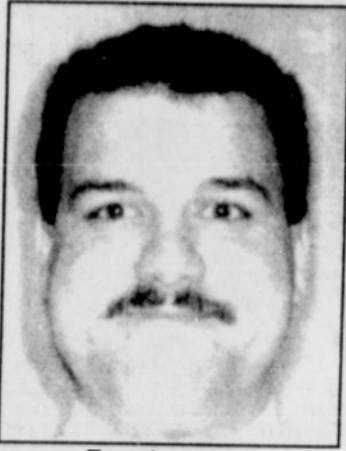


Police News

Man Writes \$61,000 In Bad Checks

The Beaverton Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in apprehending Ralph Robert Rickert. According to investigators, Rickert is believed to have passed at least \$61,000 in "bad checks." Rickert obtained drivers' licenses in Oregon and Washington under the assumed name of Bruce Edward Wendland. After opening a checking account at a Washington bank, Rickert wrote approximately 120 "bad checks" to area merchants.

Rickert is described as a 30-



Fraud suspect, **Ralph Robert Rickert.**

year-old white male, with a date of birth of March 18, 1965. He stands about 6 feet tall, weighs 175 to 195 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He may wear glasses when writing checks and may be accompanied by an adult white female with blond hair.

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 need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Covington Faces Murder Charge

A 19-year-old north Portland man has been arrested for murder in connection with an Oct. 30 traffic death. Police said the suspect, Donte LaVoy Covington, was arrested Dec. 4 as he arrived at the Justice Center to make a court appearance on a recent cocaine arrest.

Covington is charged in the death of Victor P. Drayer, 40, who died of head injuries when he fell from a truck in the 4400 block of North Gantenbien Avenue. The victim was run over by the vehicle, police said. A witness said Drayer was hanging on the truck just before he fell.



Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Cash Connection Robbery

Portland Police Bureau detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the suspects responsible for a robbery. On Wednesday, November 1, 1995, at about 8:00 in the morning, two subjects entered the Cash Connection check cashing service at 2929 SE Powell Boulevard. The suspects confronted an employee at gunpoint, and forced her into the rear of the store. One subject removed money from a cash register while the other forced the employee to open the vault. After obtaining a substantial amount of cash, the suspects fled on foot. No vehicle was



Robbery suspect #1 seen.

Suspect #1 is described as a black male in his early 20's 5'9 tall, clean-shaven, with short black hair and

brown eyes. At the time he was wearing a white sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and was armed with a small black handgun.

Suspect #2 is described as a black male, 6' tall, weighing 150 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. At the time he was wearing a black nylon parka, dark pants, and a dark color knit cap.

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.

Double Payoff: Inmates Get Jobs While State Saves Money

The state Medicaid office is contracting with Corrections Industries for inmates to answer routine billing inquiries from physicians dentists, hospitals and other medical providers about Medicaid and the Oregon Health Plan.

It is the first contract to be implemented under terms of last year's Ballot Measure 17, which requires prison inmates to spend 40 hours a week in work or on-the-job training. The arrangement is expected to save the Medicaid office, known as the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP), \$213,000 in the first year and \$94,000 annually after that.

"This is what Measure 17 intended--jobs for inmates, training for inmates and savings for taxpayers," said Bobbie Barott, office services supervisor for Corrections Industries in the Oregon Department of Corrections.

"We believe giving more inmates a chance to work will not only improve their attitude in the institution but also give them better preparation for jobs after their release," Barott said. "These inmates are enthusiastic about this opportunity and are quizzing each other on the Medicaid training they've received." She said the inmates received a month of training.

Barott said 15 inmates, of whom five will work as back-up workers, were selected from 50 applicants to handle phone inquiries for OMAP.

The contract will also improve services to medical providers, reduce a backlog of tough claims and free up regular staff to handle the most difficult questions and to help providers, said Hersh Crawford, acting director of OMAP in the Oregon

Department of Human Resources.

Crawford said the phone assistance, previously available only six hours a day, will now be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including noon hours. He said the contract with Corrections Industries will enable the state to reduce a six-month backlog of complex claims to as little as two weeks.

"We were mandated by voters to train prison inmates and to save tax dollars," Crawford said. "This means we can assign our best-trained employees to work the toughest cases while giving job experience handling more routine questions to people at OSCI." He said better service may mean that physicians and dentists will be more willing to accept Medicaid patients.

Crawford said medical providers' question -- about 800 a day -- are often about payment errors that result from having used a wrong procedure or diagnostic code in a billing. He said first-year savings are greater than those in subsequent years because OMAP isn't responsible for furniture, phone and other start-up costs.

Without the contract for OSCI inmates' work, Crawford said, the state would have been forced to hire more employees to handle the volume of Oregon Health Plan calls.

He said inmates will have no access to confidential patient records and that two OMAP staff members are assigned to the OSCI phone room to ensure that providers receive a high quality of customer service. He

said no OMAP staff members are being laid off but, as vacancies occur, the Medicaid office will review workload.

