

The Portland Observer

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Cult Leader Failed To Surrender

David Koresh is still holding out against federal officers. More children released. Plenty of supplies for a long siege, taunts officers.

Portland Has Faults

Scientists say there are at least three faults as they plan to study the possibility of earthquakes here in Portland.

Rescue Officers Killed In Crash

Reserve Officers Scott Collins and Mark Whitehead were crashed into on I-85 by drunken driver.

Blazers Pass

The Trail Blazers decided to pass the Canadian Football League.

Price Of North Precinct Ante Goes Up

The original offer was \$838,000 and is now \$1.3. Blumenauer is the only commissioner against it.

World Trade Center Disaster

The bombing still under investigation-one person arrested after trying to re-deem \$400 rental deposit on a vehicle-others flee US. Belief of conspiracy.

Three Oregon Telemarketers Part Of Scam

The FBI raided several telemarkets across the nation and Oregon was included.

Polio Vaccine Developer Dies

Albert Sabin the developer of oral polio vaccine died at 86. The vaccine was taken on sugar cubes.

GOP Goes On Without Packwood

The Dorchester Conference a yearly affair that Packwood started went on without him.

Cocaine Bust

The largest take in the history of Oregon, possibly valued at \$31 million; over 600 lbs.

Timber Sales Losing

By the time state & government takes their's off the top-the Forestry Service doesn't make a profit.

Billy Eckstine Dies

Eckstine a crooner from the 40s and 50s died of cardiac arrest at age 78. Most "youngsters" will remember "Blue Moon" or "Fools Rush In"

Clinton Pottpurn

Signs jobless benefits into law; to meet with Boris Yeltsin in April; will make decision on Oregon Health Plan; diversity is not in appointments according to an analysis from The Associated Press; Ok's more spending cuts; expected to ease bank lending rules.

➔ Ten construction crews in teams of five could earn as much as \$200,000 per crew annually. This, by rough calculations, would mean \$2 million in subsidized salaries for the community. This amount would generate nearly \$400,000 in various taxes, city fees, etc.

Barriers in place to prevent drug trafficking.

by James L. Posey



CRACK ALLEY

The Value Of Taming The Asphalt Jungle

Blackmen At Work In Crack Alley
Asphalt construction crew perform vital street repair on city sewer project.
Jimmy Anderson Roller Operator, Big Ben Thomas Volunteer Foreman, Benny Carson, Raker, Joe Ali, Shovelman

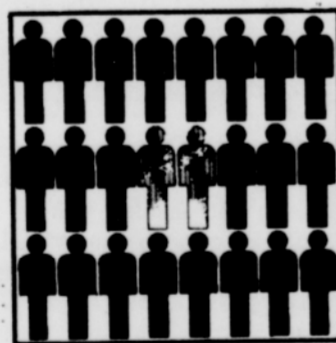
"In an environment where streets are being blocked to slow down drug dealers' escape routes and Blacks are better known for drive-by shootings and dodging stray bullets, the image of hard working Black men repairing...sends a strong positive message".

Maybe there's more than a few people noticing the work of the all-Black asphalt construction crew, doing their thing in and around 9th and Emerson, Grand, Webster and Killingsworth Court, also known as "Crack Alley". All should know that the simple appearance of this crew may do more to counter the acts of drug dealing, criminal assault, robbery, child abuse and most of the other deviant behaviors in this area than the police and all the other social services programs put together can. Few programs are as powerful agents of change as true-to-life role models living successfully in their everyday surroundings. There are too few examples of Black folks working together (outside of the NBA, NFL or other sports arenas) accomplishing visible, productive work. This is particularly true in Portland where African-Americans are too white-world oriented and conditioned to working against each other. One might even ask how in the world

a seemingly rag-tag group of Black workers filling sewer holes with asphalt can have any positive effect on reducing crime. The white crews, who actually do the technical installation of the sewers, are common sight in the predominately Black area of the community. The racial composition of these crews is the norm and even most Blacks have come to expect, and yes, accept this pitiful circumstance. So, to find an all-black construction crew working for an all-Black construction company in the heart of the Black community is sadly rare. We know the kind of message it sends to have an all-white crew, working in the middle of an economically depressed, Black community and gaining competitive skills, while taking home a good pay check. But what kind of message does the all-Black crew send and what real value is it to the community as a whole? Maybe a few of the many idle Blacks in the area will witness their presence and

