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Committed to Cultural Diversity

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Week in The Review

CIA Leak Leads to Probe

The Justice Department has launched a criminal investigation into who may have leaked the classified identity of a CIA operative. The operative is the wife of Joseph Wilson, a former U.S. diplomat who had cast doubt on intelligence that President Bush cited as a reason Iraq posed a threat to the United States. Wilson says the leak came from the White House.

Iraq Deadline Doubts

Iraqis are unlikely to adopt a new constitution within six months, as proposed by Secretary of State Colin Powell, a spokesman for the president of the Iraqi Governing Council said Tuesday.

Huffington May Back Davis

Independent candidate Arianna Huffington is considering dropping out of the California recall election and endorsing Gov. Gray Davis, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Meanwhile, the spiraling cost of workers' compensation has emerged as a hot-button issue in the debate over the economy and keeping businesses from leaving the state.

Pope Increasingly Frail

Ailing Pope John Paul II is "in a bad way," one of his closest advisers said in a published interview, calling on the faithful to pray for him.

Ranks of Uninsured Rise

The ranks of the medically uninsured swelled by 2.4 million last year as insurance costs kept rising and more Americans lost their jobs and health care coverage.

Record Industry Settles

The recording industry says it has settled 52 of the 261 suits filed against Internet users accused of illegally permitting downloads from their computers.

Women Smokers Left Out

Two years after the surgeon general issued a report calling smoking a leading killer of women, state governments are failing to adequately address the problem, according to a study by an advocacy group.

Laura Bush Boasts Books

Laura Bush lamented the hours each day that the average American child watches television during a visit to a book festival in Moscow, urging U.S. parents to turn off the tube and pick up a book with their kids.

