

Fighting Drug Abuse

Men make choices for long-term recovery from drugs at the Volunteers of America Men's Residential Center in northeast Portland.



See Metro, inside.

Don't Be A Menace...

As Portland Observer film critic Lanita Duke explains, it's a satire on the recent "hood movies."



See Arts & Entertainment, page B3.

The Portland Observer

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Row
University of Oregon Library
Eugene, Oregon
97403

er 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Transmit Mall Arrests Made

Arrest warrants were issued last week for 116 people following police surveillance of the downtown transmit mall for drug dealing. The operation by Portland Police and the FBI was intended to improve the liveability of the downtown area to reduce street drug dealing.

Light Rail Funds Expected

Metro's elected officials last week said they expect state legislators to re-confirm a vote to fund expansion of light rail, despite a recent Oregon Supreme Court decision that found the light rail funding bill passed in the last legislative session was flawed.

Session To Address Crime

Gov. John Kitzhaber will open a special session of the Oregon Legislature on Thursday. The lawmakers will address a community crime prevention plan that would transfer some inmates to county jails and community corrections programs.

Hales Seeks Re-election

Portland City Commissioner Charlie Hales last week announced his intention to run for re-election. Hales is a former neighborhood activist.

Fred Meyer Expands

Fred Meyer is expanding its fine jewelry business by purchasing 23 regional mall jewelry stores in California and Washington. Distribution will be handled through Fred Meyer Jeweler's existing central distribution operation in Portland.

No Fat Substitute Approved

The food and drug Administration approved the controversial new fat substitute olestra last week for use in snack foods. While olestra has the taste and texture of fat, it adds no fat or calories. However, it also has been associated with some unpleasant side effects.

Clinton Delivers Message

President Clinton delivered his State of the Union address last week, offering his own idea of limited government, challenging the nation to provide enough educational opportunities, economic security and freedom from crime to allow Americans to make the most of an "age of possibility."

Gadhafi Unites With Farrakhan

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said he and Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam in the United States, have agreed to work together to influence U.S. elections and foreign policy. There was no response by Farrakhan.



BPA Middle School Science Bowl All Stars are awarded trophies Saturday at OMSI. The competition featured 22 teams from all over Oregon, 86 volunteers from the Bonneville Power Administration and 14 supporting sponsors.

(Photo by Michael G. Halle)

Renfro Voted To Hall

Mel Renfro of northeast Portland was elected Saturday to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Renfro is a former University of Oregon football and track star who was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 1964. He played 14 seasons with Dallas, from 1964 to 1977.

He earned a Pro Bowl berth his first 10 seasons, played in four Super Bowls and had 52 career interceptions.

Renfro was born in Houston, Texas, but raised in Portland where he attended Boise Elementary and Jefferson High School.

As a running back at Jefferson, he set a Portland league record when he scored 36 points in one game. He helped Jefferson play for the state championship three times and helped his team win the championship twice, in 1957 and 1958. In 1960, he was named the Most

Valuable Player in the Shrine All Star Game.

Currently, Renfro works as the Ambassador for the Bridge, a program and center dedicated to bringing youth in Portland's inner city long-term spiritual, moral, educational and economic renewal.

About his year's in the NFL, Renfro said, "As I look back on my career, it's clear that the successes I experienced were not just mine, but the work of the Lord.

"He gave me these talents at a young age and has been guiding my life all along," Renfro said.

"We are so glad Mel has received this ultimate honor," Pastor Don Frazier, founder of the Bridge Center and long-time friend of Renfro said.

Renfro becomes the seventh member of the Cowboys in the Hall of Fame.



Mel Renfro

Formal enshrinement will take place July 27 in Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, on the day of the AFC-NFC Hall of Fame game between New Orleans and Indianapolis.

Quotes From Simpson Interview

The following are highlights of O.J. Simpson's first full TV interview Wednesday since his acquittal on murder charges last October.

On whether he was guilty of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman: "This is America," Simpson said. "I'm as innocent as anyone else out there.

"No I did not commit those murders. I couldn't kill anyone and I don't know of anyone that was involved. Anything that I may say along those lines would be pure speculation.

"I could not have killed anyone and I did not kill anyone. I'm an American and I just want to be treated like an American. I want people to treat me the way I treated all of you for the last 20 years.

