

LAW & JUSTICE

Wyden Opposes Supreme Court Nominee

Changes course from last Bush pick



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

(AP)—Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has switched gears saying he will oppose Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito because he is not convinced that Alito will bring an impartial viewpoint to the court.

Wyden voted in favor of President Bush's last Supreme Court nominee John Roberts, who was

confirmed as Chief Justice last fall. Like Roberts, Alito is opposed by the NAACP and civil rights groups.

Wyden, a Democrat, met with Alito Jan. 18 and talked about executive power, legal precedents and abortion rights.

"I cannot reconcile the seemingly moderate and amiable jurist of



Samuel Alito

the past few weeks" with Alito's two-decade record as a federal appeals court judge and official in the Reagan and Bush administrations, Wyden said Friday.

"It is my conclusion that Alito's record portends a view on the power of the president that would undermine our proven and constitutionally-mandated system of checks and balances," Wyden said.

"His record demonstrates a dangerous and narrow interpretation of the commerce clause (of the Constitution), which could

lead to results that would threaten the health and safety of all Americans."

Wyden also criticized Alito for "standing with large, corporate polluters who fouled our air, poisoned our waters, and then don't want to pay for it."

The full Senate is expected to vote this week on Alito's nomination to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., has said he expects to vote for Alito, calling him "supremely qualified."

Michael E. Harper, Sr.

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, IL

9045 SW Barbur, Suite 109
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 221-3050

AFFORDABLE

JJ LOCK & KEY

FULL LOCKSMITH - SERVICE • RE-KEY AND INSTALL LOCKS
LOCKED OUT? WE MAKE KEYS FROM SCRATCH: HOUSE, OFFICE OR CAR

Portland 503.284.9582 • Oregon City 503.656.2116
Serving Portland/Metro area (N, NE, SE, SW & NW)

ACQUIRE

Wally Tesfa
Residential and Commercial Broker
Oregon/Washington

503-267-7586 cell
503-249-1903 office
503-249-6527 fax
wtesfa1@comcast.net

PROPERTIES. Multi-Million \$ Service

WE PAY YOUR DEDUCTIBLE!!

We pay up to 100% of your deductible

VIP COLLISION CENTER

Quality work at affordable pricing

Free Estimates & Insurance Billing

503-445-4702

"Always Service With A Smile" 6444 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.

Linda's Maid Service

Residential-Offices
"Cleanliness is next to Godliness"

Spring Cleaning Special
call me **503-249-0081**

Coupon 10% off on first cleaning

Linda J. Scott Owner
Insured - Bonded

Northeast Portland Chiropractic Center
Ferrante Chiropractic Center

health through CHIROPRAXY

- AUTO ACCIDENT INJURIES
- ON THE JOB INJURIES
- NECK PAIN
- BACK PAIN
- HEADACHES
- WELLNESS CARE
- SPORTS INJURIES

• We accept most insurance plans.
• No referral required.

• Treatment for auto injuries covered by most insurance carriers.

Located at:
4317 NE Tillmook St. Portland, OR 97213

Telephone:
(503) 493-9730

Conveniently located in the Hollywood area, just one block north of Sandy Blvd.

Martin J. Codino, DC

U.S. Accused of Deliberate Abuses

Human rights group says denials ring hollow

(AP) — The Bush administration has a deliberate strategy of abusing terror suspects during interrogations, according to an annual report on the treatment of people in more than 70 countries by Human Rights Watch.

The human rights group based its conclusions mostly on statements by senior administration officials in the past year, and said President Bush's reassurances that the United States does not torture suspects were deceptive and rang hollow.

"In 2005 it became disturbingly clear that the abuse of detainees had become a deliberate, central part of the Bush administration's strategy of interrogating terrorist suspects," the report said.

On a trip to Europe last month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told foreign leaders that cruel and degrading interrogation methods were forbidden for all U.S. personnel at home and abroad. She provided little detail, however, about which practices were banned and other specifics.

In a separate report, the organization strongly criticized three insurgent groups in Iraq - al-Qaida, Ansar al-Sunna and the Islamic Army - for targeting civilians with car bombs and suicide bombers in mosques, markets, bus stations.

However, the group said the abuses "took place in the context of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the ensuing military occupation that resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths and sparked the emergence of insurgent groups."

The Jan. 18 report taking aim at the Bush administration said that the president's repeated assurances that U.S. interrogators do not torture prisoners studiously avoid mentioning that interna-

tional law prohibits cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners.

The report said that Alberto Gonzales - while still the nominee to become attorney general - claimed in Senate testimony in January 2005 the power to use cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as long as the prisoner was a non-American held outside the United States.

