

Volunteers Build House

Volunteers construct a local Portland home.



See Housing, Page A7.

Ebony Fashion Fair

Ebony Fashion Fair models Tifany Kilbride, Anesha Johnson and Nicole Franklin showed "The Power of Color".



See Metro, Page B1.

Ny'a

Ny'a is creating a buzz in the industry with her debut album Embrace on the Independent label.



See Entertainment, Page B3.

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

County Ponders Toll Bridges

Multnomah County is considering charging tolls on local bridges to raise \$290 million needed to maintain them for the next two decades. Problems with the aging spans have state and local officials looking at a number of financial options. If financing is not found ultimately the county owned bridges -- Sellwood, Hawthorn, Morrison, Burnside and Broadway -- may close. The state owns the St. John's, Fremont, Marquam, Ross Island and is leasing the Steel Bridge until 2006. The bridges carry almost 160,000 vehicles a day.

ATF Agents Penalized

A review board of five senior-level Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms managers has recommended that 10 ATF agents be punished for their behavior at "good ol' boy roundups." Signs were posted and skits performed containing racist comments at the Tennessee gatherings. The board recommendations ranged from verbal cautions to four-day suspensions. The board also recommended all receive training in diversity and sensitivity. Three other agents are to receive counseling.

Supreme Court Hears Case For Forfeitures

The Clinton administration argued that seizing property from criminally prosecuted drug traffickers is not double jeopardy. Justice department lawyer Michael Dreeben asked the justices to reverse two rulings in which federal appeals courts found fault with civil forfeitures of property in Michigan and California. The high court ruled in 1993 that drug dealers might not be forced to forfeit so much property that it violated the Eight Amendment's ban on excessive fines. The courts have interpreted double jeopardy under the Fifth Amendment to mean multiple punishments for the same crime. More than 130 Oregon defendants have filed challenges to forfeitures. The Court is expected to make its decision in June.

Do Oregonians Dislike Measure Five?

In a Survey of 500 Oregon voters 43 percent felt Measure 5 has been bad for the state compared to 37 percent who praised it. However, they reject the idea of appealing it 45 percent to 37 percent. Previous surveys have shown the same divided attitudes about the measure that limits property taxes to five percent of assessed value. Supporters say the law holds down taxes and keeps state spending down. Opponents site its impact on public schools. Freaknick Tamer But Still Big Party
Freaknick, the Atlanta street party, was less unruly this year according to officials. There were no significant problems caused by thousands of black college students on spring break who gathered on city streets, paraded in car caravans and attended musical events throughout the weekend. Freaknick has been in Atlanta since the 80s. In the last four years the event has attracted as many as 200,000 people. This years estimate was less than 100,000.

The INS Denies Raids

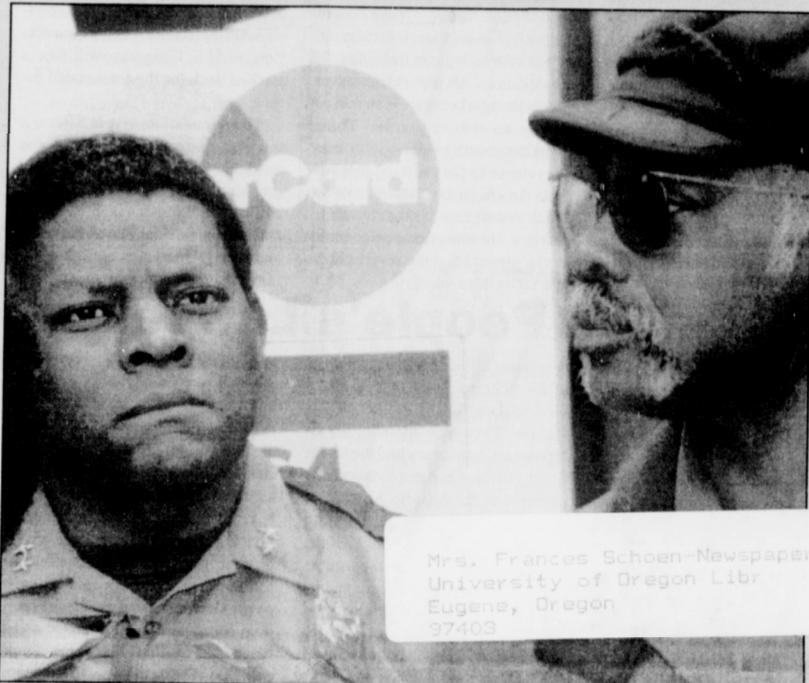
Rumors of Immigration and Naturalization Service raids have Hispanics in Oregon avoiding groceries stores and laundries. INS officials say they have raided work sites an deported undocumented workers in the past month but no more than usual. There are an estimated 20,000 undocumented workers in Oregon and the INS does routine job site enforcement. They have deported 2,600 Mexicans in the past two years officials say.

Police To Restore Gang List

City Says Revisions Can Survive Legal Challenge

"If a list is going to be kept, people need to know they're on it and they need to know how to get off it."

—Richard Brown, Chairman of the Black United Front.



Police Chief Charles Moose with Richard Brown of the Black United Front.

The Portland Police Bureau plans to restore the controversial list of suspected gang members with new determination methods and a revised appeals process.

Three years ago the federal courts ruled that the list was too broad and didn't give the 2,800 people listed a way to appeal their inclusion.

Officials have maintained the lists help protect officers and warn them of potentially dangerous people.

Many others have expressed concerns that the list is a violation of peoples rights.

Some say it got to the point that talking to a black kid in northeast Portland was enough to be put on the list.

Police used a loose guide of clothes, jewelry, hand signs and tattoos to determine gang members. With the old list, a kid in a starter jacket, who was friends with a suspected gang member could be placed on the list.

