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Waterfront Blues Fest
Stage prepared for
Independence Day fun
See story, Focus Section C

**Toxic Fish in
Willamette**
Fishing advisory posted
See story, Metro section B



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXIV • Number 24

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • June 23, 2004

Week in The Review

Clinton Book Hits Shelves
Eager for a few seconds of face time with their idol, hundreds of Bill Clinton's fans lined up Tuesday near a Manhattan bookstore where he was scheduled to sign copies of his new memoir, "My Life."

S. Korean Hostage Beheaded

An Iraqi militant group beheaded its South Korean hostage, officials said Tuesday, just hours after a go-between said the execution had been delayed and there were negotiations for the man's release.

Smoking: Quit It

At least half, and perhaps as many as two-thirds, of people who begin smoking in their youth are eventually killed by the habit, according to a mammoth 50-year medical study by British researchers.

U.S. Admits Rise in Terror

Secretary of State Colin Powell announced a sharp increase last year in victims of terrorism worldwide, correcting findings that were used to bolster President Bush's claim of success in countering this scourge of violence.

Same-Sex Marriage Amendment

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, whose state is the only one to recognize gay marriages, urged passage of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex unions, even as the conservative who wrote a federal law denying recognition to such marriages said that current law was sufficient.

AIDS Threatens Reproductive Health

The global HIV/AIDS epidemic is threatening efforts to achieve sexual and reproductive health goals that are supposed to improve the lives of women and reduce poverty, the head of the United Nations population agency said.

U.S. to Hand Over Saddam

The United States will hand over legal authority but retain physical custody of Saddam Hussein and an undetermined number of other former regime figures to the interim Iraqi government as soon as Iraqi courts issue warrants for their arrest and request the transfer, a U.S. official said.

Getting Ready for the Ball



PHOTO BY
MARK
WASHINGTON/
THE
PORTLAND
OBSERVER

Selena Malone, a recent high school graduate, demonstrates poise and restraint preparing for this weekend's Les Femmes Debutante Ball.

Debutantes of 2004

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If you've ever heard that debutantes are back in fashion, one local group reminds us that they never left.

Les Femmes has a long history in Portland, dating back to the 1950s. The African-American civic group annually helps young women learn social graces, proper behavior and training in the finer points of life. This

began during a time when finishing school was reserved for wealthy, white women.

This year, Les Femmes is presenting 14 young ladies to the community at the Les Femmes annual Debutante Ball at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 26 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel at 8235 N.E. Airport Way. All of the debutantes being honored are

graduates from area high schools and are eligible for the Les Femmes college scholarship fund.

According to Pauline Bradford, a historian for Les Femmes, the organization affords members many opportunities, from making

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Pushing Back AGAINST AIDS

Symposium to tell reality of disease

African Americans were misled about the dangerous and deadly consequences of AIDS, a disease that's affecting them at record rates, experts say.

Organizers and health officials have created a free community symposium discussing HIV and AIDS in the African-American community on Friday, June 25 from 4 to 9 p.m. at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

"Back in early 80s, we heard in the African-American community that AIDS is a white, gay male disease. Unfortunately, that was a lie," said Mardica Hicks, an event organizer and executive vice president of New Earth Management Corp.

According to the Centers for Disease Control statistics, although African Americans make up just 12 percent



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Mardica Hicks (from left) leads a discussion on HIV/AIDS prevention in the African-American community with community advocates Hilton Levias and Talia Gad.

of the national population, 19 percent of reported AIDS cases today are from African Americans.

The local symposium is the result of collaboration between SEI, the Portland chapter of The Links, an African-American organization, Cascade AIDS Project, the Multnomah County Health Department, Portland State University and other organizations.

Area residents who attend the symposium are "going to leave with an understanding that we are all at risk for HIV and AIDS, that this disease is 100 percent preventable, and that we as a community can turn this around," Hicks said.

The objective is to get information out to African Americans about the disease's devastating impact on the community, to identify risky behavior, to stress the importance of getting tested and to inform participants about

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Excessive Force Resolution Submitted

Advocates push for change at City Hall

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community advocates led by the Albina Ministerial Alliance have submitted a resolution to the Portland City Council to toughen local laws holding police officers accountable for use of excessive force.

An ad hoc coalition of the African-American group of church leaders, presented the resolution at a City Council meeting last week during a public comment segment.

It called for the removal and severe discipline of Officer Jason Sery, who shot and killed unarmed African-American motorist James Jahar Perez on March 28 in the St.

Johns community of north Portland.

The resolution also stipulates that Portland's police officers should receive community-approved cultural diversity train-

Finally, the resolution addresses racial profiling, stating that no police action should be made on the basis of race.

"We have marched in the streets. We



We have marched in the streets. We have felt the community's anger and frustration. Now we are taking our words to City Council for policy changes.

— Dr. LeRoy Haynes, chair of the Albina Ministerial Alliance

ing and that officers receive 22 weeks of training in the police academy, as a combination of field, classroom and consultation training, prior to the 14-weeks of on-the-job training currently in place.

have felt the community's anger and frustration. Now we are taking our words to City Council for policy changes," said Dr. LeRoy Haynes, chair of the AMA.

The proposed new regulations also are

a response to the death of Kendra James, an African-American woman shot and killed by police while trying to flee a traffic stop in May 2003 on the North Skidmore Street I-5 overpass.

"We have said 'never again' and yet many of the policies and much of the training that led to the death of Kendra James continue on, as we saw with the death of James Jahar Perez," Haynes said.

City commissioners did not address or discuss the proposal during last Wednesday's session and the resolution could virtually be ignored unless a commissioner takes up the cause.

The AMA urges churches, citizens and other groups to support their resolution through letter writing and calling city politicians.

To get involved, call Haynes at 503-287-0261.

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