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35 years of community service

Roberta Flack at the Schnitzer



Soul diva to open symphony season

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Week in The Review

New Iraq Offensive

Some 2,500 U.S. troops along with Iraqi forces launched a second major offensive in western Iraq in a week Tuesday, sweeping into three towns to take them back from insurgents who had killed Marines there last month. Four troops were killed in roadside bombs during the fighting and a fifth was killed elsewhere.

Search for Bodies Ends

Officials ended their door-to-door sweep for bodies Monday as New Orleans revved up efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The death toll Tuesday stood at 972, eight more than Monday, the Louisiana health department said. The death toll probably will continue to rise, but authorities have said sweeps yielded fewer bodies than feared.

New Court Pick Considered

In the face of criticism from the left and right, President Bush insisted Tuesday that Harriet Miers is the best-qualified candidate for the Supreme Court. Miers could follow John Roberts to the bench in November.



Military Could Fight Flu

President Bush, increasingly concerned about a possible avian flu pandemic, revealed Tuesday that any part of the country where the virus breaks out could likely be quarantined and that he is considering using the military to enforce it.

Violation in Boat Accident

The owner of the boat that capsized on Lake George, N.Y., killing 20 elderly tourists, could face a fine as low as \$25 for failing to have enough crew members on board, police said Tuesday. The 38-foot Ethan Allen needed one crew member besides the captain because it carried up to 48 passengers.

Hurricane Stan Hits Mexico

Hurricane Stan barreled into Mexico's Gulf coast Tuesday, pummeling Veracruz, a major port city, with heavy rain and punishing waves, and forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents and several offshore oil platforms.

Fire Destroys Oregon Fort

A 50-year-old replica of the fort where the Lewis and Clark expedition spent the soggy winter of 1805-1806 was destroyed by fire, authorities said Tuesday. The log buildings on the Oregon Coast near Warrenton had no electricity and a cause for the fire was suspicious.

Local Boxing Great Earns Due

Thad Spencer in class with Muhammad Ali

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

At age 14, Thad Spencer's Portland family didn't think he'd end up a successful boxer when he first joined the Knott Street Boxing Gym in 1957.

Inspired by his cousin, professional boxer Willie Richardson, he never gave up training in the sport. Ten years later, he'd go on to prove his family wrong, ranking the top heavyweight contender in the world to the legendary Muhammad Ali.

"If you're going to box, you've got to have a lot of heart and do a lot of hard work," Spencer said.

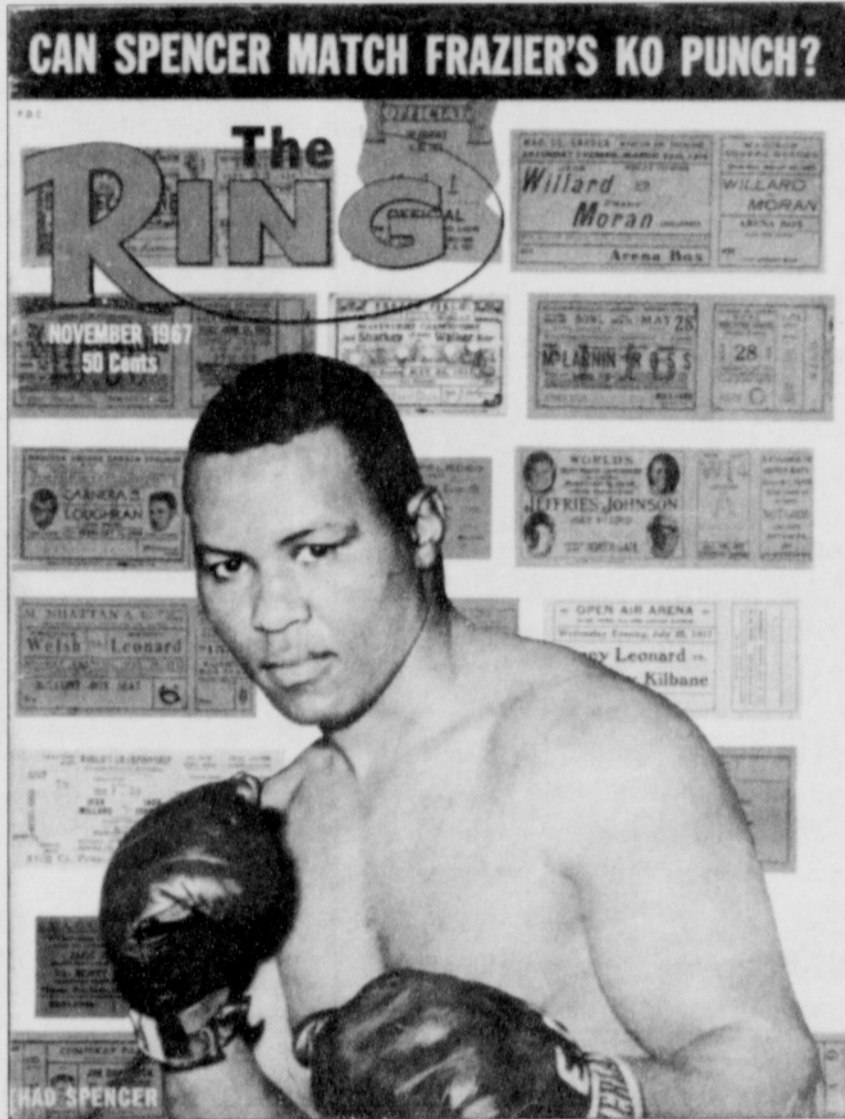
Achieving the top ranking in the world and the many titles leading up to it has put Spencer into the Oregon Sports Hall of fame. The induction will take place during a ceremony, Tuesday, Oct. 11 at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

