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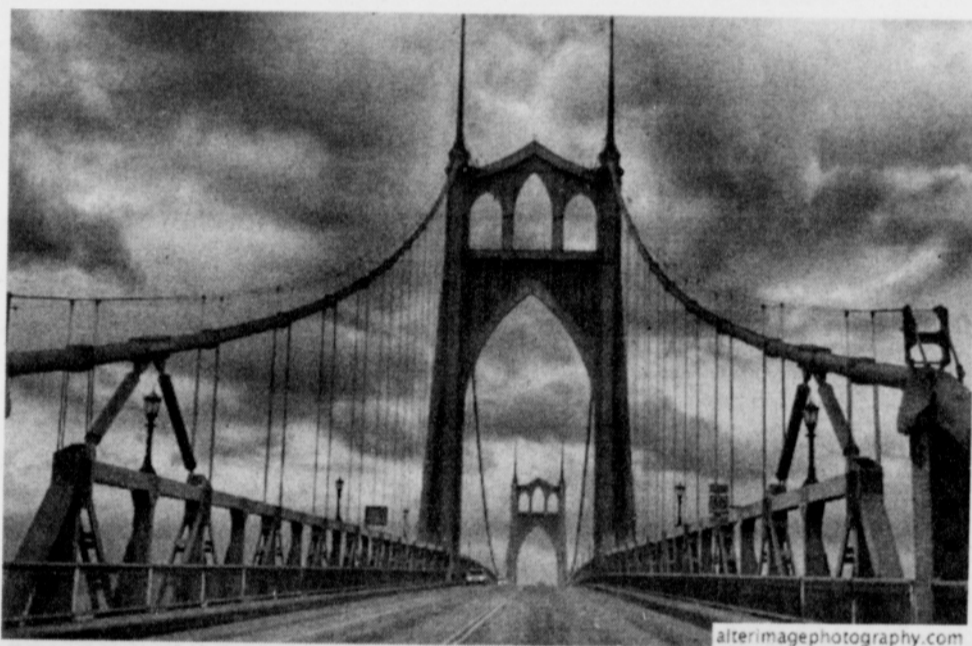
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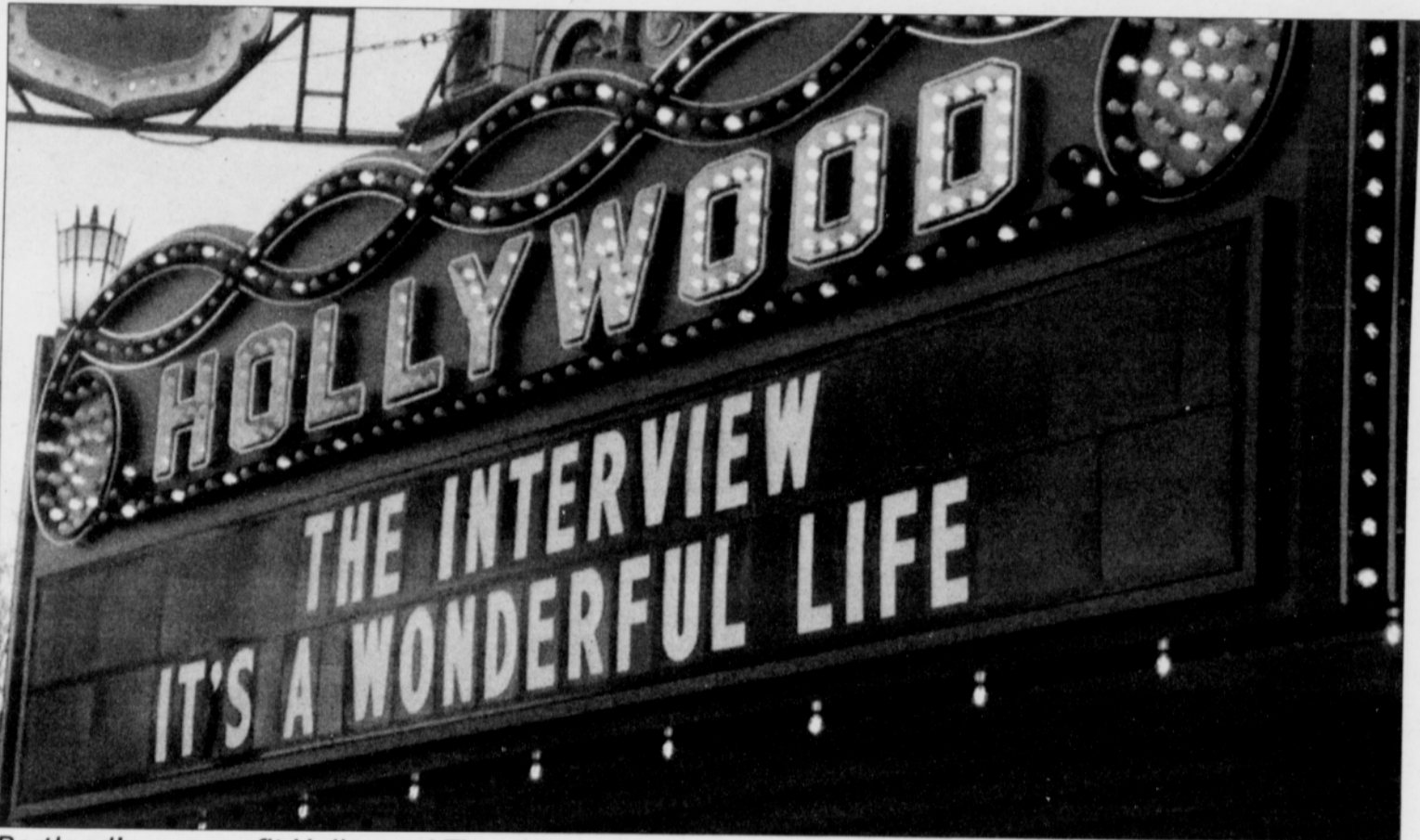
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LOCAL NEWS



