



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVI, Number 40

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • October 11, 2006

Week in The Review

Nuclear Blast Condemned

China agreed Tuesday that North Korea must be punished for testing a nuclear device, but sought to soften a U.S. and Japanese sanctions plan that it said would be too crushing for its impoverished ally.

Fire Explodes on U.S. Base

Fire broke out at an ammunition dump at a U.S. base in southern Baghdad on Tuesday night, causing a series of explosions that rocked the capital, the U.S. military said.

Baseball Legend Dead at 94

Friends and strangers gathered at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo. to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, a dapper, gregarious man who came to embody the story of the Negro Leagues. O'Neil died on Friday at age 94. See story, page A5.

MLK Papers Find Home

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 78th birthday in January will feature a gift to the city of Atlanta: the first public viewing of more than 10,000 of his documents, notes and other personal items. Pieces of the King Collection were put on the market after King's widow, Coretta Scott King, died in February.

Recalled Lettuce Tested

California lettuce recalled over E. coli fears tested negative for a sometimes deadly strain of the bacteria, company officials said Tuesday. The Nunes company ordered the voluntary recall after irrigation water tested positive for E. coli. But follow-up testing determined it wasn't the pathogenic strain of the bacteria.

Diamond Worth \$12 Million

The biggest diamond to be found in 13 years, the 603-carat "Lesotho Promise" was sold on Monday at auction for more than \$12 million and is expected to fetch in excess of \$20 million when it is cut into a large heart-shaped diamonds and several smaller stones.

Democrats Gain in Polls

Polls out four weeks before Election Day showed Democrats wielding a solid lead in the race to control Congress, sending Republicans who now control the legislature scrambling.

Zoo Workers Apologize



The Oregon Zoo train carries passengers between the animal park and Washington Park.

PHOTO BY SEAN
O'CONNOR/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Director assures that zoo is welcoming for all

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Animals may not discriminate, but two recent actions at the Oregon Zoo have put employees on notice for actions considered racially offensive.

The most recent incident was exposed last month when the zoo's train engineer Ken Lauderback

issued a public apology to all zoo staff after he and a co-worker staged a photograph that made the zoo train look like it was part of the old Civil War South.

The photo of the two men, which included Rebel flags and the train holding the name General Lee on the side, caused sparks, even though it was displayed in a maintenance building not designated for the public.

"Because another staff member is originally from the South, we thought it would be a nice keepsake to recreate a view of a locomotive from the Confed-

erate side of the conflict," Lauderback wrote in the email apology on Sept. 29. "It was never our intent to make any sort of personal or political statement by the use of the Confederate flag."

Rebel flags have a history of incensing many Americans, who believe it to be a relic of the nation's racist past no matter what the context.

According to the story first published in the Willamette Week, Lauderback was given permis-

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Vote Could Send Lawmakers Packing

The impact of Measure 45 on state minorities debated

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Proponents of Measure 45 on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot want voters to amend the Oregon Constitution to prevent veteran lawmakers from running for re-election time after time, allowing fresh new faces in the Oregon Legislature.

The measure could wipe out the only three African American representatives in the 90-member Legislative Assembly or create new openings for other black and minority candidates, depending on the view of political insiders and outsiders.

If Measure 45 passes, state representatives will be restricted to serve for three terms, a total of six years; and state senators will be restricted to serve two terms, a total of eight years. A lawmaker could only serve 14 years total in both houses.

Paul Farago of the national organization U.S. Term Limits, the main backer of the proposal, claims the measure will increase the likelihood of more women and minorities in the state Legislature.

He argues that frequent and regular open-seat elections benefit previously underrepresented groups like younger adults, women and minorities, who be-

gan to fill open seats and create a more diverse legislature.

When Oregon voters last approved a law establishing term limits in statewide offices in 1992, the participation of women in the Oregon House peaked at 35 percent, Farago said. The Oregon

and was then elected to the Senate, where she has served since 2000. She faces being forced out with just two years left on her term.

Measure 45 would also affect Sen. Avel Gordly, whose 10-year, three-term tenure at the Senate would also expire

limits are the League of Women Voters in Oregon and the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Gordly is against Measure 45 for a number of reasons. As a 15-year veteran, she says it takes time to learn the legislative process and to build support before laws can be enacted.

Gordly spent nearly a decade to build a consensus for SB 300, titled Expanded Options. The bill, which was passed in 2005, provides opportunities for eligible high school juniors and seniors to take post-secondary classes at Oregon public community colleges, colleges and universities.

Gordly had planned to make this her last term in the Legislature regardless of the term limits measure, leaving by choice to devote more time to her work within the Department of Black Studies at Portland State University. She said she ran for a third term in 2004 to accomplish State Bills 300 and 301, the latter a deadly force bill she began to draft in 1995.

"The expanded options bill would have been dropped, I'm very clear about that," Gordly said. "These initiatives require champions. It's one thing to be a cheerleader, but you need someone who is aggressive."

Gordly agrees that minorities are underrepresented in state legislature, but it's the Democratic and Republican Party process, she says, not term length that is flawed in its failure to recruit and

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Jackie Winters



Margaret Carter



Avel Gordly

Both parties have failed to aggressively recruit and promote candidates of color. Future candidates will come in other ways, and we'll see candidates who have ties to their own communities.

— Oregon State Senator Avel Gordly

Supreme Court struck down that term limits law in 2002.

"Since term limits were removed, participation has dipped to 28 percent," Farago said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Margaret Carter of north and northeast Portland made history as the first African American woman elected to the Oregon Legislative Assembly. Sen. Carter served in the state House in 1984

in 2008, making her ineligible to run for the Senate again or for the House, where she also served three terms.

Sen. Jackie Winters, the other African American lawmaker, is running for re-election from the Salem area this November. She would be ineligible for another run if she wins re-election, having been elected to the Senate in 2002 after serving two terms in the House. Joining the opposition against term

