

The Portland Observer 25c

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Buck Medical Services Responds To Hazardous Material Spill In Gresham

Two Multnomah County Buck Medical Services paramedic crews responded to a hazardous material spill in Gresham on April 18, 1994. At approximately 11:30 a.m. Buck unit #304 with paramedics Susan Atherton and Rocco Roncarati, and Buck #313 with paramedics Chuck Scadden and Justin Lynn responded to a hazardous material spill at the Portland Hospital Service Corporation, 22820 NE Halsey, Gresham.

Apparently, a spill of 35% hydrogen peroxide and an unidentified chemical created a vapor cloud. Employees of the Portland Hospital Service Corporation and residents of the surrounding area were evacuated. Atherton and Roncarati transported a male patient to Mt. Hood Medical Center for further treatment of exposure.

A hazardous material clean-up team was requested to disinfect the site before employees and neighbors are allowed to return to the site.

War Rages In Bosnia

Bosnia - Herzegovina - has renewed its onslaught of massacre in Muslim town of Gorazde.

Wire reports, confirmed that hundreds of people are dying daily from Bosnian Serb artillery.

Spike Lee Distances Himself From Gangsta Rap

Spike Lee gave hard knocks to Gangsta Rap Music, saying it encourages black men to violence.

He was speaking at the Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts he said Rap Music glamorized the mistreatment of women.

BE A PART OF A UNITED STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE IN ALL COMMUNITIES BY PARTICIPATING IN:

**Parent's Reaching Out
Mother's March Against
Violence in All Communities**

April 30, 1994
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Join Us in Taking a Stand!!

Kick Off:

Mallory Ave. Christian Church

126 N.E. Alberta

March To: Irving Park

Rally: Irving Park

For more information call: 288-5173

Violence Against Women And Children



(Top center) HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS AN URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM THAT HAS DEVASTATING PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Women are frequent targets of both physical and sexual assault by partners and acquaintances, as well as strangers. HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala has called domestic

abuse against women "an unacknowledged epidemic in America."

In 1991, 5,745 women in the United States died as a result of homicide.

Six of every 10 women who were victims

of homicide were murdered by someone they knew. About half of these women were murdered by a spouse or someone with whom they had been intimate.

Some 99.9 percent of assaults on women do not result in death, but often result in physical injury or emotional distress.

About a third of female victims of violence suffer physical injury as a result of the incident.

More than 1,800 women are estimated to be forcibly raped each day in the United States.

Most assaults on women are perpetrated by their partners, and most such assaults go unreported. Better data on violence against women are needed.

In various studies, estimates of assaults on women by partners or cohabitant range from 1.8 million to almost 4 million per year.

One in four women in America will be assaulted by a domestic partner in her lifetime.

Domestic abuse is a leading cause of injury to women in America. It is estimated that some 20 to 30 percent of women treated in emergency rooms are there because of physical abuse by a partner.

A survey by the Commonwealth Fund found that 92 percent of women who were physically abused by their partners did not tell their doctors.

There are severe long-term consequences from domestic abuse.

Battered women are at increased risk of attempting suicide, abusing alcohol and other drugs, depression and abusing their own children.

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4-Wheel Drives Provoke Request For Federal Waiver

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

PERHAPS IT IS SIMPLY THE SLICK, SEXY MARKETING TECHNIQUES OF AMERICA'S AUTO MANUFACTURERS THAT HAS PUT THIS FAMILIAR ICON OF RURAL LIFE AT THE FOREFRONT OF PROTESTS AGAINST CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD STAMP AND ADC PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY, THE LIMIT ON VALUE OF TRANSPORTATION OWNED.

Under the unifying banner of a "Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force", a host of community organizations and public policy activists have joined forces to protest at the very highest level. Joined by the Oregon Food Bank, the Oregon Human Rights Coalition and the Human Services Coalition of Oregon, they have asked Oregon's congressional delegation to support a federal waiver request that would raise the value limit of vehicles owned by poor people on these programs.

Currently, in the Food Stamp Program, individuals cannot generally receive benefits if they own a vehicle worth \$4,500 fair market value. The ADC program, which

serves primarily poor women and children, has more restrictive requirements, allowing a family to have \$1,500 equity in an automobile.

The waiver requests would raise the automobile asset limits to \$9,000 equity so that unemployed Oregonians -- such as timber workers and low-wage job seekers -- will not have to choose between keeping their reliable transportation and receiving food stamps or ADC benefits.

"Now, just where is it", you may ask, "do the 4-wheel drives come in?" Especially, since you haven't seen too many of these vehicles in inner-northeast with or without gun racks, winches or supercabs). The following paragraph from a March 21 press release will answer that question.

"Because of the nature of where they live and the type of work they do, many rural households own vehicles -- often 4-wheel drive -- that exceed the ADC and Food Stamp programs' restrictive vehicle limits" said Ellen Lowe, Chair, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force. "Many who are denied benefits list their vehicles for sale, but their communities are too economically depressed to produce buyers", she added. The resource limits, which were established over a decade ago, deny heads of households the ability to meet immediate needs and find employment."

There we have it! Very obviously, the target population to be aided by the intervention of Oregon's Congressional Delegation is the "Timber Worker". We congratulate this demographic stepchild of Oregon's "Operation Rescue" and we do not begrudge unemployed timber and mill workers one nickel of any expansion of resources to better their unfortunate situation.

However, we also believe in equity and since that press release by the Task Force we have had no end of inquiries, "Are our community activists and ombudsmen committed to this level of activity and research here in Albina?" I had one agitated visitor who waved the latest mailer of the Portland Rainbow Coalition right in my face; "Just look at all these people they're promoting for the May 17 election! You know, we need somebody to 'promote us'. Some people with the kind of nohow and dedication.

Well, what do you think of this community chances of seeing in the very near future an "Innecity Task Force" of an equal stature and commitment. We will go along with "articles about education reform, jobs with justice, and human rights", but I'll tell you; A little more equity with other areas when it comes to dollar signs and delivery of economic resources will further all that good stuff.

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