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CAREERS & EDUCATION
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Jungle Book
An orphaned child discovers his true family
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The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

Veterans Day Pledge

President-elect Obama honored fallen troops Tuesday by placing a wreath at a memorial in Chicago and making a Veterans Day pledge. "Let us rededicate ourselves to keep a sacred trust with all who have worn the uniform of the United States of America; that America will serve you as well as you have served your country," Obama said.

Bush Thanks Veterans

President Bush thanked veterans Tuesday for serving their country, noting wistfully that he'll "miss being commander in chief of such a fabulous group." Bush marked his last Veterans Day as president with a visit to a New York pier that is home to the World War II aircraft carrier Intrepid.

'Mama Africa' Remembered

Miriam Makeba, the "Mama Africa" whose sultry voice gave South Africans hope when the country was gripped by apartheid, died Monday of a heart attack. She was 76. Makeba performed with musical legends from around the world — jazz maestros Nina Simone and Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte, Paul Simon — and sang for world leaders such as John F. Kennedy and Nelson Mandela.

Dean to Step Down

Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean plans to step down from his post when his term expires in January, wrapping up a tenure in which the party heavily invested in all 50 states for a payoff that helped elect Barack Obama president.

Airport's Lost Dog Found

A dog that bolted from its kennel at the Portland Airport last week has been reunited with its owners. A Horizon Air baggage handler let the 6-year-old blue heeler named Bear out of his kennel and the dog bolted. A business owner near the airport spotted the dog and recognized him from a photo he saw on the news.

Brother Charged in Death

A southeast Portland man was charged with murder Monday in the stabbing death of his sister who was found in his apartment Friday. A week earlier, Theresa Ann Rockwood, 52, had gone to visit her brother, Joseph Rockwood, who suffered from a mental illness, and was not heard from again.

Gas Prices Keep Falling

The price of gas in Oregon plunged another 19 cents in the past week to \$2.38. The price is about \$1 a gallon cheaper than it was just one month ago and nearly \$2 a gallon less than its July peak.

Tax Proposal for Roads, Jobs

Motorists would see a 2-cent-a-gallon increase in the state gasoline tax and higher vehicle fees under a plan proposed Monday by Gov. Ted Kulongoski to pay for road and bridge improvements and create thousands of new construction jobs.

Transition to Power

Obama triumph culminates with tears, embraces

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In living rooms and election parties across Portland people shed tears and embraced one another in disbelief as they learned that Barack Obama would be their next president. For many, the election triumph was a cathartic culmination of past milestones that overcame racial barriers.

Twenty-four years ago state Sen. Margaret Carter was celebrating a smaller milestone after having become the first African-American woman elected to the Oregon Legislature.

On election night last Tuesday, Carter was holding a "re-elect Carter and an elect Barack Obama" party at Club Lexus in the Rose Garden with 300 people from her north and northeast Portland district.

"It was absolutely crazy," said Carter of the event.

Carter was introducing a speaker to the crowd when she noticed that no one was listening to her. Puzzled, she looked up at

the screen behind her to see that CNN had just called the election for Obama, the first African American to win the presidency.

"We were all Americans," said Carter of the event, who described the room breaking into jubilation with no dry eyes in sight.

Roy Jay, an African-American entrepreneur whose name has been bandied about as a future mayor, was also at Carter's election party.

"They were screaming, they were crying, they were hugging. It was like America had won the biggest World Series ever," said Jay, who added, "and this is the World Series because we have a new pitcher on the mound."

"It sort of makes you feel extremely well and excited because of the fact that America fought past color," said Jay of his lingering impressions of the election.

State Rep. Chip Shields, who represents parts of north and northeast Portland, was at the Convention Center where the local Democratic Party was waiting



President George Bush welcomes President-elect Barack Obama to the White House on Monday, visiting for nearly two hours and offering the nation a glimpse of a new first family at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

for the election results to trickle in when he found out Obama had won.

"I think people were profoundly moved by the historical nature of the speech, not only for

the potential for the country, but also the potential of taking a step from a very dark past when it comes to race in this country," said Shields, an early Obama backer.

Shields had to leave early to relieve the babysitter watching his eight-month-old daughter. On the drive up Martin Luther King

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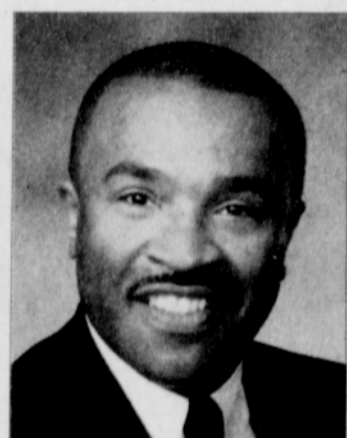
'America fought past color,' — Roy Jay, African American Chamber executive



'People were profoundly moved,' — State Rep. Chip Shields



'It was a historic night,' — Bob Boyer, Obama alternate delegate



'We've made it to that mountaintop,' — Loloza Poe, county policy advisor



'The ancestors are proud and smiling,' — State Sen. Avel Gordly

Presidential Dreams: 'Yes they Can'

Local kids know country has changed

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Barack Obama clinched his ascendance to the presidency last week, grownups were not the only ones swept up in the fervor. In fact, the enthusiasm has trickled down to Portlanders who are a decade away from voting.

