

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 17

## PORTLAND POLICE TO PATROL TRI-MET VEHICLES AND TRANSIT STATIONS

Portland Police officers could be patrolling Tri-Met vehicles and transit stations as early as May 15th, under a contract approved today by the Tri-Met Board of Directors.

The contract calls for a unit of six officers and a sergeant to patrol Tri-Met in exchange for payment of approximately \$500,000 per year, according to Tri-Met General Manager James E. Cowen.

The officers will replace a unit of Oregon State Troopers assigned to Tri-Met last November by Governor Neil Goldschmidt. Cowen said the presence of the state of police had resulted in fewer incidents and restored public confidence.

"The troopers set the standard for exactly the kind of policing Tri-Met needs," Cowen said. "We owe them a real debt."

In addition to increased police presence, Tri-Met is taking a number of other steps to ensure passenger safety, including:

- \* Installing intercoms on MAX so passengers can communicate with the driver. Installation begins in June and will be completed in September;
- \* Testing video surveillance to see if it is an effective deterrent. Video cameras will be installed on three buses in early May;
- \* Special training to help drivers in dealing with difficult situations and avoiding conflicts; and
- \* A number of other measures related to emergency procedures and information gathering.

## URBAN LEAGUE LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

"The Urban League of Portland will be launching the most ambitious membership campaign since the organization's inception in 1945," states Louis Boston, newly elected Chairman of the Board. The membership campaign slated to kick-off on Thursday, May 11, 1989, will reach over 60,000 households in the Portland Metropolitan Area. The campaign is designed to accomplish two primary objectives: (1) to broaden community awareness and (2) to increase revenue through individual contributions. A press conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 1989 at the Urban League headquarters, 10 North Russell at 12:00 noon. At this press conference various leaders of our community will be present to show their support.

The three-day membership campaign will include a live Radio-a-thon, canvassing of neighborhoods to solicit memberships and selected sites to be staffed by V.I.P.'s and Urban League employees; thereby allowing the public an opportunity to gain information about the Urban League programs.

"We decided to take a grass-roots approach so that we can reestablish our position as a permanent fixture which serves our community," states Useni Perkins, Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Portland.

## MLK JR HOLIDAY BILL ANNOUNCED

Salem--State Senators Jim Hill, D-Salem, and Bill McCoy, D-Portland, along with Representative Margaret Carter, D-Portland, today unveiled their plan to further establish Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday.

SB 1184, at the request of Oregon's financial institutions and the Banker's association, adds King's birthday to the list of holidays for banks and savings associations. It would close all banking institutions for the third Monday in January.

"It is necessary to have this bill to help solve the confusion that exists in people's minds as to whether we really have this holiday," McCoy said.

"The thing that is so special about the adoption of Martin Luther King's birthday by Oregon's banks and savings and loans is that the idea originated from their employees and customers rather than from imposition by the government," Hill said.

Carter goes on to say "this legislation displays a great respect for the works of a man who personally laid down his life for the citizens of America, male and female, black and white, rich, and poor." She commended the financial institution of Oregon for taking such a bold and courageous step in showing their esteem for Dr. King.

## COUNCIL SECURES LOCATION FOR NORTHEAST TRAINING CENTER

The board of directors of The Private Industry Council has approved a lease for a Northeast Portland site which will house a new employment and training center.

The site, 4800 square feet in Union Square at 3034 NE Union, will house employment and training programs for residents of North and Northeast Portland. Employment and training services will be offered through partnerships between The Private Industry Council and Adult and Family Services, the Employment Division and Portland Community College.

The center, slated to open in early June, will offer basic skills training, job search skill instruction, job placement, employability training and counseling and support services for residents of the area. Access to vocational training will also be available.

A community resource group has been established and will continue to provide advice throughout the development and implementation process. An employer resource group is also being formed.

Renovation construction is set to begin within the next two weeks.

## NORTHEAST PORTLAND IS HOME TO FAMED METAL SCULPTURE ARTIST

Garland Thompson

You would never know it as you pass the corner of Alberta and Grand in Northeast Portland, that one of the American arts community's leading sculptors lives and works there in the neighborhood, just like you and I, who go to work everyday, "God willing and the creek don't rise!"

Al Goldsby, a well-connected Black Portland metal sculptor, who has achieved national fame, numerous (\$) commissions and recognition for his brilliant work in bronze, aluminum (and I don't mean just re-cycling beer cans, either) and brass. Yes, he has "the nerve of a brass-ass monkey" to be about becoming famous, after being born in Fordyce Arkansas and an Oregon resident since 1941. Do you believe it? Is the Pope Catholic and known to support Polish causes?

As Malcolm X, use to say, "don't take my word for it, check it out!" I mean, for instance, the next time you are walking around the Lloyd Center, Shopping or ice skating and eating popcorn, be a "Portland observer" and view, first hand, one of this "mega-metalman's" large sculptures in the main Mall, that he calls, "Free Form." This "heavy metal" works, a working water fountain, portrays Oregon's beloved salmon climbing the fish ladders of the great Columbia River. Now is that deep or what?

