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The Beat They Wrote
Hip-hop inspires Urban Music Project kids
See Metro section, inside

Cornered in the Dark
Sexual betrayals weave play's tapestry
See Focus section, inside



The Portland Observer



'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review



Condoleezza Rice

Rice to Replace Powell

President Bush promoted his most trusted foreign policy adviser to Secretary of State on Tuesday, tapping Condoleezza Rice to replace warrior-turned-diplomat Colin Powell as part of a sweeping second-term Cabinet overhaul. See story, page A2.

Stabbing at Vibe Awards

A fight broke out near the stage at the Vibe awards ceremony as rapper Snoop Dogg and producer Quincy Jones were preparing to honor Dr. Dre. One person was stabbed, authorities and witnesses said. News video showed chairs being thrown, punches flying and people chasing one another.

Low-Fat Diets Last

Regardless of how they shed pounds in the first place, big losers stayed that way by limiting fat rather than carbohydrates, according to new research that could add fuel to the backlash against low-carb diets.

Usher, OutKast Honored

Usher's year of astonishing success with the chart-topping, best-selling album "Confessions" culminated with a clutch of trophies at the 32nd annual American Music Awards. See story, page A5.

O.D.B.'s Death Investigated

Autopsy results for rapper O.D.B., who died at a Manhattan recording studio, will not be available for several days while authorities conduct medical tests.

Male Contraceptive Shows Promise

The world of male contraception has been limited to condoms and vasectomies. But a shot that prompts an immune reaction to a protein produced in the male reproductive system shows promise. The method worked in experiments on male monkeys, most of which regained their fertility when the treatments were stopped.

HIV Fight Expands Reach

The U.N. health agency said it plans to use the Internet to help prostitutes in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

Cold Cases Heat Up

Emphasis put on unsolved murders

Few emotions can rival the pain of losing a loved one to a violent crime, save for the frustration of watching their murder go unsolved for years.

Many local families feel a renewed hope with the announcement by Portland Police Chief Derrick

Foxworth that a new police unit will focus on homicides in which no arrests have been made.

The Cold Case Unit will be staffed by two Portland Police Bureau homicide detectives, one FBI agent, and one investigator from the Multnomah County District



Police Chief Derrick Foxworth

Attorney's Office, and supervised by a Portland police sergeant.

Foxworth has wanted to make unsolved murders a priority since he was named chief last year.

Nearly 300 murder cases and been left unsolved in the city over several decades, including the 2002 murder of 24-year-old mother Asia Bell, an African-American woman.

Bell is one of the first cases the cold unit will investigate. She was shot and killed on her porch at her north Portland home in a shooting

that also left her husband and another passerby wounded.

The investigating unit will rely on re-interviewing witnesses and examining DNA evidence in solving old cases.

The Cold Case Unit is expected to cost \$2 million over three years and will be funded from the city's budget unless a federal grant is approved.

Anyone who has information about Bell's murder or any other unsolved crimes is asked to call the police tip line at 503-865-TIPS.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Loved Ones Devastated by Murder

Loved ones left devastated by murder meet Sunday for a Common Bond Dinner at the Matt Dishman Community Center. The event was held to unite and heal families affected by senseless violence. Pictured from left are Perlia Bell, Wanda McConvey, John Brown, Deborah Marcall, Lori Pringle, Ryan Clinton, Joe "Bean" Keller and Rhonda Henry.

County Racism Allegations Arise

Many employees report hostile work environment

Multnomah County Chairwoman sent a clear message last week when she e-mailed county employees to say that racial discrimination would not be tolerated.

The e-mail was prompted by a survey of county employees last summer about their work environments, including their perceptions of diversity, cultural competence and discrimination.

The independent consultant hired to conduct the research came back with a list of more than 100 allegations of discriminatory behavior reported by 51 employees last summer.

"Much to my dismay, a number of the employees who volunteered to be interviewed perceive they experience a hostile work environment.



Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn

Some reported conduct by peers, supervisors and managers they perceive to be discriminatory or hostile," Linn wrote in the e-mail. "Multnomah County will not tolerate behavior that creates such an environment."

This is not the first time county employees were surveyed about race and diversity in the workplace. A 1998 report prompted the county to create action plans that made diversity a priority.

Some of the new allegations, ac-

ording to Iris Bell, Linn's recently-appointed chief operating officer, accused supervisors of discriminatory behavior and stated that minorities are habitually overlooked as new hires.

Every discrimination allegation is investigated, said Agnes Sowle, Multnomah County's chief attorney.

Linn's action plan for responding to the allegations includes reframing the affirmative action officer's chain of command to report directly to her.

Linn says she will call for a formal investigation of any workplace violation claim that appears credible. Finally, she will begin mandatory training assessments to teach employees and supervisors how to respectfully coexist in a diverse workplace.

Local Leader Appointed to SAIF

Matt Hennessee, a local African-American civic leader and business executive, has been nominated to serve on the board of directors for the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF). The appointment by Gov. Ted Kulongoski is effective Monday, Nov. 22, pending confirmation by the state senate.

"Matt brings the experience and expertise necessary to ensure that SAIF is accountable to the public and responsive to Oregon employers and injured workers," Kulongoski said.

Hennessee is currently the president and chief executive officer of Quiktrak, Inc. He was the global supply-chain director for Nike in the 90s and served as director of the State of Oregon Workers' Compensation Division from 1988 to 1990.

He has served as an associate pastor at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Portland since 1989. He was formerly the city manager of Ypsilanti, Mich. and assistant city manager for Saginaw, Mo.



Matt Hennessee

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