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Week in The Review

New York Explosive Divorce

The gas-triggered explosion that flattened a \$9 million, New York townhouse on Monday followed hateful divorce-related messages apparently from its owner, Dr. Nicholas Bartha, 66. Bartha was in critical condition with second- and third-degree burns Tuesday, and investigators are looking into the possibility of his suicide attempt, denying his estranged wife any claim to the building.

Commodores Singer Dies

Milan B. Williams, an original member of the Commodores, died Tuesday, July 11 at 58, after a long battle with cancer. Prior to joining The Commodores, Milan played in a rivaling band called The Jays. When The Jays disbanded, Milan joined the Commodores. He left the Commodores in 1989, allegedly after refusing to perform with them in South Africa. See inside, page A6.

More Charges in Iraqi Murder

Four more U.S. soldiers have been charged with rape and murder and a fifth with dereliction of duty, for the deaths of an Iraqi woman and her three relatives, last Month. Ex-soldier Steven D. Green was arrested last week in North Carolina and has pleaded not guilty to one count of rape and four counts of murder. See story, page A2.

Telfair Unhappy about Trade

After two years in Portland, Trail Blazer Sebastian Telfair was traded to the Boston Celtics. He says he is sorry to leave Portland behind, but the Blazers are hopeful that second-year player Jarrett Jack will develop, making Telfair the choice for the trade.

Chappelle "Lost Episodes" Surface

Fans of Dave Chappelle have been in withdrawal since the comedian abruptly left his landmark series in April 2005. Now Comedy Central has cobbled together three episodes based on material Chappelle recorded before his infamous departure. Co-stars Donnell Rawlings and Charlie Murphy host "Chappelle's Show: The Lost Episodes," premiering this week on Comedy Central. See story, page B3.

Series of Blasts in Bombay

Eight bombs hit Bombay, India's commuter rail network during rush hour Tuesday evening, killing at least 147 people and wounding more than 400 in what authorities called a well-coordinated terrorist attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility in the bombings.

Now Advocating for Healthy People

Ex-governor backs healthcare reform

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

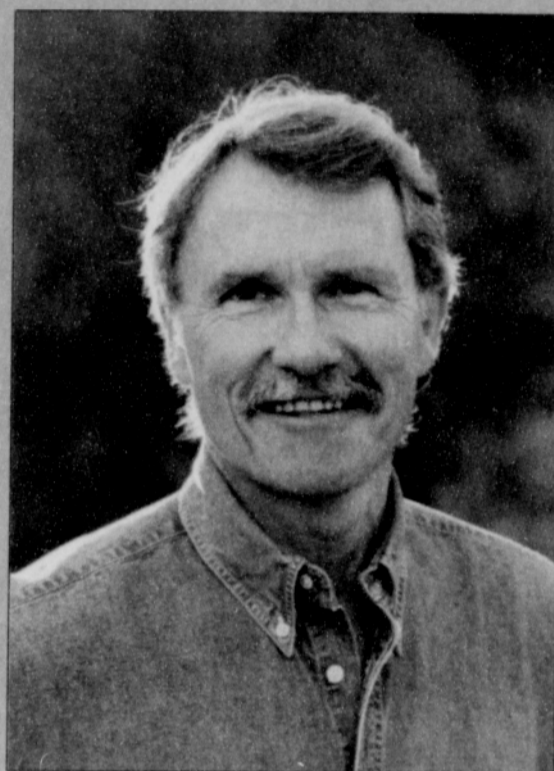
Imagine an Oregon where every resident has health care, regardless of age or income. To conjure up such a vision, you must first push out images of squabbling politicians and candidates with earnest promises. You have to move past the legacy of crippled state and federal health care structures, and past the status quo system favoring the wealthy and the "deserving" poor.

This is precisely what former Gov. John Kitzhaber has in mind, and to make the vision reality, he's launched the "Archimedes Movement." The statewide grass roots organization is run by thousands of volunteers, aiming to drive the universal health care debate past the gridlock of partisan politics.

Of course, any meaningful change must come from lawmakers, but Kitzhaber's belief is that effective change comes from everyday people, not politicians.

Kitzhaber organized this broad vision not as a detailed plan, but in response to a growing population tired of the promises found in transactional politics (vote for me and I'll lower your taxes).

Deciding not to seek another term as governor, he launched the direct-action Archimedes Movement in January—which



John Kitzhaber has launched the 'Archimedes Movement' to drive a universal health care initiative.

will focus initially on health care reform. Without spending any extra monies, he suggests instead reallocating existing public health care funds, (about \$6.3 billion) and redirect the spending to reflect a more sustainable and effective system.

The ground-up approach is unprecedented and straightforward, and Kitzhaber's vision abandons even basic

terminology:

"Health and health care are not synonymous," Kitzhaber says. "What we really want are healthy people."

