

Volunteers Repair Houses

Christmas in April volunteers repaired more than 26 houses in the northwest region. Organizers call it most successful campaign yet.



See Housing, Page A6.

Book Donations Boost Local School

Iesha Williams donates a collection of books from the Portland Observer to Humbolt Elementary School.



See Metro, Page B1.

Marilyn Scott's New Album

"Take Me With You" draws from Jazz, Pop and Brazilian flavors. As usual she adds a touch of social consciousness.



See Entertainment, Page B3.

The Portland Observer

Mrs. Frances Schoen—Newspaper Room
University of Oregon Library
Eugene, Oregon
97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Everglades Search Goes On

After locating the flight recorder from ValuJet flight 592, federal investigators are analyzing data from the machine, hoping it yields some indication of what went wrong. The instrument is expected to provide crucial details about the final minutes of the fatal flight, including its speed, altitude and information on other key systems. Officials say the recorder is in "remarkably good shape." It was found in about four feet of water when a police diver looking for human remains hit it with his foot.

Consumer Prices Up Moderately

U.S. consumer prices were on the rise in April, but only moderately, despite a sharp increase in the cost of energy. The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index was up 0.4 percent in April. When volatile food and energy prices are factored out,

inflation was very tame, rising only 0.1 percent in April. Analysts say the data indicate very modest inflationary pressure, and are unlikely to trigger Federal Reserve interest rate hikes.

IRS Seeks Big OJ Tax Bill

O.J. Simpson will have a big bill waiting for him when he returns from his London visit. The Los Angeles Times says the Internal Revenue Service has filed a lien against the former football great, seeking \$685,248 in back taxes. The report says the tax bill is for income earned in 1994, the year Simpson was arrested on charges of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. The report says if Simpson does not settle the debt quickly, the IRS can seize his Brentwood estate.

Mitsubishi Seeks Suit Settlement

The Japanese carmaker, Mitsubishi Motors Corp., says its U.S. unit will seek a quick solution to its sexual harassment lawsuit through talks with the government agency that filed the suit. Saying "We don't welcome confrontation," a Mitsubishi spokesman said. "We expect a solution to the issue as soon as possible." Twenty-nine women charged that male co-workers subjected them to continual physical and verbal sexual abuse. Tension in the town has been high and a woman involved in the suit received death threats after Mitsubishi officials said that adverse publicity was affecting sales and could lead job reductions.

Study Shows Wide Spread Exposure To Cigarette Smoke

The Center for Disease Control reported that blood samples collected around the country show an almost universal exposure to tobacco smoke, even among people who never smoke and don't live or work around smokers. Metabolic residue, cotinine, only comes from smoke from a cigarette as it burns and has 20 to 30 times more cancer-causing chemicals as smoke inhaled from a lit cigarette.

Russia Warns of AIDS Epidemic

A top Russian health ministry official says Russia is facing an AIDS epidemic, after keeping the deadly disease at bay for years. Alexander Goliusov, the ministry's chief AIDS expert, tells the Interfax news agency that Russia has 1,157 registered HIV-positive cases. He says by the end of the year, that number could be 4,000. The figures are still relatively low, considering Russia's population of 150 million.



Nicole Franke, Jamilah Cash and dance instructor and SOS coordinator, Jackie Jones of the Vernon Elementary drill team participate in the Support our Schools March May 13. The march is a part of a community wide effort to raise money to make up for the \$15 million shortfall in next years budget. Vernon Principal, Lessie Houston walks with students in the march. A pledge walk is scheduled for June 1 before the Starlight Run and Parade.



Carter Candidate For Senate

Community activists, labor leaders, local and state elected officials, and gubernatorial appointees came out last week to back State Representative Margaret Carter as a write-in candidate for the 8th district Senate seat held by the late Bill McCoy.

The Legacy Committee, an ad-hoc coalition, initiated a write-in campaign after Senator McCoy's death left only one Democratic primary candidate for the seat Thomas Wilde. Running with no political experience, Wilde has made national news because, if he wins the primary he may run against his wife, Melinda, a candidate in the Republican primary for the same seat.

Carter is running unopposed for reelection to the 18th district house seat. She is able to run for both offices because she has not officially announced for the write-in bid. "I'll let the people decide," Carter said of the

grassroots campaign.

If Carter wins both nominations she would have to withdraw from one. If she accepts the Senate seat, The Democratic Party is allowed to name her successor to the House.

The Portland Community College Counselor has a Master's Degree from Oregon State University and was an instructor at Albina Youth Opportunity School and assistant director of Community Action Agency. During her term in the House, Carter served on the Committee on Revenue and School Finance. She has been on the Attorney General's Crime Victim's assistance Program Advisory Committee, the Governor's Task Force on Pregnancy and Substance Abuse and the Task Force on Mental Health. She was recently elected Chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

The issues that have Carters interest are those involving parents and families, youth

and community life. She counts helping establish enterprise zones to urban area. The North Precinct Boy's and Club at Walnut Park and the Skill Center at Portland Community College among her best accomplishments.

