

# Portland Observer Auto Review

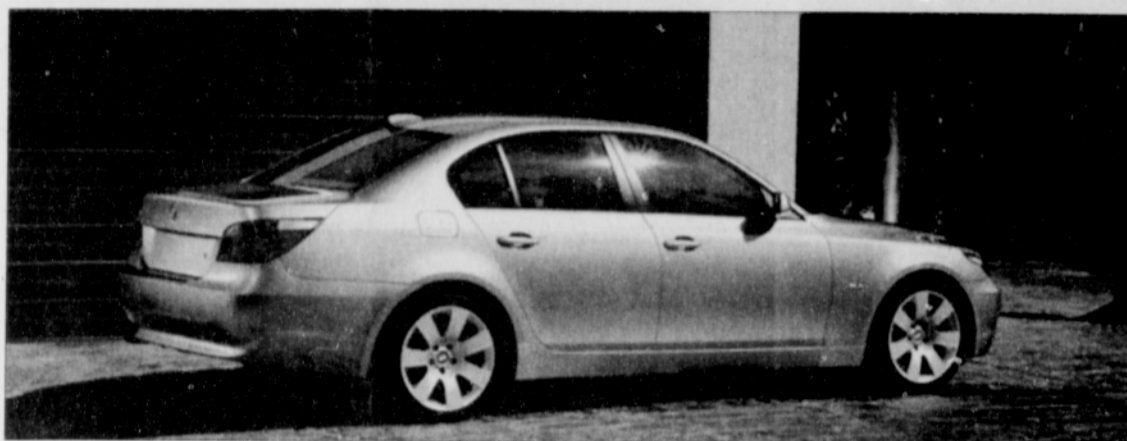
News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2007 BMW 530i Sedan "Evolution couldn't be sexier!"

BY KATHLEEN CARR

BMW's 5 Series has long been the reference point from which other automakers craft their midsize sport sedans. The popularity of the 5 Series sets the pace and the standard for superlative handling characteristics once limited to sports cars. Enthusiastic drivers no longer needed to sacrifice convenience and interior space, not to mention put up with stratospheric insurance premiums, in order to own a vehicle that could hug the corners with speed and agility. BMW decidedly dialed up the sex appeal factor for their coupes with a racier design, and more power.

BMW refreshes its 5 Series line, which is still among the best-handling sport sedans, with added technology such as high-definition radio, a Night Vision system and a revamped version of BMW Assist. For 2007 the 530i gains an input that allows iPods and other portable devices to be played through the vehicle audio system. A high-definition radio receiver is a new option available. Unlike satellite radio, HD radio is free, all broadcasts are local in nature and the radio units can receive standard analog signal, as well. As of spring of 2006, more than 700 stations across the U.S. were broadcasting in HD radio, with



**SPECIFICATIONS:** 3.0-liter inline-six-cylinder, 255-HP engine; 6-speed manual transmission; 60 mph in 6.6 seconds / top end: 150 mph; city 20 mpg. / highway 30 mpg.; \$ 43,800 MSRP.

more than 3000 committed to adding the new format in 2007.

BMW's six-cylinder engines, such as the one in the 530i, are among the most efficient in the industry. One of the reasons why the 530i feels so sprightly, just

with the 3.0-liter six, is that it weighs less than 3500 pounds. The sculptured beauty of this sexy beast is complimented by the new adaptive lightweight aluminum components that pare overall mass and enhance accel-

