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Weekend of Jazz

Vancouver Wine and Jazz Fest to fill Esther Short Park

See Focus, Page B3

Queen of Hip Hop

Mary J. Blige will perform with 50 Cent and other stars at the MTV Awards

See Focus, Page B2

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Week in The Review



Lucien Abenhaim, French director general of health, resigned over the deaths of 5,000 people from heat-related causes. (AP photo)

Heat Claims 5,000 in France

A senior health official resigned Monday after France's health minister admitted that up to 5,000 people, many of them elderly and alone, might have died in the heat wave - almost twice as many as previously estimated. The government and opposition traded accusations over who's to blame.

UN Hotel Bombed in Iraq

A suicide truck bomb ripped through the hotel housing the U.N. headquarters. At least 20 people were killed, including the chief U.N. official in Iraq. More than 40 others were injured, U.N. officials said. A U.N. worker in Baghdad, Tharer al-Tikriti, said that he had counted 15 body bags taken from the building, where about 300 people worked.

Blackout Cause A Mystery

The Midwest power system recorded numerous voltage swings as early as midday Thursday, long before high-voltage lines failed south of Cleveland, officials said. This raised new questions. An official of the organization that manages the flow of electricity across the Midwest cautioned Monday that system "contingencies" - voltage increases and decreases - are not unusual.

Peace Deal Signed in Liberia

The Liberian government and rebels signed a peace accord to end a bloody three-year insurgency that toppled warlord-president Charles Taylor as calm settled into the capital and shopkeepers opened for the first time in a month. The accord calls for a two-year power-sharing government, meant to lead Liberia into elections and out of 14 years of conflict brought on by Taylor.

Tape Urges Muslims to Fight

An audiotape, purportedly from an al-Qaida militant, calls on Muslims around the world to travel to Iraq and fight the U.S.-led occupation. The speaker on the audiotape, obtained by The Associated Press and aired on Al-Arabiya television, claimed to be Abdur Rahman al-Najdi, a Saudi-born militant sought by the United States.



Portland cab driver Joe Roney is opposed to having a security camera in his taxi.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Smile For the Taxi Camera

Security surpasses privacy in Portland taxis

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ridership in Portland's taxis has not completely recovered since the recession following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The last thing cabbies want to do is discourage riders from climbing aboard, but thanks to a new security measure, drivers say passengers might rather walk.

Prompted by the murder of Portland cab driver

Grigoriy Rogozhnikov, City Commissioner Randy Leonard pushed to install cameras in all metered cabs licensed in the city.

The City Council passed the ordinance last week, creating a "For Hire Transportation Safety Fund," supported by vehicle and driver permit fee increases to fund camera installation. Cameras are slated for installation in every metered cab in Portland by July 2004.

"Our primary concern is what drivers think of it and what passengers think of it... if drivers consider it somewhat of an invasion of privacy and if it makes passengers nervous about getting in cabs," said Steve Entler, general manager for Radio Cab in northwest Portland.

According to data collected from Leonard's office, New York, San Francisco and Toronto, Canada have adopted mandatory cameras, and have seen drops in crimes against drivers. In Toronto's first year to mandate taxi cameras, the city reported 50 percent less taxi-related robberies, with a 20 percent decrease the following year.

Initially, the ordinance encountered much opposition. About a third of cabbies signed a petition against it.

"It's a pretty dangerous profession to be in," said

continued ▼ on page A3



Multicultural Street Fair

The Inaugural Interstate Avenue Fair enjoyed a big turnout this weekend as local businesses and community members mingled along the avenue's new Max light rail line. Lesely (right) has her face painted by Ok Ji Radda, an Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center board member.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pledge is Best Minority Contractors Get

Affirmative action in South Waterfront project falls short

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Minority contractors have won a pledge from the City Council on the need for affirmative action in the massive South Waterfront development, but it may fall short of expectations.

Representatives of the Community Alliance, a newly formed group that includes the Coalition of Black Men; African-American, Hispanic and Native American Chambers of Commerce and the African-American Confederation of Contractors, appeared before the City Council last Thursday.

The group wants to make sure disadvantaged contractors get some of the jobs in a the 30-acre \$1.9 billion venture by the Oregon Health and Sciences University and a group of private investors to develop formerly industrial land east of Southwest Macadam Avenue. The project would provide 1,000 construction jobs, create upwards of 2,200 housing units and be supported by

\$109 million worth of public works projects paid for by urban renewal funds.

Another coalition of labor unions, churches and non-profit agencies, The Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, had asked the council to provide for "prevailing wages" and "affordable" housing" as part of the project. Commissioners Erik Sten and Randy Leonard, worked to place these provisions from in the city's agreement with the developers.

But the alliance went further, asking for "aspirational goals" of 35 percent participation by minority and women in jobs and contracting.

The Portland Development Commission and City Council declined to alter plans to meet that number, but did pledge to work toward a 20-percent minority participation.

"There's a commitment to work on this by all parties," Alliance spokesperson Andre Baugh told Council. "This is a great start."

The result was disappointing for those who consider requirements for "prevailing wages" a means that bars small minority contractors who are not "connected."

continued ▼ on page A3

Another Sniper Brings Terror to East Coast

Shootings could be drug-related

(AP) — At least two of last week's three fatal shootings outside a West Virginia convenience stores could be drug-related, authorities said Tuesday.

The shootings echoed the killings that terrorized Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., last fall. Many were single shots from far distances that felled people as they stopped at gas

Chief Deputy Phil Morris sent a group of sheriff's deputies to Campbells Creek, W. Va. on Monday to interview residents, and they learned of concerns about methamphetamine use in the unincorporated area where the two of the victims lived and where one shooting occurred.

All three shootings occurred at night from distances of 30 yards to 60 yards. Each victim was shot in the neck or head by a small caliber rifle. Police have not released the caliber of the weapon, or if the shots were fired from the same weapon.

No arrests have been made, nor is anyone in custody, but

continued ▼ on page A3

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