



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXIV • Number 26

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • July 07, 2004



Week in The Review

Edwards Added to Ticket



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Tuesday selected former rival John Edwards to be his running mate, calling the former trial lawyer and rookie senator a man who showed "guts and determination and political skill" in his unsuccessful race against Kerry for the party's nomination.

HIV Hits Record High in 2003

New HIV infections hit a record high last year as the virus continues to outpace the global effort to contain it, according to a U.N. report published Tuesday.

Archdiocese Goes Bankrupt

The Portland Archdiocese will file for bankruptcy because it can't afford to pay the potential cost of sex



Archbishop John Vlazny

abuse lawsuits, becoming the first Roman Catholic diocese in the nation to seek such court relief. The action freezes the start of a priest abuse civil trial involving the late Rev. Maurice Grammond, who was accused of molesting more than 50 boys in the 1980s. "The pot of gold is pretty much empty right now," Archbishop John Vlazny said.

Blair Doubts WMD Exist

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday that Saddam Hussein's illicit weapons of mass destruction may never be found in Iraq, but insisted the dictator had posed a threat to the world.

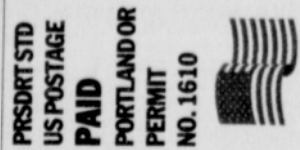
Stampede in Spain



A rocket fired from a balcony burst into a mosaic of glittering aluminum dust over Pamplona, Spain Tuesday, signaling the start of the San Fermin festival known for its running of the bulls.

Pain Relief for Crafty

Dr. Colleen McDonough, a chiropractor sees many patients with sewing-related ailments which prompted her to start ErgoSew, a Salem-based business that sells ergonomic support products.



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SENTENCED to HARD TIME

Ten years after Measure 11

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ten years after Measure 11 became the law, experts and families still dispute its ability to be applied fairly.

According to critics, mandatory sentencing takes decisions away from judges. The result has been devastating to an African-American community, which is over-represented in the justice system.

The measure passed overwhelm-

resenting 10.5 percent of Measure 11 offenders.

Many authorities in the legal profession say Measure 11's mandatory sentencing implications have not been used for its intended purpose, resulting in a loss of discretionary power to judges, those who are most qualified to make sentencing decisions for minors and first-time offenders.

Juvenile offenders are tried as adults at the age of 15 under Measure 11. They're assigned probation officers for adults who often have larger caseloads than their youth counterparts.

ingly by voters in a statewide election in 1994 to keep the most violent offenders in prisons and off the streets, but it has disproportionately imprisoned African Americans.

Making up approximately 3 percent of Oregon's populations, African Americans are locked up at more than three times that rate, rep-

Instead, some say it empowers prosecuting attorneys to convince inmates to plead guilty to lesser charges, with the threat of a Measure 11 offense looming over their heads.

"The measure passed because these were considered the most violent crimes but a couple years

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PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Judge Michael J. McShane ponders the evidence presented by a prosecutor in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Law is Tough on Teens

Two dozen offenses get you locked up

BY JOHANNA S. KING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mandatory minimum sentencing not only forces juvenile offenders to serve hard time for committed crimes, but also makes them face the harsh reality of the consequences that follow criminal behavior.

Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 11 in November 1994 to apply mandatory minimum prison sentences to certain crimes with no possibility for any reduction in sentence, such as good behavior or a first offense.

Under the law, juveniles 15 and older are treated and sentenced the same as adults for up to 24 felony crimes, from sexual abuse, robbery and assault to murder. Youths charged with these offenses are referred automatically

to an adult court, with the rights to bail and a trial by jury.

According to the Multnomah County juvenile corrections system, juveniles under 16 are held in county detention facilities. Individuals 16 and over can legally be

a non-Measure 11 charge, however, mercy is rarely given.

Amy Holmes Hehn, who is in charge of juvenile cases in the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, said there's careful attention given to juvenile

cases through a process of review by a committee of prosecutors to decide on proper disposition of youth offenders.

In 2002, a new measure to repeal the drastic punishments set on young offenders was added to the ballot but was widely defeated.

The district attorney's office said the get-tough-on-crime measure sticks because people are tired of violent crime and want to put in prison anyone, including juveniles, who commit certain crimes.