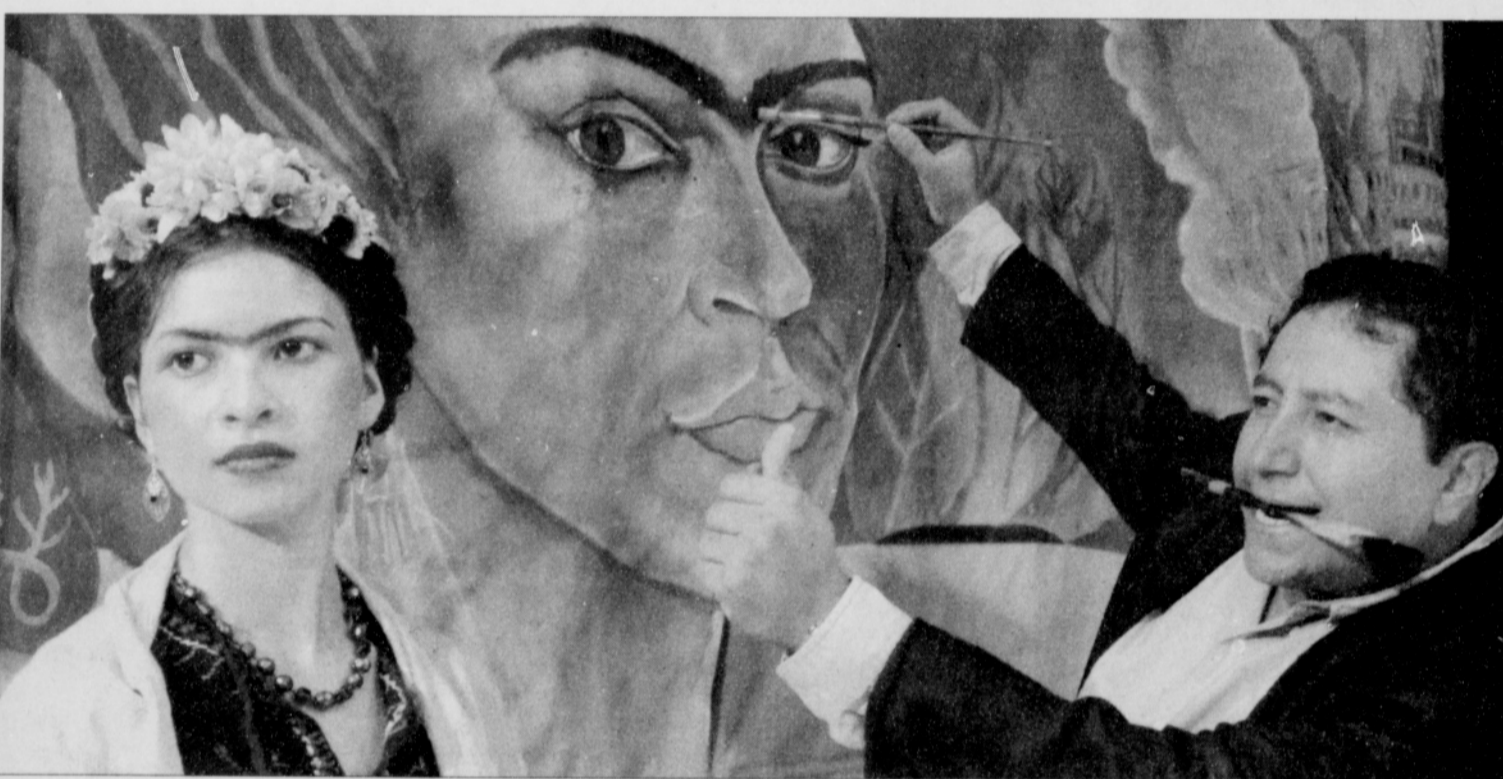
eration and fuel economy. BMW makes use of the lightweight construction and variable valve lift technology to maximize power and efficiency. The 530i can dash to 60 mph in 6.6 seconds and reach the electronically limited

top speed of 150 mph. In addition, riding on a lightweight aluminum suspension allows the 530i to hug the curves with tenacity.

Standard on all BMW 5 Series are: ABS, traction/antiskid control, front side airbags and front and rear head-protecting tubular side airbags, and the BMW Assist emergency and concierge service. All models have the BMW iDrive system, which uses a console knob to control entertainment, navigation, communication, and climate functions.

The outgoing 5 Series is a tough act to follow. It is a critic's darling and hard to fault. The 530i boast high performance, top safety features and increased luxury and convenience. BMW's insightful styling is simple, evolutionary, and sexier!

## EL OBSERVADOR



Maya Malán-Gonzalez plays the younger incarnation of famed Mexican artist Frida Kahlo this month at Milagro Theatre.

