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Week in The Review

No Progress in Sudan Genocide

The top U.N. envoy to Sudan said the Sudanese government has failed to improve security for the embattled people in Darfur or brought to justice the perpetrators of atrocities during the 19-month conflict.

Private Spaceflight Nears Reality

Hoping to build on the momentum sparked by a private rocket plane's dash into space, supporters of opening the heavens to civilians, the privately owned SpaceShipOne won a \$10 million prize on Monday by blasting into space for the second time in five days, a feat considered the first stepping-stone in the direction of public spaceflight.



Bremer Wanted More Troops

The top U.S. civilian official in Iraq after Saddam Hussein's ouster told an audience that he wanted more troops to deal with the rapid descent of postwar Iraq into chaos. Bremer, said he arrived in Iraq on May 6, 2003 to find "horrid" looting and a very unstable situation - throwing new fuel onto the presidential campaign issue of whether the United States had sufficiently planned for the post-war situation in Iraq.

Rumsfeld Backtracks on al-Qaida, Iraq links

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a speech Monday that he knew of no clear link between the al-Qaida terror network and Saddam Hussein, although he later backed off the statement and said he was misunderstood.

Judge Tosses Same-Sex Marriage Ban

A state judge threw out a Louisiana constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Judge William Morvant said the amendment - overwhelmingly approved by the voters on Sept. 18 - was flawed as drawn up by the Legislature because it had more than one purpose: banning not only gay marriage but also civil unions.

States Would Ban Abortion

Thirty states are poised to make abortion illegal within a year if the Supreme Court reversed its 1973 ruling establishing a woman's legal right to an abortion, an advocacy group said.

Pain Relief with Legal Pot

Medical marijuana vote would ease access

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Madeline Martinez smokes marijuana everyday. She medicates herself with about an ounce of green buds each week, which she grows herself.

She is a 54-year-old grandmother, a retired peace officer from a women's prison in California and a sufferer of chronic pain. Martinez has a degenerative disk and joint disease.

She says of all the drugs prescribed to her, marijuana keeps her quality of life high, without the nasty stomach irritation brought on by opiates prescribed by her doctor.

Martinez is lucky, she says, because her medicine is protected under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act of 1998, but since joining to program allowing her to grow and possess the drug legally, she says her fight is not over.

On Nov. 2, voters will face Measure

33, a new medical marijuana initiative, which would create licensed and regulated non-profit dispensaries to sell medical cannabis to qualified patients. The measure would also increase a patient's possession limit to six pounds of marijuana per year, and up to one pound at a given time.

"The biggest problem is keeping the garden growing," she said. "Once you get the card that says you qualify as a patient, you're on your own."

"I am afraid. If we don't get our medicine, what are we going to do? That's why Measure 33 is so important."

-chronic pain sufferer Madeline Martinez

Martinez said she could kill ferns in her garden just by looking at them before she became an expert grower of her marijuana, nearing the legal limit with five flowering plants and eight in a vegetative stage.

She has converted her basement into a grow space, using strong, expensive lighting and special soil to keep her crop