Is the Crime Worth Your Future?

If I'm with someone and they commit a crime, I won't get in trouble, right?

Wrong. *If you help that person in any way, such as telling them to commit the crime, helping them plan the crime or being a lookout, you could get locked up, too.*

Instead: *Try to talk them out of it. If that doesn't work, leave right away and get some help to stop the crime.*

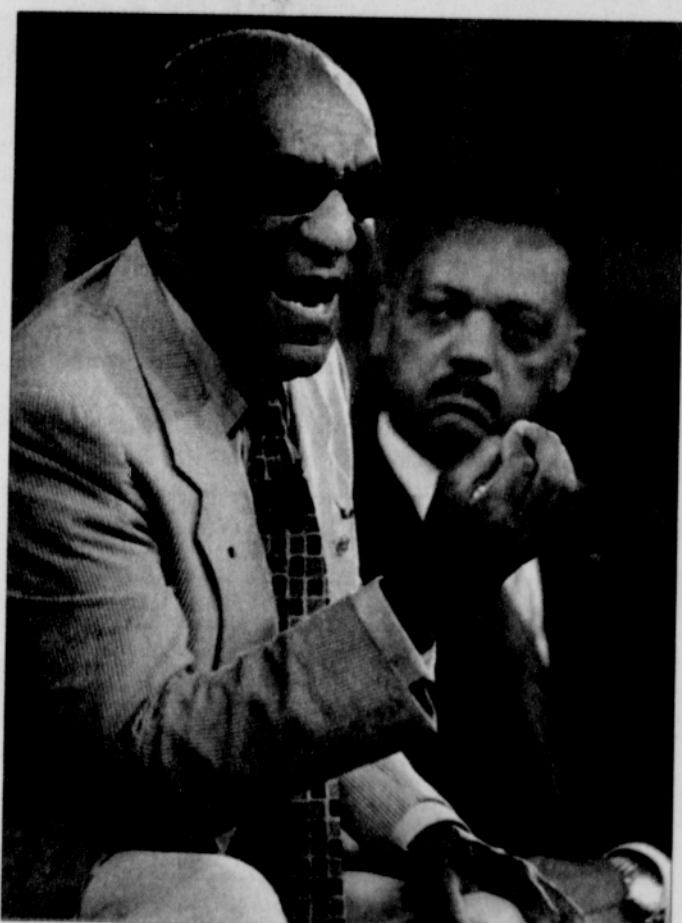
Cosby Doesn't Mince Words on Black Ills

Says detractors are trying to hide 'dirty laundry'

(AP)—Bill Cosby is not backing down on his tirade against failures in the black community, telling a room full of African-American activists that too many black children are running around not knowing how to read or write and "going nowhere."

Cosby made headlines in May when he upbraided some poor blacks for their grammar and accused them of squandering opportunities the civil rights movement gave them. He shot back Thursday, saying his detractors were trying in vain to hide the black community's "dirty laundry."

"Let me tell you something, your dirty laundry gets out of school at 2:30 every day, it's cursing and calling each other n— as they're walking up and down the street," Cosby said during an appearance at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund's annual conference in Chicago.



Bill Cosby, with Jesse Jackson (right) head of the Rainbow Push Coalition, addresses the civil rights organization's annual conference in Chicago (AP photo)

"They think they're hip," the entertainer said. "They can't read; they can't write. They're laughing and giggling, and they're going nowhere."

In his remarks in May at a commemoration of the anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation decision, Cosby denounced some blacks' grammar and said those who commit crimes and wind up behind bars "are not political prisoners."

"I can't even talk the way these people talk, 'Why you ain't,' 'Where you is' ... and I blamed the kid until I heard the mother talk," Cosby said then. "And then I heard the father talk ... Everybody knows it's important to speak English except these knuckleheads. You can't be a doctor with that kind of crap coming out of your mouth."

Cosby elaborated Thursday on his previous comments in a talk interrupted several times by applause. He castigated some blacks, saying that they cannot simply blame whites for problems such as teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates.

"For me there is a time ... when we have to turn the mirror around," he said. "Because for me it is almost analgesic to talk about what

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