The only way to know someone was on the list was to call police. And the way only to be removed from the list was to ask police --who made up the list. Some suspected gang members never knew they were on the list.

In Oregon such lists are public record and people have lost jobs and apartments by appearing on gang lists. Although the list didn't presume guilt, it put the suspicion there. Being in a gang is not a crime.

Police, community members and city attorneys have worked more than a year to redefine the list.

The new process includes explicit criteria based on specific behavior for placement and notification of placement by form letter. Characteristics must be carefully

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Terrorism Bill Goes To Clinton

The House sent President Clinton a major counter-terrorism bill Thursday to mark Friday's first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

The bill passed 293-133 after clearing the Senate 91-8 Wednesday. It is a compromise between a stronger Senate bill passed last year and a weaker version approved by the House last month and was pushed through both chambers because of the impending anniversary.

"I think it has some very effective tools that we can use in our efforts to combat terrorism," Attorney General Janet Reno said. She cited provisions making it easier to expel foreigners suspected of being extremists or belonging to groups the U.S. government considers extremist and preventing such groups from raising money in the United States.

The bill provides \$1 billion for anti-terrorism efforts at the federal and state level over our years and requires chemical "tagging" of plastic explosives so they can be traced if they are used in bombing. It also calls for a study of similar tagging of other explosives.

Clinton is expected to sign the bill when he returns from his trip this week to Asia and Russia. He asked Congress to pass the bill quickly after the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City blast that killed 168 people. But it was delayed for months in the House by objections from diverse groups including the National Rifle Association and the American Civil Liberties Union, both of which feared the legislation would give the government too much power.

"The balance between public safety and order and individual rights is always a difficult dilemma in a free society. For this reason, significant time was needed to consider this legislation," said Gerald Solomon, R-New York.

The NRA, which opens its annual convention Friday in Dallas, said it was not opposing the compromise bill. "We have had our concerns taken care of," said Tanya Metaksa, the gun group's legislative director.

But Michigan Democrat John Conyers said the legislation was too weak to do any good. "This bill would do nothing to prevent another Oklahoma City bombing," he said. "It's a sellout to the NRA and the freshmen Republicans."

First-term Republicans led an effort last month that gutted much of the previous House bill to the dismay of Republican leaders. Some of the previous provisions were restored in a conference with the Senate.

The bill also limits the number of federal appeals of death sentences, long sought by most Republicans and supported by Clinton but fought by opponents of capital punishment.

It does not include expanded authority sought by the administration to allow wiretaps to be switched from phone to phone to keep up with suspects who use multiple cellular telephones.

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Political Pioneer Bill McCoy Dies

Senator Bill McCoy died April 12 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. The 74-year-old Senator never regained consciousness after suffering a heart attack April 14 while golfing.

Considered a pioneering political figure in Oregon's black community, Senator McCoy was elected in 1973 to the house of representatives. A year later he was appointed to a vacant seat in the state Senate. He was the first black to serve in the Oregon legislature and was its longest-serving member as of this year.

Governor John Kitzhaber ordered flags flown at half-staff at state buildings.

"Senator McCoy's passing is a great loss to the state of Oregon and to me personally," said Kitzhaber, who served with the senator. "He understood the issues important to working families and worked to preserve civil rights for all Oregonians."

His voting record included support for the family leave bill which allows employees to



Senator Bill McCoy

stay at home with a sick child or family member and allows up to 12 weeks off to care for a seriously ill family member. He also opposed bills that would have cut workers

compensation benefits and bills that would damage the environment which he called "Oregon's legacy to future generations." The Portland Democrat was running for re-election in Senate District 8.

"He was a very quiet unassuming person," said his long time friend Matthew Prophet, former Portland Schools superintendent. "He was more the salt-of-the-earth sort of leader, who really cared."

Representative Avel Gordly called him a mentor to her and other young black politicians. And Representative Margaret Carter, who represented half of McCoy's district, said he was an advocate for

peoples rights "especially for the mentally ill and poor people." At the time of his death, Senator McCoy was working on an effort to put a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. along MLK Jr. Blvd.

Before election to office, the Senator

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More Problems For Minority Students

BY PROMISE KING

If there is anything Samuel Wade of King Elementary School is certain of, it's the impact the current Portland school budget crisis will have on minority students.

"Everything that was in place to really empower African Americans and poor students has been systematically wiped out" Wade laments.

Wade is a counselor whose job is to curb student antisocial behavior, motivate students to work diligently and pursue excellence. He also teaches these young folks to

reason ethically and behave morally.

His job, however, is part of the special programs the district says it can't afford next fall.

The majority of those who need counseling at King School happen to be those who, for economic reasons, rely on the school system to provide a niche.

This crisis has raised plethora of questions on how minority and low-income students will be affected. Many area school administrators -- depending on who you talk to -- agree that less privileged students will be worst hit by this budget rift.

"When our inner city schools are destroyed, we have a population that is left with no options. It doesn't make sense to build more jails and not put more into schools" Tom Schraw of Fair share argues passionately.

Minority students are scoring less in basic assessments since the school funding crisis began in 1993. Scores by students of color have plummeted consistently. But Lew Frederick the school district spokesman says it's still better than a decade ago. Many fear that with fewer teachers and programs the number would worsen.

Last week, the school district made des-

perate attempts to lure the business community and well-meaning citizens to help rejuvenate it's cash-scraped vault.

In coalition with the Portland School Foundation, Mayor Vera Katz, and the Portland Association of Teachers, the district has launched an aggressive campaign to involve the entire community.

A fund-raising pledgewalk, March For Our Schools, of 30,000 students, parents, teachers and political leaders, lead by Mayor Katz and Sho Donozo of the Public School

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