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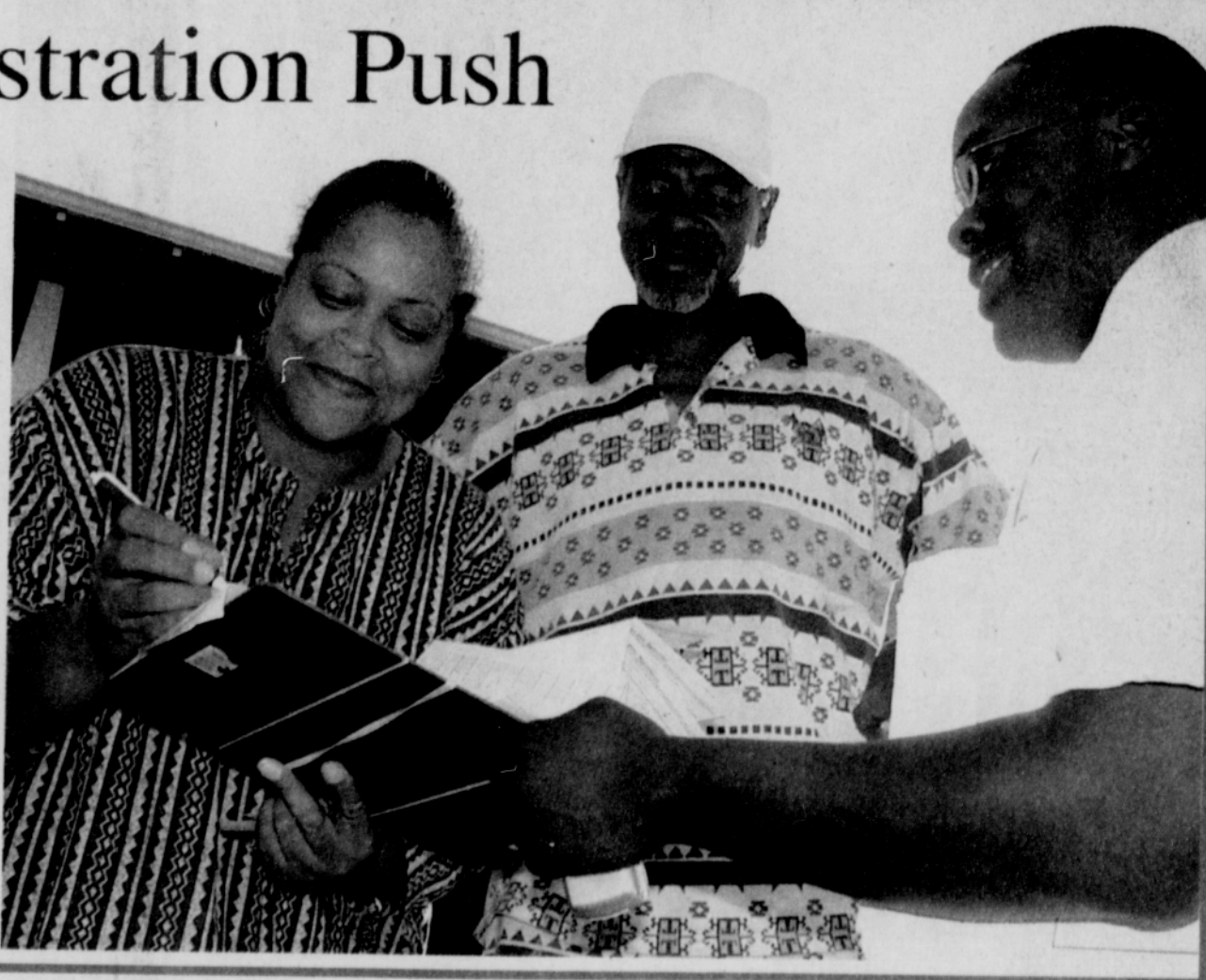
Madeline Martinez, 54, is allowed to grow and use marijuana as medicine to treat pain.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Voter Registration Push in High Gear

America Coming Together campaign volunteer Wawere Gatimu (right) helps Bill and Shell Rogers register to vote ahead of Oregon's Tuesday, Oct. 12 voter registration deadline. The couple just moved to north-east Portland from Oklahoma. The organization ACT is hoping a high voter turnout could make the difference for Sen. John Kerry and other Democrats in the Nov. 2 election.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



St. Helens Blows Smoke

Volcano sits on weak area of Earth's crust

(AP) — Mount St. Helens lies along a particularly weak area of the Earth's crust, causing it to be the most active volcano in the Northwest over the centuries.

Since Friday, the mountain has experienced a series of steam emissions, sending plumes of steam and ash thousands of feet above the rim of the crater.

Scientists say these events are breaking up the plug that is blocking magma. As the smaller eruptions occur, the plug gets weaker, increasing the chance of a larger eruption.

Mt. St. Helens sits near the St. Helens seismic zone, where the crust is pulled apart a little bit, according to Jon Major, a U.S. Geological Survey researcher in Vancouver.

"That lets magma push up and ex-

plains why it's so active and others are not so active," he said.

For example, Mount Adams lies only about 50 miles east of Mount St. Helens but has not erupted in thousands of years, Major said.

Mount Jefferson, which lies between Mount Hood and the Three Sisters in the Oregon stretch of the Cascades, appears to have been dormant since the last Ice Age despite relatively recent eruptions on neighboring peaks, he said.


In the rest of the Cascade Range, which stretches from Canada to Northern California, two of the tallest peaks — Mount Rainier in Washington state and Mount Shasta in California — both have erupted

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