

The Portland Observer 25¢

WEEK IN REVIEW

Utility Tax Repealed

January 8. The commissioners of Multnomah County repealed the user tax on natural gas, electricity and heating oil. In addition they ordered a freeze on hiring, reduced supervisor/employee ratios and modified procedures to simplify program cuts.

Have Proof Your Car Is Insured

Starting Friday, 7, February 1993 there will be a three day warning period when letters in five languages will describe the new insurance ordinance but after that the vehicles will be impounded until proof of insurance is produced. During the first six months, towing and storage will be paid by the city if the motorist proves he/she was insured. A three day deadline is allowed for the proof. Police won't stop cars on suspicion but during normal traffic violation stops, it will be routine to ask for proof of coverage. Proof includes 1. An insurance policy. 2. Card showing verification of issuance from insurance company. 3. Proof of bond approval by a judge. 4. Proof of deposit form state treasurer. 5. Proof of DMV policy for self-insurance. Be secure-carry your proof. Start now. Don't wait.

The Pack(wood) Is Back!

Not yet but Senator Bob Packwood will return to Oregon January 25 after two months absence during which time he has been seated in the Senate in spite of protests. Facing hearings before the Ethics Committee, and continuing media confrontations, the senator already knows that Secretary of State Phil Keisling will not investigate election law violations in spite of complaints that Packwood used undue influence to win his seat for a fifth term by trying to smear his accusers and lying to news media.

Concern For Elders?

A new emergency phone line providing crisis assistance at night and on weekends has been set up by Multnomah County Aging Services. Call Helpline 248-3646 which takes calls 24 hours a day if concerned about the well-being of an older person. County health professionals take calls concerning lost, confused, or wandering seniors or elderly people with signs of violence, neglect or other abuse. The Elderly safety Coalition promotes the service to aid aging individuals in maintaining their independence.

No Big Deal

Mayor Katz' expectation of a big reduction in her new budget has been quartered. Expecting to save \$71,315 by cutting two staff positions, aides now admit they will save about \$17,515. Katz' staff will be the same size as former mayor Bud Clark's.

McCoy Being Investigated

A formal investigation has been opened into efforts by Multnomah County Commission Chairwoman Gladys McCoy to guide a parking contract to a company partly owned by her son. The Oregon Government Ethics Committee will decide whether McCoy used her office to obtain personal financial gain or failed to declare a conflict of interest in violation of state ethics law.

Trojan Contradiction

After spending 4.5 million two months ago to persuade voters not to close Trojan immediately and using the figure of \$400 million in rate payer costs to keep the plant open, Portland, General Electric has closed the facility permanently just two months after the election. In addition, PGE now admits that it may represent a savings of \$40 to \$60 million over the next four years.

No More Tootsie-Rolls

"The element of surprise, numbers and firepower makes us feel like sitting ducks. Plus I've found out that a lot of parents look the other way from the fact their kids are involved with gangs."



By BILL FORSHAY

Another pair of athletic shoes sold and the happy wearer receives his change and a Tootsie-Roll. For 28 years that has been the custom at B&R Sport Shoes, 2940 NE Alberta. Now the custom is almost over, for the store is closing for good, leaving the Northeast with another empty storefront and the same old question, "Why?"

Partner Jerry Scoons explained that two factors were involved in the decision he and his partner, Tom Himstreet, were making: the

decline of business over the last two years and the increasingly violent aspect of the neighborhood gangs.

Scoons pointed out that, "We were surprised that after all these years of serving these kids, a small violent faction spoiled our good relationship with the other gang members".

Part of that violence was an armed robbery by gang members that included both threats, physical violence and the use of lookouts outside the building. Fortunately Scoons surprised the

gang member who grabbed him and escaped down the street to a local bar where he was able to call the police, though no help was forthcoming from the patrons.

Himstreet, a Navy veteran and retired commander added, "Concordia homeowners were going to patrol the neighborhood but that isn't happening. You go out after dark and there's no one."

Scoons, who worked for Goodyear throughout central Africa and has been proud of the place

his store held in the area, added, "I was surprised at the timidity of neighbors to come forth as witnesses."

