, the Northeast Coalition board voted last month to take over responsibility for the festival.

"We were still going to hold the event at Holy Redeemer, but the folks at the Northeast Coalition were so enthusiastic that we said, 'Why not hold it at King School?'" Roberts says.

It will mean a new route for the pre-festival parade. Chief organizer Paul Knauls says this will be "no problem. We can alter the route. The only downside is that we won't go by Safeway, but I'm sure they'll understand."

Northeast Coalition Executive Director John Canda sees his organization's participation as a wonderful opportunity to make new neighborhood ties.

The only real issue was the celebration's name.

The use of the word "hood," to Canda and some of his board was considered offensive.

"It devalues the work of people in the neighborhoods. Take out 'neighbor,' and you have people acting out with a ghetto mentality, and I don't think Portland has a ghetto. It has a lot of working together to create a true neighborhood," Canda said.



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