

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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College World Series Champs!
Oregon State University celebrates national baseball title
See Sports, page B6

Happy
4th
of July

Week in The Review

Gift May Cure Diseases
Billionaire investor Warren Buffett's contribution of about \$1.5 billion a year to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will be used to seek cures for the world's worst diseases and improve American education, Bill Gates said Monday. "There is no reason we can't cure the top 20 diseases," Gates said

Sizer Earns Chief's Job

Rosie Sizer became Portland's permanent police chief on Thursday. She served as interim chief since April when Derrick Foxworth was placed on leave pending an investigation into a sexual relationship with a police clerk. Mayor Tom Potter said he considered a national search but selected Sizer after community and City Council members supported her.



Voting Rights Act

Civil rights advocates urged Congress on Monday to quickly renew provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, saying the "heart and soul" of the act is under attack by Southern Republicans.

Limbaugh's New Tangle

Rush Limbaugh could see a deal with prosecutors in a long-running prescription fraud case collapse after authorities found a bottle of Viagra in his bag at Palm Beach International Airport. The prescription was not in his name.

Secretary Steps Down

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, the only Democrat in President Bush's Cabinet and one of its three remaining original members, will step down July 7. Mineta had been plagued at times by back problems and spent months working from home and the hospital.

Missouri Building Collapses

Rescuers saved nine people trapped in the rubble of a three-story building that partially collapsed during an Elks Club dinner in Clinton, Mo., but the club's leader was found dead early Tuesday, about 12 hours after the roof fell in.

Gentrification in National Spotlight

Rapid changes follow pattern in other cities

Portland is gaining national attention for what has been a local issue for the past several years: gentrification in historically black neighborhoods.

The Washington Post has spotlighted the accelerating changes in Portland and Seattle, already the whitest major cities in America, now losing their only historically black neighborhoods to new residents.

The Post found both cities are experiencing what they call "downtown demographic bleaching," an invasion of young, well-educated and mostly white newcomers buying up and remaking neighborhoods and districts.

In Seattle's Central District, the birthplace of Jimi Hendrix and once home of the young Ray Charles, what had been the largest black-majority community in the Pacific Northwest has become majority white.

Local demographers were cited in the Post's feature profile last week, finding that white population growth since 2000 has gained momentum, while the percentage of black residents appears to have fallen to less than 40 percent in once majority African American neighborhoods.

With real estate prices rollicking upward at about 25 percent a year, the Post said, the Seattle Central District appears to be getting whiter and richer by the month. Portland residents were also interviewed, saying the heart of their black community is gone.

"It's destroying us, socially and politically," one Portland neighborhood activist told the paper. "It is just a total inconvenience and disrespect to black folks."

The newspaper reported a flight of black residents to suburbs, either because they've sold their homes or have been forced out by higher rents, splintering the community by geographic dispersal and racial integration.

White gentrification is a relatively recent issue in north and northeast Portland, but the Post said other major American cities have undergone similar changes, including Harlem, the District of Columbia and many



PHOTOS BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Amnesia Brewing on Mississippi Avenue and Beech attracts two couples from Kansas City who find the accommodations similar to brewpubs they recently visited in Germany.



Postal workers Joey Corless (right) and Kelly Eaves find a moment of relaxation between deliveries on Northeast Alberta Street.

cities in California. They attributed the shifts to a desire to escape long commutes and the relative housing bargains in black neighborhoods.

Not everyone views the changes as negative. The Post reported census figures, suggesting blacks in Seattle and Portland have not been displaced into homelessness and that they are not economically worse off in the suburbs than they were downtown. In many cases, housing in the suburbs is newer, schools are better and crime is lower.

But that means people will have to find new places to embrace black heritage, Norman Rice, Seattle's first and only black mayor, told the Post.

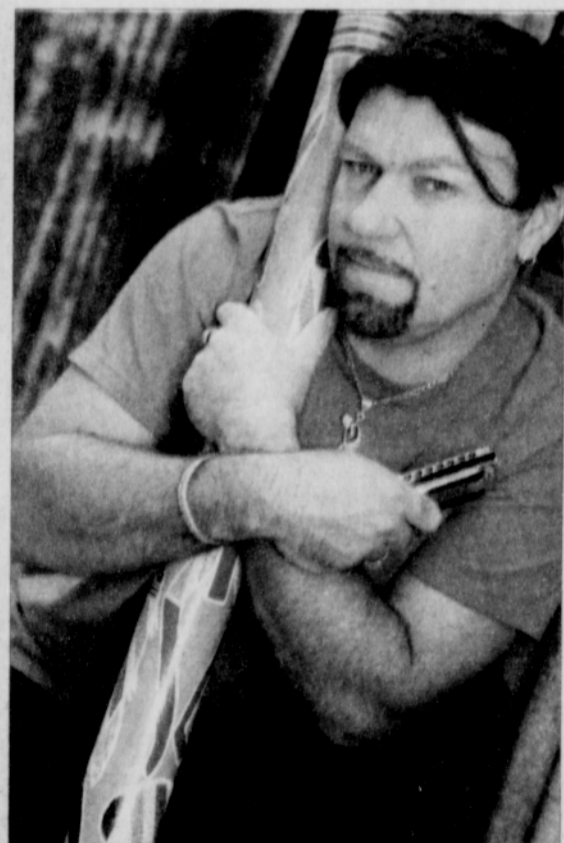
Churches play a central role in gentrification's scope, and the Post found that some black churches in both cities have moved or opened second locations in the suburbs. Others, they found, have joined suburban white churches to avoid long drives back into the city.

continued ▼ on page A3

Five Days of Waterfront Blues



Portland's downtown skyline explodes in color during the Waterfront Blues Festival, an annual event returning to Tom McCall Waterfront Park Friday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 4.



'Harper,' Australia's Male Vocalist of the Year.

Music of New Orleans gets special focus

Portland music lovers will join Blues enthusiasts from throughout the world for the 19th annual Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, Friday, June 30 to Tuesday, July 4 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

This year's festival will focus on the music of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, a special effort to celebrate the music and musicians from areas devastated last fall

continued ▼ on page A3

'I'm HIV positive'

County Health adopts email warning system

(AP)—It's an e-mail no one wants to get. But Multnomah County health officials hope its new anonymous e-mail service will help alert people at risk for a sexually transmitted disease, especially those who might not otherwise find out.

"There's no easy way to say this," an e-mail text reads, "but I want you to know that I'm HIV positive. If you don't know your status, please get tested soon."

Portland has joined inspot.org, a service that sends electronic cards to partners of people diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases.

Recipients click on the cards to access a Website with information about local STD services, including agencies that offer testing or counseling.

Traditionally, this news came in person or by phone. But the delicate task has gone digital as communication—and sexual advances—increasingly go online.

"It's another approach to STD prevention using the current technology," said Margaret Lentell, who manages Multnomah County Health Department's Sexually Transmitted Dis-

continued ▼ on page A2

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