

# **Family** Displaced by **House Fire**

The Red Cross is providing shelter for a Portland family after a fire tore through their home at 532 N.E. Church St. Saturday afternoon. Firefighters arrived to find flames coming out of the building's first floor, extending to the second floor. No injuries or a possible cause for the fire were reported.

PHOTO BY RON WEBER/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

#### **NAACP Opposes Alito Nomination**

#### Hostility to civil rights cited

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund has announced opposition to the nomination of Samuel Alito Jr. to the U. S. Supreme Court, citing his hostility to strong enforcement of civil rights laws. The group warns that the confirmation

of Alito would threaten to shift significantly the Supreme Court's jurisprudence relating to affirmative action, voting rights, employment and criminal justice issues.

A 70-page report by the organization cites cases in which Alito has attacked congressional legislative authority in a manner that his colleagues viewed as extreme. As a Justice Department lawyer, he argued to uphold police use of deadly force and undermine the rights of criminal defendants. In the area of affirmative action, the NAACP group highlighted "troubling signals" that Alito would tip the

delicate Court balance to unravel policies "at the epicenter of the modern struggle for racial equal-

"We can predict with substantial certainty that Judge Alito will very likely vote in a manner

that, given the current composition of the Court, will cause a substantial shift in the Court's civil rights jurisprudence with devastating effects," the LDF report cautioned.

Judge Alito is scheduled to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee in early January for confirmation hearings.

### **Congressman Lived Like a King**

(AP) — As Tom DeLay became a king of campaign fundraising, he lived like one too. He visited clifftop Caribbean resorts, golf courses designed by PGA champions and four-star restaurants - all courtesy of donors who bankrolled his political money empire.

Over the past six years, the former House majority leader and his associates have visited places of luxury most Americans have never seen, often getting there aboard corporate jets arranged by lobbyists and other special interests.

Public documents reviewed by The Associated Press tell the story: at least 48 visits to golf clubs and resorts with lush fairways; 100 flights aboard company planes; 200 stays at hotels, many world-class; and 500 meals Air Force Base in 2002.



U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay (left) and President Bush golf at Andrews

at restaurants, some averaging nearly \$200 for a dinner for two.

Instead of his personal expense, the meals and trips for DeLay and his associates were paid with donations collected by the campaign committees, political action committees and children's charity the Texas Republican created during his rise to the top of Congress.

Put them together and an opulent lifestyle emerges.

AP's review found DeLay's various organizations spent at least \$1 million over the last six years on top hotels, restaurants, golf resorts and corporate jet flights for their boss and

Until his recent indictment in Texas on political money laundering charges, DeLay was the second most powerful lawmaker in the House.

## **Bush Spying Program Defended**

(AP)—Accused of acting above wires and the phones of American toll of more than 2,150 Americans domestic spying program on Monday as an effective tool in disrupt-

Despite the defense, there was a Congress and calls for investiga- handling of the war on terror, aftions, from Democrats and Repub- ter questions about secret prislicans alike.

stitution the authority to tap the torture allegations and a death

the law, President Bush defended a citizens without any court over- in Iraq. sight?" asked Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Ding terrorists and insisted it was not Calif., said Bush's interpretation of an abuse of Americans' civil liber- the Constitution was "incorrect and dangerous."

ons in Eastern Europe, secrecy-

Appealing for support, Bush used the word "understand" 25 times in a nearly hour-long news conference. "I hope the American people understand - there is still an The spying uproar was the lat- enemy that would like to strike the growing storm of criticism from est controversy about Bush's United States of America, and they're very dangerous," he said. Similarly, he said he hoped that black Americans who doubt his "Where does he find in the Con- cloaked government directives, intentions "understand that I care about them."



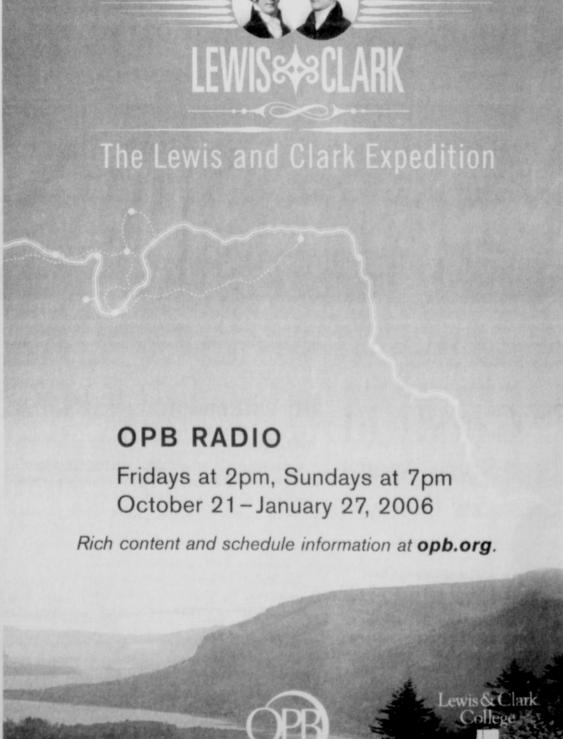
tion where he co-founded the murderous Crips gang three decades

(AP) - Hundreds of people at- flashing hand signs waited in line whom he asked to spread a mestended a star-studded funeral Tues- to enter the 1,500-seat Bethel AME day for executed killer Stanley Church. A big TV screen was set up Tookie Williams in the violence- in a parking lot for an overflow destructive footsteps. Teach wracked South Los Angeles sec- crowd. Vendors sold T-shirts with them to strive for higher educa-

Williams' picture. Under heavy police presence, umphant," Williams said in a re- that you, others and I helped to

sage to loved ones.

"Teach them how to avoid our tion. Teach them to promote "The war within me is over. I peace and teach them to focus on battled my demons and I was tri- rebuilding the neighborhoods



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Unfinished Journey