Spencer was an individual fighter for the Knott Street Boxing Team of northeast Portland, which will also be inducted during the ceremony for its many championship titles between 1956 and 1972.

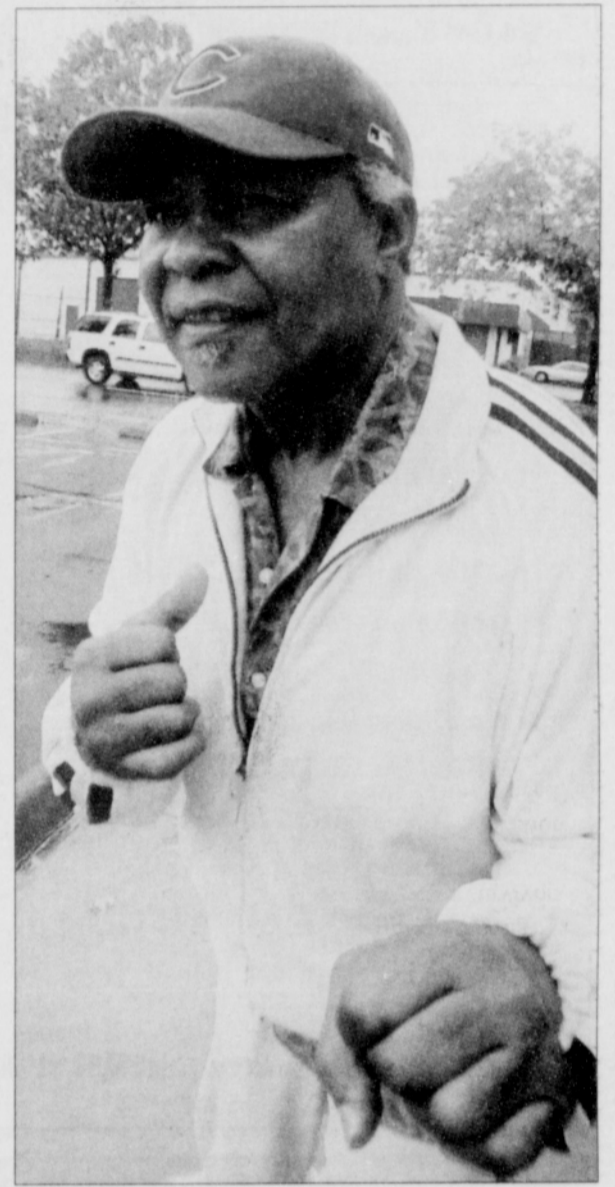
Before going pro, Spencer won the Amateur Athletic Union's Golden Boy Award in 1960, a title only four other Knott Street boxers eventually held.

"I don't know why they kept telling me no," Spencer said, looking back on

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Boxing legend Thad Spencer graced the cover of Ring Magazine in 1967.



Thad Spencer today on the eve of his induction into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame.

Doors Stay Open for Katrina Survivors

Hundreds already served at former school

A Family Resource Center serving Hurricane Katrina survivors at the former Washington High School in southeast Portland remains open but has scaled back from 24-hour operations, one month after the natural disaster.

The local center established by the local Red Cross with city and state government officials, has now served

over 600 people dislocated from the Gulf Coast states by flooding and storm damage.

The new hours of operation at the Washington school site at Southeast 14th Avenue and Stark Street will be Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Locally, the survivors are receiving assistance with housing, education, employment, health and mental health services by staff from Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Human Services, American Red Cross, and the Community Welcoming Committee.

The City of Portland, Portland Public Schools, Social

Security Administration, US Postal Service, Head Start, the Housing Authority of Portland, and 211-Info are among the agencies involved in efforts to support hurricane survivors who have arrived in the local metropolitan area.

The center provides survivors with a single location where they can be linked to the services they need, including a case manager. A current priority is registering survivors with FEMA so that they can receive federal assistance.

For information on donations and volunteering, visit www.211info.org or call 211 or 1-800-SAFE-NET.

