

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Giant Tinker Toys Inspire

Tinker toys are bigger than ever at the Portland Children's Museum where a "Build Your Imagination" exhibit is now underway through Jan. 23.

Giant replicas of the classic Tinker toy construction set provide the framework for fun, educational activities inspired by GE technologies that turn imagination into working solutions to real world challenges.

The 1,500 square foot exhibit, targeted to children ages 3-10, was developed by the Betty Brinn



Peeking out from a giant Tinker toy construction set at the Portland children's Museum.

Children's Museum in collaboration with GE and Playskool, the infant and preschool toy division of Hasbro, Inc.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, kids can have breakfast with Santa. Advance ticket reservations are required by visiting portlandcm.org.

The Children's Museum is located at Washington Park across from the Oregon Zoo, 4015 S.W. Canyon Road. The museum will be closed both Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Actor in Prison for Taxes

(AP) -- Actor Wesley Snipes began serving a three-year sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania on Thursday for failure to file income tax returns.

Snipes, 48, appeared in dozens of studio films, from "White Men Can't Jump" and "Demolition Man" in the early 1990s to the blockbuster Blade trilogy.

According to U.S. prosecutors, he failed to file any tax returns for at least a decade, and owed \$2.7 million in taxes on \$13.8 million in income from 1999 to 2001 alone.

Snipes, a dues-paying member of



Wesley Snipes

a tax-protest group that challenges the government's right to collect taxes, described himself at his 2008 sentencing as a naive truth-seeker.

"I am an idealistic, naive, passionate, truth-seeking, spiritually motivated artist, unschooled in the science of law and finance," said Snipes, who had pursued theater and dance from an early age, attending the vaunted High School for the Performing Arts in New York City.

Two nights before last week's lock up, he told CNN's "Larry King Live" that he was not nervous about reporting to prison.

Author Spins Intoxicating Yarn

Breathes life into another place, time

(AP) -- More than 30 years after penning the now-classic "Interview with a Vampire," best-selling author Anne Rice retains her knack for spinning an intoxicating yarn.

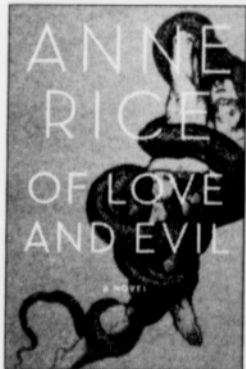
Her latest, "Of Love and Evil," the second book in her "Songs of the Seraphim" series, begins with the poetic: "I dreamed a dream of angels. I saw them and I heard them in a great and endless galactic night." From the opening lines and throughout the book, it's classic and elegant Rice—who seemingly remains at the height of her talent.

The story follows the saga of former government assassin Toby O'Dare and the angel Malchiah as they travel back to 15th-century Rome to unravel the mystery of a poisoning and to save a family from itself.

As always, Rice is remarkable in

her ability to breathe life into another place, another time. We see the beauty of her "immense and seemingly endless city, a city of domes and rooftop gardens, and rising towers and crosses."

In recent years, the once-atheist Rice has attracted the media glare less for her writing than for her outspoken return to Catholicism. Earlier this year, though, she abandoned organized religion altogether, but announced she would retain her devout Christian beliefs.




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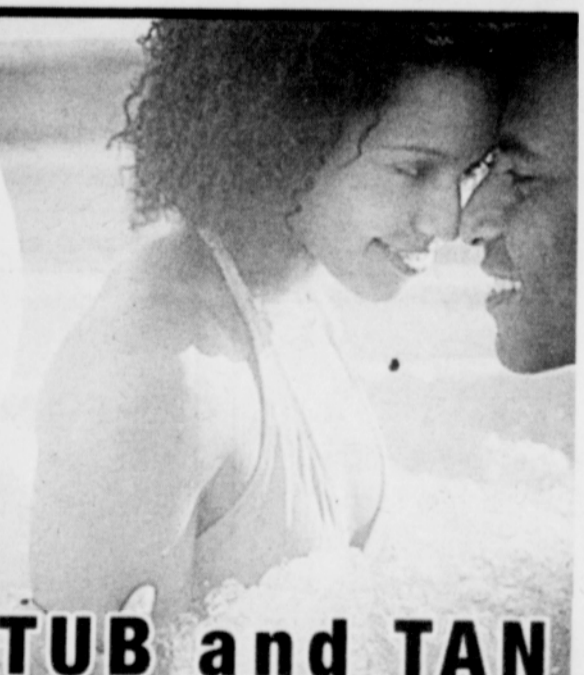
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