

News Around Town

HILL'S BILL TO PROTECT AUTO REPAIR CONSUMERS

Today, State Senator Jim Hill (D-Salem) introduced his proposal to regulate Automobile Repair facilities.

"As the price of automobiles has increased, so has the price to repair them. Automobile technology has become so complex that consumers are quickly losing the option of repairing or maintaining their own vehicle.

Senate Bill 1111 creates the Board of Automobile Repair Facilities. It requires automotive repair facilities to obtain a license from the board and establishes penalties for failure to comply with its provisions.

"Our consumer hotline receives more complaints about auto repair problems than all other areas combined," stated Tom Novik of the Oregon Consumer League.

Hill's proposal will require written estimates before repair work can begin, sets standards for the rebuilding of some parts, and establishes standards for automobile guarantees.

"Auto repair in Oregon needs to be repaired," said Jon Stubenvol, Consumer Advocate for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG). "Senator Hill has crafted legislation to bring accountability and consumer confidence into this process," concluded Stubenvol.

In his closing remarks, Hill stated that "the vast majority of automobile repair shops are reputable and honest. However, a few repair shop operators have chosen to abuse the public's trust and taint the reputation of the entire automobile repair industry."

"Senate Bill 1111 is designed to protect consumers from shoddy work and unscrupulous mechanics without requiring any automobile repair facilities from doing anymore than what reputable shops are already doing."

BAN APARTHEID!



TEENS HEAR FROM DRUG USERS

Drugs in Portland are cheaper, of better quality, and available in greater variety than anywhere else in the United States, John Bunnell, Deputy with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, told a group of students Saturday.

Bunnell was a guest speaker at the February meeting of Students Together Against Narcotics and Drugs, a group of teenagers who plan to work with other Portland-area students to help prevent drug use. At the meeting also were a young woman who has been a cocaine dealer and user, and a man who is on a methadone maintenance program following a history of heroin abuse, both of whom are currently working with the Sheriff's Department to help combat drug abuse.

The young woman told the students that she became involved with drugs while in college, and within six months and dropped out of school and become part of the "criminal scene" in Portland. She said that at the time she was not aware of how drugs were ruining her life, "because drugs become your life. You aren't aware of anything else outside the drugs." The other guest spoke about the unpleasant physical and emotional effects of heroin use. "All you can think about is 'getting well' -- that is, getting another fix. It's not fun any more, you just have to do it to keep from being sick," he said.

Julie Wood, 16-year-old spokesperson for STAND, said the meeting was "a real eye-opener. Most of us in the group haven't had any real experience with actual hard-core drug users," she said. "It's pretty scary to hear from someone who's been there."

The group was founded earlier this year by the Church of Scientology Celebrity Center for students who want to help combat and prevent drug use among teenagers. Saturday's meeting was part of the group's program to find out as much as they can about the growing drug problem in Portland. Members of the group include students from various Portland-area high schools and the Delphian School in Sheridan.

STAND's advisor, Delphian Faculty member Mark Seigel, says the group will be visiting Portland and suburban high schools to talk to classes about drugs and drug use. "The more they know about the drug situation, the more factual and helpful information they can communicate," Seigel said. "We think students will be ready to listen and talk to people their own age, with similar backgrounds, when perhaps they aren't ready or able to talk to adults about problems they might be having with drugs."

BANK HONORS TOP SERVICE PERFORMERS

Linda Wheat, a resident of N.E. Portland and an employee of the Investment Operations department of First Interstate Bank of Oregon has been named one of the bank's top service performers for 1988.

Wheat received a 1988 Pacesetter of the Year award for exemplary service to customers and fellow staff members. She will be honored at a dinner March 11 at the RiverPlace Alexis Hotel in Portland along with 27 other annual Pacesetter award winners. The bank has more than 3,000 employees, and the Pacesetter of the Year award is its top employee service award.

JORDAN NAMED TO CIVIL RIGHTS

Susan J. Jordan has been named deputy director of the Civil Rights Division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

The appointment of Jordan, 39, was announced by Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts. Jordan previously headed the Bureau's Technical Assistance Unit which puts on seminars for employers and union representatives on state and federal laws affecting the workplace.

A graduate of the University of California at Davis and Lewis and Clark Law School, Jordan joined the Bureau in 1976 where she was instrumental in developing the division's administrative rules, including injured workers' guidelines.

The Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing state and federal civil rights laws. It is one of three major divisions of the Bureau, the other two being Apprenticeship and Training and Wage and Hour.

Raleigh Lewis is the division administrator.

