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African dance connects
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Portland Observer

Volume XXXVIII, Number 7

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversitywww.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • February 13, 2008

Week in The Review

Gang Violence Confronted

After a teenager is shot and injured on Sunday, officials are talking about how to reduce a spike of youth violence. Rob Ingram, gang-prevention coordinator for the mayor's office, says funding based on increased awareness may turn the issue around. See story, page A2.

United Way Chief Leaving

After four years that saw overhead expenses cut from 31 percent to 16.4 percent, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette President Brent Stewart announced his resignation from the organization, effective March 14. Stewart is leaving to guide the United Way chapter in Kansas City.

'Pimped' Comment Scored

Howard Wolfson, communications director for the Hillary Clinton campaign, on Friday excoriated MSNBC's David Shuster for suggesting the Clinton campaign had "pimped out" 27-year-old Chelsea by having her place phone calls to celebrities and Democratic Party delegates on her mother's behalf. Shuster was suspended by the network.

Kanye West's Grammys

At the 50th-annual Grammys on Sunday night, rapper Kanye West took home best rap album for "Graduation," best solo performance for "Stronger," best rap song for "Good Life" and best rap performance by duo or group for his collaboration with Common on "Southside."

Sheriff Schedules Exit

Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Giusto says he will resign by the end of the year and fight any attempt to seize his badge following allegations that he lied about when he knew of former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's sexual abuse of a teenager.

Six Charged for 9/11

Military prosecutors filed capital charges against a former leader of Al Qaeda and five other Guantanamo detainees on Monday for roles in the Sept. 11 terror attacks, but possible violations during their confinement may jeopardize the death-penalty cases.

Housing Relief Sought

Some homeowners threatened with foreclosure would get a 30-day reprieve under a federal initiative announced Tuesday. Dubbed "Project Lifeline," the program will be available to people who have taken out all types of mortgages, not just the high-cost loans that have been the focus of previous relief efforts.

Red Cross Commits to Diversity

Aim is cultural
competence,
more saved lives

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Longtime Portland activist Antoinette Edwards' position as diversity outreach manager is the most recent development towards cultural competence in the efforts of an organization dedicated to providing emergency services to the area's entire population.



A portrait of Charles Richard Drew, an African-American physician who lived during the first half of the 20th century, is displayed in the Red Cross lobby on Vancouver Avenue. Drew protested against the practice of racial segregation in blood donations of different races.

The Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross hired Edwards last month as part of a commitment to achieving a multiplicity of people, programs and services that has intensified since last year's switch of the organization's chief executive.

The local changes also came with an eye to the failures in responding to Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast, as Red Cross officials across the country began to see special challenges when preparing for and responding to crises in multicultural populations.

The challenges exist, officials found, not only with respect to widespread disasters like Katrina, but also in serving everyday emergencies like strokes, dialysis treatment and motor-vehicle collisions.

Seeing how Edwards has advocated for ways to enhance work with communities of color for more than 25 years, new leaders in the Red Cross' local chapter seized her for partnering with black, Latino, Asian, Native and other underserved communities, in an effort to ensure their engagement in the work of saving and rebuilding lives.

Citing breakthroughs never before made by Red Cross, Edwards relishes the excitement of an opportunity to use imagination and energy to improve the organization's services.

"The potential to save lives is huge," she says, pointing out that change not only affects victims.

"Everyone can give. You can volunteer, give blood and work with disasters. There are so many opportunities, and I think sometimes you just have to ask, so people can feel welcome."

Concepts like "respectful engagement"