In February, Crawford said, the state intends to move the contract for public inquiries about the Oregon Health Plan from a private contractor to Corrections Industries. That phone line is for members of the public -- about 1,500 a day -- seeking eligibility and applicant information, and Crawford said it makes sense to consolidate both operations into a single phone center. Corrections Industries already has the contract to mail packets of Oregon Health Plan information to people wishing to apply for coverage.

LIVING LARGE You have it made in the U.S. Coast Guard. 20 careers to choose from, including saving lives, law enforcement and environmental protection. Competitive salary. 30-days' paid vacation. Free housing & meals, medical & dental care and travel. Earn college credits. Eligibility for G.I. Bill. For more information, call 1 800 GET USCG or visit us at

U.S. COAST GUARD
BE PART OF THE ACTION



Observing Vancouver

Mayor Hagensen Departs On Goodwill Visit To Joyo, Japan

Mayor Bruce Hagensen, departed Vancouver on Oct. 19, 1995 on a goodwill visit to Vancouver's official sister city, Joyo in Japan.

The mayor carries a proclamation and a plaque written in English and Japanese formalizing the relationship between the two cities.

Joyo City is in the center of Yamashiro Basin halfway between Kyoto and Nara. The Joyo area has

been inhabited since 2000 B.C., has a population of 85,427 and covers about 33 kilometers of land. The geography of Joyo generally matches Vancouver.

Joyo was formally approved as a sister city by city council on Oct. 2. The Vancouver Rotary Club is the official sponsor.

Vancouver's International Affairs Commission, appointed to advise council about Sister City relationships, unanimously recommended the alliance. Elie Kasab, Chairman of the International Affairs Commission will accompany the mayor. Joyo met the requirements of city sponsorship as outlined by the commission. Keith Kiplan also traveled with the Mayor representing the Vancouver Rotary Club.

Kids Duck The Weather

Kindergarten to fifth grade children can escape the weather and play inside five elementary school gyms on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gyms will be open Saturday, Nov. 18 through March 9.

The program is free and features an hour of organized sports and an hour of free play.

An emergency information form is required for each child.

The open gym program is sponsored by the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department and Vancouver School District.

Open gym sites are: Martin Luther King Elementary School, 4801 Idaho St.; Harney Elementary School, 3212 E. Evergreen

Blvd.; Fruit Valley Elementary School, 3301 Fruit Valley Road; Roosevelt Elementary School, 2921 Falk Rd.; Washington Elementary School; 2908 "S" St. (program starts Dec. 9).

City Vancouver Public Information Division, (360) 696-8016. Fax (360) 696-8942.

New History Book Features Minister Farrakhan

A new book by historian Adib Rashad, Islam, Black Nationalism & Slavery, A Detailed History, has just been released. In this fascinating study, Mr. Rashad identified the major landmarks in the history of Muslims in America, documenting many contributions of Africans to Islam, the presence of African Muslims in America before Columbus, and the role Islam played in Muslim slaves surviving the ordeal of bondage.

Beginning with the origins of Islam in Arabia and continuing to the African empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai, Mr. Rashad examines the influence the religion had on the peo-

ples of the continent and the impact of slavery on African Muslims brought to the Americas. He offers several biographical sketches of pre-Civil War Muslim slaves and how Islam was reintroduced into the United States at the turn of the century.

Mr. Rashad describes the rise of Islamic and Black Power movements in urban areas of the U.S. and presents vivid portraits of such powerful historical figures as Marcus Garvey, drew Ali, Elijah Muhammad, and Malcolm X. The book also includes biographical profiles of current leaders such as Minister Louis Farrakhan, Imam Jamil Al-Amin (H. Rap

Brown), Imam W.D. Mohammed, and many others who have contributed to the present African-American Islamic consciousness. The chapters on Elijah Muhammad and Louis Farrakhan are particularly revealing, shedding much light on the origins and teachings of the Nation of Islam.

Islam, Black Nationalism & Slavery, A Detailed History, which includes an introduction by renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Sulayman S. Nyang of Georgetown and Howard Universities, is by far the most comprehensive history written to date on the influence of Islam on African Americans.

New & used books on Business, Music, & African-American Studies

POWELL'S CITY OF BOOKS

9 AM - 11 PM Monday through Saturday
9 AM - 9 PM Sundays
Used books bought every day till 8:30 PM
On the #20 Bus Line • One hour free parking
1005 West Burnside Street
228-4651

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"

L.A. Nails **GRAND OPENING**
"Professional Manicurists"
6804 Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland, OR 97211
(503) 735-3792
Specialize In Long And Curl

Full Set \$22 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95	Fill \$14 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95
Manicure \$8 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95	Pedicure \$14 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95
Silk-Gel Set \$25 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95	Oil Manicure \$10 WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95
Nails Art Airbrush \$2 up WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95	Free Airbrush With Full Set Charm or Fill WITH COUPON EXP. 1-1-95

Quality Products • Comfortable Environment
Sterilized Implements • Guarantee Natural Beauty
Open 6 Days-- MON-SAT 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Open Sunday by Appt. Only
Walk-In Welcome
Parking in Rear

MLK Blvd. DeKUM 1-1-95