be impressed that they can work together, doing a really good job and getting paid. In an environment where streets are being blocked to slow down drug dealers' escape routes and Blacks are better known for drive-by shootings and dodging stray bullets, the image of hard working Blacks repairing, rather than tearing down streets, sends a strong positive counter message. A lot of the credit for influencing white contractors on city projects to hire Black subcontractors, goes to NAMCO, the National Association of minority Contractors of Oregon. The city is now forging ahead, spurred on by the work of a smart, and fortunately, sympathetic assistant city attorney, Madelyn Wessel. Ms. Wessel recently released a report that graphically gives many details to the initial statistics presented to the City Council by NAMCO. These figures vividly tell the story of how Black construction workers and contractors have

been badly "dogged" over the past year. But all should be reminded that the "Wessel" report is only the tip of this iceberg. Now it's rumored that city officials have gotten cold feet about the plan to sponsor a disparity study that would prove past discrimination and put real teeth into future affirmative action contract compliance programs. The study is supposed to cost too much. We certainly have heard this same theme from Commissioner Blumenauer who isn't ashamed of promoting his concern that making allowances for minority contractors will be too expensive for the city. Obviously he did not read the Kerner Report following the Watts riots in L.A. But the truth is, any effort the city makes to encourage the creation of more Black construction crews like the one previously cited will actually save the city big dollars in the long run. An examination of the following dollar profile shows how Black construction crews continued on page 2a



The recent recession officially ended in early 1991, but unemployment rates for blacks and whites continued to rise for more than a year before declining in the second half of 1992; the rate for Hispanics rose through the end of 1992. In addition, overall employment growth has been unusually slow for a recovery period. The proportion of whites with jobs remained fairly flat over the post-recession period, while His-

panics and blacks were each slightly less likely to be employed in late 1992 than they were a year-and-a-half earlier. This report analyzes labor market developments in 1992 based on seasonally adjusted quarterly averages.
EMPLOYMENT AND THE LABOR FORCE
Total civilian employment, at 118.0 million in the fourth quarter of 1992, grew by a modest 1.1 million over the year, as the labor market slowly began to regain the ground lost during the 1990-91 recession. Employment had declined by about 1.4 million between the second quarter of

1990 and the third quarter of 1991 (the peak and trough of that particular series). Blacks, Hispanics, and whites all experienced relatively slow employment growth in 1992. There were 12.0 million employed blacks in the fourth quarter of 1992, up only slightly from 11.8 million a year earlier. The percentage of the black population that was employed (the employment-population ratio), at 54.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 1992, was virtually unchanged over the year, and remained about 3 percentage points below its prerecession high. Among Hispanics, a rapidly

rising population coupled with a very small increase in the number of jobholders resulted in a seven-tenths of a percentage point decline in their employment-population ratio since late 1991. The number of employed whites also rose very slowly over the year-by 760,000, only half the annual rate of growth in the 1980's-and their employment-population ratio, at 62.4 percent, was unchanged. The civilian labor force rose by 1.7 million between the fourth quarter of 1991 and 1992. This compares with an increase of just over half a million in 1991. Blacks comprised about 400,000 of the 1992 increase, their

first labor force growth since 1989 and the largest since 1987. As a result, their labor force participation rate rose 0.7 percentage point during 1992 to 63.0 percent. The Hispanic labor force expanded by about 355,000 during 1992, about the same as in 1991. The expansion of 1.0 million whites in the labor force just kept pace with their population growth.
UNEMPLOYMENT
The unemployment level for the fourth quarter of 1992, 9.3 million, and the unemployment rate, 7.3 percent, were both slightly higher than

Employment In Perspective: Minority Workers

Perspectives
• "The History Of Black People In Britain Concluded"
Blacks in America have been fed a steady diet of the most outrageous system of brain wash and thought control
Page A3

Religion
• "Til Death Us Do Part"
When human life has been terminated through abortion, mercy killing or suicide, there is no way to repair the mistake
Page A5

MetroLife
• "Science Fair Offers Educational Opportunities"
Middle school students develop and conduct medical research and will present projects at the fair.
• "Oregon School Board Association Supports Background Checks"
OSBA members support protection students, but indicated that the bill was not the vehicle to insure a child's safety
Page B1

Entertainment
• "Fire In The Sky"
There are accusations of a hoax but all must consider the possibility that the men are telling the truth
Page B3

EDITORIAL	RELIGION	CLASSIFIEDS	HOUSING	METRO-LIFE	ENTERTAINMENT	SPORTS
a3	a5	a6	a10	b1	b3	b5