He named the Archimedes Movement after a Greek mathematician, famed for saying "Give me a lever and a place to stand, and I can move the earth."

Kitzhaber and the ancient Greek share lofty goals, but to understand why the former governor and emergency room doctor believes he can help the estimated 613,000 (about one in six) uninsured Oregonians, look back to 1989.

That was the year Kitzhaber served as president of the State Senate, and Oregon made national headlines by passing Senate Bill 27. Refusing to accept existing federal Medicaid system, Oregon rewrote and enacted several provisions of Medicaid law, extending coverage to Oregonians below the federal poverty level.

The law, having required federal waivers, forced Congress to examine their current program. It gained national exposure when Gov. Bill Clinton expressed support during the first 1992 presidential debate. President George H.W. Bush rejected the Oregon Health Plan in 1992, but incoming President Clinton passed it in 1993. State

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History of Health Care

Though many think of it as a basic human right, healthcare has become one of the world's largest and fastest-growing industries. Since the advent of modern medicine, the simplicity of health has grown complicated, and expensive:

1800s – Americans received health care in their homes from midwives, physicians, homeopaths, and herbalists, paying out of pocket until the last quarter of the century. As science and technology blossomed, the number of hospitals grew and a modern medical education system was born. The demand for health care rose, as did the demand for increased standards for physicians and hospitals.

1930-1940 – Blue Cross becomes the nation's first pre-paid health insurance, followed by Blue Shield, a physician-created plan. Private health insurance is on its way to becoming well established.

1960s – Federal health insurance programs Medicare and Medicaid are created. Medicare covers individuals age 65 and over, or who meet other special criteria. Medicaid provides health insurance for individuals and families with low incomes and resources.

1993-1994 – President Bill Clinton

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Restoration is coming for the historic and crumbling Billy Webb Elk's Lodge, a 1921 structure that once served as a YWCA for black residents.

Preserving a Relic from the Past

Elk's Lodge needs help

Billy Webb Elk's Lodge, Portland's oldest African American establishment, will undergo restoration to preserve its historical value, and Lodge brothers are asking for help. Lodge #1050, at 6 N. Tillamook St., has been an African American neighborhood landmark since 1940.

Built in 1921, the building initially functioned as a YWCA for black residents and meeting place for the NAACP. It still serves as a social hall for weddings and theater productions.

The lodge brothers have recently begun to paint the interior and re-finish the ballroom. But that's just the beginning of the work required, and now they're requesting that local contractors and merchants

donate time and any unused materials for three major areas of concern: a new roof, electrical work and exterior painting.

They also need carpenters and plumbers to assist on some of the interior work. In addition, the lodge is seeking more members. For information or if you are interested in supporting restoration, call Joe Bean Keller at 503-490-6837 or email catchme@joebeankeller.com.

A Knott Street Boxing Champ Remembered

Halim Rahsaan, a Portland legend in and out of the ring, died Friday, July 7 at the age of 63.

Halim Rahsaan was a man who fought many battles. In the ring, the man who fought under the name Bill Cross was a boxing champion. In Portland, where he made his lifelong home, he was a champion for change in the black community.

Rahsaan's final battle began when he suffered a stroke on July 3, ending when he passed away four days later on Friday. Rahsaan leaves his wife Frances and a large family, from his nine children to three great grandchildren. Rahsaan also leaves many friends and an entire community, young and old, who will remember his legacy.

When his children were young, Rahsaan was already a prominent figure in Portland. As a member of several coalitions, advisory committees and fronts, Rahsaan helped organize and provoke change in the face of blatant and institutional racism. In the 1970s he converted to the Muslim faith, changing his and his family's name to Rahsaan, which means "the light."

He was a true leader and a credit to Portland.

One of his sons, Anthony, remembers seeing his father often in public and on television, but only halfway understanding what he stood for. When Anthony was a high school student, Rahsaan had successfully challenged Portland Public Schools, introducing black studies into the curriculum.

"We're very proud," said his daughter Pamela Rahsaan-Miles, "but when we were young we took for granted that he touched a lot of people."

Up until his final days, Rahsaan continued to touch the lives of many people. His life work in youth advocacy was extensive, and he most recently served as a drug and alcohol counselor at LifeWorks Northwest at the Northeast 33rd Avenue location.

But perhaps it is Rahsaan's legacy as an amateur champion, fighting as the local legend Bill Cross, which will linger in the minds of many Oregonians. Rahsaan put just as much heart into the ring as he had in the community. His reputation at the historic Knott Street Gym (now the Matt Dishman Community Center) earned him and his team the 1961 National Championship, and in 1964 Rahsaan was a member of the 1964 United States Boxing Team Trials.

In November 2001, the Knott Street Boxing Team was inducted into the Multi Culture Sports Hall of Fame, and most recently, in October 2005, Rahsaan and the team

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