

LAW & JUSTICE

Change Agents Earn Highest Honors

President awards medals of freedom

President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor to Tony Award-winning actress-singer-dancer Chita Rivera, Oscar-winning

actor Sidney Poitier and 14 other "agents of change" at an Aug. 12 ceremony at the White House.

The award is the nation's top civilian honor.

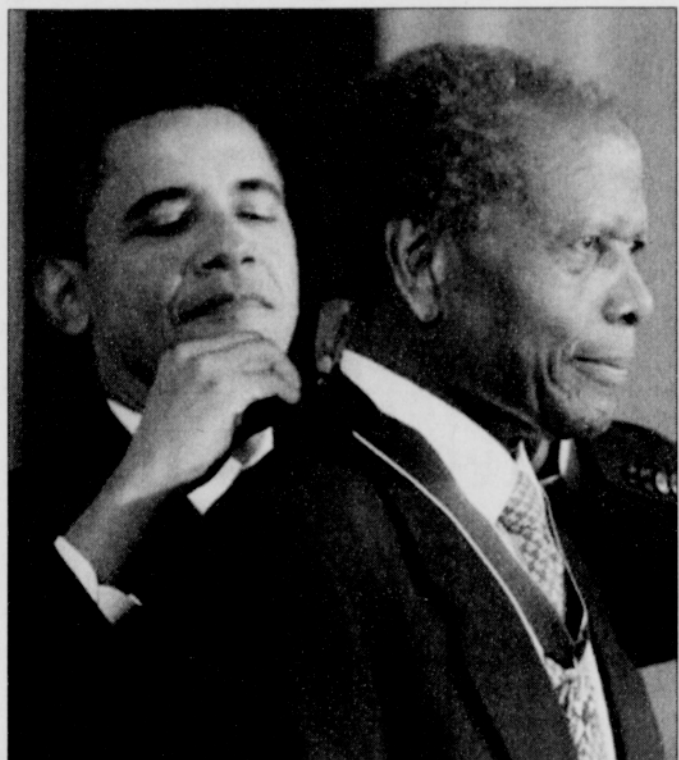
Rivera, who originated the role of Anita in "West Side Story," won the Tony Award for best actress in a musical for 1993's "Kiss of the Spider



Joe Medicine Crow, 95, the last living Plains Indian war chief, receives the Presidential Medal of Honor.



Actress, singer and dancer Chita Rivera becomes the first Latina to receive the Medal of Freedom.



Actor Sidney Poitier is saluted as an agent of change as President Obama presents him the nation's highest civilian honor.

Woman" and 1984's "The Rink." The 76-year-old actress last appeared on Broadway in 2005 in her autobiographical show "Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life."

"Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero knows that adversity comes with a difficult name," Obama said of the actress, the first Latina to receive the Medal of Freedom. She was honored for "breaking barriers and inspiring a generation of women to follow in her footsteps."

Poitier, 82, received an Academy Award in 1962 for leading actor for his portrayal of a former GI in "Lilies of the Field," the first African American man to receive an Oscar. He was nominated for a Tony Award for his role as Walter Lee Younger in the 1960 Broadway production of "A Raisin in the Sun." Poitier, the White House said, "left an indelible mark on American culture" and "would advance the nation's dialogue on race and respect."

Also honored were Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure; Pedro Jose Greer Jr., founder of Camillus Health Center and St. John Bosco Clinic in Florida; physicist and mathematician Stephen Hawking; Jack Kemp, the 1996 Republican vice presidential nominee, who died this year at age 73; Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts; tennis star Billie Jean King, 65; civil rights leader Rev. Joseph

Lowery, 87; Joe Medicine Crow, 95, the last living Plains Indian war chief; Harvey Milk, slain gay activist and San Francisco supervisor; former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 79; Mary Robinson, 65, the first female president of Ireland; geneticist and cancer researcher Janet Davison Rowley; South African archbishop Desmond Tutu, 78; and Bangladeshi economist and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Muhammad Yunus, 69.

Repairing a Shattered Image

Film looks at gendered form of violence

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In a country with limited opportunity for women, Tat Marina was a rising star.

Beautiful and talented, she was gaining an increasing amount of attention in Cambodia's karaoke scene. She eventually caught the eye of a powerful government official, Svay Sitha, who obsessed over her, and pampered her with luxuries that Tat Marina once thought she could only dream of.

However, she also drew the ire of the Svay's wife, who splashed acid on her face while feeding her niece fish porridge. The savage attack left Tat Marina disfigured and her life in shambles.