CITY HELPS AT-RISK YOUTH 'GRADUATE' TO NEW JOBS

City Commissioner Bob Koch will welcome a crew of youth to work at the Water Bureau to pay off restitution and to gain temporary employment at the bureau. The youth, Koch and representatives from the county and various agencies will gather at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Water Bureau Interstate facility, 1900 N Interstate.

The crew will wash down Water Bureau trucks (too large for car wash) in this kickoff for the "Graduate Program," a spinoff from the two-year old Project Payback program which arranges jobs for kids paying off court-ordered restitution.

In the Graduate Program, at-risk youth and youth offenders who have finished paying off their victims are eligible for up to six months of work at increasing wages in the Water Bureau and employment referrals to permanent jobs. These youth will receive Civil Service testing, training and job performance evaluations through Multnomah County.

"After these kids pay back restitution, we just drop them off. Where do they go -- back on the streets or back in the courts?" said Commissioner Koch. "If they are showing up for work and taking some pride in what they do, then that's the time to hold onto them and keep them on the job and off the streets."

The Graduate Program will be carried out in the Water Bureau at Koch's direction, and Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Employment Services will seek jobs for youth in the program who have demonstrated good work skills.

Work at the Water Bureau will include clerical help, grounds maintenance, vehicle maintenance and graffiti removal services.

Attending the event will be: Boys and Girls Club President Roy J. Ciappini, Project Payback Advisory Board chairperson Ann Harris, and Multnomah County staff including a representative from the Board of County

Commissioners, Juvenile Justice Director Hal Ogburn, Juvenile Justice Employment Program Coordinator Alandria Taylor, Restitution Coordinator Jody Darr.

1900 N. Interstate is at the east end of the Broadway Bridge. Any further questions, please call.

CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION ATTENTION: COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Following is the listing for the Portland Cable Access Board of Directors meeting. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989, 7:30PM, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The agenda will include: The approval of minutes for January 4, January 18, and February 15, 1989; the General Manager's and Committee reports; New business.



Happy Third Birthday Memory Ann Jernigan-Garnett

From Your Mother Gary Ann Garnett

PCC MOTORCYCLE RIDER COURSES START IN MID-MARCH

Motorcycle rider classes sponsored by the Team Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program will start March 16 at the Portland Community College Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave. Classes include basic instruction for novice riders and more advanced classes for experienced cycle operators. Anyone interested in registering for a rider course should call PCC Community Education, 273-2810, for an informational brochure and registration materials. Students must be registered at least five days before the beginning of any course, Bill Spencer, regional coordinator of the Team Oregon program. Cost of the basic is \$30, and of the experienced course, \$20.

SPIRIT OF PORTLAND AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations for recipients of the Mayor's Spirit of Portland Award for 1989 are being accepted through April 7 by the Office of Neighborhood Associations. The awards are presented annually to volunteer citizens or groups that have contributed to the quality of life in Portland neighborhoods through projects, programs, or special services.

A committee of citizens and representatives from the Mayor's and each Commissioner's office will select 10 recipients from the nominations. The awards will be presented Thursday, May 11, at 3:00 in the Council Chambers, followed by a public reception.

Past awards have been given to the Chinatown Development Committee, Volunteer Neighborhood Mediators, the Eliot-King Crime Prevention Committee, and individuals who have been involved in community, social service, and neighborhood activities.

Nominations are being sought from individuals and groups who have benefited from volunteer services, as well as from neighborhood offices and community agencies.

Nomination forms are available from the Office of Neighborhood Associations or neighborhood offices. The Awards are co-sponsored by ONA and the Mayor's office as part of Neighborhood Recognition Week.

OEDO RECRUITS VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH TOURISM MARKETING CAMPAIGN

(SALEM)...Are you looking for a job but need more experience? If you have the time, the Oregon Economic Development Department (OEDO) will provide an opportunity for you to gain the experience. How? By joining the ranks of enthusiastic Oregonians who volunteer their time each week to assist the agency in providing information about Oregon to the public.

OEDO's Tourism Division has launched its spring marketing campaign this month, a promotion encouraging people to phone or write about the various vacation opportunities Oregon has to offer. Volunteers will assist regular staff in Salem to handle telephone calls, and other duties which will help distribute travel information.

So if you have an enthusiastic attitude, a knowledge of Oregon, and the ability to respond professionally to the public, the Tourism Division is looking for you, full-time, part-time, anytime. On-the-job training will be provided to orient volunteers with the skills needed for each position which can build valuable clerical experience.

