

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Fourth Bullet Found

Secret Service agents confirm that a fourth bullet was found inside the State Dining Room, one floor below Clinton's residence at the White House. Other bullets found from the drive-by shooting early Saturday were on a balcony landing, in a driveway outside the back door and beneath a nearby Christmas tree.

OCA Files New Measure

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has launched its third statewide campaign to eliminate gay rights in the state. The new initiative comes on the heels of a narrow defeat of the latest OCA-sponsored anti-gay rights Measure 13 in November. "It's writing into the Constitution that's it's all right to discriminate against homosexual people," said Cliff Carlson chairman of the No on 13 campaign.

Clerics Set Up Courts

Muslim clerics in Bangladesh, acting on their own, increasingly are setting up courts that hand out punishment under the Sharia, or Islamic law. Women's rights groups say at least 48 women have died in recent years after being convicted of violating the Sharia. Most killed themselves because they could not bear the humiliation.

Sanctions Against Nigeria Sought

Nobel prize-winning author Wole Soyinka has called on world leaders to impose economic sanctions on his native country of Nigeria in a bid to force military leaders to step down and restore democracy to the populous West African nation.

Rapper Shakur Faces Prison Term

Controversial rap music performer Tupac Shakur and his road manager now convicted of sexually assaulting a female fan in a New York hotel room last year, face up to seven years in prison. But the judge delayed sentencing to allow the 23-year-old Shakur time to recuperate after being shot outside a New York recording studio during an apparent robbery attempt. He was hit five times, but the wounds were not life threatening.

Britain's Lord Pitt Dies

Lord Pitt, a Grenadan immigrant who became one of the first blacks to be admitted to the House of Lords, died Sunday of cancer, relatives said. He was 81. "He was one of the first prominent blacks in British political life and a man of great ability and exceptional dignity," said Lord Healey, former treasury chief.

Debt Hurts South Africa Government

South African's growing debts and organizational disarray have damaged the African National Congress' ability to govern, according to its secretary-general. The ANC is too dependent on the personal power of President Nelson Mandela, who remains by far the country's most popular leader, Cyril Ramaphosa said in a report to the ANC's first national conference since taking power.



Creating For The Holidays

Bill Dike adds finishing touches to a Christmas village in his First Grade class at the Hollyhock Elementary School in northeast Portland.

Holiday Baskets Help Needy

The Fruit and Flower child care center is selling fruit and flower for the holidays. The sales will go toward child care scholarships for low income families. The not-for-profit agency, is Oregon's oldest child care center.

Wooden "shallow" bushel baskets, with appropriately decorated lids for Christmas or Kwanzaa sell for \$45, with \$5 added if delivery is desired. Each basket contains 15 pounds of fresh fruit, in addition to a blooming potted plant and a large variety of specialty food items.

The Fruit and Flower Mission was formed in 1885 to provide baskets of fruit and flowers for needy families and hospital patients. The holiday baskets continue the tradition to expand this service to more families who could not otherwise afford quality care.

Minorities Recruited To Health Professions

Legacy hospitals in the Portland area are trying to increase their pool of qualified minority applicants by exposing young students to healthcare careers.

Legacy Health Systems officials said they have made strides in the minority recruitment through the following of programs:

1) Over the past five years, Legacy Emanuel Hospital has awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships to 24 students in north/northeast Portland who are interested in healthcare careers. All scholarships were \$1,000, renewable for up to four years, paid to the college and usable for tuition, books and other fees.

2) More than 200 junior and senior Grant High School students over the past five years have been learning about healthcare careers on the Legacy Good Samaritan and Emanuel campuses through the Portland Public Schools

Vocational Mentoring Program.

These students spend half of their day in a classroom on the Good Samaritan campus and two hours of each weekday working with a mentor in one of the hospitals.

Students in the program have proven five times more likely to graduate from high school. Two have received \$1,000 scholarships from Legacy to continue their studies. One African American student is now attending medical school. Other students have gone on to work at the hospitals.

3) Legacy participates in the Youth Employment and Empowerment Program. The program places youths involved in gangs in jobs which offer a way of life away from the streets. To date, Legacy has hired three program graduates.

4) Legacy is also working with the Urban League on several job development activities aimed at minority populations. The

Career Development Center and the nationally-funded "Jobs for the Future" are two programs in the works.

5) On a regular basis, Legacy recruiters reach out to minority communities through work fairs, high school career days and college workshops.

6) As part of the health system's business-education compact, hospital representatives participated in the Visitation Program for the Portland Area Professional Technical Education Consortium for High School Counselors.

The goal of the program was for counselors to gather information on the variety of jobs available within several worksites and complete materials to be used in 17 high school and the Portland Community College libraries as a resource for students, parents and faculty.

