

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The Politics Of Education

...if he wanted to learn he would have been in Brooklyn at P.S. 156 talking to the black and Puerto Rican parents who took over their children's dilapidated school a few weeks ago, and to me, instead of brainstorming the country's high schools telling inner city youth that it's "honorable" for them to snitch on one another to the police.

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National Rainbow Coalition

Our Current Concerns:

It's hard to know anymore what it means to be a Democrat. After 1948, it meant supporting civil rights. In 1993, 105 (plus 2 absentees), of a 258 majority Democratic House, voted against civil rights (DC statehood) AND their own self-interest (three more Democrats in the Congress)! In 1993, David Dinkins was the only Democrat in NY to lose -- White Democrats abandoned David Dinkins

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When An Older Relative Needs Help

Thanksgiving week has been declared National Caregivers Week in support of families caring for older relatives and loved ones. Two toll free numbers can give African American and other families who are caring for frail elderly relatives directions to community and national resources that can provide support.

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Registration Deadline Approaches For Youth Basketball Tournament

Registration forms for the tournament must be postmarked by December 3, 1993, and can be found at all 46 Fred Meyer Sporting Goods departments, and the Trail Blazers office (700 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232). The entry fee is \$40 per team. A team roster must be submitted with the application and entry fee.

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Velwing The Education Process Through The Eyes Of A Very Gifted Woman

Good show, but really, what is at the top of my mind is a very revealing book that I have just reread for the third time, all 464 pages. "The Chicago schools: a social and Political History", by Mary J. Herrick, Sage publications, 1971. I always review some relevant part of this gem before embarking on any serious discussion of the contemporary education scene.

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Delta's World Adventure Challenge Lifts Geography To A Higher Ground

Did you know that there are 22 cities around the world named San Jose? That's what students at Beaumont Middle School learned in October, when Delta Air Lines representatives visited the school to discuss the importance of learning geography to their jobs. The Delta volunteers also talked about Delta's World Adventure Challenge, an international geography essay competition for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth- graders (11- to 14-year olds). Students, parents and teachers can obtain entry forms by calling 1-800-552-DELTA(A).

At the Beaumont Middle School assembly, Delta employees, including a pilot, a flight attendant, a marketing representative, air cargo carrier and a meteorologist, spoke to approximately 250 students about the presence of geography in their every-day lives, and why knowing geography helps them perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

"I have to know geography to do my job well," the reservations sales agent told the students. "There are 22 cities world wide named San Jose. You could send someone wanting to go to San Jose, California, to Costa Rica instead. They are 2,000 miles apart."

Students were also asked to fill out a survey answering the question "Which country would you most like to visit?" Nationally, students overwhelmingly chose France. At Beaumont Middle School, the top three most popular countries that students would most like to visit are France, Italy and Australia. Fourteen students also said they'd like to visit Africa.

Delta representatives also told the students about how to enter World Adventure Challenge. The essay contest challenges stu-



Delta volunteers explain the importance of geography to students at Beaumont Middle School

dents to write to another student anywhere in the world, explaining why that student would want to visit Atlanta and why he/she would want to visit that student's hometown. The competition will award 20 finalists \$1,000 college scholarships, along with a weekend celebration at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a trip for four to any of Delta's

worldwide destinations. Sponsoring teachers will also attend the weekend celebration and receive a continuing education scholarship.

Entry forms for Delta's World Adventure Challenge must be submitted by May 2, 1994. All entries will be judged on the basis of their depth of information, accuracy, creativity, and clarity.

Delta Air Lines sponsors World Adven-

ture Challenge as part of its commitment to enhancing geography literacy by making geography education both fun and exciting.

Delta Air Lines, a global line, currently offers over 2,700 flights each day to more than 210 cities around the world. Through programs like Delta's World Adventure Challenge, Delta maintains its commitment to being "The Official Airline for Kids."

Putting Safety On Patrol



EC's Certified Safety Specialist Ken Austin distributes a face shield from the company's new corporate Safety Van to Clyde Fry, EC's field supervisor on the new Target store job site in Tanasbourne.

Electrical Construction (EC) with five divisions and over 300 employees, has implemented a job site safety program that is unique to the electrical construction industry.