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

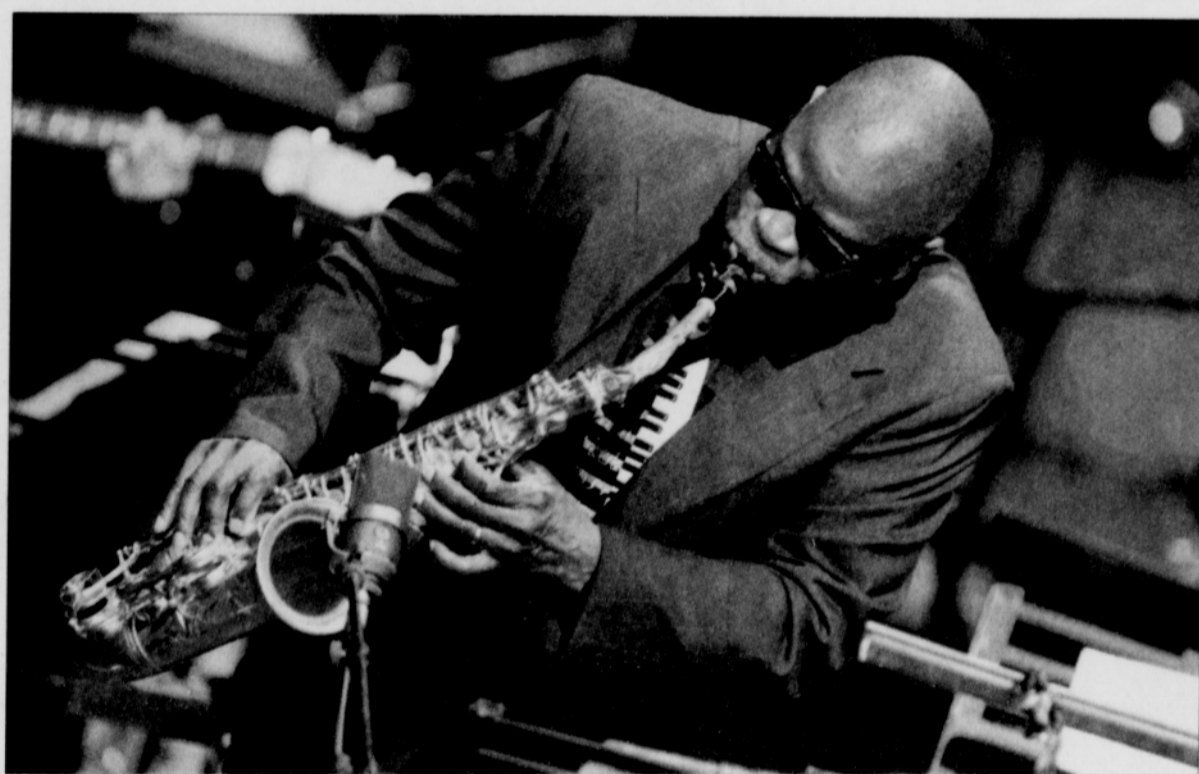
Longtime community advocate Antoinette Edwards relishes the opportunity to use her imagination and energy to advance the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross.

and "language of welcoming" are not used lightly by Edwards.

"It's not just typical, PC cultural awareness; it's ongoing," she says. "That's beyond race, culture, class or privilege, and that's why I'm excited about Red Cross, because it's that open invitation."

The effort toward sensitivity does have special significance to her as an African American. Blacks have suffered particularly from policies in the medical field. Edwards sees hope in people uniting against racism

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Maceo Parker performs Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Crystal Ballroom.



Jazz legend Ornette Coleman opens the annual Portland Jazz Festival on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Great Jazz and Black History

Festival kicks off Friday



Cecil Taylor performs Sunday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Portland Marriott Waterfront.

Most jazz festivals in America play it safe, sticking with a successful and predictable stable of artists who rarely take the music beyond its resting place in history.

The fifth-annual Portland Jazz Festival, scheduled over two weeks beginning Friday, Feb. 15 through Sunday, Feb. 24, dares to go where few jazz festivals in North America have ever been.

Indeed, any jazz event which opens with free-jazz innovator Ornette Coleman and later closes with avant-garde pianist Cecil Taylor is admittedly "out there." The

2008 Portland Jazz Festival remains a diverse experience: a kaleidoscope of sounds and colors going

every which way.

Grammy Lifetime Achievement honoree Coleman opens the festival Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall by sound-

ing the theme of the festival, The Shape of Jazz to Come, the title of his landmark 1959 recording.

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The Classical Jazz Quartet, featuring Kenny Barron, Ron Carter, Stefon Harris and Lewis Nash, will highlight the Portland Jazz Festival, when they perform Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newmark Theater.

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