"Other governments obviously subject detainees to such treatment or worse, but they do so clandestinely," the report said. "The Bush administration is the only government in the world known to claim this power openly, as a matter of official policy, and to pretend that it is lawful."

Old Double Murder Case Reopened

New technology could solve crime

Advancement in technology has allowed Cold Case detectives from the Portland Police Bureau to re-submit evidence for forensic testing in a 17-year-old double murder case.

On Aug. 29, 1988, the bodies of 61-year old Robert Wheatley and his wife, 69-year old Frieda Wheatley, were found in the basement of their home located at 2612 N. Holman St. The Medical Examiner determined they died from strangulation.

Investigators believe the suspects may have gained entry into the home in a response to a "For Sale by Owner" sign in the front yard.



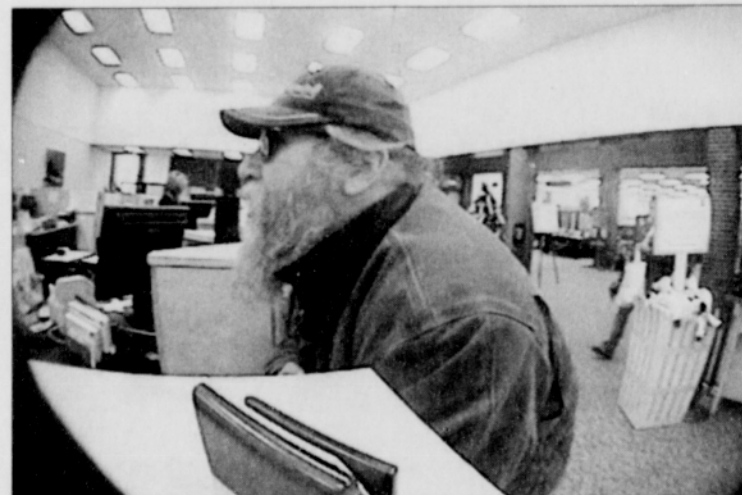
Robert and Frieda Wheatley were found strangled to death in the basement of their north Portland home in 1988. Police hope new technologies will help solve the 17 year old double murder.

The Wheatleys had lived in the neighborhood for more than 10 years but had decided to sell the home themselves. The suspects stole a number of items from the house, including a black and white television set, credit cards and their vehicle.

The credit cards were used extensively prior to their bodies being discovered. The Wheatley's vehicle was recovered several days later at the Jantzen Beach shopping center.

Police are currently awaiting results of the new testing, hoping for a break in the case.

In the meantime, Crime Stoppers has approved an enhanced reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to an arrest in this case. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP (4357).



Security cameras show a man robbing a Gresham bank.

Armed Robber Captured on Video

FBI tries to identify suspect

The FBI Violent Crimes Task Force is asking the public for assistance in identifying and locating a two-time bank robber who threatens bank employees with a weapon.

The most recent robbery happened Jan. 18 at approximately 11:45 a.m. at the M Bank at 1290 N.E. Burnside Rd. in Gresham.

Officials said he demanded cash and pointed a black-colored handgun at the teller. No one was injured. He was last seen leaving the bank on foot headed westbound on Southeast Division St.

The earlier robbery happened at

a Gresham Wells Fargo branch on Nov 28. In this incident, the robber also displayed a weapon. In both cases, he left the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Witnesses describe the suspect as a white man in his mid 50s to early 60s, about six feet, two inches tall, with a heavy build, possibly 250-300 pounds, with gray hair and a gray beard. He was wearing a green army-like jacket with dark pants and dark mirrored sunglasses.

Anyone with information is asked to call the FBI at 503-224-4181.

Author Nominated for Image Award

Award winning columnist and best-selling author Anthony Asadullah Samad has been nominated for a NAACP Image Award for his latest book "50 Years After Brown: The State of Black Equality In America."

The book offers a timely discussion in how far African Americans have advanced since the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS, et al. in 1954. It analyzes the history of the equality battles before the Brown decision and critiques the 50 year battle to define and engage political, social and economic equality for all Americans.

Samad is an associate professor of political science and African American studies at East Los Angeles College. He is also cur-



Anthony Samad

rently the managing director of the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles.

Prison for Chili Finger Hoax

(AP)—A couple who planted a severed finger in a bowl of Wendy's chili in a scheme to extort money from the fast-food chain were sentenced Jan. 18 to prison terms of at least nine years.

Anna Ayala, 40, who said she bit into the digit, was sentenced to nine years. Her husband, Jaime Plascencia, 44, who obtained the finger from a co-worker who lost

it in a workplace accident, was sentenced to more than 12 years.

"Greed and avarice overtook this couple," said California Superior Court Judge Edward Davila, adding that the pair had "lost their moral compass."

The two pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy to file a false insurance claim and attempted grand theft with damages exceeding \$2.5 million.