

The Portland Observer

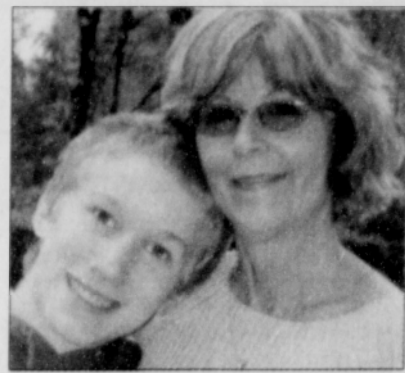
'City of Roses'

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Raising Your Child's Child

Grandparents fight costly legal system

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Week in The Review



Clinton Pledges AIDS Help

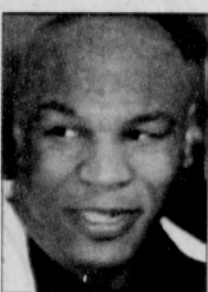
Former President Bill Clinton announced Monday that his foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative is pledging \$10 million to deliver treatment to 10,000 children in at least 10 countries by the end of the year, part of an effort to reach more than 60,000 youngsters by the end of next year.

Man Releases Girls

A man wielding two knives pulled four girls off a public bus in northwest Germany on Tuesday and held them hostage in a cellar for hours before setting them free unharmed, authorities said.

Collapse Leaves 30 Dead

Rescuers digging through the concrete debris of a collapsed Bangladesh sweater factory heard survivors pleading for help Tuesday, a day after the nine-story building toppled when a boiler exploded, killing at least 30 people and trapping 200. Rescuers were hopeful that more lives could be saved.



Tyson to Return to Ring

Mike Tyson is returning to the ring. The former heavyweight champion will fight for the first time in nearly a year, facing journeyman Kevin McBride on June 11 at Washington's MCI Center. The 38-year-old Tyson is 50-5 with two no contests and 44 knockouts. He lost two of his last three fights.

Disgraced Cardinal Law Leads Pope Mass

Cardinal Bernard Law, whose failures to stop sexually abusive priests sparked the worst crisis in American church history, led a Mass for thousands mourning Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's Basilica on Monday after police whisked away a victim protesting outside.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cathy Galbraith helps preserve the history of Portland's pioneers, including African-Americans, at the new Architectural Heritage Center at 701 S.E. Grand Ave.

History Center Opens

African-American artifacts included

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

During the heyday of urban renewal, more than 400 African-American homes were taken down to make room for what is now the Rose Quarter. Another 280 were destroyed to expand Emanuel Hospital. Yet more were lost to make way for the I-5 freeway.

Although the homes themselves are gone, bites and pieces can be found in the Bosco-Milligan Foundation's Architectural Heritage Center.

The center, housed in a newly restored historic building at 701 S.E. Grand Ave., officially opened last month.

It is the repository of a collection of

historic artifacts that include 300 stained glass windows, 400 doorknobs, 1,200 pieces of hardware, 1,100 light fixtures, wallpapers and murals. Much of this inventory was recovered from buildings demolished in the old Albina neighborhood by foundation founders Jerry Bosco and Ben Milligan.

Not everything in the collection is catalogued as being from the African-American community, but a few things are. Foundation executive director Cathy Galbraith says the collection includes the tile floor from the defunct Albina Bank, once located on North Russell Street.

Bosco and Milligan also managed to

salvage a balcony, once "reserved for colored people" during times of segregation, and two benches from downtown's Fox Theater before it was demolished to make way for an office building.

The preservation activity continues to this day.

"People call us up all the time," Galbraith says "You can't believe the extent of what people offer us."

On the other hand, much important material has been lost, and this trend continues as well.

Recently the Albina Christian Cen-

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Racial Gaps Endure

Urban League measures inequities

(AP) — Though income and education gaps between black and white Americans have narrowed significantly, black households still have barely one-tenth the net worth of white households, according to a new National Urban League report.

Middle class blacks' tenuous hold on prosperity reflects racial discrimination in housing and other wealth-building arenas - both historically and now - and suggests that today's civil rights battles are largely economic, said Marc H. Morial, Urban League president.



Urban League President Marc Morial

"Since the 1960s, one of the success stories is the growth of the African-American middle class - those who are college-educated, participating throughout the American economy and growing in stature and influence," Morial said. "But what we face is that these successes of 40 years are being eroded. The danger is the great backslide that can occur."

"The State of Black America 2005," released April 6, comes as the Urban League also calls on Congress to assemble a bipartisan commission on economic equality and advancement.

Analyzing a broad range of government statistics, the report compares life quality for blacks and whites in dozens of categories related to economics, health, education, civic participation and social justice. Taking the whole picture into account, the report produced a measure of blacks overall well-being, which it described as barely three-fourths that of whites - a ratio that was unchanged

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Directing 'Rocky Horror' at Clinton Street

Tony Burgess throws a party each Saturday night

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Every Saturday night, young people dressed in lingerie and corsets venture to the Clinton Street Theater. Many are underage and parents' join them. For the past 27 years, every Saturday at midnight, the low-budget film "Rocky Horror Picture Show" has been a staple for the small southeast Portland landmark.

The premise of the show has both sexual overtones and science fiction. Actors reenact scenes while the movie serves as a backdrop. The audience comes prepared with props. It attracts the geeks, the chic and so-called virgins — the reference to first time attendees of the show. The virgins are branded with lipstick; a giant V on their forehead so there is no escaping the initiation that awaits them.

Somewhere in all this madness is Tony Burgess, a young black man with deep dimples and an affectionate smile whom regulars seem to worship, after all he is the director of



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tony Burgess commands a large audience each Saturday night at the Clinton Street Theater in southeast Portland directing live theater during the showing of the classic movie "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

the live action.

Burgess has been involved with the Rocky Horror Picture Show since the age of 14. He has been on stage as the lead role as Dr. Frankfurter (Played by Tim Curry in the 1975 movie) and has served as master of ceremonies for the stage production of the classic in California.

He has directed for the local ensemble since early 2004. By a unanimous vote, cast members urged Burgess to direct them. But it took them three times to convince him to take on the position.

Before his leadership, Rocky Horror wasn't commanding the large audience that Clinton Street needed. Closing the theater was a consideration. But after Burgess put his magical spin on the show, the lines are now down the block.

As a volunteer, Burgess knows what he is doing every Saturday night for the rest of the year. For him, the experience has been stressful but fun. The compensation of a "job well done" is sufficient for him.

Burgess believes he and the actors have played a huge role in bringing people back to the theater. He also enjoys the diversity of the

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