



Police News

Three Auto Repair Shops Have Agreed To Change Their Business Practices

Attorney General Theodore R. Kulongoski today announced that based on the findings of an undercover investigation by the Department of Justice three auto repair shops have agreed to change their business practices following allegations that they had performed unnecessary repairs. In addition, Kulongoski announced that he has served notice of intent to sue two other businesses. Investigators visited ten other auto repair establishments without finding any problems.

"We will not tolerate auto repair fraud in this state," Kulongoski said. "While our investigation showed that most mechanics are dedicated to treating their customers honestly, our cars are too important to permit even a few instances of fraud or unnecessary repairs."

Two signed Assurances of Voluntary Compliance were filed in the Marion County Circuit Court, Kulongoski said. The third company entered into an unfiled settlement agreement. None of the agreements admit any violation of law. "These companies deserve credit for recognizing the problem and taking prompt steps to prevent its recurrence," Kulongoski said. The three companies were: Lithia Toyota Lincoln Mercury (Medford); Firestone Tire and Service Center on Burnside Street in Portland; and, K And H Specialties (The Dalles).

The undercover investigation consisted of Financial Fraud staff, with the assistance of an expert mechanic provided by the State Motor Pool, testing the air conditioning system on an unmarked car, then disabling it by inserting a blown fuse. A female investigator posing as a traveler brought the car to 15 different repair shops in locations throughout the state.

The manufacturer's repair manual specifies that a defective or blown fuse would be the third problem to check when attempting to fix a broken air conditioner. All of the locations "shopped" by investigators eventually found and replaced the blown fuse. Ten businesses informed the investigator of the nature of the problem and charged from nothing up to \$44.95. The average diagnostic charge for these was \$25.

Mechanics at five locations told the undercover investigator that additional parts required replacement. Kulongoski said that all of the parts replaced were, in fact, fully functional. The additional charges ranged from \$57.25 to \$293.20. In one instance, investigators found that the mechanic charged a parts fee for a replacement fuse which had actually been taken from the spares in the unmarked car.

Auto repair complaints were second on the department's 1995 Top 10 Consumer Complaint list, issued this week in conjunction with National Consumer Week. The National Association of Attorneys General's top ten consumer complaint list puts car repair at number two. Car repair complaints are sixth on the Better Business Bureau's list of businesses which were the subject of inquiries in 1994.

Kulongoski said that consumers should take some simple steps to help protect themselves against becoming victims of repair fraud. He urged consumers to call his consumer hotline and to check with the local better business bureau before deciding on a mechanic. Kulongoski said consumers should obtain more than one written estimate, always using the same description of the work to be done. He urged consumers to communicate directly with the person who will actually work on the car. He said consumers should never leave a vehicle to be repaired without specific instructions and several numbers where the consumer can be reached. Kulongoski said consumers should, if at all possible, do their homework on the basic mechanics of their automobile and always check what warranties and service contracts apply to vehicle repairs.

For a free copy of a brochure titled "Talking the Scare Out of Auto Repair", call the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 378-4320 or 229-5576 (Portland only), 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday or write Financial Fraud, 1162 Court Street, N.E., Salem, OR 97310.

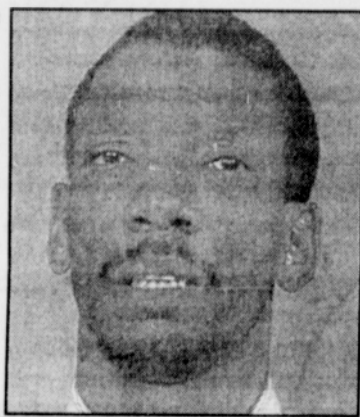
Crime Stoppers, Fraud

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating Robert Earl McDonald. A felony arrest warrant has been issued in Multnomah County, charging McDonald with Theft By Deception.

According to investigators, the charges stem from a fraudulent scheme in which McDonald would pose as a delivery person for Federal Express, and collect C.O.D. Charges for fictitious packages.

Robert Earl McDonald is a 47-year-old black male, with a date of birth of December 2, 1947. McDonald, who has also used the alias Terry Johnson, stands 6'2" tall and weighs 140 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Homicide Investigation At 5503 SE Knight St.

Portland Police detectives are investigating the death of a Southeast Portland man as a homicide.

Southeast Precinct officers responded to 5503 S. E. Knight St. at about 9:15 a.m. after receiving a call that a man was down and appeared injured inside the house there. Upon arrival officers found Michael C. Smrkovsky, D.O.B. 10-05-44, dead of undetermined trauma inside the house. There was

blood about the room, which was in disarray.