He has exhibited in several one-man and group shows in galleries throughout the Northwest, (I first met him at one of his recent shows at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, (IFCC) and his work can be seen in numerous private and corporate collections. And that is not cheap, when we talk about these folks; such as Boeing Aircraft Corporation, Blue Cross Building in Seattle, First National Bank of Oregon, University of Oregon's Museum of Art (my old

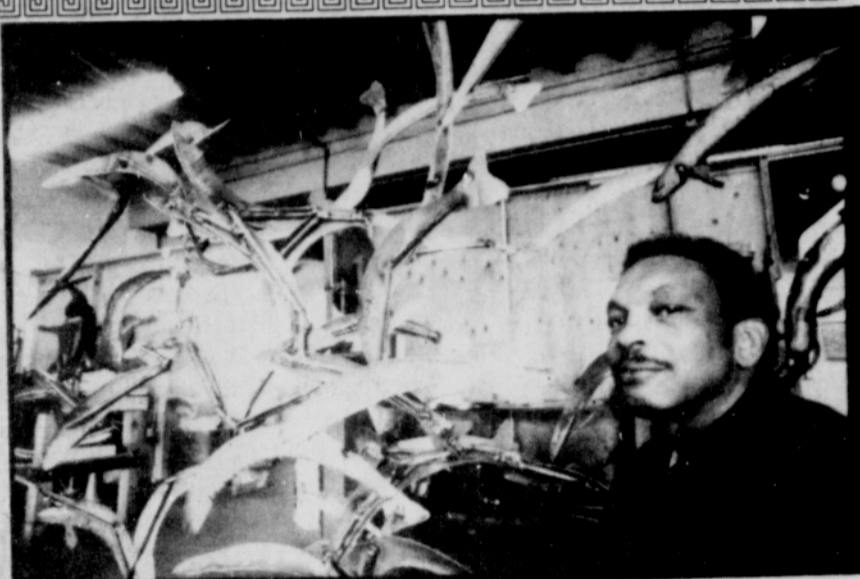


Photo by Dean Guernsey

alma mater for a "minute"), Knapp Lumber Sales, Inc., Art Advocates, Canby United Methodist Church and many other well to do patrons (Mr. & Mrs. Charles Paulson, Mr. & Mrs. William Haslente Collection, Dr. & Mrs. J. Gilbert Rogers, Mr. Ted Gilbert, of Gilbert Bros., Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Holbrook, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Vollum, Mr. & Mrs. William Gaiser, Mr. & Mrs. Elino Kiander, Ms. Arlene Harwood, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sandin, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Blachely, etc.) They recognize "a good thing" when they see it, and put "their money where their mouth is!"

### BRONZE SCULPTURE TO HIGHLIGHT NEW CENTRAL OREGON WELCOME CENTER

The list of Goldsby's sculpture commissions in long and growing. He is currently working in his very same above mentioned studio (the average passerby might think it is just another small Northeast Portland metalworks shop or garage), on a huge new piece in bronze (18 feet long, 6 feet deep and 8-1/2 feet high), that will adorn the entrance to the new Central Oregon Wel-

come Center in Bend, Oregon (Why Not?).

This exciting new project, out of Goldsby's "new bronze age," (Scheduled for installation this Summer, '89) was commissioned by ARTS-in-public-Places, (originally called, "Arts Now," founded in 1967, by such people as Nancy Kern, Jody Ward and Sue Hollern, who make up apart of the selection committee, that worked to bring art to Central Oregon). In 1977, the Bend Foundation invited this dynamo group to make annual selections of art to be displayed in public locations in the area. A great idea, indeed.

Out of 75 artist around the state, 3 finalists were chosen, given \$300.00 each, taken to the building site in Bend, and lo and behold, our man in Northeast Portland, Al (solid-gold) Goldsby, "copped the big prize," a lovely \$45,000 commission, after submitting slides of his work, a paper and then bronze miniature model of the piece. I mention these details, just to give us an idea of how the selection process in the high-powered arts world truly works, And it is intense, you better believe it, but the payoff can be like

"the Lotto (You got to be in it to win it!) Write on, big Al!

To give me an idea of just how he works, Goldsby said that he was inspired by the metal sculptor, Tom Hardy, when he served as Hardy's apprentice some 20 years ago. So you see "the master/disciple" & apprenticeship concept and system still does work best. I was graciously given "the grand tour" of "the shop" and ate blueberry muffins (I love it!) In addition to being recognized as a premiere sculptor now himself, is well known for the encouragement he offers other beginning young artists.

Now this is how he works. First, Al transforms large sheets of bronze, aluminum and brass into strong sweeping sculptures that possess a sense of notion (now is that "heavy?"). As he toured me through the display section of his studio, we touched one of his big elliptical flower-like brass or bronze pieces (I can't remember which) and it continued to vibrate throughout our interesting conversation. It continued to do so, even when we photographed this former part owner of his family-owned gourmet catering service and now full-time "artiste noir extraordinaire!" Viola!

