

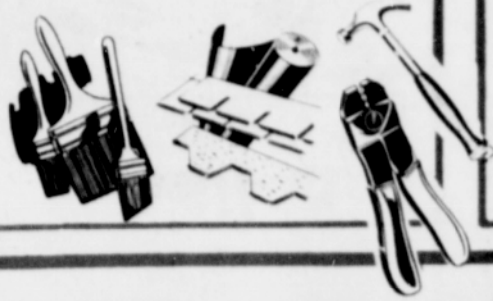


News Flash:

As the *Observer* went to press we learned that Charles Jordan has confirmed his intention to accept a position in Austin, Texas as Commissioner of the city's park system.

Building pride

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Jesse in Nicaragua

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KBOO's sweet 16

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Elia Whitehead shops for fresh vegetables at the farmers' market located on N. Williams Ave. between Knott and Graham streets. The market offers

a variety of farm and garden-fresh produce and is open every Saturday through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Man shot while walking on Union

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — On Friday, August 3rd, Charles Leech was walking on Union Ave. as he does every morning enroute to his downtown office as an investigator for the Bureau of Labor. But on this morning, Leech never made it. He became the victim of a motiveless shooting.

Between Killingsworth and Alberta, Leech noticed a jacked-up golden-brown car with three white males inside. "The one in the back turned to look at me. I did not pay him or the car any attention," he explained.

Leech crossed Alberta and when he looked up again, the same car was beside him with the man on the passenger side pointing a gun directly at him.

"Defensively," Leech said, "I threw myself backwards, heard a loud 'pow', and hit the ground." Because he reacted quickly, his hand was only slightly grazed.

"I tried to stop a car and a man walking but they ignored me. Finally, I saw a brother on a bike and we called '911'."

Leech had his hand X-rayed while two police officers questioned him. "The officers indicated that they knew the car. They said they had observed the car on a parking lot with a Black man wearing eyeglasses and a jogging suit talking to the

passengers," he added.

Leech said the officers concluded their interview by stating they had spotted the car in Vancouver, Washington. Later that day, he got a call from a detective who said that car was a different color.

"The detective said he would have to get around to showing me some mugshots and I have not heard anything from the police since," he said.

Leech noted a degree of dissatisfaction with the police investigation. But Dave Simpson, public information officer for the police bureau, said it was difficult to get beyond the initial report. "There was no license number or positive make on the vehicle. We need leads to work on."

Simpson's original feeling, that at the extreme the shooting was racially motivated, changed because of a reported shooting on S.E. 17th and Salmon in which a dart gun was used. "It happened a half-hour later. The vehicle was the same, but the victim was white. Both cases are unusual. We get shootings all the time, but these appear to be motiveless."

Leech said he believed his shooting was racially motivated. "They did it once and got away with it. Next time the person they shoot may not be as lucky as I to come away with just a graze."



Charles Leech points in direction of car that fired shot. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Pot pesticides opposed

by Chuck Goodmacher

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was in Portland last Wednesday as part of a four-city tour to present a required Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the "Eradication of Cannabis on Federal Lands in the Continental United States." DEA plans for Oregon include the spraying of the herbicides paraquat, 2, 4-D, and glyphosate, and met heavy opposition during testimony given by environmentalists and advocates of marijuana legalization.

Most of the criticism centered on the safety of such spraying for both humans and the environment. Others criticized the entire idea of the Federal government still trying to eliminate marijuana use after what was called 40 years of obvious failure. Comments were also aired regarding possible harm to any Federal agents trying to spray in southern Oregon, where much of the state's crop is grown.

Some of the strongest criticism came from John Sajo, state coordinator for the Oregon Marijuana Initiative, who said the DEA failed to provide adequate notification of

the public hearing at the Red Lion-Lloyd Center. "We contacted virtually all of the radio and TV stations in the area, and the *Observer* and *The Oregonian*, and none had heard of it."

"They wanted it to be real short," he added, "so they could enjoy the hotel's sauna and other niceties."

The DEA's Thomas Byrne, chief of Cannabis Investigations, said the agency had sent notification to Congressional Representatives, the Governor's office, the Fish and

Wildlife Service, and the Oregon State Police. Byrne also said they advertised in *The Oregonian* over the weekend.

However, Lt. James Forney, head of the OSP's marijuana-eradication program, said he was not aware of the hearing. When asked about this, Byrne replied, "It's a rather unusual document. They may have sent it to the narcotics squad; it may just have been plain lost."

Norma Greer, who spoke at the hearing on behalf of the Northwest (Please turn to Page 11, Column 1)



Jamal Pernell, 4 years old, tackles the swings at Alberta Park. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

KKK calls reporter

Grassroot News, N.W.'s reporter, Lanita Duke, received two phone threats on August 18th and 19th. The caller said, "This is Tim O'Connell from the K.K.K. I'll be by Saturday, B---h." The second call said, "This is me. I'm coming to get you soon!"

The Portland *Observer* is outraged by these racist threats. We urge all people of conscience to continue to work for a world where such bigoted harassment is eliminated.

New law benefits single mothers

by Catherine Siegner

The passage of two bills recently in Congress points to the ascendancy of women's issues across the country. It also indicates the extent to which lawmakers recognize the popularity of Walter Mondale's choice of Rep. Geraldine Ferraro to share the Democratic presidential ticket.

Both pieces of legislation affect women, and one affects poor single mothers in particular. That is a bill that provides stronger child support collection methods, including the withholding of wages for payments more than 30 days late.

The bill passed the House of Representatives, August 9th, with no opposition. It earlier had passed the Senate and now goes to President Reagan for his signature. He is expected to sign it.

Studies show more than \$4 billion in court-ordered child support payments are not paid every year in the U.S., and that approximately 90% of those required to make child support payments are men.

Other provisions of the new law make collecting child support across state lines easier and prohibit discrimination in child support collection against families not eligible for welfare.

The House of Representatives also passed on a voice vote, August 10th, a bill that will guarantee homemakers pension rights even if a working husband dies before retiring and even if a working woman leaves her job to have children. No one opposed the

legislation, which was introduced by Ferraro three years ago.

Women workers have traditionally been denied full pensions if they leave work to have a family. The bill would prohibit a one-year maternity or paternity leave from being counted as a break in service and would allow a five-year leave from a job without a pension credit loss. It also requires employers to enroll employees in pen-

sion plans at age 21 instead of the current 25, and workers would start receiving pension credit at age 18 instead of the current age of 22.

Rep. Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut told the House three of four women, living alone over the age of 65, depend on Social Security for their livelihood, and for the one in four who receives a pension, it is usually half the amount received by men with pensions.

N.E. Crime Statistics

June 1984 Published in August 1984 by The Neighbor

	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Residential Burglary
Boise	4	8	9
Concordia	4	11	18
Eliot	5	5	8
Humboldt	14	5	20
Irvington	6	5	23
King	20	18	25
Piedmont	2	3	11
Sabin	8	4	23
Vernon	4	10	22
Woodlawn	4	5	16

Murders - 0
Rape/Sodomy - Irvington, King, Piedmont, Sabin, Woodlawn, 1 each; Vernon, 3. Molests - Concordia, 3.

(Editor's note: These statistics only include reported crimes per neighborhood. They do not necessarily show a change in the crime rate, or that more crimes per person are committed in any neighborhood.)