

Traffic Convictions Up For 1987

Traffic offense convictions for 1987 were up 20,966 over 1986 figures, from 407,317 to 428,283, according to Motor Vehicles Division statistics.

The report also shows a slight increase in mandatory "major" license suspensions over the previous year.

DMV suspended a total of 11,313 licenses in 1987 — 2,437 less than in 1986, an 18 percent decrease.

DUI suspensions also drop-

ped. They fell from 11,331 in 1986 to 9,835 in 1987, a 13 percent decline.

In addition, the number of drivers opting for diversion agreement decreased. That figure went down six percent. First-time DUI convictions, however, remained virtually the same over the two-year period.

Accident reports posted increased from 102,213 to 126,556, 20 percent over 1986 figures.

In all, DMV posted 189,654 notices of non-issue, cancellation, revocation, or suspension of licenses in 1987, up from 165,896 in 1986.

International Air Academy Seeks Minorities

International Air Academy, the airline training school of the Pacific Northwest, is seeking minority applicants. Arch Miller, President of the Academy, in expressing his concern, states:

"At a time when unemployment in the minority population doubles that of other groups, airlines have a need to hire minorities to meet their equal opportunity employment commitments. As a primary source of airline new hires at entry level positions, the air Academy is committed to assisting minorities and the airlines in meeting their hiring needs. We need and will continue to be of assistance to minorities whenever we can, to assist them in beginning their careers in the airline industry."

The Academy's usual method of recruiting new students is through information seminars conducted in cities across the United States. Clevonne Jackson was hired by the academy to generate interest among the minority populations of Portland. As an Admissions Representative, housed at the Portland Urban League, Ms. Jackson interviews candidates and facilitates the admission process.

Through its highly selective screening process, the school enjoys a placement success of approximately 90% for each graduating class employed in airports across the country.

Cascade Business Center Receives \$50,000 from Pacific Power

The Cascade Business Center's second business incubator recently received a check for \$50,000 from Pacific Power's economic development department.

The facility, located at 4134 North Vancouver Avenue, opened in November 1987. It offers reduced overhead and advice on management and technical matters to start-up companies in the north and northeast Portland area.

"This money will be used for operating expenses," explained Sheila Holden, president of the business incubator's board of directors and also a Pacific employee.

"It completes Pacific's commitment to the incubator which includes over \$200,000 in cash and in-kind services," said Ms. Holden.

Pacific provided the initial financing for the incubator and also conducted a marketing plan. In addition, the company donated the use of a 38,000-square-foot building to the project for five years at a price of \$5.

The business incubator is a cooperative effort of Pacific, the Portland Development Commission, Portland Community College, Pacific Northwest Bell, the State of Oregon, Northwest Natural Gas and First Interstate Bank of Portland.

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and that Portland's current drug laws be enforced without regard to race, creed, color, or economic status.

More importantly, it's **The Portland Observer's** position that the gang problem must be looked at as a total problem and not just as a "Black problem centered in North/Northeast Portland." It is true that the African-American community is very concerned about the presence of the Crips and the Bloods, but it is also concerned about the presence of the Rockers, the Punkers, the Skinheads and other neo-Nazi groups.

To date, media focus has been primarily on gang activity in North/Northeast Portland. However, if media reporting and forums about gangs continue their failure to adequately address the broader issue of all gangs with equal fervor and enforcement, we have no guarantee that neo-Nazi groups won't feel it's their duty to help eliminate the Black gang factions.

Second, **The Portland Observer** believes that the City of Portland and others must be careful not to isolate various communities from each other by implementing a soft gang approach in some cases and a hard gang approach in others. If it is true that Portland has a gang problem (and it does), then the same message must go out to all of the communities affected.

And finally, we strongly feel that more positive programs

should be put into place for the young African-American male. We must not fool ourselves into believing that the gang problem in North/Northeast Portland is going to go away because of tough talk or public forums. We must find out why these young men are choosing to join gangs and what we must do to effectively offset the process.

If, as they say, the police department knows who the gang members are and how they operate, then we should be able to depend on law enforcement to eradicate the problem. On the same hand, those agencies whose responsibility it is to deliver services, treatment, activities and social programs to young people should be about that. They should come forth now and join in this serious effort. In short, all capable agencies should stand up and declare themselves eligible to be involved.

As an historically Black newspaper, we must and will continue to present the other viewpoint on issues we deem important to the African-American community. Right now we see the gang problem as a pressing problem, but so is the high crime rate, prostitution, drug addiction, drug trafficking, homicide, theft and robbery.

The solution, as we see it, lies in strong leadership, effective strategies and communities working together and speaking as one voice. Anything less is a sham.

February was African-American Month. Let's celebrate the whole year. Support an African-American business at least once a week.

The Editor

Youths Denied Driving Privileges

More than 1,500 Oregon youths between the ages of 13 and 17 were denied driving privileges during 1987, according to the Motor Vehicles Division.

Denials are based on court convictions involving alcohol or drug possession, use or abuse. Courts then order DMV to deny licenses or permits.

The number of denials is down from the nearly 1,800 youths denied driving privileges in 1986.

Most of the 1,517 denials during 1987 were for alcohol offenses. Minors in possession of alcohol or drugs accounted for 1,448 of the total.

Thirty-four denials were for having an open container of drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle. Eight were for driving under the influence. Twenty-seven were ordered for miscellaneous alcohol and drug offenses, such as theft, or delivery or manufacturing of a controlled substance. Males accounted for about 75 percent of all denials.

Denial of driving privileges for first offenders is one year or until the person becomes 17, whichever is longer. Repeat offenders are suspended for one year or until the person becomes 18, whichever is longer.

DMV statistics show 215 second denials, 50 third denials, 18 fourth denials, four fifth denials, and one sixth denial during 1987.

Driving privileges may be denied even when the offenses are not related to driving a motor vehicle.

Mayor Clark to Meet Challenges in Four Joint Appearances

Mayor Bud Clark has accepted invitations to four more debates between now and May 17. The first is Tuesday, March 15. Parkrose Heights, Argay, Parkrose, Wilkes and Hazelwood neighborhoods are joint sponsors of a 7 p.m. forum to be held at Sacramento School, located at 11400 N.E. Sacramento Street.

Including the February 25 debate at the Propeller Club, the Mayor will have participated in more debates than any incumbent mayor since the early 1970s. Mayor Clark believes that a city-wide debate of the issues will benefit Portland, and urged voters to attend the events.

In the next two months, Mayor Clark will also be speaking throughout the city at neighborhood associations, club meetings and campaign gatherings.

On Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m., Clark will be at the League of Women Voters debate at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock.

The Lloyd Center Red Lion, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, is the location for the Chamber of Commerce Forum beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20.

And on Friday, April 29, the City Club will host a debate at its noon meeting at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth.

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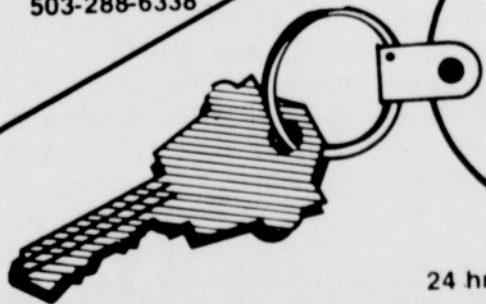
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