

# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'  
Volume XXXV, Number 22

Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • June 1, 2005

## A Children's Bill of Rights

Work begins on local document  
to format public policy

See Metro section, inside



## Week in The Review

### 'Deep Throat' Admits Identity

The Washington Post said Tuesday that a former FBI official, W. Mark Felt, was the confidential source known as "Deep Throat" who provided the newspaper information that led to President Nixon's impeachment investigation and eventual resignation. Felt, the second-in-command at the FBI in the early 1970s, confided he was Post reporter Bob Woodward's source on the Watergate scandal. See story on page A2.



W. Mark Felt

### Bush Shrugs Off Setbacks

President Bush, faced with a string of setbacks on Capitol Hill, shrugged off questions about his political clout and promised Tuesday to keep pushing the Republican-led Congress for a Social Security overhaul. Bush said his policies in Iraq, Iran and North Korea were working. He denounced as "absurd" a report by Amnesty International that compared the U.S. treatment of terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay to a Soviet-era gulag.

### Female Smokers Wooded

Tobacco companies did elaborate research on women to figure out how to hook them on smoking - even toying with the idea of chocolate-flavored cigarettes that would curb appetite, according to a new analysis. Researchers at Harvard University's School of Public Health said they examined more than 7 million documents - some dating back to 1969, others as recent as 2000.

### Oil Tycoon Gets to 9 Years

One year and three days after it began, the biggest trial in post-Soviet Russia ended Tuesday with a nine-year sentence for fallen tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, whose oil empire was broken up after he became a political challenge to President Vladimir Putin. The 41-year-old Khodorkovsky vowed to clear his name of the charges, which included tax evasion and fraud.

### Live Aid Plans New Shows

Twenty years after the Live Aid concerts, musical superstars are joining in a five-city spectacular to push a political solution for African poverty. Musicians including Madonna, Paul McCartney, U2, Bon Jovi, Brian Wilson, Crosby Stills & Nash, Coldplay, Sting, Stevie Wonder and Jay-Z will grace stages in London, Philadelphia, Berlin, Paris and Rome.



A barge on the Willamette River is the starting point for a spectacular Rose Festival fireworks show. This year's flurry of color and sound will explode to life Friday starting at about 9:45 p.m.

## Rose Festival Ready to Blast Off

Jam-packed  
calendar of fun set

Portland's Rose Festival blasts off on a two-week crescendo this week with Thursday night's opening of the downtown Waterfront Village, the Queen's Coronation and Saturday's Starlight Parade.

The jam-packed calendar of fun will draw

thousands of people to dozens of events which will also include the Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 11, Rose Cup Races at Portland International Raceway, June 10-12 and the Festival of Bands on Friday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. at PGE Park.

The Pepsi Waterfront Village puts added emphasis on families this year. Rose Festival officials said there will be new strolling min-

continued ▼ on page A6



PHOTOS BY VERN UEYTAKE

The downtown Waterfront Village is one of the main attractions during Portland's Rose Festival. The carnival opens Thursday with a new emphasis on family fun. New this year, strolling minstrels and activities for children in every corner of Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

## Down and Out ...or Not

### Coming home after panhandling

BY NICOLE HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's hard to imagine being something you're not even if it's for only two hours, but I tried.

While walking in the streets of downtown Portland it's very common to be approached by a panhandler. Daily, people make it their job to ask strangers for "spare change."

Recently, after the morning rush hour, I went to Pioneer Square to see how profitable panhandling could be. Asking for money may pay great dividends for some and perhaps that is why some homeless people have made it their job. But in my experiment, I found the money was negligible. It was nothing close to a minimum wage.

Personally, I believe that asking strangers for money is inappropriate. It's likely the person being asked gets up every morning and goes to work. They have bills and sometimes children to feed. So why would a stranger care to just give out their money? The term spare change is an oxymoron.

For two hours, I asked potential givers for spare change. Some didn't acknowledge my presence. Others were nice enough to say things like "Sorry, I don't have any."

Overall, I found people sympathetic towards the down-and-out but skeptical. I'm sure they question who actually needs money and who is just making a career out of begging.

It was very common for people who encountered me on the sidewalk as they headed toward their destination, to avoid me altogether on their way back. One man, de-

clined helping me financially, but was nice enough to talk with me.

Mostly, I felt invisible. When someone speaks to you, it is considered rude not to respond. But when asking for money, passersby act like you're non-existent.

I may not have been dressed for the part. That's what one man told me when I confessed to my experiment.

"I just thought you were waiting for the bus," said Todd Kelly. "You look too nice to be a panhandler." That morning, I did take a shower.

**Panhandlers must have a heart of steel, the constant rejection of being told no or just treated less than human is devastating.**

but I didn't comb my hair or put on deodorant. I put on clothes that didn't match, including my ripped Ralph Lauren sweater. I also drew a fake bruise on my face.

Somehow, I believed my intense discomfort would be enough to convey my destitution.

I know how I became a panhandler. But I wonder how others, like the homeless, get that way. Does their entire family die? Disown them? Or do they run away?

Panhandlers must have a heart of steel, the constant rejection of being told no or just treated less than human is devastating. In



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Observer reporter Nicole Hooper goes on a panhandling experiment downtown. "I felt invisible," she said, describing the rejection and lack of acknowledgement she received from passersby.

my short experience, I was rejected 108 times. One man gave me 70 cents, which I counted and gave back. Another person stopped and opened his wallet looking for change, which is considered risky, a no go. He gave me

27 cents. The total came to less than 50 cents an hour; hardly enough to make panhandling a career.

Unless you are in dire straits, have no financial resources, family or friends, you're likely never to

know how it feels to beg for money.

I feel fortunate my experience was an experiment. On this day, I had the comfort of knowing that I had a place to sleep at night and that I was going to see my family when I came home.

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND OR  
PERMIT  
NO. 1610

University of Oregon  
Knight Library  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1205