

Lawyer Likes The Hood

Dan Russell leaves fancy downtown offices to others.



See Metro, Page B1.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th
ANNIVERSARY

Everybody's Special

Neighbor Maggie Stewart and Mister Rogers celebrate diversity.



See Page B2.

The Portland Observer 25¢

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

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Portland To See Olympic Flame

Portland has been chosen as a host city for the 1996 Olympic Flame to mark the summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga. The Rose City is on the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay's route across the United States.

Drug-Related Deaths Soar

More than 250 Oregonians have died in the past 18 months because of Heroin, methamphetamines and other illegal drugs, according to the state medical examiner. The current death rate from the drug overdoses is now at three people per week, compared to one a week in previous years.

More People Riding Max

Tri-Met says the annual light rail ridership has increased nearly 5 percent over a year ago. Officials say same more people are using Max for shopping and recreational outings and more employers are offering transit benefits to employees.

Max Extension Begins Construction

A crane hoisted off the span of an old Burlington Northern railroad trestle was used last week to make way for construction of the 6 mile Hillsboro extension segment of Westside Max light-rail. When finished in 1998, commuters will be able to travel 18 miles from downtown Portland to the Washington County city.

Smith Guilty Of Drowning Kids

A Union, S.C. jury Saturday found Susan Smith guilty of murder by drowning her two boys, ages 3 and 14-months. The jury now must decide if she will receive the death penalty or life in prison. Smith first wove a tale about a black car-jacker who abducted her boys on Oct. 26, but later admitted sending them and her car to the bottom of a lake.

Contractors Applaud Clinton

Minority contractors are cautiously optimistic that President Clinton's position supporting affirmative action will protect inclusion of minorities in the American economy. Officials of the National Association of Minority Contractors last week said they will continue to respond against the legal and legislative assaults on affirmative action on the federal, state and local levels.

Portland Schools Set New Standards

The Portland School District is tightening the requirements for its students. It will expect each student to meet rigorous new admission standards for Oregon's colleges and universities whether or not the student is college-bound.

Welfare Reform Plan Presented

Republican presidential candidate Phil Gramm, R-Texas, last week introduced one of the toughest welfare overhaul plans to date, thwarting the efforts of Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., to work out deep differences among party members behind closed doors and tossing the issue into Republican presidential politics.

Mend It, Don't End it

President Clinton Weighs In On Affirmative Action



Tom Le Pley is part of the construction crew that will make the Blazer Boys and Girls Club a reality. Our roving camera was at the project site on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. this week. The \$2.2 million, 27,000 square foot club will include a gymnasium, education wing and teen center. Support for the club came from the Portland Trail Blazers, other corporations and individual donors.

President Clinton, said 25 years of affirmative action has been good for America, and urged the nation to "mend it, not end it."

Clinton made the pitch last week after a six month study of the preference programs for women and minorities.

The statement also followed attack on affirmative action from conservatives, primarily Republican presidential candidates.

Clinton said he supports affirmative ac-

Major milestones have been achieved with affirmative action, the president observed.

He cited the emergence of a true black middle class; women as major wage earners; higher education for women, racial and ethnic minorities; and police departments across the country reflecting the diversity of their community.

Clinton said affirmative action has closed many gaps in economic opportunity, "but we still have along way to go."

The Portland Observer salutes diversity, See pages B5 - B9, inside.

tion "done the right way."

"Affirmative action has been good for America. But that does not mean it has always been perfect," he said. "That does not mean it should go on forever. Affirmative action should be retired when its job is done and I am resolved that day will come. But the job is not done."

The President said the central challenge as the nation approaches the 21st Century is to restore the American Dream opportunity and find common ground amid a great diversity of opinion and experience.

The government, he said, should strengthen its commitment to "equal opportunity for all, special treatment for none."

He also directed all federal agencies to comply with a recent Supreme Court decision which applies four standards to the fairness of affirmative action programs.

The court ruled affirmative action policies must not contain hiring quotas, cause reverse discrimination, give preference for unqualified individuals or continue programs that have met their goals.

The recent review of the government's affirmative action programs found that they are an effective tool to expand economic and educational opportunity.

The unemployment rate for African Americans, the president contended, remains about twice that of whites, women still only make 72 percent as much as men, and the average income for a Hispanic woman with a college degree is less than that of a white man with a high school diploma.

He noted, a recent Glass Ceiling Report found that women in the nation's largest companies hold less than 5 percent of senior management posts. According to the report, the number was even lower for African-Americans, Hispanic and Asians, who hold less than 1 percent each of those positions.

The statistics revealed that in 1994, the federal government received more than 90,000 complaints of employee discrimination based on race, ethnicity and gender.

And hate crimes and violence were still ugly realities in the lives of many Americans.

"We must not become the first generation since the end of Reconstruction to narrow the reach of equal opportunity," Clinton said. "We must continue the struggle toward equal opportunity for all and special treatment for none. America cannot afford to waste a single person as we confront new challenges."

Kids Hungry In Oregon

At least 36,000 children are hungry in Oregon and another 131,000 are at risk of being hungry, according to a new national study.

Taken together, 167,000 children under age 12 or 25 percent of the young people in Oregon, are hungry or at risk of being hungry.

The findings were released last week by the Food Research and Action Center in Washington, D.C. The community childhood hunger identification project was the most rigorous and comprehensive study of childhood hunger ever conducted in the United States.

Researchers analyzed 5,000 responses from families in eight states. The data was then used to make projections for all 50 states.

"Data from this study mirrors our figures," said Rachel Bristol Little, executive director for the Oregon Food Bank. "In fact, during the last year, 159,000 children under the age of 13 received emergency food boxes from our member hunger-relief programs."

Nationally, the estimate of low-income hungry children under 12 reaches 4 million, with 9.6 million in that age group estimated to be at risk of hunger. The figures add to 13.6 million American children or 29 percent of the population currently hungry or at risk of being hungry.

The report found that the hunger affecting most

low-income families is not a one-time or infrequent occurrence. It is characterized by food shortages in the household and chronic insecurity about whether the family will have enough food.

Ellen Lowe, chair of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, said the findings have serious policy implications.

"For Congress to even consider cutting or block granting critical and successful child nutrition programs, such as school meal programs, food stamps and food reimbursements for day care providers, is not only foolhardy but dangerous to the health of our nation's children and they include 131,000 Oregon children," Lowe said.

Jack Kennedy, who runs the Northeast Emergency Food Program in Portland agrees.

"We see individuals and families every day who are trying very hard to feed their families on increasingly meager resources. Many are working but only making minimum wage.

Some can't find work that will support their family. And some tread that fine line between being middle class and, due to unforeseen circumstances, falling into poverty," Kennedy said.

He said it does no good to blame the victim.

"I see the victims every day, and denying them services will not make them or the conditions causing their problems, disappear," Kennedy said.



Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. and Nicholas Johnson, 10, learn about PORTALS, a multi-media information technology system for area libraries and the Internet. Portland State University and the Oregon Historical Society received a \$1.5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Education for the system. It will put thousands of documents, photos, maps, objects and other items over the computer on-line to state and local libraries.

EDITORIAL	RELIGION	HEALTH	ENTERTAINMENT	HOUSING	DIVERSITY	CLASSIFIEDS
A2	A6	A7	B3	B4	B5	B8