In a statement in the Oregon Voters Pamphlet Carter says, "I want to hear your ideas and comments on the pressing issues facing Oregon. Please Call me at 282-1585."

Wild is unhappy with the write-in campaign and cried foul. "I don't mind running against her," he said. "But I don't like running against a phantom -- just pick your race. I think it's a fraud on the voters." Wilde said he's contemplating legal action.

Thomas Wilde is a portfolio manager and home designer and has worked as a cabinet maker, photographer and homebuilder. He has attended various vocational and technical schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Blacks Still Seen Negatively In TV News

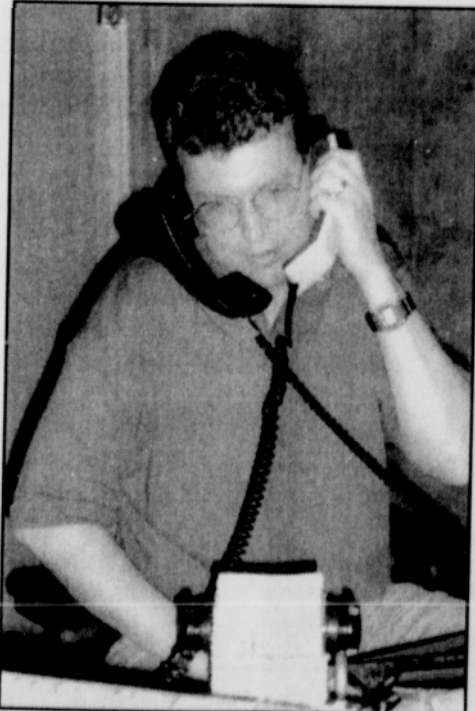
BY PAMELA JORDAN

Watched local TV news lately? If it was your only exposure to African-Americans you might think most black people are murderers. That's the conclusion of a study by Thor Wasbotten, and assignment editor for KOIN-TV.

Wasbotten analyzed how Blacks and Whites were depicted in crime stories in Portland during a two-week period in January and February 1994. Although African-Americans appeared in only five percent of the violent crime stories shown during the study, 100 percent of the stories in which Blacks appeared were homicide stories. Only 78 percent of White suspects appeared in violent crime stories.

The study also compared how often Blacks were the focus of feature stories as opposed to crime stories. Wasbotten expected positive feature stories focusing on African-American to outweigh crime stories in February, Black history month. They didn't. Sixty-three percent of the stories Blacks appeared in were crime stories.

"If the only time you see a black on the news is when they allegedly kill someone, what cumulative effect is that going to have



Thor Wasbotten studied how blacks were portrayed on TV news.

on viewers, especially if TV news is supposed to represent reality?," said Wasbotten.

Wasbotten conducted his study while he was a Master's degree candidate at the Uni-

versity of Oregon. He modeled his study after more extensive research on network and local TV newscasts by researcher Robert Entman, a leading scholar on how Blacks are portrayed on television.

"Even though the black population is much higher where Entmen conducted his studies of local news, the similarities between Portland and Chicago were surprising," said Wasbotten. "I was hoping for better."

Wasbotten contends that it's not just the kinds of stories blacks are shown in, but the way they're portrayed that makes it easier for viewers to assume guilt. Blacks are more likely to be shown handcuffed, in prison jumpsuits, dressed poorly or in inanimate mug shots than Whites. The still photographs, he contends, steal character, and make it easier for viewers to see the subject as "less human."

Broadcast television stations use public airwaves to transmit images. For that reason Dr. Darrell Millner, Professor of Black Studies at Portland State University, believes communities that have been misleadingly represented have a right to demand and expect changes. He's not surprised by Wasbotten's findings.

"It's not unreasonable to expect television

news operations to do a comprehensive and unbiased job, but that clearly doesn't happen," said Millner.

"We have a tendency to believe that these are public service operations, but these are profit making organizations. As long as they are driven primarily by profit, TV news will continue to air what potentially draws the largest audiences, not what is necessarily right."

Former TV news anchor Dick Bogle has seen progress in the coverage of Blacks in Portland. Bogle, a Portland native, became the first African-American anchor in the northwest when he was hired by KATU-TV in 1968.

"Coverage of Black issues is better," said Bogle. "Many of those issues have been folded into neighborhood issue stories. But TV stations still need to develop black news sources, for issues other than purely Black issues. There is expertise in this community on subjects other than being Black."

Wasbotten believes the ever increasing pace of television news, the ease of covering crime stories and the deadline pressure contribute to the shortchanging of blacks on

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