EC Company has created a "Safety Van" to travel around to different construction sites to oversee safety procedures and provide educational material and advice. "Our goal is

three-fold--to ensure that our employees have a safer environment in which to work, to furnish the best safety tools and equipment in the industry, and to provide recommendations of the safest way to proceed with the work," explained Senior Vice President Joel

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Wyden, Furse Introduce Key Oregon Health Plan Legislation

Reps. Ron Wyden and Elizabeth Furse introduced legislation that would make it possible for 300,000 Oregonians without health insurance to obtain critically-needed health services under Oregon's innovative health plan.

"There are 300,000 reasons why Oregon needs this new legislation," Wyden stated, adding, "many of our citizens receive too little health care, too late. It's immoral that so many Oregonians now fall between the cracks of our health system."

"Even with attention focused on the national health care debate, we need to continue working now to fully implement the Oregon Health Plan so that all Oregonians will have health care they need," said Governor Roberts.

Furse added that "Oregonians have worked long and hard to create this innovative health plan, and they deserve the right to go forward with it and provide security to those who most need it: the uninsured."

Wyden said his legislative proposal is needed because the 1993 Oregon legislature stipulated that Oregon workers who lack health insurance could not receive new benefits un-

der the Oregon Health Plan unless the State obtains a statutory waiver from the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security

ACT OF 1974 (ERISA).

"This legislation ensures that a little-known provision of Federal law cannot block all Oregonians from receiving good health care when they need it," Wyden explained.

Federal ERISA law prohibits Oregon from requiring certain employer-based health insurance plans to provide minimum health benefits, or to participate in a big risk pool for the uninsured. Oregon's Health plan contains both features.

The Oregon Health Plan is best known for expanding Medicaid benefits to some 120,000 uninsured low-income Oregonians, who will begin to receive Medicaid benefits beginning in February 1994.

Rep. Wyden said, "The Medicaid expansions are extremely important, but the fact is that almost three times as many vulnerable, uninsured Oregonians would secure needed health care if the ERISA waiver were to be granted. Without the ERISA exemption, Or-

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Portland General Electric Asks To Increase Prices In January

Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) has asked permission from the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) to increase retail electric prices beginning January 1, 1995. The increase would average 5.1 percent over all customer classifications. This would be PGE's first general price increase since 1991.

"We have entered a new era at PGE, delivering on our promise to aggressively cut costs and to pursue the least-cost options for future power generation and services," says Ken Harrison, PGE Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "The modest size of our rate request reflects our commitment and ability to deliver on those promises."

Prices for goods and services in Port-

land have risen more than 40 percent since 1984. Medical care costs have nearly doubled in that period. During the same 10-year period, the average monthly bill for PGE's residential customers has risen about 10 percent.

If approved by the OPUC, bills for residential customers using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would increase by \$4.19, going from \$53.17 to \$57.36. The proposed price change reflects the fixed costs of service including, for residential customers, an increase in the monthly service fee from \$5 to \$7. Overall, residential prices would increase an average of 7.8 percent, with

an average increase of 3.2 percent for commercial and industrial customers.

The increased cost of power, driven by higher prices for purchased power and fuel, is the single largest factor for the rate request.

Other key elements of the 1995 rate request include:

- Increases in federal taxes;
- Improvements to PGE's distribution system;
- Investments to increase the reliability of PGE's generating plants.

Factors that helped hold down the amount of the requested increase include:

- Decrease in nuclear operating costs;
- Increasing revenues from a growing cus-

tomers base;

- Increased performance by PGE generating plants;
- Property tax reductions under Ballot Measure 5;
- Acceleration of return to customers of profits from a 1985 sale of a portion of the Boardman plant.

An important component of the filing will be an OPUC confirmation that the closure of Trojan was the least-cost option for PGE customers.

The OPUC will review PGE's 1995 rate request and schedule public hearings. The decision-making process could take up to one year.

Editorial

Immigration vs African American II

Far beyond a simple observation of numbers.

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Metro Life

Job Corps A Bold Social Experience

Job Corps provides vocational training with an opportunity to either secure GED or secure college credit

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Sports

Around The World of Sports

Erving will join former player Bill Walton and Basketball Columnist Peter Vecsey on the "Insiders" segments.

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Entertainment

If Montel's Lasted For 500 Shows

He celebrated his 500th television show as a nationally syndicated talk show host.

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