

Students Honored

More than 40 underrepresented minority scholarship graduates honored for academic achievement.



See Education, page A6.

Teens Learn About Street Life

14 kids spend the 30 hours living as homeless, part of a Salvation Army project.



See Metro, page B1.

Celebrating Solstice

Solo performance blends contemporary issues and ancient traditions in story, music and commentary.



See Art and Ent., page B2.

The Portland Observer 25¢

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Navy Plane Downed

Military officials say two crewmen aboard a U.S. Navy plane shot down today by a Japanese destroyer in the Pacific are safely aboard the USS Independence and appear to be in "good health." The Pentagon says the A-6E "Intruder" was "damaged inadvertently" by gunfire while it was towing a target for ship-to-air gunnery practice during a six-nation military exercise. The crewmen ejected and were picked up by a Japanese Navy vessel. Japan is apologizing for the incident. It's the second time in eight months the Japanese military shot down a friendly aircraft.

Clinton Proposes Tax Credit

President Clinton proposed a \$1,500 refundable tax credit today to offset tuition costs for two years of college, and called for an array of revenue raisers to pay the \$7.9 billion price-tag. Clinton was to outline his election-year plan, which the White House christened as "America's HOPE scholarships," in a commencement speech at Princeton University. Its unveiling came as Senator Bob Dole reportedly was mulling a call for an across-the-board tax cut to energize his presidential campaign.

Peres, Netanyahu Shake Hands

It's the first step in Israel's government transition. Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu met today with outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres to talk about the handover of power. It was their first together since the right-wing leader upset Peres in last week's election. Netanyahu won by less than one percentage point. His first task is to assemble a governing coalition. He has 45 days to do that. He's promising to continue the Middle east peace process, although he's also vowing to ensure Israel's security.

New Crash Find

Recovery workers have made a promising find in the Everglades—a second hole inside the main crater where ValuJet Flight 592 crashed. They'll be searching the hole again today. It has yielded the largest pieces of wreckage found so far, as well as more remains of the 110 victims. Before yesterday, less than half of the jet had been recovered and only 24 of the victims had been identified. Separately, a truck driver has been charged with taking pieces of the wreckage home as souvenirs.

Freemen Ranch Now Without Power

It was darker than usual at the Freemen compound in Montana overnight. The FBI has shut off the electricity. Only a single light could be seen in one of the anti-government group's houses. It's not clear whether that was being powered by the Freemen's generator. Cutting off the power is the latest step federal authorities have taken to increase pressure on the Freemen to end the standoff that's been going on for nearly three months.

Efforts on to Avert Strike

Talks are scheduled today to try to avert a strike by more than 6,000 machinists at McDonnell Douglas. Negotiators for the aircraft company and the machinists union are scheduled to meet in Hazelwood, Missouri. Federal mediation officials called the session. The union rejected the company's four-year contract offer. The union has authorized a strike to begin tomorrow at plants in Missouri, Nevada and California.

Power Of Knowledge Emphasis At Blacks In Government Conference

BY PAMELA JORDAN

Four dozen or so people sat in a dark room last Thursday, staring at a computer screen projected on the front wall.

An instructor casually, informally pulled up web pages, discussed browsers, servers and other information. Suddenly the internet became less mysterious, less threatening and a more accessible resource.