The kids at Rosa Parks School, one of Portland's more diverse schools, know that their country has changed. Their faces light up at the mention of the new president's name, and when asked to share their thoughts on the election their hands shoot into the air as their eyes open wide. They know that something historic has occurred, and are eager to share what they know.

Calvin Jackson, an African-American second-grader at Rosa Parks, said the election has him thinking big.

"I want to be like Obama

and run for president and lower the prices on stuff. I want to build houses for people," said a beaming Jackson. "I want to be in the White House with my family too," he added.

Second grader Malaya McGrant said she learned that "a black person, a Chinese person or

a white person can be president." Her classmate, Leslie Caballero said Obama would represent all Americans.

"Obama, he's not just a person for blacks, but whites too," she said.

The kids also have a general idea of how Obama's election fits

in with the struggles for equality led by Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.

Lawyer, veterinarian, secret agent, and president are all professions called out by the kids when asked what they aspire to be.

"People can do stuff. They

don't have to sit in the back. They can go places," says second-grader Teya Shear.

"It's not just a dream for them anymore," says the students' teacher Daphne Bussey, who has worked hard to make sure her students understand the significance of the Illinois Senator's election.

Bussey explains that the election came at an ideal time. She has a field trip to Portland State University planned, which aims to get the kids thinking about their future education by having them sit in on a class.

Lori Ann Martin, the principal's secretary, says she has been impressed with how closely the students have followed the election. She recalls one student who knew the exact electoral vote count Obama received. Martin promptly gave the student a piece of candy.

Martin also mentions that the election has been particularly important for African immigrants who have children at Rosa Parks. She recalls Somali and Kenyan parents being moved to tears by the election of the Kenyan-born Obama.

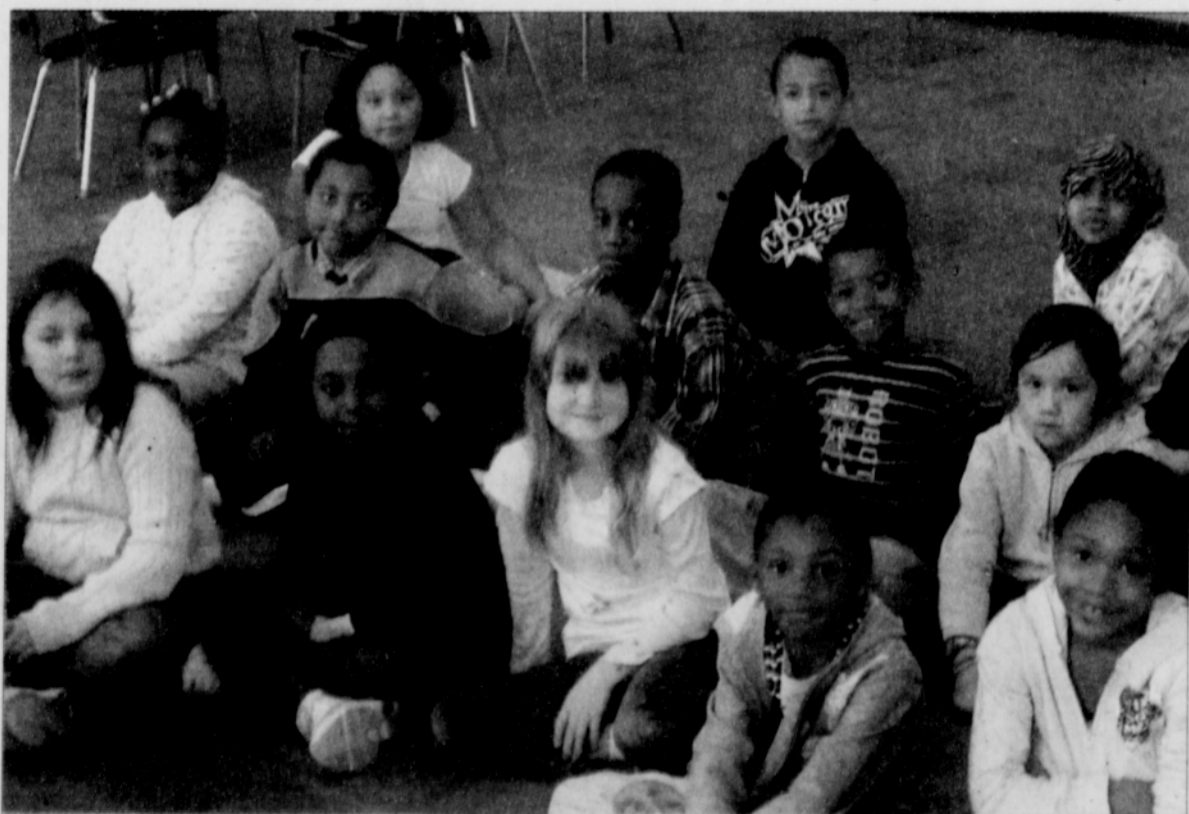


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Second-graders at Rosa Parks School in north Portland are learning the significance of the election of Barack Obama as the first black president. "They actually believe and know they can be president," said Rosa Parks second grade teacher Daphne Bussey.