

Kerry Rallies Portland

Presidential candidate stops
at SEI, holds downtown rally

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Week in The Review

Head of Iraqi Council Killed

A suicide bombing killed the head of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council as his car waited at a checkpoint near coalition headquarters Monday, a major setback to American efforts to stabilize Iraq just six weeks before the handover of sovereignty.

Butterfly Discovery

About 500 rare butterflies were recently found thriving in the hills near Corvallis, thrilling conservationists who hope the colorful Taylor's checkerspot will fight back from near extinction.

Following Orders

One of the Army privates facing a court-martial for being photographed with naked Iraqi prisoners says she was following orders to create psychological pressure on them.

Massachusetts Marries Gay Couples

More than 1,000 gay couples sought applications for marriage licenses on the first day Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex couples to legally wed, a survey of the largest cities and towns in the state showed.

Possible WMD Found

U.S. soldiers found a roadside bomb containing sarin nerve agent in Baghdad, the military said Monday. The device, which partially detonated, was apparently a decade-old leftover from Saddam Hussein's arsenals.

Moore's 'Fahrenheit' Targets Vote

Michael Moore lit a powder keg at the Cannes Film Festival with his incendiary "Fahrenheit 9/11," a relentless critique of the Bush administration. If Moore can get the movie into U.S. theaters this summer, the film could become a rallying cry for voters hoping to see President Bush defeated.

War Budget to Exceed \$50 Billion

The Bush administration's next request for financing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will push next year's total beyond \$50 billion, a top Pentagon official told Congress.



Adam "The Great" Parsons takes a break from his magic act at Billy Reed's Restaurant on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The entertainer from Vancouver is headed on a tour to entertain American troops overseas.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mystifying the Troops

Local magic troupe takes act to U.S. military overseas

By JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A troupe of magicians and performers from the Northwest will entertain U.S. military troops and their families in Okinawa, Guam, Kwajalein and the Hawaiian Islands during a 22-day trip starting this week.

Magician Charles Adam Parsons, a.k.a. "Adam the Great" is disappearing from Billy Reed's Restaurant in northeast Portland to

join Roger Ullenberg, better known as Cosmo the Balloon Wizard, Ringmaster Elisa Hays and essential hand Rebecca Sullivan of the "Let's Pretend Circus."

Parsons of Vancouver has been performing dinner shows and weekly stage shows at Billy Reed's for three years. He's looking forward to adding "international entertainer" to his resume.

"I've performed in a lot of venues in

Portland. To be involved in this venue is a great opportunity," Parsons said. "I've got a lot of respect for these cats; the men and women in the military."

Next, he's also looking for a slot on the Tonight Show and he thinks that entertaining the troops, arranged by Armed Forces Entertainment, might take him there.

For Ullenberg, this will be his third tour

overseas to entertain the American military.

He says these shows are incredibly rewarding because he brightens the day of children living on far off military bases.

"Balloons have been very good to me," said Ullenberg, known for sculpting and contorting balloons into whimsical animals in no time flat. "They've taken me around the

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High Tech Kids



Whitaker Middle School students Grace Tshimanga (clockwise from left), James Noeun, Jason Warner, Leandrea Riggins and Adilene Amaro participated in the Intel high-tech science fair at the Oregon Convention Center.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Intel is helping to turn sharp and curious kids into a force of technological leaders in the future.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair last week at the Oregon Convention Center included middle schoolers from around the world, including kids from north and northeast Portland enrolled in Saturday Academy.

The effort was part of an initiative between educators and government leaders aimed at helping students prepare for the high-tech career demands of tomorrow.

Locally, Saturday Academy engages young people in hands on, in-depth learning and problem solving focusing

on science, engineering and technology.

"It takes a lot of support for students to participate in science fairs. This project levels the playing field by providing materials and mentoring to students who need it," said Joyce Cressell, the program's executive director. "These are our future scientists, doctors and engineers. Through projects like this, we seed the future."

A group of Saturday Academy students from Whitaker Middle School engaged in science projects that included fizzing bubbles, changing temperatures, water density and smashing rocks.

Project Safe Takes Aim at Guns

Offers resources and
safety information

An effort has been launched to reduce gun crimes in local neighborhoods with the distribution of information about how residents can help combat the deadly violence in their neighborhoods.

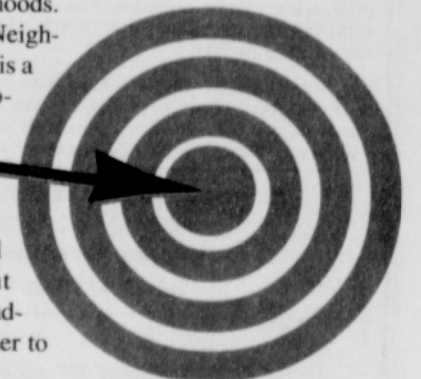
Project Safe Neighborhoods Oregon is a national gun violence-reduction initiative that encourages federal, state and local law enforcement and community leaders to work together to reduce gun crime.

The group has established a website at www.PSNOregon.org to reach both the public and law enforcement officials with vital information, including when and where to report illegal gun possession, how community members can actively keep guns out of their neighborhood, training opportunities for members of law enforcement agencies and information about domestic violence.

"The new Web site is another valuable tool that will help the public get involved in the effort to reduce gun crime in our neighborhoods," said U.S. Attorney for the district of Oregon Karin Immergut.

In Oregon, the program specifically targets gang-related gun violence, crimes of domestic violence in which a firearm is involved and armed career criminals.

Nationally, Project Safe Neighborhood set a record in 2002 for increasing the number of defendants federally charged with gun-related crimes by 20 percent. In 2003, the program set a new Justice Department record with nearly 23 percent more defendants charged with federal firearm-related crimes.



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