"Finding Face", a documentary produced by Skye Fitzgerald and Patti Duncan, is as much about the unaccountable power and the second-class citizen status of women in Cambodia as it is about Tat Marina's 10-year



Chour Sreya, a survivor of an acid attack, prepares for her wedding in "Finding Face," a documentary about human rights that will make its Portland premier Sunday, Aug. 23 at the Portland Art Museum.

struggle to establish some semblance of normalcy after having her life violently unsettled.

Sadly, there is nothing uncommon about the sort of attack Tat suffered in Cambodia, where women are often

hideously disfigured by jealous men who splash acid in their faces. The men who perpetuate these violent assaults are seldom held to account, and their victims rarely speak out.

The attack effectively

ended Tat Marina's karaoke career, forcing her to hide the scars on her face with a piece of cloth whenever in public. She was pressured by Svay Sitha to remain quiet, but continued to speak out. She eventually fled to the United States to live with her brother. There, she got asylum and received reconstructive surgery, and gave birth to a child.

However, in Cambodia acid attacks continue against women with impunity. Svay Sitha even received a promotion, despite his involvement being well known.

"Finding Face", is an impactful and well-told story of one woman's courage to confront an injustice that is far-removed from many of its viewers, but is still very real for its victims.

The documentary recently premiered at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights in Geneva and will make its Portland debut on Sunday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 S.W. Park Ave.

Tat Marina will be in attendance and answer questions after the screening.

Phony Debt Collectors Work Phone Scam

Victims may have had payday loans

The Better Business Bureau is issuing an alert about phony debt collectors that are calling consumers nationwide and claiming that they have defaulted on a payday loan and will be arrested if they don't pay immediately.

Claiming to be lawyers, the scammers say they are with the "Financial Accountability Association" or the "Federal Legislation of Unsecured Loans" and are equipped with a disconcerting amount of personal information about their potential victims.

"Because the scammers have so much information about potential victims, BBB is concerned that this may be the result of a data breach," said Robert W.G. Andrew of the BBB serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington.

Andrew said thousands of

people may have had their personal information compromised.

"Given the scammers' tactics, it appears that those who have previously used payday loan services could be particularly at risk," he said.

According to reports received by BBB and posted online, the scammers accuse the victim of defaulting on a payday loan and claim they are being sued. The phony debt collector threatens that, if the victim doesn't pay as much as \$1,000 immediately via wire or by providing bank account or credit card numbers, he or she will be arrested and extradited to California within the hour to stand trial.

The scammers often have the victim's Social Security, old bank account numbers or driver's license numbers as well as home addresses, employer information and even the names of personal friends and professional references.

Mother Poisoned Infant Daughter

A 25-year-old mother was arrested and charged with poisoning her infant daughter with morphine, according to Washington County authorities.

Sheriff's Sgt. David Thompson said Thursday that Sara Rose Dillard-Lubin was already on probation for sickening her son in a similar way in California. The new case began when Dillard-Lubin brought the girl to St. Vincent's Hospital, claiming she had a high fever.

Doctors admitted the infant for observation. The next morn-



Sara Dillard-Lubin

ing, a nurse found the child barely breathing. The baby survived, but her condition puzzled doctors until toxicology tests came back positive for opiates.

Dillard-Lubin told the hospital that she was on a painkiller and the opiates must have come through her breast milk. When she brought in a sample for them to test, they found high levels of morphine, indicating the drug had been added to the milk after pumping.

The hospital alerted the state Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services and county investigators.

The infant was taken from Dillard-Lubin and placed in state custody.

Charged Police Officer Resigns

A Portland police officer accused of making sexually harassing telephone calls to women and teenage girls has resigned from his job.

Officer Joseph Wild has been jailed awaiting trial on multiple official misconduct and telephone harassment charges. Facing the police chief's recommen-

dation that he be terminated, the 28-year-old Wild resigned Aug. 3 when he was taken from jail to attend a hearing with Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman at the Portland Police Bureau.

Saltzman had joined Chief Rosie Sizer in recommending Wild's termination after an internal affairs inquiry.

The four-year Portland police veteran is charged with multiple misdemeanor counts. According to court documents, during some calls he threatened to rape the women or told them he wanted to see them naked.

He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and his trial date has been set for Sept. 14.

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I-405 North closed

ODOT SUMMER HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION
All lanes and ramps on I-405 northbound between the Marquam and Fremont Bridges will be closed **Friday, August 21, 10 p.m. through Monday, August 24, 5 a.m.** Motorists can use Interstate 5 to get to their destination during the closure. Downtown businesses will be open during construction. Detours are in place to help you get to your favorite destinations.

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