



Former Blazer Frames College Hall

Kenny Carr gets a piece of PCC expansion
See story, Metro section inside

Moose Sues over Book

Former Portland chief says he has right to tell his story
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Week in The Review

Supreme Court to hear voucher case

The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide whether states that offer scholarships or other aid to needy students may refuse to provide money for instruction at religious schools. Last year the court voted 5-4 that states could provide public funds for parents to use at religious schools, without violating the requisite separation of church and state. The new case tests whether states must also fund religious instruction once they provide scholarships for secular programs.

Ashland students object to blood drive

Students at Southern Oregon University will cancel their blood drive this term because they say that eligibility to donate discriminates against gay men and violates the university's anti-discrimination policy. The Red Cross said the FDA sets the guidelines and that all blood collection agencies must abide by them.

Disease, head injury link

Researchers studying the effects of boxing on the later-life development of neurological disorders found that head injury may increase the risk of developing Parkinson's disease decades later. The findings, published in the journal "Neurology," suggest that head injury may be one of the factors that can lead to Parkinson's, a progressive disease that afflicts up to 1.5 million people in the USA.

U.S. terror alert goes orange

The Bush administration raised the national terror alert level to orange on Tuesday amid fears that a wave of attacks overseas would spread to the United States. Officials with the Department of Homeland Security said the threats were not specific to location, time or method of attack. The warning sets in motion new security measures for the federal government and advises cities, states and businesses to take extra steps as well.

Justice Thomas views

The Supreme Court's only black justice said Tuesday that he has been wrongly maligned for not embracing the views of black civil rights leaders. Justice Clarence Thomas, one of the court's most conservative members, told a group of mostly black students from Benjamin Banneker High School in Washington, that he believes the death penalty is constitutional and that there's more to diversity than skin color.



PHOTO BY NICK JARAMILLO/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon Symphony Conductor James DePreist and the bronze bust that was cast in his likeness. The sculpture was placed in the lobby of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall last week as public commemoration for DePreist's influence on the Portland arts community.

Bust Cast of James DePreist

Symphony director honored for achievements

James DePreist, Oregon Symphony music director and conductor for the last 23 years, was honored last week with the unveiling and installation of a new bronze sculpture cast in his likeness.

The privately commissioned DePreist bust, which was created by internationally known local bronze sculptor Rip Caswell, was donated to the Portland Center for the Performing Arts to serve as a public commemoration for DePreist's monumental influence on the Portland community.

"DePreist has made an enormous impact on the artistic

community and has developed the symphony into one of Portland's premier performing arts organizations," said Robyn Williams, executive director of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

Local arts benefactor Gretchen Brooks said she set about the task of fundraising to commission the bronze sculpture of her friend DePreist because his work will have longstanding effects on Oregon and the arts.

"We appreciate the artistic achievements, grace, wit and spirit he bestowed upon us," Brooks said. "We want the citizens and visitors of Portland to have a reminder for years to come of the tremendous contributions Jimmy DePreist has made."

The bust was installed in the lobby of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Friday, May 16.

System Clears Officer

Pattern of injustice is 'same old song'

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community and religious leaders in north and northeast Portland are outraged that a seven-person grand jury cleared officer Scott McCollister of any criminal actions in the May 5 shooting death of Kendra James when she tried to drive away from a routine traffic stop.

Members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Portland branch of the NAACP said the jury's failure to indict McCollister sends a clear message that the criminal justice system is unwilling to hold white police officers accountable for the death of black citizens.

"This is nothing new to the community," said Pastor

Robin Wisner, who is organizing a march and rally for justice this Saturday in James' name. "It's an old song - a song that has been played over and over again."

Pastor LeRoy Haynes of the Allen Temple CME Church in northeast Portland, echoed Wisner's

concerns about the fairness of the grand jury process.

He said there is a sense of rage in the African American community when it comes to the police shooting people of color, grand juries historically will not indict and rule the officers' actions a justifiable homicide.

Haynes said not only did the district attorney's office try to paint a negative image of witness Darnell White, who was James' boyfriend and in the car at the time of the shooting, but the discrepancies between officers statements and those of the witnesses should have been enough to send McCollister to trial.

"One minute he says he was falling and then he's not falling, the car ran over his foot and then it didn't," Haynes said. "Come on - everybody knows if a car runs over their foot. It's a clear discrepancy."

Rather than dwell on the tragedy, Haynes said he hopes the community will come together and work to prevent and incident like this from happening again. He

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We want to make sure Kendra James did not have to die in vain.

—Pastor LeRoy Haynes

Gains Made in Color Blind Justice for Kids



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Joanne Fuller oversees the Donald E. Long juvenile detention facility as head of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. The administrator has found some success in lowering the county's detention rate for minority offenders.

Reform targets racial bias in juvenile detention

Less than 10 years ago, local youth of color were 10 percent more likely to be held in a juvenile detention center than white offenders for the same crimes. But today, through reforms to make the county juvenile justice system color-blind, the minority incarceration rate mirrors that of white youth.

According to new figures released by the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, the minority youth detention rate was 37.6 percent in 2002, only slightly higher than the 36.1 percent detention rate for whites. This is the fourth straight year that the rates were identical or nearly identical.

"In a perfect world, this wouldn't be news," said Joanne Fuller, the director of the De-

partment of Community Justice. "But the world isn't perfect."

Fuller said the county is succeeding at making sure that the local juvenile justice system is blind to ethnicity and skin color.

A major step in the drive to reduce the disproportionately high rate of detention for non-white youth began a decade ago when the county applied to be one of

20 cities nationwide enrolled in a juvenile reform experiment by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative program.

Some authorities now consider Multnomah County a model for juvenile justice reform across the country.

"What we've done is just incredible," said Jim Stegmiller, who worked as a probation officer for Multnomah County before becoming a consultant for the Casey

program. Stegmiller said in 1993, out of 96 youth held in detention, 70 were youth of color.

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