



Dynamic Duo

College bound brothers overcome obstacles

See story, Metro section, inside

Test Run for I-Max

Interstate light-rail sees first train

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Week in The Review

Bad hair day for inmate with stash

A Norwegian jail inmate has been caught with \$4,500 cash hidden in his massive dreadlocks. A prison official says guards found the money during a routine check but it is unclear how long the 20-year-old prisoner had kept the cash braided into his locks. "We're used to finding things hidden on the body but cash in the hair - that's a new one," said Staale Olsen, the deputy director of Aana prison.

He's no slumlord

A landlord in Gardner, Mass., tired of chasing down tenants who do not pay their rent on time, is giving them a little extra incentive to pony up - the chance to win a free vacation. Douglas Rau, who has more than 100 tenants across central Massachusetts, held a drawing Friday for all tenants who have paid their rent in full. Resident Pablo Gallero won a four-day, three-night stay for two at a resort in the Bahamas along with \$250 in spending money. Rau said he plans to hold similar drawings every month, although the prize may not always be as generous.

Dogs for dinner

Police in the northern Philippines have rescued 83 dogs set to be slaughtered and eaten and arrested two people transporting the animals. Police flagged down a bus ferrying the dogs to a restaurant that serves dog meat in the nearby town of La Trinidad. Police arrested the two people in the vehicle, but both later posted bail. The 83 dogs were turned over to an animal shelter.

A brothel bill refund

A German court has ordered a brothel to reimburse a man charged for sex he could not remember having, after the establishment failed to provide an itemized receipt for services rendered. "The brothel failed to provide concrete documentation of the prices and services provided," court spokesman Vera Huth said. The man told the court he had been too drunk to remember what sexual services he may have ordered at the brothel in Kaarst. The establishment charged him 9,000 euros on his credit card.

No money in the bank

Police in Pine Bluff, Ark. say they aren't sure what charge is appropriate for Julius Kearney, 23, who apparently tried to rob a bank. The man entered a branch of the Bank of America about 10 a.m. Monday, with a trash bag, authorities said. "Put the money in the bag," he demanded. Instead, one of the two tellers told him the bank was out of money, and the other teller laughed and offered him deposit slips. The would-be robber left the bank angry, but since no weapon was found during his arrest, he never threatened anybody, police are unsure how the case will be handled.

Hopson Honored as First Citizen



Tony Hopson, seen with children at Self Enhancement, Inc., will be honored as the 2003 Portland First Citizen for his civic achievements and business leadership in the community. Hopson founded SEI in 1981 to offer a variety of activities and services for youth and families in inner-Portland

Self Enhancement founder joins prominent leaders group

Northeast Portland community leader Tony L. Hopson will be honored as the 2003 Portland First Citizen by the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors at a banquet scheduled for May 6 at the Portland Marriott-Waterfront.

The Portland First Citizen Award was created by the Portland Realty Board in 1928 to honor civic achievements and business leadership in the community. Considered Portland's most prestigious award,

the individuals who have received it are some of the city's most prominent leaders during the past eight decades.

Hopson founded Self Enhancement, Inc. in 1981 as a one-week summer camp committed to improving collegiate and employment opportunities for high school students. The initial camp served 80 students. Since then, SEI has expanded to serve more than 1,500 students a year in various programs.

In 1989, SEI raised over \$10 million to build a 62,000 square foot community center that opened its doors in 1997. The center offers a variety of activities and services for youth and families in inner-Portland and has quickly become a hub of the community and a place of employment for more

than 94 people.

Hopson has also been recognized for his activism and community leadership by receiving the State of Oregon's "Gold Schmidt Award," the "Teamwork Award" from Christian Women Against Crime, the Urban League of Portland's "Equal Opportunity Award," the Albina Ministerial Alliance's "Bridge Builder Award," Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's "Emerald Award," the Black United Fund's "Legacy Award," the "Aubrey R. Watzek Award" from Lewis and Clark College, the "Community Award" from the Portland Observer Newspaper, and the "Living Legend Award" from Willamette University.

