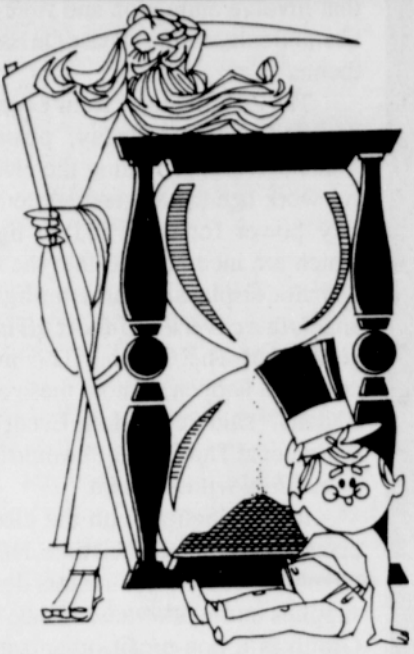


# The Portland Observer 25¢



Happy New Year

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## Christmas Fiesta Held For Needy



On Wednesday December 22, at St Charles Church, United Grocers and the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division joined forces with 15 other groups and launched a Christmas Fiesta for 400 underprivileged, primarily spanish-speaking children. All Children from the Cully neighborhood in northeast Portland were invited. This was the only opportunity for many children from impoverished families to celebrate the holiday in festive style.

An interactive dinner consisted of build-your-own burritos, do-it-yourself trail mix, and decorate-your-own cookies. United Grocers provided all of the food and a bilingual Santa to whom kids could whisper their Christmas wishes in Spanish. Some wishes came true right there with toys from 115 four-foot-tall stockings donated by United Grocers.

Four hundred children created their own burritos, trail mix and cookies. Santa Claus reigned over the proceedings from a huge throne on stage, where kids sat on his lap and had their photographs taken for free. Hundreds of toys were given to delighted children. Students from a nearby grade school performed the Nutcracker.

◀ Our military personnel took part in a Christmas party for area youngsters this holiday season at St. Charles Church

## Tri-Met Free Rides New Year's Eve

Rides are free on Tri-Met buses and MAX after 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve to encourage people to celebrate safely.

Tri-Met will also add late-night service on MAX and 15 major bus lines. The last MAX train leaves Pioneer Courthouse Square at 2:54 a.m. and the last buses leave the Portland Transit Mall about 2:30 a.m.

"If we can save a life or help prevent a needless accident, this effort is well worthwhile," said Bob Post, Tri-Met deputy general manager. "We hope the community will take advantage of these free rides."

Tri-Met is adding special late-night buses on these routes:

- 4-Division
- 4-Fessenden
- 5-Interstate
- 8-NE 15th Avenue
- 9-Broadway
- 9-Powell
- 12-Barbur Blvd.
- 12-Sandy Blvd.
- 14-Hawthorne
- 15-Mt. Tabor
- 15-NW 23rd Avenue
- 19-Glisan
- 19-Woodstock
- 33-McLoughlin
- 57-Forest Grove

## Clinton Administration Awards \$411 Million In Homeless Grants

President Bill Clinton

President Clinton and HUD Secretary Henry G. Cisneros today announced the allocation of nearly \$411 million in HUD grants earmarked to increase assistance to homeless families and individuals across the country.

The Department of Housing and Urban development awarded 187 grants to 44 states totaling \$410,988,720 million.

Of this total, \$298 million was awarded in Shelter Plus Care assistance. This program will provide five to ten years of rental assistance to state governments and public or Indian housing authorities to provide permanent housing for homeless families in which at least one adult is disabled.

An additional \$113 million was awarded under the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program. These awards will provide ten years of rental assistance for single room occupancy units that must be rehabilitated to meet HUD's housing quality standards.

These grants will provide assistance to 11,735 units: 2,425 SRO and 9,310 Shelter Plus Care.

"Homelessness is not unsolvable. Its causes and solutions are clear. We have confronted and continue to confront, bigger problems of greater complexity in this country: cancer, AIDS, air pollution, toxic waste clean up. We can face this one," Cisneros said.

## First Interstate Bank Hires New Manager



Dora Asana

First Interstate Bank Northwest Region has hired a new Manager for the Portland Community Lending Center. Dora Asana supervises Lending Center staff, originates loans and is responsible for community outreach activities.

