



HOW TO BE A LEGAL HACKER

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Medway man's indignities become a Web saga 07

THE CITY SEEN

New photo feature debuts 02

VOLUME 108 NUMBER 44

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FLIGHT NEWS

Boeing 787-900, partly empty, lands 20:20
Transwest Express flight cancelled, partly empty, lands 22:00
Delta 1141, 10:20 a.m., 10:42 p.m.
Delta 1141, 10:20 a.m., 10:42 p.m.
Delta 1141, 10:20 a.m., 10:42 p.m.
Photo: Kenneth Price Co.

The Boston Globe



STEVEN NEHL/THE OREGONIAN/1997

Mel Bartels of Eugene sets up his homemade computerized Dobsonian telescope at the Oregon Star Party in the Ochoco National Forest near Prineville.

JOHN DOBSON

Born: Sept. 14, 1915
Birthplace: Beijing, China
Education: Chemistry degree, University of California at Berkeley, 1943
First career: 1944 to 1967, monk in monasteries in San Francisco and Sacramento
Second career: 1967 to present, making telescopes and educating the public about astronomy
First homemade telescope: 1955
Diet: 28 eggs a week, vegetables, sugar, no white flour
Allergy: Big-bang theory
Dobson's classes: Through April at Sean's Astronomy Shop, 2420 S.

N.E. 92nd Ave., Battle Ground, Wash.

part." But his passion for telescopes and getting others fascinated with astronomical sights wound up being costly. In 1967, after living in monasteries for 23 years, he was dismissed. "I was AWOL from the monastery a little too often, so they kicked me out," Dobson says, adding that he didn't choose to go. With only a \$50 bill, he returned to San Francisco, where his friends gave him shelter and food. It's a spartan lifestyle that he maintains as he travels throughout the country. Dobson took the telescopes he had made at the Sacramento mon-

Controversial v

Although no one o contribution to public of astronomy, his view mology are controvers cepts run counter to astronomers' prevaili about the universe, es dismissal of the big-bar "I'm allergic to the says Dobson, who arg theory of a "changel and undivided univers in line with those o views. Rather than an universe that began bang, his concepts foc "ing" model invol

Don't it make my blue eyes brown
Americans are seeing a dramatic color change
By Douglas Belkin, Globe Staff | October 17, 2006

Preferences for fair skin and blue eyes stretch back in Europe to at least the Middle Ages, according to **Hema Sundaram**, author of "Face Value," a book about the history of beauty. For women in particular, especially those of European descent, fair skin and light eyes have long been seen as indicators of fertility and beauty.

He also used a 12-inch ship porthole to make a larger telescope. "When I first saw the three-quarter moon through it, I was astonished. I thought I was coming in for a landing."

characteristic wit. Public attention to his work soared in 1989, when Smithsonian magazine carried a story about Dobson and his sidewalk astronomers. A short time later, he was

No, I'm not going to says. "This is what I lo showing people the uni

Richard L. Hill: 503-221-8 richardhill@news.oregonic

ker, he's ea-twists and d him to his the public e night sky. probably has f people" to out 100,000 "but I meet the night, so ny of them

ed for a pat-telescopes, s "Dobsoni-old by com-s. He could vention, but

ted in mak-"n," he says d. "My goal e interested ping others I had noth-putting my

has always telescopes ming these pain in the make me

rs 1915 in Bei-father was a his mother ad had a tel-of astrono-" says Dob-

political up-d the family isco, which home base ng through- emistry de-

gree in 1943 from the Universi California at Berkeley, Dob briefly worked in a defense job lated to the building of the ato-bomb. But long interested in H-du philosophy, he became a mo-with the Ramakrishna Order of the Vendanta Society in San Francisco. There, and at a monastery in Sac-ramento where he later was trans-ferred, he had the assignment of reconciling science with religious teachings.