At the same time, officers contacted Donald Charles Blacker, D.O.B. 02-01-54, who was seated on the front porch of the house next door at 5509 S. E. Knight St. After speaking to Blacker, officers took him into custody. Blacker has been charged with Murder. He will be lodged at the Justice Center Jail.

Blacker was staying at 5509 S. E. Knight St., next door to the deceased. Allegedly, Blacker and Smrkovsky were drinking and socializing together in the early morning hours prior to Smrkovsky's death. The exact cause and manner of death will be determined by the State Medical Examiners Office.

Detectives Jim Bellah and Cheryl Kanzler are the investigators.

National Day For Justice For Mumia Abu-Jamal

The Portland based Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition today announced it would hold a demonstration on Monday, November 6th from noon until 2:00 PM at the justice center, 3rd & Main, in conjunction with national and international actions planned that day. These actions are, in part, a response to revelations of Philadelphia police corruption and brutality.

A local member of the Coalition stated "the arrests and convictions of police officers that has led to 42 criminal convictions being overturned and the subpoenaing of over 100,000 arrest records is further evidence Mumia did not receive a fair trial."

The demonstration will demand not only a new trial for Mumia but also for Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham to:

Give full disclosures in all cases where police misconduct is charged.

Enact an immediate moratorium on all death penalty prosecutions.

Release and compensation for all police frame-up victims.

More details on national and local activities on November 6 will be released as available, according to the Coalition.

TWO PORTLAND MOTELS ORDERED CLOSED

Two Portland area motels which were associated with prostitution activity have been ordered closed as of October 23, 1995. The two motels involved are The City Center at 3800 N. E. Sandy Blvd. and the Dunes Motel 1525 N.E. 37th Ave. The closures are the result of a court order following proceedings brought under the City of

Portland's Specified Crime Property Ordinance.

The action follows a criminal investigation into prostitution and narcotics activity at the establishments by East Precinct officers earlier this year.

The investigation centered into allegations that motel management and employees allowed prostitution

activity on the premises, engaged in prostitution, or accepted money to promote prostitution.

East Precinct officers served search warrants at the motels on April 1, 1995.

Breeze Studio of Nail Design

Fills \$16.00 • Pedicure \$ 18.00



- Walk-Ins Welcome
- 2BBH Liscensed Nail Tecks.
- Airbrush, Nail Art, Jewelry
- Paraffin Therapy Wax

Open 6 Days, 9:00am - 9:00pm
7048 NE MLK
(Between Dekum & Lombard)
735-0715

\$5.00 OFF FULL SET
Regularly \$29.00
Expires 12-1-95

Jews And Gentiles

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

The idea for this series developed as the after-math of several spirited discussions (arguments?) around town with some rather diverse groups -- which are the kind I usually encounter in my peripatetic wanderings. Some immediacy was generated by the recent appearance of Dr. Cornel West at Lewis & Clark University; coauthor of "Jews And Blacks: Let The Healing Begin" (1995).

As the man said, "deja Vu all over again". In an absurd niche of my library I found a 1966 copy of "Negro And Jew: An Encounter In America". Edited by Shlomo Katz, the dust jacket describes an approaching storm; "With the emergence of Black Power, a critical 'new' issue has arisen in American life. Here is a candid examination of Negro anti-semitism - and the consequent Jewish Reaction." We suppose a witches brew has been bubbling ever since.

There have been so many books or essays in this vein that one is prompted to speculate as to whether there has ever been published anything in antithesis; you know, like "Jewish anti-Negroism" -- not that any mainstream publisher would touch it; and not that it doesn't exist.

In the first book, "Jews and Blacks", Cornel West and his coauthor Michael Lerner press forward in a fast-moving and far-ranging exchange, "Can Jews and Blacks be

friends and allies once again? It's neither easy nor impossible, say Michael Lerner and Cornel West, in a dialogue that looks at the most pressing problems of contemporary America through the prism of the relationship between their two communities.

The alliance between Blacks and Jews was the cornerstone of liberal politics for much of the twentieth century. Yet today there are people in each community who see their former ally is their most dangerous foe.

In the current political climate, it would be easy to suggest we gloss over the differences and unite in the face of a common enemy: the reactionary right. But calls for unity are not likely to succeed unless they are based on working through the explosive issues that separate communities."