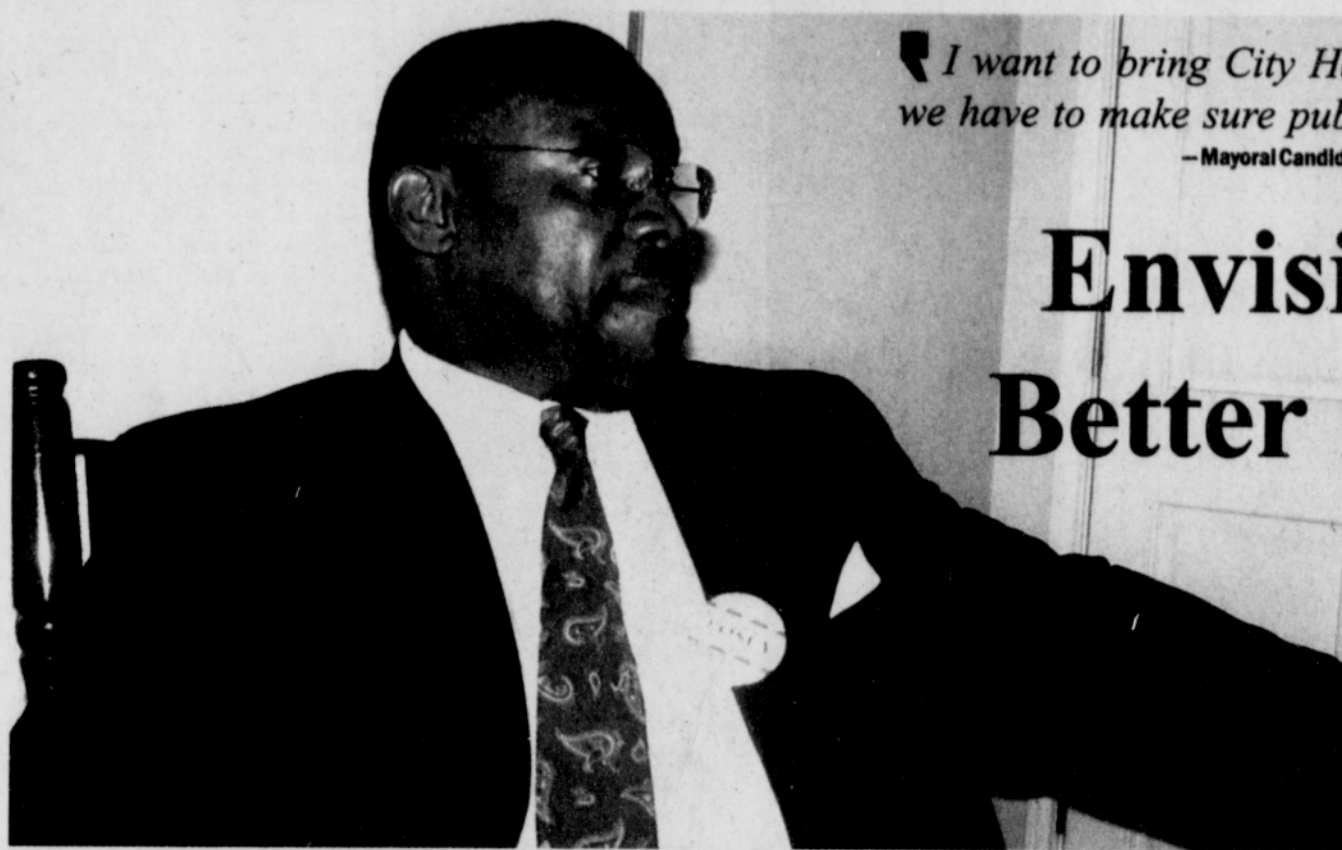
Court Looks at Death Row

The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to use the case of a man who murdered 13 people in a 1982 shooting rampage in Pennsylvania to determine whether dozens of old death sentences, or more, should be thrown out.

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I want to bring City Hall back to the people... we have to make sure public servants work for us.

—Mayoral Candidate James Posey

Envisioning a Better Portland

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Business owner James Posey says he's running for mayor to bring political power to the people.

James Posey outlines agenda in run for mayor

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James Posey says his ideas about city leadership are different—radically different and good for the community.

According to Posey, who will announce his intention to become Portland's next mayor at press conference at City Hall on Friday, city residents are fed up with business as usual.

He explains his reasons for running as simply providing voters with an option he hasn't found himself.

"You vote for people you thought would implement programs that would change the dynamics of the community and you come to the conclusion that no one will do it and you have to push forth the agenda," he said.

Posey's difference is something few politicians brag about: his inexperience in office. "Professional politicians hold allegiance to special interests, have their eye on the next office and the next election," said Posey of his competition.

Although his office has never been in City Hall, Posey is not inexperienced with

the needs of his community.

A northeast Portland resident for 22 years, he currently owns two small businesses, Workhorse Construction Metro Inc. and Eliot E-mat Café. Formerly, Posey has worked as a probation officer, drug treatment and mental health counselor, and community center and health center executive director.

He has been involved with the National Association of Minority Contractors, NAACP, Urban League, and the City Club of Portland. He is a member of the Coalition of Black Men and the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

Of the many changes he has in store for the city, Posey plans to return the balance of

power to the people.

"I want to bring City Hall back to the people," he said. "We have to make sure public servants work for us."

Posey said that while city government officials talk the diversity talk, their work force remains a homogenous pale. He extends his definition of diversity to include gender and sexual orientation.

According to Posey, his approach to diversity is no-nonsense. If managers can't find ways to employ people of diverse backgrounds, they're not succeeding in their jobs, and they will be replaced.

continued on page A8

Laying Down Arms

Gun turn-in event promotes safer homes

Members of the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation say they can't look past the statistic that a firearm in the home is 23 times more likely to injure a family member or friend than it is to protect them.

"We believe homes are safer without firearms," said volunteer Julie Wheeler.

Ceasefire Oregon is sponsoring its 10th annual event to disarm the city's streets and homes, in exchange for coupons, good for groceries, vid-

