THE PORTLAND OBSERVER • OCTOBER 18, 1995

# **Detective Named Police Officer Of The Year**

## Ten Men and Women Receive Honorable Mention

32-year-old, 5 foot 6, 105-pound eight-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, who risked her life to save the lives of 20 others, has been named the 1995 Police Officer of the Year by Parade magazine and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"I'm dead," Beckles recalled thinking when a robber put a gun to her head in a downtown Brooklyn beauty salon last year. "Let's see who I can save."

She then single-handedly shot and wounded all three robbers, one fatally, using all five bullets in her revolver.

As a result of the incident, the New York Police Department now issues a 15-round magazine, which is known on the street as "the Beckles clip," for 9mm semiautomatic weapons.

Beckles was a patron on February at my face!" 5, 1994, marked the first time that

Detective Arlene Beckles, a Beckles was ever forced to use her weapon.

> When the men entered the salon, she was just nodding off to sleep under a hairdryer. Slowly she moved out of the chair and crouched behind a hair-dressing station.

> She was about a foot away from one suspect, who was rifling through pocketbooks and demanding jewelry from other patrons.

> With her back to the robber, Beckles carefully reached under her smock, pulled out her .38 Smith and Wesson and hid it under her armpit.

> With only five rounds in the cylinder, she knew what she was up against. She bided her time.

> When the robber moved to the woman closest to her, the woman froze, unable to release her pocketbook.

The robber grew enraged and The attempted robbery, put his gun to her head. He then which took place at the Salon La saw Beckles, and putting his gun Mode Beauty Parlor where to her head, screamed, "don't look

When the robber turned back



Hair-salon hero: Detective Arlene Beckles with (from left) Valerie Williams, the owner; Marlene Roy, Dale Edgehill and Cafresa Hooker, hairstylists.

to the other woman, Beckles been electronically shut, trying to whipped out her revolver, jumped up and shouted, "police! Don't at her, and she fired, hitting him in the nose.

When the other two robbers Beckles and fired at her.

ground, shooting them both until she heard the "click" of her empty chamber.

One of the robbers lay on the ground, wounded, and Beckles stepped on his hand and grabbed the weapon, the other robber tackled her and began punching her in the face, ribs and legs.

During the struggle, the robber grabbed the gun, and Beckless felt the barrel against her temple. She closed her eyes and prayed.

The robber squeezed the trigger. Nothing. He squeezed again. Still nothing.

It was later determined that some bullets in the gun were the wrong size, causing the weapon to jam

Beckles moved to the robber on the floor and retrieved his gun. By now, two of the robbers were pounding on the door, which had IACP

escape

Beckles pressed the alarm move!" the robber pointed his gun buzzer and let them out. They were later picked up at nearby hospitals and are now in prison.

The third robber died a week heard the gunfire, they turned on later from his wound. Miraculously, no one in the salon, in-But Beckles stood her cluding Beckles, was seriously injured

> An instructor at the Police Academy, Beckles was promoted to detective two days after the shootout

"It was like a fairy tale," rehis gun. But before she could fire called Beckles, who was married one week later to her fiance' of three years, Steve Imparato, at City Hall by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Beckles is the second woman to receive the Police Officer of the Year Award in its 30-year history

She will received a plaque and a diamond-studded gold pin from Parade Managing Editor Larry Smith.

The presentatio was scheduled at a luncheon on Tuesday. October 17, in the Fountainbleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla. during the annual convention of the

# **The Mother Of All Marches**

#### **Continued from front**

Defense League cited at length their firm opposition to any endeavor that Minister Farrakhan might sponsor. Both accused the Black Muslims of rampant anti-semitism. William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education, who is called to comment on anything and everything, followed suit.

Representative John Lewis (D), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, was hesitant when asked for an opinion on the March. He voiced comments which earlier had disturbed many blacks, going back several decades to extol the virtues of the "rainbow look" when "whites, blacks, Jews, Hispanics, etc." all came together to exhibit the "unity of America."

onstrated the traumatic failure of the concept -- not only has there not been any "melting pot" worthy of the name, "but the illusion has provided "a false sense of security for many who expected cross-cultural for black goals and aspirations." Many say that blacks finally have grown up.

