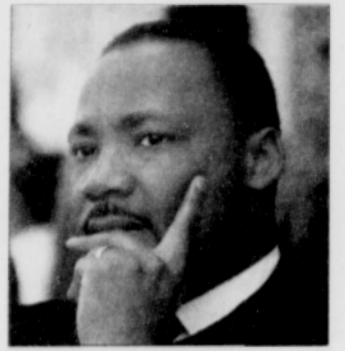


Martin Luther King Jr. 2005 Special Edition

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Week in The Review

Bush Fills Homeland Post

President Bush chose federal appeals court judge Michael Chertoff to be his new Homeland Security chief, turning to a former federal prosecutor who helped craft the early war on terror strategy.

Tsunami Donations Overwhelm

From antibiotics to clothes to cash - lots of it - U.S.-based relief groups report an overwhelming response from donors moved by the devastation of the Indian Ocean tsunami, with more than \$200 million raised as of Tuesday.

Deadly Mudslides in California

Rain lashed down on California again Tuesday, hampering efforts to find survivors buried by a mudslide in a coastal community and prompting hundreds to flee a mountain town below a rain-swollen reservoir. Storms bringing snow to the north and astonishing amounts of rain to the south were blamed for the deaths of at least 19 people.

Abu Ghraib Abuser on Trial

A Syrian inmate at Abu Ghraib said Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr. was the Baghdad prison's primary torturer who laughed while physically abusing him and threatened to kill him more than once. Amin al-Sheikh, testifying via videotaped deposition, said Graner made him eat pork and drink alcohol, in violation of his Muslim faith, and that he heard through his cell while Graner forced a prisoner to eat from a toilet.

Iraqis May Not be Safe to Vote

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said that some areas of Iraq will probably be too unsafe to take part in the Jan. 30 elections, his first public acknowledgment that the government would not be able to exert control in key areas controlled by insurgents. Allawi promised, however, to increase the size of the army in the face of a bloody insurgency, whose latest victims included 13 Iraqis killed by two bombings.

Conscientious Objector Jailed

A soldier who re-enlisted with the Marines after becoming a Seventh-Day Adventist has been jailed for refusing to pick up a gun. Cpl. Joel D. Klimkewicz, 24, of Birch Run, Mich., was sentenced last month in a court-martial to seven months in Camp Lejeune's brig.

Neo-Nazis are No-Shows

City rallies against local hate group

BY NEIL HEILPERN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Not a single skinhead showed up Saturday for a scheduled leafleting of southwest Portland's Gabriel Park.

When word spread of the Tualatin Valley Skins' planned event, 250 people opposed to the neo-Nazi racists, headed for the park for an anti-hate rally while another 500 showed up for a unity rally in the nearby Multnomah Center.

"Diversity is great!" people shouted in the park. Others held signs reading "Nazi scum go home," and "No Nazis in Gabriel Park, EVER!"

"I want to show what they're doing is wrong," said Wilson High School student Anandi Hall, a native of India.

"White supremacy is alive and we still need to fight," said Soni Lloyd, an African-American 1993 graduate of Wilson High School.

Local NAACP first vice president Helen Sherman said, "I don't get protection from the police. Why should the Nazis?"

At the Multnomah Center, Rivka Gevurtz, a member of Shir Tikvah Jewish congregation, heard news of the skinheads no-show and said, "That's what happens when you shine light in a dark place. The critters slink away."

Rabbi Aryeh Hirshfield, of Jewish Renewal congregation P'nai Or (Faces of Light), said hate is encouraged "when we think our path is the better path. Only



Wilson High School Student Anandi Hall, a native of India, joins other in a rally against hate at Gabriel Park in southwest Portland.

when we recognize that we are a community in diversity, will we bring forth the message we think we are here to bring."

Ted Coonfield, of Neighborhood House, called the day's "response to people with prejudices" a part of "a struggle of enormous importance . . . to ensure that all of our community members

are treated with worth and dignity." He called for people to "communicate com-

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Martin Luther King and Gay Rights



Jessica DuBois (from left), Rebekah Kassell and Alisa Simmons of Basic Rights Oregon strategize about the future of gay rights in the state.



Coretta Scott King said her husband would have been a champion of gay rights if he were alive.

Modern struggle cites leader's ideals

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many gay rights leaders who took a pounding both nationally and locally in the 2004 election, are finding comfort in the words of Martin Luther King Jr.

Although the visionary civil rights leader did not publicly champion homosexual causes, he described a climate where equality was extended to all.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," said King in his "Letters from a Birmingham Jail on April 16, 1963.

"If I apply that, it's real easy," said Kathleen Saadat, a longtime human and civil rights leader in Portland who is an African-American lesbian.

She and other gay rights activists speak of equality women, immigrants, racial minorities, the poor, the homeless and virtually every other marginalized group as allies in the fight to gain fair treatment.

"We need to stand by them in their struggles. They have a clear understanding that all of us are hurt if one of us is denied our rights," said Roey Thorpe, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon.

"I grew up seeing the truth of Martin Luther King's words everywhere. I fall back on his words not only as a way to give meaning to the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) civil rights movement but also on my place in it," said Thorpe. "I'm aware that the gay rights movement has not ad-

ressed racial and economic injustice as much as we should."

In Oregon, same-sex couples lost the right to marry when Measure 36, the same sex marriage ban passed in the November general election. That, among issues of racial inequality, is in the forefront of the local, modern civil rights movement.

While King organized protest marches to end racial discrimination, the oppression towards gays was ignored in the public light. In recent years, however, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, spoke out in support of marriage equality.

"In my view, Constitutional amendments should not be used to restrict or deny freedoms, but to protect and expand freedom.

Gay and lesbian people have families and their families should have legal protection. A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages is a form of gay bashing, and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages," she said last March.

In 1996, Coretta Scott King said her husband would have been a champion of gay rights if he were alive.

Despite the invisibility of gays rights during the civil rights era, King's close advisor, Bayard Rustin, was openly gay. Rustin is best known as the driving force behind the historic March on Washington of 1963. Despite criticism from black ministers urging King to distance himself politically and personally from Rustin, King remained aligned with him and even worked to get Rustin hired as the coordinator and publicist of the South-

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