Portland's non-profit Hollywood Theatre shows the movie 'The Interview' to support freedom of expression. (KGW photo)

No Backing Down

Controversial movie gets an audience

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The movie North Korea didn't want you to see opened Thursday in Portland theaters. "The Interview" follows the hypothetical assassination of North Korean dictator King Jong-II. The film drew the ire of North Korean officials who condemned President Obama and the United States for releasing the film,

which they view as an attack and an act of hostility.

Sony, the distributor of the movie, first pulled screenings nationwide after its computer and security systems were hacked in an attack the U.S. blames on North Korea. The studio, retracted their decision to stop the distribution a few days later.

In Portland, a handful of theaters picked up the controversial film even as the FBI issued warnings to theaters to watch for possible retaliation, mostly likely from computer attacks.

The Living Room Theaters, The Hollywood Theatre, and the

Cinetopia in Vancouver, were some of the few theaters willing to show the film.

Living Room Theaters General Manager Cyndy Davenport said she was happy to get the chance to show the movie after big chain theaters turned it down.

The Hollywood Theatre also defended its decision, with executive director Doug Whyte issuing his own statement, "We are a mission-driven theater. Even if The Interview isn't the type of film we would normally screen, we believe in freedom of expression, and we will support it in any way we can."

New Year Raises Minimum Wage

Oregon's minimum wage will inch up 15 cents to \$9.25 an hour with the New Year.

The Jan. 1 increase is the result of a ballot measure enacted by voters in 2002 tying the minimum wage to inflation. The change means an extra \$26 per month for a full-time worker earning the minimum.

"Though the 15 cent increase will help, the minimum wage remains too low for working families to make ends meet," said Tyler Mac Innis, a policy analyst with

the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

Research from the center shows that 7 out of 10 Oregon families living in poverty in 2013 had at least one parent who worked.

The center expects the Oregon Legislature to consider raising the minimum wage during the 2015 session. Already, at least 10 lawmakers have come out in favor of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Ride Free on New Year's Eve

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is encouraging people who have plans to celebrate New Year's that now is the time to plan ahead for a safe ride home.

If you will be celebrating in the Portland Metro area on New Year's Eve, TriMet is providing free rides starting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and extend-

ing MAX service later than normal hours to make sure everyone gets home safe and sound. Buses will run on regular weekday service. For details, visit trimet.org.

Other ideas for a safe ride home include taking a cab, renting a limo, calling a friend, or using a designated driver.