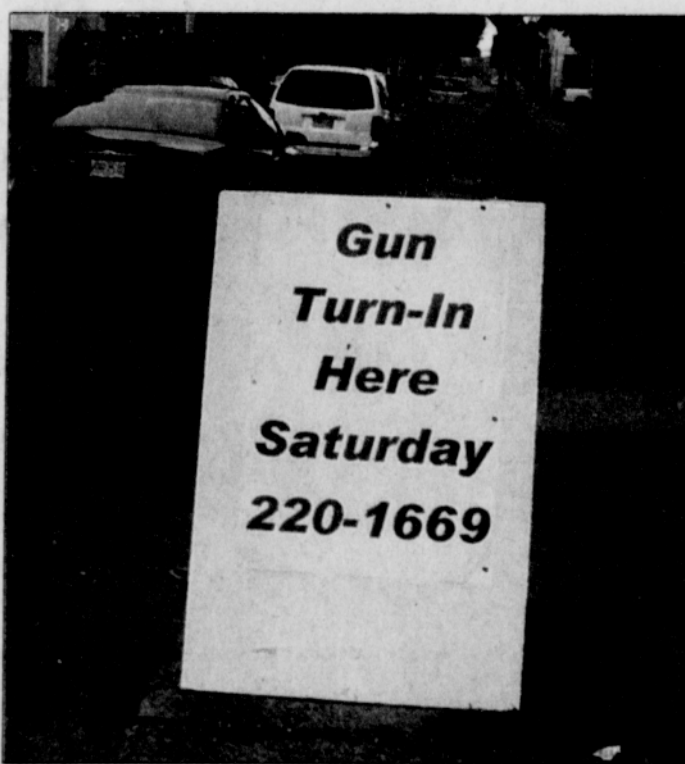
eos, restaurant meals or tickets to a Trail Blazers game.

Since the beginning of the program, Ceasefire Oregon has melted down 5,600 handguns and rifles.

"It would be wonderful to get to 6,000," Wheeler said.

The Turn-in event begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the First United Methodist Church Fireside Room at Southwest 18th Avenue and Jefferson. The Lutheran Center for Christian Ministries, at 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., is collecting firearms from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.

For more information visit www.ceasefireoregon.org or call 503-220-1669.



The Lutheran Center for Christian Ministries at Northeast Skidmore and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will serve as a collection site Saturday for Ceasefire of Oregon's annual gun turn-in event.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Sharitha McKenzie

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Twenty-year-old college student Sharitha McKenzie says no matter how far she goes in life, northeast Portland will always be her home.

McKenzie, a junior journalism student at the University of Oregon, has the confidence and enthusiasm to fuel her dreams of becoming Miss Oregon USA.

She says that with the competition only weeks away, on Oct. 24, she doesn't feel nervous.

Proudly Representing Home

Miss Oregon contestant values roots and being a role model

In fact, she says she doesn't even think about the other contestants.

"I've done a lot of preparation, and I learned in the past that you can't worry about what anybody else does," said McKenzie, a northeast Portland native and Benson High school graduate. "It'd be nice to win, but if I don't, I'll keep trying 'til I do."

McKenzie compares competing in pageants to another of her passions—running track.

"If you're in lane four, you can't worry about what's going on in lane eight," she says.

Today, McKenzie is a pageant professional, with more than 10 competitions dotting her resume, and sashes reading Miss American Starlet, Rose Festival Ambassador, Miss Black and Gold, and first runner up in last year's Miss Oregon USA pageant.

She says she entered the world of voice coaches, makeup artist professionals and designer gowns with the same prejudices that many hold.

"I thought they were air-headed and superficial. I found out through participating

that none of those things are true," she said.

Since McKenzie began competing six years ago, her mother has sewn her dresses and did her makeup until she could apply her own.

Her mother was no novice to the glamour of the stage. Both McKenzie's mother and grandmother are former beauty queens, and

Diversity in a racial sense, but also a diversity of thoughts and ideas people have.

—Sharitha McKenzie

her sister and niece compete as well.

But just as beauty is hereditary, so is a discipline for education.

Both of McKenzie's parents are educators in the Portland Public School district, and guided her to challenge herself. Her father, Leon, is a councilor and coach at Benson High School and her mother, Grace,

teaches eighth grade at Whitaker Middle School.

McKenzie said that in a sense, she always had a penchant for broadcast journalism.

"My parents always told me I talk a lot, so I figured I'd use my God-given talent, being comfortable in front of audiences," she said.

The pageants have opened many doors for McKenzie, such as connecting her to a summer internship with the Portland Fire Bureau's television services. Networking aside, McKenzie says she likes to represent her community in a broader spectrum.

"I especially like showing black women that anything is possible, because you don't see a lot of minorities in that field," said McKenzie.

She recalls an incident while she was at a college media conference in Dallas, when other participants were "so astonished they met a black girl from Oregon."

"I know that people have misconceptions and one of those is there's no people of color in Oregon. I just laughed because I knew that

continued on page A8