

50¢

35 years of community service

Bill Mays Trio
Pianist kicks off 'Concerts in the Chapel'
See story on page B5



Dance Series
Opens with Jazz
Whitebird celebrates 8th year
See story on page C3



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'
Volume XXXV, Number 42

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • October 12, 2005

Week in The Review

Death Toll Reaches 35,000
Heavy rain and hail forced the cancellation of some relief flights to earthquake-stricken regions of Pakistan Tuesday. Officials said the death toll from Pakistan's worst quake had surpassed 35,000, with many bodies still buried beneath piles of concrete, steel and wood. Millions were left homeless in the region touching Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. See story, page A2

Police Beating Victim Baffled
A retired elementary teacher who was repeatedly punched in the head by New Orleans police in an incident caught on videotape said Monday he was not drunk, put up no resistance and was baffled by what happened. See story, page A2

Stevie Wonder: Time to Love
When Stevie Wonder returned to the studio after a 10-year hiatus to record "A Time to Love," he was doing more than getting back to work. He was getting back to the message that has formed the cornerstone of his legendary career. Wonder says his 15 new tracks touch on love in all its forms and he hopes they will inspire people and leaders in government to make the world better.

L.A. Power Fails Again
A blackout hit downtown government buildings, Chinatown and adjacent areas of Los Angeles Tuesday, but backup power kept key parts of City Hall and police headquarters running. It was the third significant electrical failure in the city since mid-September.

Flood Waters Almost Gone
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday that it has finished pumping out the New Orleans metropolitan area, which was flooded by Hurricane Katrina six weeks ago and then swamped again by Hurricane Rita. "Of course there will be a little puddle here and there, but as far as accessibility goes everything is pumped out," Corps spokeswoman Lauren Solis said.

Iraqis Agree on Constitution
Iraqi negotiators said Tuesday they have reached a deal on the draft constitution four days ahead of a crucial vote and at least one Sunni Arab party said the change would allow it to reverse its rejection of the document. The announcement was the first break in the ranks of Sunni Arab leaders, who have been campaigning hard to defeat the constitution at the polls in Saturday's vote.

Local Leaders Leave Legacies

Oregon's First Black Judge

Deiz was mentor, pioneer

Mercedes Frances Deiz, Oregon's first African-American judge, will make an impact for future generations because of her work as a determined mentor to young women and minorities.

Deiz, who died Oct. 5 at age 87 in her Portland home, first started paving the way for other African Americans in law in 1970 when Gov. Tom McCall appointed her state district court judge for Multnomah County.

Two years later, she was elected Circuit Court Judge, a position sought by seven men at the time. Deiz stayed on to serve four consecutive six-year terms, focusing primarily on family law.

"She saw her role in the right way - not just being the first, but making sure there were many more to follow her," said Ellen Rosenblum, an Oregon Court of Appeals judge who worked alongside Deiz in Multnomah County.

She went on to win the Award of Merit, the highest honor by the Oregon State Bar Association in 2000, and was given the bar's Affirmative Action award in 1992. These were just a couple of many noted accomplishments she made over her career, also being recognized by such organizations as Oregon Women Lawyers, the Association of Black Lawyers and the Urban League.

Deiz is remembered by her fellow attorneys for the qualities that made her a good lawyer: common sense, quick wit, decisiveness, concern for the community at large and above all, passion for and respect of law.

Born on Dec. 13, 1917, in New York City, Deiz moved to Oregon in 1948. She worked for the Urban League and NAACP in Portland, and after graduating in 1959 as fourth in her class from Northwestern

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Community public service fundraising drives in the 1960s were part of Jimmy 'Bang Bang' Walker's legacy in Portland. The champion fighter, activist and newspaper editor died Oct. 4 at the age of 73.

Champion In and Outside Ring

Community advocate remembered

Jimmy 'Bang Bang' Walker, one of Oregon's boxing legends who became a community activist and newspaper editor, is being remembered for both his athletic achievements and his civil

rights advocacy on behalf of other African Americans.

Walker died of natural causes on Oct. 4 in his north Portland home at age 73.

During his professional prizefighting career between the 1950s and 1960s, Walker took the Northwest lightweight championship, along with the Junior Golden Gloves California championship. He also earned five Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart award while serving in the Korean War.

Walker even acted as Portland's popu-

lar black Santa Claus.

Born in Birmingham, Ala. in 1932, Walker married Jeanette Adams in 1955. The couple moved from Klamath Falls to Portland in the late 1950s with their children James Jr. and Debra. After having three more kids, they divorced in 1965.

Around that time, Walker was reporting for the Northwest Clarion, a community newspaper for African

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Celebrating Musical Success for Youth



Celebration Academy of the Performance Arts music teacher Andy Bell shows seventh grader Dreydon Wooden how to play bass guitar during an after school program at the North Denver Avenue location.

PHOTO BY
KATHERINE BLACKMORE/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After school program gives students creative outlet

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When seventh grader Casey Leighton has absolutely the worst day ever, the solution to sooth her nerves is simple: play the clarinet.

"It gets you going if you're in a bad mood," Leighton said. "It helps calm you down."

It also gives her focus, which not only helps with her musicianship, but the schoolwork she does as a student at

the Celebration Academy of the Performing Arts in north Portland.

Leighton is just one young participant in an after school program, hosted by the academy and the Eighty Eight Keys, that shows students the importance of music in their daily lives.

It's director John Tolbert's hope that the program will soon be able to expand far beyond its 18 students, who take private, group and after school lessons in drumming, guitar, wind instruments, piano and more. Beyond youth from surrounding communities, he's looking for volunteer support - whether it means taking time out to teach, donating that dusty guitar in the corner, or helping out monetarily.

Picking up the slack from budget cuts to school music programs, Tolbert recognizes the art form as something more than just a past time to be disregarded.

"There's a lot of hard work and dedication that goes into it," he said. "One of the neat things is that school bench scores improve when kids have an outlet. It creates more creativity within the child. It gives them an opportunity to develop and have confidence in their craft."

The program's lessons range from finding a sense of rhythm through drums, plucking the fretboard of a bass guitar or tickling the ivories of a grand piano. Styles of jazz,

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