Art Studios Open for Inside Peaks

Annual tours go behind-the-scenes

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As a hub for artists ranging from avant-garde to traditional, Portland is an ever-growing mecca of paintings, sculpture, photography and more.

In the coming weekends, 93 studios across the city will open their doors to the

community, allowing not only for peeks at finished individual masterpieces, but how those masterpieces are made.

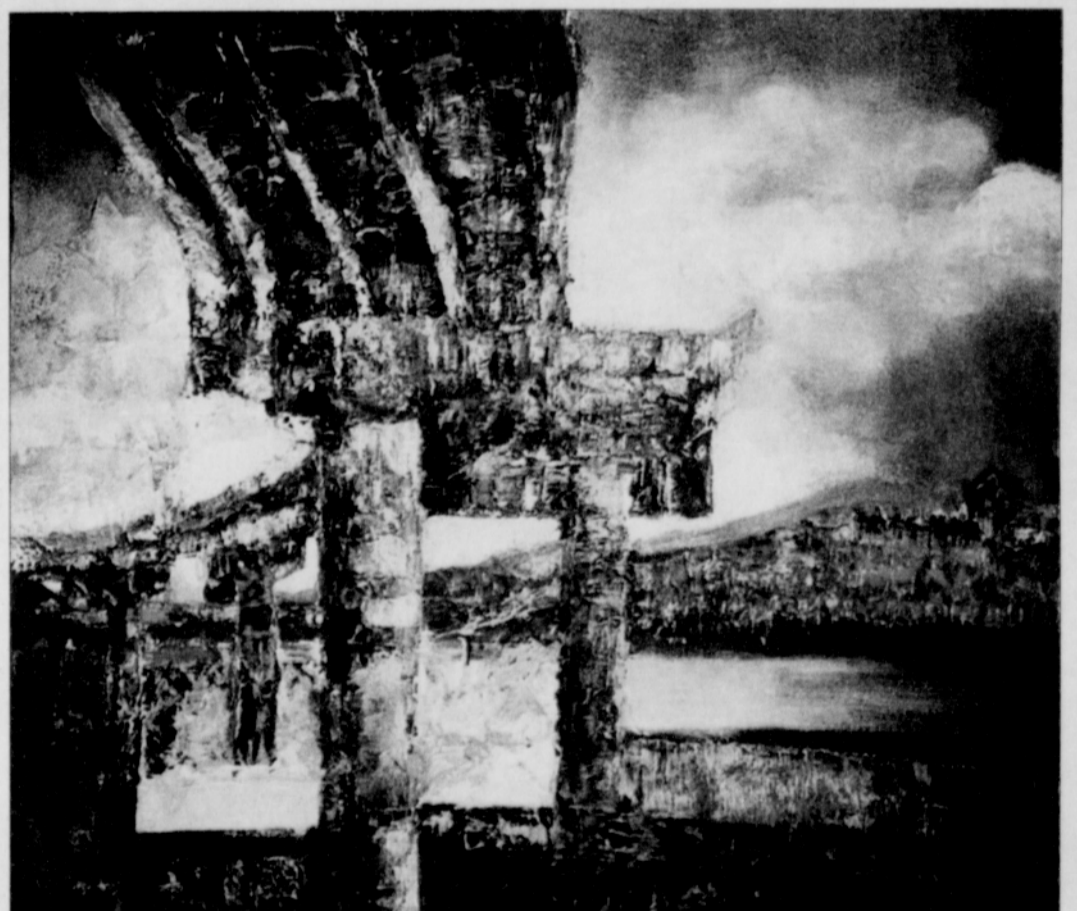
"It's a phenomena happening all over the world to watch artists at work in their natural habitats. You're not just looking at the art,

but you're seeing things that are half finished," said Bonnie Meltzer, director of this year's Portland Open Studios Tour.

Meltzer also is one of the many local artists featured in this year's event.

She and other working artists will show off the tools, techniques and personal secrets that allow them to mold their ideas into a finished craft. Sculptors will carve figures, found objects will come together to be marveled at, and painters will brush their canvases, giving others a chance to see creativity at work.

"It helps them understand what artists are doing. If they see the whole picture, it brings another



Abstract landscapes where colors of green, red and yellow settle, stand, sink and flow because of the push of a hammer and chisel are the creation of Nho Nguyen.

dimension," Meltzer said. Inspiration for subject matter ranges from social commentary about race, religion and politics to abstract ideas about culture and everyday life.

"Art is a way of communication," Meltzer said. "The making of art helps you understand the visual world."

The tour not only strays away from the static environment of a studio, but also acts an avenue for mingling with neighbors and

other artists. "It's incredibly fun to do because you get to see your different neighborhoods," Meltzer said. "It's a total multicultural experience with all kinds of art materials, all kinds of techniques, all kinds of tools and all kinds of people. That's the beauty of all of this."

Sharon Geraci is another artist opening her workspace up, offering demonstrations

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Milena Matic's acrylic paintings showcase the beauty and expressions of ordinary life.