The latest Al Goldsby Art Exhibit, opening May 2-3, 1989, 4:30-8:30 pm, will be on view by appointment through May 24th at Randall Associates, Inc., 7460 SW Hunziker Road (I-5 south to Rt. 217, to 72nd), Suite H, Portland, Oregon. For further information call Betsy Heath (503) 620-2026 and she'll set you straight and may be you might get a blueberry muffin, on which to munch and dig this "hot metal artist!"

## SENIOR OF THE WEEK

Photo by Dean Guernsey



Birdie Lee Taylor by Jimi Johnson

Seventy-eight year old Birdie Taylor came to Portland in 1942 from Texakana, Arkansas with her husband O.C. to work in the shipyards. This "Youthful" senior is the mother of eight children, twenty-one grandchildren, and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Taylor, a sports enthusiast says, she played softball with her children and grandchildren until 1987. A member of Fellowship Church, Mrs. Taylor credits her vitality and longevity to a strong belief in God, and staying active physically, mentally, and spiritually. "Some people give up when they reach a certain age, but I don't," "Never give up," she adds.

Always finding ways to keep busy, Mrs. Taylor shares household duties with her daughter, Gary Ann, as well as babysit her grand-daughter. She still enjoys a night out dancing with her daughters from time to time. "this keeps me in good spirits and good condition," she says.

"Life for me has not been a bed of roses, but through God's help I've made it this far," adds Mrs. Taylor.

**THE PORTLAND OBSERVER SALUTES Mrs. Birdie Taylor, a beautiful senior with a youthful heart.**

## VASQUEZ JR. APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES.

SALEM--Victor Vasquez, Jr. has been appointed to the position of Director of State Community Services effective today, according to Kevin W. Concannon, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Resources, within which State Community Services operates. Vasquez, 39, was made the permanent Director after serving in an acting capacity since January, 1989.

"As an Oregonian from Hermiston and as a person with an Hispanic background, Vasquez brings to the position the requisite qualities desirable for leadership.

State Community Services, with an annual budget of \$23 million operates Federal and State Programs through more than 35 Community Services is responsible for Community Action Programs, low income weatherization and energy assistance, a variety of emergency food services, youth employment, migrant assistance, and services for the homeless and housing programs.

Vasquez comes to the post of Director of State Community Services after having served as an Assistant Administrator in the State's Senior Services Division. Previously, he was employed in the State of New York as Director of Research in Veterans Affairs and prior to that as Affirmative Action Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"We are pleased that we were able to recruit Victor Vasquez back to Oregon," Concannon Said. "Victor Vasquez is genuinely committed to full partnership with community agencies and will work actively with the directors and their boards in his role as Director of State Community Services," Concannon concluded.

## Minority Business Enterprises in Oregon Part VI. Governor's task force abandons emerging small business concept. Re-embraces and enhances focus on minorities and women

by Stephen E. McPherson, special correspondent

What should have been the final working session of the Governor's Task Force on Minority Participation in public contracts has been extended for yet another fortnight. The impetus for the refocusing of such an approach was triggered by the concerns of those persons in the public sector who would have to administer such a program.

Ray Phelps, director of finance and administration for the Metropolitan Service District, criticized the concept of the emerging small business approach because it was so broadly structured as to create confusion and disparity in the manner of its administration. He further indicated that there had been an overwhelming misinterpretation of the Supreme Court decision with regard to Croson vs. The City of Richmond. The Richmond set-asides had been structured so as to include persons who really had not been affected by discrimination in the awarding of public contracts. Mr. Phelps further indicated that to embrace the concept of emerging small businesses the task force would be put in the position of destroying all forms of affirmative active.

Lillie Walker, the purchasing agent for Multnomah County whose rejection of the Mattson low bid for the prison construction resulted in the suit which triggered the Redden decision joined in the discussion to concur with the analysis made by Mr. Phelps.

Even the Associated General Contractors which at times has been the main litigant to challenge minority and women business enterprises entered into the discussion as being opposed to implementing the nebulous concept of emerging small business. Jeff Davidson who previously had been very supportive of the emerging small business concept told the task force that he had submitted the eligibility profile of ESB's to his

membership database and learned that 57% of the AGC membership would qualify to participate under such a program. Given those conditions they strongly supported the notion that the task force should refocus on the original concept of strengthening Minority and Women Business Enterprises.

Given that kind of serious interaction with regard to what particular mode would be most beneficial to the state of Oregon, the task force concluded without dissent that the only viable alternative to the Croson and Mattson decisions would be to keep both Minority and Women Business Enterprises alive.

As a result of this historic exchange of ideas, the State of Oregon is now in the position to field one of the most innovative affirmative action programs since the entire process was sent into orbit following Croson and Mattson. To be sure, this new approach addresses some of the bread and butter issues that have plagued the African American entrepreneur eternally. The recent innovation embraces bonding and supportive cash flow. It promotes special set-asides to be funded by private industry. It also establishes a mentoring program to ensure that a new breed of craftspeople will be entering the workplace without interruption.

There are a number of issues that will be recommended to the governor which will require legislative action which no doubt will not ensue during the current biennium. It is, however, delightful to observe that the State of Oregon not only strongly embraces a continuance of minority and women business enterprises, but that this commitment extends to an enhancement which might very well serve as a model for the entire nation. Of such an effort we should rightly feel quite proud.