"And that's the only thing I'm asking now. If you don't like me, leave me alone. I'm not bothering you. Let me raise my family and give me the opportunity to earn

a living and support my family."

On why some people feel he may be guilty: "I think the media is the main reason America is feeling the way they're feeling," he said.

"I don't think the public saw, when they came home from work, or whatever they were doing at the end of the day, and sat down and watched the news and watched some of these talk shows, they were lied to."

On his search for the real killer of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman: "It's difficult. One, because they block my ability to earn money, I only have a few people working on the case."

On the reaction by women's rights groups to his not guilty verdict: "I think I am now every... a certain group of women out there who have had a bad experience with a man, who have been in an abusive relationship, I have become their whipping boy. I am the guy they're looking at."

Asked about his 1989 no contest plea to charges he beat his ex-wife, Simpson said:

"In 1989 I was involved in an argument that got physical in my home. I feel I was wrong. I should have handled the situation a lot better. I didn't make any excuses. I went through the legal system. I made no excuses there. They gave me I guess a fine or penalty. I had to do community service. I did it all. My wife and I at that time went on with our life. We had a very close relationship. We talked about it.

"I paid my dues for whatever that crime was. If it was a crime, I paid my dues. I've gone on with my life."

Asked why someone should buy his \$29.95 mail order video, Simpson said he is the sole supporter of his family: "I'm at the point where I have to support my family. I have to send a check each month for my kids. I'm the sole supporter of my kids. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, I'll be supporting them in my home. There are people who don't want me to earn a living in any way shape or form.

Building Plans Clash

BY LEE PERLMAN

Two very different new projects are planned for the intersection of North Mississippi Avenue and Shaver Street. The two concerns involved don't care for each other, and they've produced very different reactions from neighbors.

Housing Our Families, a non-profit agency that provides low-income housing for single women and families in north and northeast Portland, has acquired a vacant lot southwest of the intersection from Multnomah County.

According to staff member Linda Grear, they plan to build a two-story structure on the site. The upper floor will have nine housing units. Below they plan 1,000 square feet of commercial space, the group's first non-housing venture. The space will include their own offices.

Staff member Linda Grear said the group is seeking community input on other possible uses.

Across the street, Jeff Stewart is renovating an existing 1,000 square foot building at 915 N. Shaver St. as a bar and grill, and has applied for a liquor license. His plans so far call for 50 seats, pool tables, and occasional live jazz performances.

Stewart proposes to operate from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 to 2 on Sunday. He is not sure if he will sell beer or wine to go, he said.

Both properties are zoned CS, which requires no off-street parking for housing and businesses. Housing Our Families will have four off-street spaces for their building. Stewart's bar will have none.

Grear, who lives two blocks away, is concerned about this. At a recent Boise Neighborhood Association meeting she told Stewart,

"You're adding a lot of traffic right next to a residential street." Later, noting she spoke for herself rather than her agency, she voiced other concerns. "That building's not big enough to be a 'restaurant and lounge,'" she said. "There's no way to get 50 people in there with a kitchen. It'll be a tavern, and not a nice one at that."

She is not alone. Jerry Van Horton and Terrell Garrett, who are renovating historic buildings at the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection, respectively, say they are also opposed.

"I'll do everything I can to defeat this," Garrett said.

"The last thing this block needs is another tavern," Van Horton said. There have been intense liquor-related problems in the area in the past, he said, so much so that "a few years ago it was dangerous just to stop here." Both men say they support Housing Our Families' proposal.

Stewart insists he can operate his place responsibly.

It won't be "a sports bar where people slam down their beer and then go out and piss in the street," he said. "It depends on the people in the community. There are a lot of decent people in the community and if they come there regularly, it will be their place. That particular neighborhood really doesn't have much going for it. A lot of storefronts are boarded up, and the businesses that are there don't have much to do with the neighborhood. As long as you keep the area dark and dim, you'll have a lot of problems."

As to Grear's concerns about parking he

Continued to page B7

EDITORIAL

A2

HOUSING

A3

FAMILY

A5

ENTERTAINMENT

B3

SPORTS

B5

RELIGION

B6

CLASSIFIEDS

B7