The Women's Movement emphasized that co-organizer, Benjamin Chavis was fired as director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on a charge of sexual harassment. But Rosa Parks, was at the March and tremendously supportive of the underlying concepts. The network just cut off her speech and switched to a spokesman for the Jewish Anti-Defamation League. The media is having a very, very tough time with the March in an effort to interpret 'blackness' for white America. More next week



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Lewis has been roundly criticized by many blacks who point out that subsequent event's clearly have dem-

### Too "Unbearable" To Miss Albina Head Start's

Dedication Ceremony and Open House Reception for the **Richard Brown Head Start Center** 

> Friday, Oct. 27 606 N.E. Fremont 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Looking for that perfect gift? Owe a business associate or friend a favor? Want to say thank-you?

### Send a Meal-A-Gram!

A Meal-A-Gram is a gourmet lunch hand delivered on Wednesday, October 25th to anyone you choose in the Portland metro area. Your thoughtfulness will help provide meals for local seniors in need.

> **Give A Gift That's Always** in Good Taste! This year's Meal-A-Gram lunch features: Classic Timberline Salad Hearty Baked Bread Fresh Specialty Fruit A Refreshing Beverage Gourmet Dessert

Cost is just \$10 each for two or more delivered to the same location (\$15 each if delivered individually). Order Loaves & Fishes/The Meals-On-Wheels People At 777-2424. Meal-A-Gram is a fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes/The Meals-On-Wheels People.

oceeds will help provide hot, nutritious meals to local homebound senior citizer

I live in Oregon. I go outside. I enjoy group activities. I eat sushi. I eat granola. I davdream. I reuse. I recycle. I blow bubbles. I listen to alternative music. I listen to alternatives to alternative music. □ I knit space suits. I doodle. I ultilize exact change. I have a frequent need to be someplace. I want a friendly city that accomodates growth. I want stretchy pants that accomodate growth. I choose not to live and die in LA. I say no to smog. I net surf. I channel surf. I bus surf. I surf 'n turf. I applaud punctuality. I like libraries. I can read in motion I get hives thinking about traffic. I often do two things at once. I try new recipes. I try new recipes on other people. I embrace diversity. I find change refreshing. I find fresh air refreshing. I have a destination. with orange logos. I own a Raffi tape. I believe in Free Transfers for all. □ I have a friendly smile for everyone.

□ I go somewhere everyday.

Check any that apply.

I gravitate toward shiny chrome objects. I appreciate air brakes. I admire hydrolics. I have a basic understanding of Newton's Laws. I like Fig Newtons. I like Wayne Newton. I try to be part of the solution. I am always evolving. I dig Lewis and Clark. I marvel at Dick Clark. I know the value of a good map. I know the value of a good nap. □ I find zones orderly. □ I have never won the lottery and yet I survive. I vote whenever I get the chance. I commute. I coexist peacefully with nature. I coexist peacefully with neighbors. I can't fit all my friends in my backseat. I miss Jerry. I can pitch a tent. I like bells that signal a stop. I think automation is neat. I look for new ways to get from point A to point B. I support preservation. I keep moving forward. □ I poo-poo stressful situations. □ I find color coded signs helpful. I possess leadership qualities. I like to sit near people with leadership qualities. I like blue uniforms

I get a kick out of riding anything. I let others get stuck in a jam. I work to be modern. I never look back. I navigate through life. I operate a push button phone. I will try anything once. I will try anything twice. I want to work together. I want to get to work on time. I reject the hunt for parking. I think about progress. I think about trees. I think about snack foods. I spend time wisely I stay informed. I decide for myself. I design gizmos in my basement. I have ideas I want to share. I strive for a sense of community. I keep my area clean. I come equipped for anything. I pack lightly. I go with the flow. I turn the tap off when I brush. I love learning. □ I am learning to love. I take pride in being Oregonian. I wish for what I need. I try soup before it's cooled. I don't mind some man-made fibers. I carry a schedule with me at all times. I like the future. I affect the future. I plan for the future. I wasn't born yesterday. I was born yesterday. I can't wait for tomorrow. I milk every drop out of today.

If you checked even just one, chances are you're a New Pioneer. Congrats. You have a future on Tri-Met. Together we're heading for an Oregon that is accommodating to its growing population, but isn't cluttered with traffic or clogged with smog - an Oregon where modern people can coexist intelligently with nature, and even get to work on time. Call 238-RIDE for your personal trip plan and hop on.