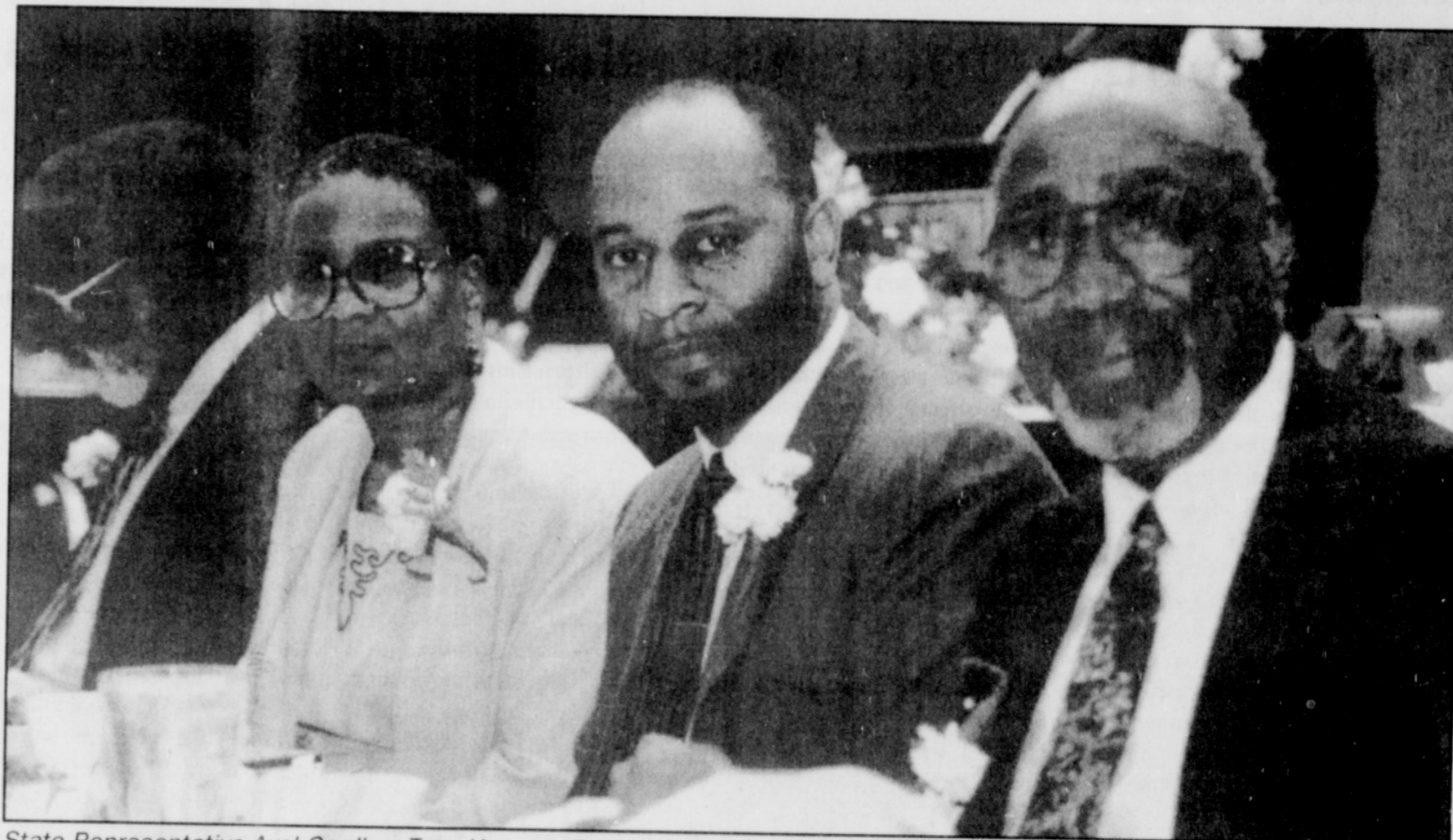
"I've worked with computers on my job for years, but recently we've started using the internet to review the resumes of potential job applicants from around the world," said Denise Freeman, a personnel analyst with the City of Seattle. "It's now critical that I know how to best utilize it."

Knowledge is why Freeman and about 800 other African Americans from four states attended the Blacks In Government Regional Training Conference in Portland May 29-31. In all, 56 workshops ranging from management and leadership to computer technology, and economics were offered at the three day event. Most of the trainers, including the computer instructor were African American.

"The instructor gave the information in a way that, I was an African American female with little technical background can understand," said Freeman. "The comfort zone with a black instructor makes learning a lot easier. There's no pressure here."

But pressure in the government workplace is greater than ever for African Americans according to Blacks in Government Region 10 President Remond Henderson. Nationwide downsizing efforts, along with attacks on affirmative action programs pose a real threat to people of color.

"Just because you're there today, doesn't



State Representative Avel Gordley; Tony Hopson, Executive Director of Self-Enhancement Inc.; and Metro councillor Ed Washington at Blacks In Government Conference luncheon.

Photo by Duane Lewis

mean the next day you won't be," said Henderson. You're as vulnerable there as you are in private industry. The reductions are going to occur, so protecting your position is all about learning. You can never know enough."

Learning, goal-setting and becoming a catalyst for positive change were dominant themes of the conference titled -- Affirming Positive Power Through Unity. Organizers hoped to foster a spirit at the conference that was found

at the million Man March in Washington D.C.

"It is now time for us to regain the momentum that has been lost since the conclusion of the Million Man March...if we are to combat the recent increase in discrimination and attacks on affirmative action programs," said Henderson.