"We are committed to making the dream of home ownership a reality for low and moderate income customers," said Asana. "We take the time to work with families and explain the home buying process."

Asana joins the bank with a wealth of experience in her community. Most recently she held the position of Community Development Coordinator for Northeast Community Development Corpora-

tion; previously she was a CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) Loan Officer for Pacific First Bank. Asana volunteers her time on the Advisory Board of the Portland Neighborhood Association and the Marketing Committee of the Portland Housing Center. Also, she is a member of the Oregon Mortgage Bankers Association.

The Lending Center opened in December 1990 and is located at 5730 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Portland. First Interstate Bank's Northwest Region has assets of \$10.5 billion and operates 313 branches and banking offices in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

## The PABC Helps Low-Income Housing And Energy Projects

Yesterday, the Private Activity Bond Committee approved over \$130 million in bonds to finance low-income housing around the state and to assist in the building of two innovative energy producing facilities. These bonds which provide a low cost financing, demonstrate a solid public-private partnership that benefits Oregonians.

"I am pleased that the Treasury can play a role in improving the quality of life of Oregonians. The housing projects will help low-income families attain their dream and provide family-waged jobs. The two energy projects will create jobs in Morrow County and the Clatskanie and Columbia counties, help provide Oregonians with cheaper electricity, and reduce landfill strains," Hill said.

The Private Activity Bond Committee, which a representative of the State Treasurer sits on, approves the issuance of private activity bonds by local governments. These tax-exempt bonds are designed to provide maxi-

mum economic benefits to the citizens of Oregon. The bonds are typically used for economic development, housing, education, redevelopment, public works, energy, waste management, and transportation. The tax exempt feature helps to provide a low cost financing of these projects. Each year the State has \$150 million of private activity bonds to allocate.

The Private Activity Bond Committee approved the bonding authority for the following projects:

\$65 million, Oregon Housing and Service Department will make mortgage loans or issue mortgage credits certificates to first time home buyers with median incomes or less. These programs address the ongoing need for affordable single family housing for below-median income residents in Oregon.

\$44 million, The Western Generation Agency will issue bonds to finance the construction of an electric generating plant that

burns plant waste at the James River pulp and paper manufacturing facility in Wauna, Oregon. The burning of the waste will produce steam to generate electricity and for thermal use at the plant. The electricity will be sold to BPA and other utilities. The plant will also help reduce the strains on Oregon's landfills.

\$10 million, the Port of Morrow will use these bond proceeds to help fund a portion of the construction of a solid waste disposal facility, and local district heating or cooling system facilities, at the Coyote Springs Generating Plant. The project will provide steam for a food processing plant and will contribute to the job and tax base in Morrow County. Construction is to begin in 1995 and completed by late 1995.

\$10 million, the City of Eugene will use the bond proceeds to help with the construction of a 162-unit apartment complex in South Eugene, where vacancy rates are less than 1%. The project will be for mixed income

tenants, with at least 40% of the units available to tenants who make less than 60% of the median income.

\$3 million, the City of Portland's Development Commission will issue bonds to help provide affordable housing for households earning up to 80% of area median income. This project represents the first lower income, new construction apartment building in Downtown Portland in more than ten years. The project consists of construction of a ten-story high rise tower near Portland's South Part Blocks, providing 122 units of low-and moderate-income housing. The \$3 million will be used toward the \$10.2 million total cost for the complex.

Item 7.5: Resolution to accept a fifth group of nominees to the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement. This resolution would

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### Editorial

**Perspectives- Health Plans: Another Year Of Uncertainty?**

The state of Oregon has carved itself a definite niche in the evolution of American health plans.

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### Metro Page

**Cultural Recreation Band: A Symphony Of Fun**

"The students were amazed to discover some of the ol' timers who helped build the community they now live in..."

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### Sports

**A Look Back At Sports, 1993**

We all would love to watch "Air" still rule the NBA for Michael, because not many black athletes can go out on top.

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### Entertainment

**Arrested Development Spares A Dime For Homeless**

Acclaimed, Grammy winning band and Emmy Record Group donate \$54,000 from "Mr. Wenda" royalties.

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