

Week in
The Review

Hall of Fame Inductees

Baseball Hall of Fame inductees Jim Rice and Rickey Henderson posed for photos during a New York news conference, Tuesday after being voted into the prestigious group. Henderson, who played for 9 teams, will go in with an Oakland Athletics cap on his plaque. Rice stayed with the Red Sox his entire career.

Church Murder Arrest

A man wanted in connection with last month's fatal shooting at a funeral in north Portland was arrested in Hayward, Calif. Investigators believe the church shooting has spawned a spree of violence, including two murders on New Year's Eve in Gresham.

Cell Phone Ban Wanted

A national safety group is advocating a total ban on cell phone use while driving, saying the practice is clearly dangerous and leads to fatalities. See story, page A2.

Inauguration Saturation

In all their planning to cover Barack Obama's inauguration as the nation's 44th president, television networks have paid particular attention to those who will be near a computer, not a TV. Even still, the broadcasts will be more extensive than ever. See story, page A2.

Bush to Give Farewell

President George W. Bush will give a farewell address to the U.S. Thursday night, billed by the administration as a chance to reflect on his tenure and welcome Barack Obama without fighting old battles one last time.

Clinton Seeks a 'Smart Power'

Secretary of State Nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday that she intends to revitalize the mission of diplomacy in American foreign policy, calling for a "smart power" strategy in the Middle East and implicitly criticizing the Bush administration for having downgraded the role of arms control.

Israeli Forces Move Deeper
Terrified residents ran for cover Tuesday in a densely populated neighborhood of Gaza City as Israeli troops backed by tanks thrust deeper into the city and sought Hamas fighters in alleyways and courtyards.

Drum Majors for Dr. King

Sisters
Work for
Justice

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Although Martin Luther King Jr. is best known for his fight for racial equality, he was increasingly concerned with the rights and welfare of the economically disadvantaged. Had he lived longer, and worked in Portland, he might well have made common cause with Sisters of the Road Café.

A fixture at 133 N.W. Sixth Ave., since 1978, Sisters is best known as a place where those with little or no money can get a nutritious meal for just \$2.50 and in an atmosphere free of judgment and the threat of violence.

The café serves an average of 400 meals each day. A new addition to the quarters provides space to wait for a table out of the cold; information and job referral services; and hygiene supplies for cash or barter points, the credit system in people can earn points for meals and other needed essentials of life.

Supporters of the non-profit contribute to the cause by volunteering or contributions. For example, when former Mayor Neil Goldschmidt heard that the Café



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sisters of the Road Café Executive Director Monica Beemer (second from left) outside the non-profit's downtown headquarters with supporters John (from left), Juan, Mary and Dakota

was in trouble financially, he came down, had a glass of tea, and left \$200.

Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Sisters is rooted in the philosophy of non-violence. Anyone is welcome, but violence is not tolerated and the rule is enforced without the use of force.

Also like Dr. King, the local organization is not content to just serve the homeless. It advocates politically for the disadvantaged.

The Sisters' Civic Action Group registered 4,000 people to vote in the last election.

Through a grant, the group has also conducted and recorded in-depth interviews with some 600 homeless people, the most extensive such research project ever undertaken in the city. The interviews were the basis of Voices from the Street, available at Powell's and other local bookstores.

Sisters' representatives have spoken against the city's "Sit-Lie" ordinance, which makes sitting on public sidewalks a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or even jail; and fought against the city's Drug and Prostitution-Free Zones, which allowed police to order people "excluded" from certain parts of town.

Sisters of the Road Executive Director Monica Beemer characterizes these approaches as

criminalizing people because they are poor.

"It doesn't help them to break out of homelessness," Beemer said.

Because of the efforts of Sisters and other advocates, the zones have been abolished, while the sit-lie ordinance has been revised. The City Council has agreed to install many new

continued ▼ on page A9



PHOTO BY LEE PERLMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kathy Fuerstenau follows in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by advocating for the poor and disadvantaged in her work as chair of the Cully Association of Neighbors, one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods.

Cully Leader Makes a Difference

Helping her
neighbors

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kathy Fuerstenau might not remind one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., yet in important ways the Cully Association of Neighbors chair is carrying on his work of uplifting the poor and disadvantaged.

While the group works to help everyone in its community, not just the poor, the Cully neighborhood in northeast Portland is disadvantaged, with a large share of people who are poor.

According to a recent assessment by the Portland Bureau of Planning, Cully has a large share of the city's unimproved

and substandard streets; relatively few retail services other than bars and liquor outlets; a lack of direct transit service to downtown; and a much lower ratio of open space to residents compared to the rest of city.

In the neighborhood's three public schools — Faubion, Rigler and Harvey Scott — students qualifying for reduced or free lunches due to family poverty, comprise 70 to 80 percent of the enrollment.

It is fitting that this area, with so many needs, is represented by one of the city's strongest neighborhood associations.

The group has acquainted city officials with their problems, taking former Mayor Tom Potter and members of the City Council on guided tours.

Last year, when owners of the Colwood Golf Club sought to rezone their land

from open space to industrial use, Cully joined with the Concordia Neighborhood Association and others to persuade the council to reject the idea by unanimous vote.

Also last year, when the owners of The Arbor Mobile Home Park threatened to evict their tenants, Cully held a community meeting on the issue attended by many residents and helped to involve state Rep.'s Jackie Dingfelder and Tina Kotek in the issue.

Largely because of their efforts, the city and Metro are about to create "green street" improvements on Northeast Cully Boulevard, and the City Council has approved a master plan for the creation of a new 25-acre Thomas Cully Park on a former landfill, albeit without funds for

continued ▼ on page A9

Building
Bridges for
a Better
CommunityAdvocate follows
King's path with
public service

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Fraternities are often associated with chauvinistic, alcohol-fueled would-be alpha males.

But try telling that to Antonio Jackson, who embodies another side of such organizations: public service.

As tributes are paid to Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of the Jan. 20 National

continued ▼ on page A9

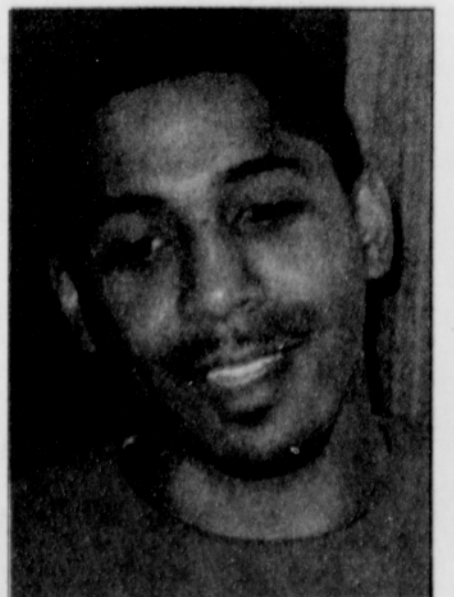


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Antonio Jackson mentors teenagers and volunteers for public service as a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.