7) The Robert S. Dow Neurological

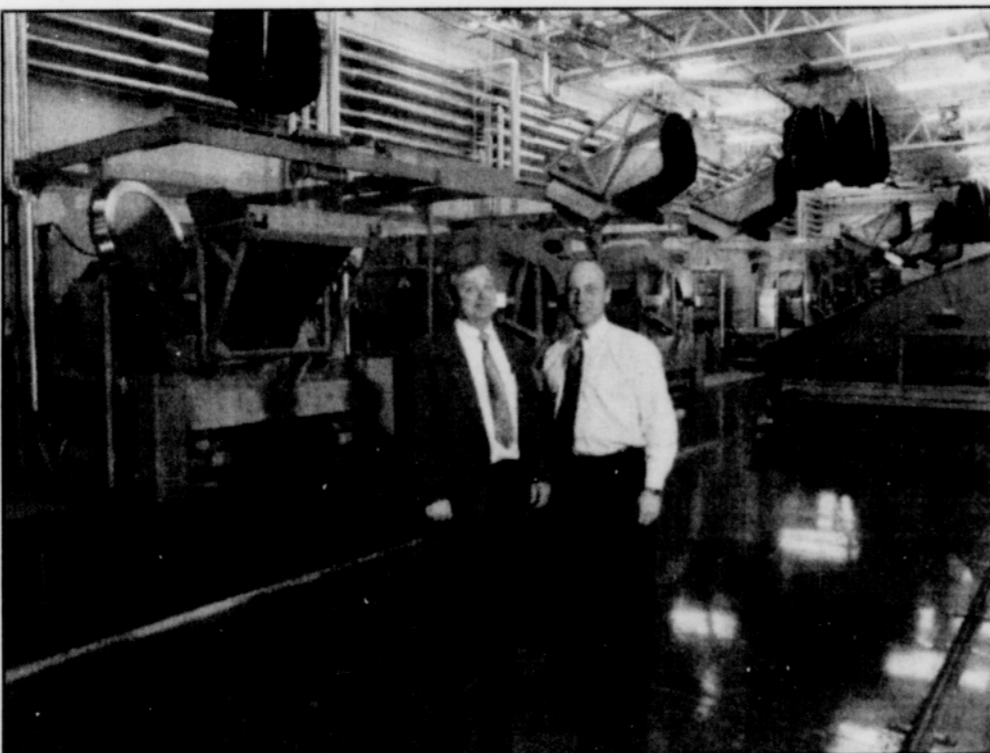
Science Institute, located at Good Samaritan, offers summer apprenticeships which acquaint minority students with medical research conducted in a hospital setting.

On the family front, Legacy supports those in need through programs like the Black United Fund Center for Maternity and Family Support located at Emanuel and Project Network's substance abuse program which serves pregnant women and mothers from north/northeast Portland.

Emanuel's participates in area programs like the Emanuel Neighborhood Home Ownership program (ENHOP), Home Ownership One Street at a Time (HOST), and Dawson Park Place benefit both employees and neighbors alike.

Legacy officials said their goal is to recognize and value the diversity of its current and future workforces.

Laundry Hires 137, Expansion Planned



Cintas Corp. executives Dennis Walker (left) and Tom Mildner look over the company's new Rivergate plant, a state-of-the-art industrial laundering operation.

A new \$5 million dollar industrial plant in the Rivergate district of north Portland is processing hundreds of thousands of pounds of laundry each week.

The Cintas Corp. plant employs 137 people, including 26 drivers and a five person sales staff.

General Manager Tom Mildner said more people will be hired soon to handle the plant's expected 500-thousand pounds of product each week.

Mildner said the plant has the capacity to double in size, with employment expected to grow 10 to 15 percent a year. Provisions of a property tax reduction agreement with local governments requires hiring residents of north and northeast Portland.

Three laundry operations were combined to create demand for the plant, including some operations from Seattle. The new 47,000 square-foot facility is saving the corporation \$200,000 a year in transportation and utility costs, Mildner said.

He said the plant was designed for efficiency and a good work environment.