Many volunteers working with the Tourism Division are beginning a new career by gaining valuable job training, or they have ended a career but don't want to be fully retired. Some volunteers enjoy the working atmosphere so much that they travel to Salem from as far away as Portland and Eugene.

For further information or to sign up for volunteer orientation, phone Kathy Burton, Tourism Division, at 1-800-543-8838, or in Salem at 378-3451.



SHAMSUD-DIN APPOINTED TO BLACK AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt announced today the appointment of Lurlene N. Shamsud-Din to the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. She replaces Billy Ward, who resigned.

Shamsud-Din, 45, of Portland, is a project coordinator for Portland Public Schools. She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Black United Front, and the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators. She has served on the State of Oregon Excellence in Education Task Force, and is a State of Oregon Extension Service volunteer. Shamsud-Din will serve a three-year term, expiring June 30, 1989.

The eleven-member Commission on Black Affairs was created to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for blacks in Oregon. The commission monitors existing programs and legislation, identifies and researches problem areas and recommends appropriate actions. It also maintains a liaison between the black community and government entities, and encourages black representation on state boards and commissions.

CITY DEVELOPING HOUSING INSPECTION PROGRAM

Proactive housing inspection programs being developed by the city's Bureau of Buildings are expected to help keep Portland's housing stock from deteriorating, and thereby reduce future problems with abandoned structures. City Commissioner Dick Bogle, who oversees the bureau, said the programs respond to recommendations of the city's Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Task Force, which turned in its final report early in December, 1988.

The bureau estimates that close to 30,000 of the city's 100,000 housing units are substandard. Bogle said the number will continue to grow, unless action is taken soon, because "more than 50 percent of Portland's housing units are more than 50 years old," and require regular maintenance.

Bogle said he directed the bureau to develop four separate concepts outlined by the task force, adding he expects to begin receiving reports "as early as mid-March" detailing fees and staffing requirements.

The concepts are:

--Rental licensing. All rental units in the city would be inspected on a regular basis, possibly as often as once every three years. Units that meet housing code requirements would be licensed. Substandard units would have to be brought up to code before being licensed. License fees would pay for administration of the program.

--Pre-sale inspections. All owner-occupied, single-family houses would have to be inspected prior to being sold. While repairs of substandard conditions may not be required, the availability of the inspection report to prospective buyers is seen as an inducement to owners to correct problems. The bureau would contract with private industry for most of the inspection work, while maintaining administrative control and evaluation functions.

STEIN SPONSORS BILL ALLOWING SICK LEAVE FOR DEPENDENT CARE

Representative Beverly Stein introduced a bill today allowing employees to use their sick leave to care for an ill dependent.

Currently only a handful of Oregon businesses allow employees to take their sick leave for dependent care.

"Employees should not have to lie to employers or feign their own illness in order to care for an ill child or dependent. They also should not be punished for needing to care for their children or dependents," stated Rep. Stein.

Several other states, including Wisconsin and Washington, have passed similar legislation as an important addition to family and work place relations.

HB 3283 is not an addition to the standing parental leave law and should not be confused with bills which are being introduced as additions to that law.

HB 3283 is supported by the AFL-CIO.

--Focus areas. Programs under this heading would concentrate housing code activity in urban renewal areas and other focus areas designated by the city. Seen as a possible source of support is the tax increment funding currently going to the Portland Development Commission.

--Special needs housing. Facilities which house people with special needs--those with mental and physical handicaps, recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, the homeless, and others who need care and supervision--are not, at present, inspected on a regular basis for fire and life safety violations. Under this program, shelters would be inspected regularly, and licensed.

Two such special needs operations--Wings of Love Christian School Inc., and Open Heart--have been cited in recent weeks for life-threatening code violations.

Bogle, who ordered the closure of Wings of Love until repairs are satisfactorily completed, said the new proactive program will head off similar situations in the future.

A fifth program, which would parallel the rental program but focus on tourist accommodations, is being studied by the bureau. This program also would cover hotels which serve both transient lodgers and long-term residents.

"The bureau has been complaint-driven in recent years, which means we've reacted only when citizens have pointed fingers," Bogle said. "By turning proactive, we will prevent problems, and very possibly save lives."

According to Bogle, the entire city will benefit. "We're taking a long range approach that should put a halt to sliding property values, neighborhood blight, and all the health and safety concerns that multiply when houses are allowed to deteriorate," he said.

In an effort to make the programs effective and fair, the Bureau of Buildings is working with the housing industry, property owners, building managers, neighborhood associations and other interested groups and individuals.

"The object is to build consensus," Bogle said, adding, "The bottom line is a better, more livable city."

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