This book touches every facet of a possible Jew/Black schism, but does not seem to explore anything in depth. Rather, the book is like a fast-paced dialogue between two persons who are very knowledgeable on the subject matter, but have got to get back to the office after this half-hour lunch. Farrakhan, Black Nationalism, Jessie Jackson, SNCC, NAACP, Zionism, Shamir, Palestinians, and Crown Heights are all sliced thin and served up for a cursory inspection. Both combatants fire off some clever one-liners, but the battle is never joined.

The second book, "Negro And Jew", while consisting of a score of short essays or vignettes on the subject that are necessarily brief, does in fact provide some factual, hard-hitting and insightful material. These less intellectual excursions into reality make excellent points-of-departure for constructive dialogue--as opposed to academic 'tripping'.

For our purposes, this series will be based on my own experience, analysis and reflections (Surprise, surprise). Over the years I've had some strange encounters and some confrontations both perilous and hilarious-but never dull. Webster defines both Jew and Gentile, the latter "a person of a non-Jewish nation or of non-Jewish faith. How about a "Heathen...Pagan". For me, a Jew is anyone who says he is "Jewish". Who am I to question?

I, Perhaps, have had closer and more intimate contact with both Jew and white Gentiles (herein after referred to as 'whites') than most blacks; Ranging from an early childhood in a mixed neighborhood to summer vacation employment as a resident chauffeur or valet in Jewish households. Then, many years later, employed in accounting or administration in Jewish-owned corporations as well as other proprietorships.

As later, in academia, the conflicts can grow rancorous and quite often the old adage holds, "Too close for comfort" continued next week.

Worldwide Ban On Hate Talk Urged

Continued from front

Many Jewish leaders said the killing showed that the "verbal" violence that has accompanied Rabin's peace efforts had clearly gotten out of hand.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel told reporters on Saturday:

"What worries me is the hatred. We knew there was a great debate between those who wanted peace and those who did not. And now you see the results - the face of hatred and the face of hatred is death."

Wiesel is a prominent supporter of Rabin's peace efforts. But his sentiments were echoed even by those who strongly opposed Rabin's course.

"A word is a word, a deed is a deed. But words lead to deeds. Every time I heard someone cry out that Rabin was a 'traitor' at a rally, I felt I had to get up and denounce that incendiary language," said New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has led protests against Israel's making peace with Yassar Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization around the world.

Weiss said in 1994 when police in Oslo, Norway, were about to arrest him at a demonstration, he asked them to wait while he tried to stop someone from burning an effigy of Rabin.

On Sunday, Weiss led a memorial service in tribute to Rabin attended by 400 people and his voice broke when he started to say a prayer that began, "May God remember the soul of the prime minister of Israel."

"It was like saying the state of Israel had been shot. I can't sleep because all I can think is that we have stooped to this level. We have to replace the hatred with love, otherwise we can't live," Weiss said.

Looking For The Best Value In Advertising?

The Portland Observer
288-0033

GRAND OPENING SALE

Fame (Q Fashion)

Kids • Mens • Womens Clothes • Big Sizes

Hats • Caps • Hair • Wigs • Purses • Jewelry • Gifts
Electronics • Watches • House Shoes • Slippers • Toys
T/Shirts • 99¢ Belts • Stockings • Sox • Sunglasses

All Kinds Of Fashion Items & Beauty Supplies.
And Much Much More

3904 N. E. M.L.K. 335-8034

Hours 10:00-7:00 Monday-Saturday

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
COME-N-SEE

• Lay Away •

Fame (Q Fashion)

GRAND OPENING SALE

10% Discount Coupon

Expires After 12-31-95

BALLOONS GALORE!

COMPLETE DECORATING SERVICE
FOR ALL OCCASIONS AND EVENTS

- WEDDINGS • GRAND OPENINGS •
- CORPORATE FUNCTIONS • BANQUETS •
- BIRTHDAYS • FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL •

ALSO
GIFT IN A BALLOON
BOUQUETS OF BALLOONS

HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 - 6:00

(503) 331-1101

WE DELIVER!!!

LATEX & MYLAR!!!

Stork for Rent! "We deliver when you deliver"

CHOICES

Law Offices of Daniel E. Russell, P.C.
SPECIALIZING IN YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

- Real Estate
- Wills & Trusts
- Medical Malpractice
- Accidents-Personal Injuries
- Divorce & Family Law
- Landlord/Tenant
- Small Business Law
- Product Liability
- Criminal Defense
- Collections

Call Daniel E. Russell at 282-7999
For Your free initial consultation.