Conference keynote speaker, Patricia Russell-McCloud urged those at the conference to come together to teach and learn from each other. In a rousing address, Russell-

McCloud, a former senior managing attorney for the Federal Communications Commission, told the group that they have the tools and the knowledge and improve conditions for all African-Americans in the workplace.

"We need empowered people, and empowerment is more than a buzz-word for the '90s," said Russell-McCloud. "Empowerment means that we understand that knowledge is power, and information is a positive response to a negative threat," said McCloud.

New Kennedy Film Found

Long-lost television footage of scenes before and after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been unearthed and offers intriguing new evidence on the case.

The 45 minutes of black-and-white film clips do not catch Kennedy's motorcade coming under fire as it drove through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 and provides no new answers to major questions about the assassination.

But it does show police taking several initial suspects and witnesses into custody, assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas police station after his arrest and Kennedy and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy holding hands before stepping into the convertible in which the president was shot dead.

Police and witnesses are seen running

toward a rail yard to search for an assassin immediately after the shooting. And the footage also shows Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, at a press conference with Oswald on the night of the assassination. Ruby shot the assassin two days later.

"The film gives us some important, previously unavailable views which could add significantly to our understanding of what happened immediately after the assassination," said Richard Trask, an archivist.

The newspaper said the 16 mm footage was secretly rescued from a wastebasket at a local TV station by an employee named Roy Cooper, who kept the original and made a copy for his best friend, Eli Sturges. They tried but failed to sell it secretly and the copy was stashed under Sturges' home for years.



Secretary of State Phil Keisling and newly appointed State Senator Robert Boyer at swearing in ceremony. Boyer, former coordinator of the King Neighborhood Facility, will fill the balance of late Bill McCoy's term representing the 8th Senate District.

Photo by Duane Lewis

Mandatory Sentences Face Criticism From Community

BY CC JACKSON

Measure 11, Oregon's 1995 Crime bill is under fire because of its costs, both in the state coffers and in human lives.

The Oregon Legislature will face a short-fall in school funding because of the cost of housing people serving mandatory sentencing. It is estimated that the prison population will increase by approximately 10,000 by the year 2005.

This money, many say, could be better used for education. In addition the lowering of the minimum age of those tried as adults to 15 under the measure has sparked concern among parents, educators and government officials.

Concerned Portlanders met May 29, at Portland Community College Cascade Campus to discuss what the measure can mean to area youth.

Guest panelists included Beverly Stein, Multnomah County Chair; Charles Moose, Portland Police Chief; Margaret Carter, State Representative and Democratic Party Chair

and Alcena Boozer, Jefferson High School principal.

Under the measure a 16-year-old driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs who causes an accident and someone dies will automatically be remanded to prison for 10 years. There will be no probation, no parole and no early release, and neither the record nor character of the 16-year-old will have any bearing on the sentence.

When 760,507 Oregonians voted to mandate minimum sentences for 16 crimes, most thought about it only in terms of incorrigible. In some cases the measure has put violent people behind bars for longer periods but it is also sweeping up lesser offenders. It makes no distinction between career criminals and first timers.

"There's very few of these folks that commit these kinds of crimes that don't deserve a real good boot in the bottom," says William Keys, Chief Criminal Judge in Multnomah County Circuit Court in an interview with Willamette Week. "The question is on the



Beverly Stein, Multnomah Chair, was part of a recent panel on the effect of measure 11.

Photo by Duane Lewis

lower levels of Measure 11 crimes with people with no record. I am personally disturbed, at times, at some of the sanctions imposed. Because these people are not without hope." Keys, who cannot be accused of being soft on crime, reflects the opinions of many in the judicial system.

The measure's opponents site the recent

slaying of five people in a Bandon trailer park as an example. Girley Crum, accused of the killings, would face the same sentence as he would before the measure passed. They also say that even if he was sentenced to Measure 11's 7 years for the 1988 conviction of robbing and stabbing a Gresham man, he would still have been out at the time of the murders.

"When you take non-violent people and throw them in prison with people who are violent, they see brutality on a day to day basis. They are taught crime 18 hours a day," says Wilbur Smith, a Portland defence lawyer. "They are desensitized to all normal human feeling. When you kick them out six year down the road, what are they going to say? I learned my lesson? No, the longer they stay in an institution, the meaner and more intractable they become."

Still with all the criticism, when legislators proposed to remove some crimes from the list and add some, only the additions passed. Politically it makes people feel better to think they are doing something to eliminate crime.