Hopson is married and is the father of three sons. In his spare time he enjoys music, travel and water sports.

Postwar Iraq Plans Begin

U.S., Iraqi leaders converge to create a government

(AP) — A U.S.-sponsored forum that brought Iraqi opposition leaders together to shape the country's postwar government began Tuesday with a U.S. promise not to rule Iraq.

The forum concluded with an agreement to meet again in 10 days.

Meeting in the biblical birthplace of the prophet Abraham, delegates from Iraq's many factions discussed the role of religion in the future government and ways to rebuild the country. But some Shiite Muslim groups boycotted the meet-

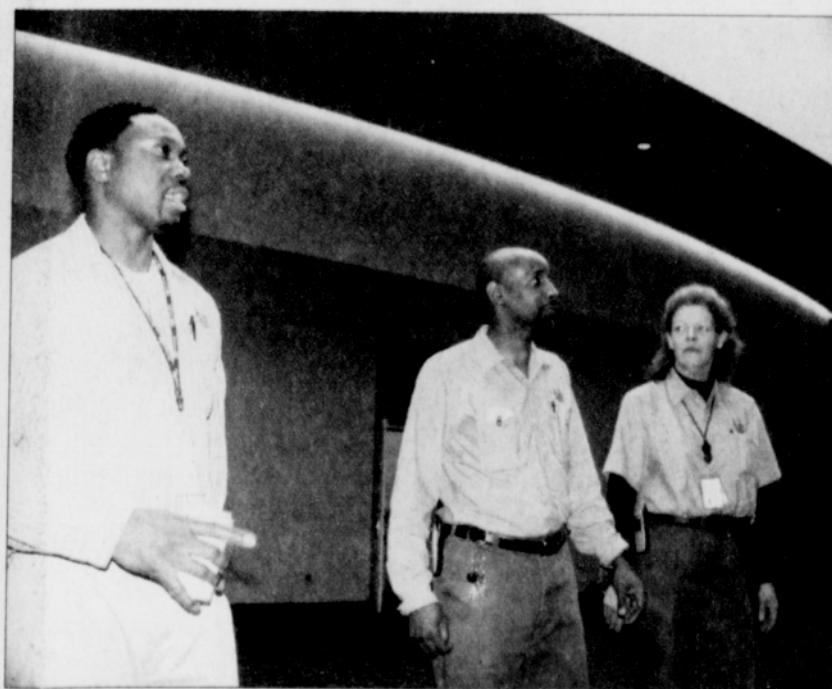
ing and thousands protested nearby.

A 13-point statement released after the meeting stressed the need to work toward a democratic Iraq built on the rule of law and equality. It also called for dissolving Saddam's Baath Party, but left open the question of separating church from the state.

Retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, who will head the U.S.-led interim administration in Iraq, opened the conference under a golden-colored tent at Tallil air base.

"What better birthday can a man have than to begin it not only where civilization began but where

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Oregon Convention Center Supervisor Timothy Odoms (from left), teams up with his Utility Managers Darryl Jones and Ayli Vanzandt to put the last details in place for this week's opening of a \$116 million expansion. The exhibition complex on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is now the largest of its kind in the United States.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Convention Center to Throw Expansion Party

Free festival features food, arts and entertainment

The \$116 million expanded Oregon Convention Center will open this weekend with The Big Bash, a

free public celebration of Oregon's finest forms of art, entertainment, food, beer, wine, recreation and business.

Convention Center workers are busily readying the new center for the two-day festival, which begins Friday at noon with a performance

by the Portland Community College Jazz Band.

The Big Bash will also include the Portland Oregon Visitors Association trade show, where attendees can shop over 400 booths fea-

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Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson gets a hug from Chief Warrant Officer David Williams Sunday. The U.S. soldiers were safely rescued after being taken prisoner of war in Iraq. (AP photo)



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