Asked about police response, both men pointed out that an accidental setting off of an alarm caused an immediate response but Scoons admitted that though the police kept them informed and gave him some details of what was happening in the case, "my perception is that the police force is understaffed."

"Besides," he continued, "the element of surprise, numbers and firepower makes us feel like sitting ducks. Plus I've found out that a lot of parents look the other way from the fact their kids are involved with gangs."

Asked for a solution, Scoons paused and thought, then said, "If they (the people) want small independent stores to survive, the community has to support them. What is odd is that we've beaten their prices (Nike's Outlet) 90% of the time. On the other hand, there's a lot of people who kept us going because they would buy their shoes no where else."

There are a lot of really nice people in the community we've enjoyed working with and we really appreciate that."

But four more local jobs also bite the dust. Across the street, half a block down is the Alameda Cleaners run by Sung O. Paek and his wife Ho Soon Paek. They have been in business there for three years and hope to stay in business although they too suffered a holdup in the last month.

"We've had no real trouble with gangs before, just sometimes some vandalism," Paek pointed out but near Christmas some gang members held them up and terrorized the pair. Mrs. Paek ran down the street unable to get

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More Black Pioneers In Health Care

By Prof. McKinley Burt

"Trying to get America to recognize the true talents of African Americans—not just those perverted to secure economic survival—is still like trying to walk up a 'down' escalator."

I am not amazed that so many readers learned here for the first time last week that a black doctor/researcher, Dr. Percy Julian (the "soybean chemist"), developed a number of the first drugs to bring effective and healing relief to the tens of millions of sufferers from debilitating diseases in this world—20th century "wonder drug."

Among them "Cortisone" which has brought relief to so many of the victims of "Arthritis", and "Physostigmine", the powerful treatment for the eye disease "glaucoma", caused by pressure in the eye which can cause blindness. Keep in mind that though these miraculous contributions to medicine (and others) were developed fifty years ago, or so, most of the present day formulations in these fields are based upon Dr. Julian's pioneering research.

But right today, we have both mature and younger geniuses making important contributions in medicine and you will continue to hear about them here. Your children will become aware of them as I go into the schools this time of year—African American History month—and I will continue my twenty years of presentations for the federal and state agencies. Remind them that I am available. It is shameful that so many of the public and the children, black and white, do not know these giants (call 284-7080).

I would also like to talk to "Gang youth." Before we go on with these pioneers, let me present several facts in respect to the present state of health care in America. First, 35 million of us are without health insurance of any sort, and many millions more are in adequately covered, although I'm sure that you were already aware, the price of drugs (and other treatment), is rising out of sight. Last year, Medicare was the 4th largest government expense—and there is a bill pending in Congress to raise the age of eligibility from 65 to age 67. This, of course, penalizes the oncoming younger generations. What good is it that we have all these magnificent contributors, if we cannot deliver the product, e.g. a decent universal system of health care? Maybe we need minorities and women to manage the system.

Today, let us pay tribute to Dr. Louis T. Wright, the first African American surgeon admitted to the prestigious "American College of Surgeons" and the first to head a large public hospital in America (his daughter was the first black woman to be named dean of a major medical school; New York Medical College). This graduate of Clark College and Harvard Medical School was the

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

SPECIAL EDITION

SEE MLK SECTION OF OUR NEWSPAPER AFTER PAGE 12

"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits"

Martin Luther King, Jr. — Acceptance speech 1964

Martin Luther King, Jr. receiving congratulations of King Olav of Norway after Nobel Peace Prize Award December 10, 1964.



Perspectives

"What's Sporting About Sports?"
Blacks are pulling the Sports Wagon, but are not allowed to drive it.
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Sports

"Free Basketball Clinic For Girls"
The Portland Saints is a women's AAU team that plays the top colleges in the west.
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Special Interest

"Teaching Right And Wrong — A Lost Art?"
After The 1960' schools got out of the morals teaching business.
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Special Issue

Martin Luther King, Jr. Metropolitan businesses and residents gear up to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.
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