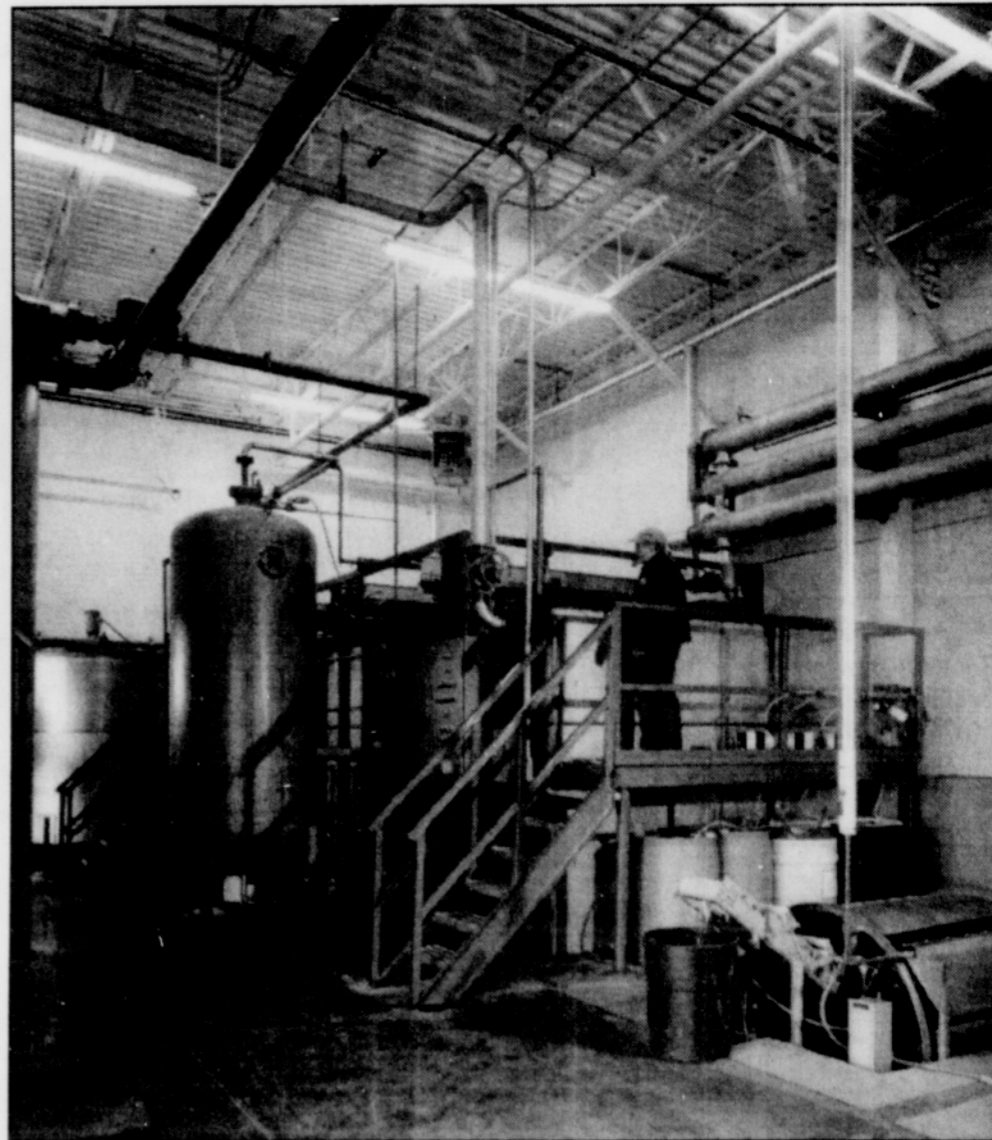
The plant's recycling equipment and systems recover 70 percent of its used water and 50 percent of its generated heat to be reused in the plant operations.

Computer controlled automated systems control a delivery and laundering system of conveyors, washers and dryers to process the industrial and business soiled laundry.

When the wash is completed, another time controlled conveyor picks up washed materials and delivers them to dryers. The dried materials are then automatically dumped into a conveyor for sorting and delivery to various plant departments where labor handwork finishes the laundry for customer delivery.

The latest technology minimizes much of the hand labor, pollution and environmental impact of older industrial laundries. A 2,000 square foot water recovery system is the heart of the recycling process.

An automated truck bay will soon be in



A recovery system recycles 70 percent of the water used at Cintas Corp. and 50 percent of its generated heat, saving the firm over \$100,000 per year in utility costs.

operation that will allow faster loading. The recycled wash water and heat will then be used to wash and dry the trucks after they are unloaded.

Cintas sells and rents uniforms for use all over the world. Some of its expanding markets include flame retardant clothing and a patented "comfort shirt."

The company established local operations with its purchase of Seattle-based

Maryatt Industries in 1992 and its facilities in Portland, Seattle, Everett, Tacoma, San Francisco and Phoenix.

In Portland, Cintas also purchased Dave's Quality Uniform Supply and Coverall Uniform Co.

Cintas operates in 33 states from 100 locations serving over 200,000 business customers and 1.3 million people who wear Cintas uniforms in the U.S. and Canada.