### Frida Comes to Life at Milagro Theatre

#### A bilingual production of 'Frida, Un Retablo'

Milagro Theatre's critically acclaimed work about the artistic life of Frida Kahlo returns to the stage after a five-year hiatus, Jan. 12 through 20.

Life and art intertwine in this magical journey through the surrealistic vision of one of Mexico's most acclaimed artists. Legend and cult figure Kahlo is a sorrowful heroine whose

obsession with death provided her with an unquenchable thirst for life. Born a *mestizo* of European and Mexican parents, her dark braided hair and distinctive bird-wing brows are immortalized in more than 200 self-portraits. Art became a retreat from polio, a bus accident and innumerable surgeries that left her in constant pain. Via imaginary friends and artistic passion, Kahlo escaped the miseries of her reality. Her work became her life as she reinvented herself into a timeless persona that was mirrored in her art.

In the exciting new work of *Frida, Un Retablo*, two Fridas will take the stage in the portrayal - Dañel Malán as the older Frida and Maya Malán-Gonzalez as the younger.

Performances are Friday, Jan. 12 and continue Thursdays through Sundays until Jan. 20. Show times are 8 p.m. with weekend matinees at 2 p.m. Admission is \$15 to \$18 with discounts for students, seniors and groups.

For more information, visit [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org) or call 503-236-7253.

### Mexican Zapatistas Mark 13th Anniversary

#### Celebrate past uprising

(AP) — Thousands of Zapatista rebels on Monday celebrated the 13th anniversary of their brief uprising against the Mexican government, dancing,

singing and holding discussions on improving the status of poor Indians in the southern state of Chiapas.

The ceremonies, which attracted hundreds of foreigners from numerous countries, began Sunday night under the stewardship of Sumcomandante Marcos,

the ski-masked, pipe-smoking Zapatista leader.

Participants saluted the Mexican and Zapatista flags, and held a large dance and ate traditional tamales and coffee in the Zapatistas' base of Oventic, about 460 miles southeast of Mexico City.

The Zapatistas seized the main

city of San Cristobal de las Casas and other Chiapas communities in the name of socialism and Indian rights on Jan. 1, 1994. A cease-fire ended fighting between rebels and government forces after a few days, and the two sides have since maintained an uneasy truce.

### Immigrants Rights Group Prepares for Legislature

#### People of Color Action Academy

Join CAUSA and African American and Latino community leaders for a dialogue on building alliances and get training on how you can impact the 2007 Oregon Legislature. The 2007 People of Color Action Academy takes place Saturday, Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chemeketa Community College, building 2, student programming area, 4000

Lancaster Drive in Salem.

Trainings will be held on minimum wage and farmworker rights, driver's license issues, criminal justice reform, racial profiling, youth access to higher education and how to lobby.

CAUSA is Oregon's statewide, grassroots immigrants' rights coalition. Register for this dialogue by Jan. 19 by downloading a registration form at <http://www.causaoregon.org/action-center> or email [aeryca@causaoregon.org](mailto:aeryca@causaoregon.org).

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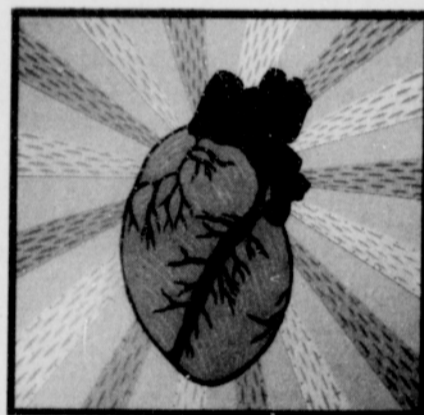
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Pictured: Kim Hamblin "The Power of Love" mixed media

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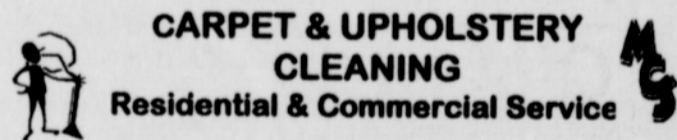
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