

Prom Night Celebrated

Benson High School students celebrate prom night with their parents support.



See Metro, page B1.

Ronstadt And Nevill

Grammy winning artists Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Nevill at a White House Performance.



See Entertainment, page B3.

Governor Gives Award

See who recieved Oregon Governor's John Kitzhaber International Award.



See Business, page B5.

The Portland Observer

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University of Oregon Libr
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97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Black Churches Burns In The South

From Mathews - Markland Presbyterian Church in, Charlotte, North Carolina to St. Paul AME in Hatley, Mississippi, a torrent of fires has evoked terror and horror in the Black Congregations that attend these churches. About, three suspects, two white males and one hispanic have been apprehended by authorities.

Portland Teachers Smile Again

Dozens of Portland educators who expected to lose their jobs or get bumped to other schools found out Monday they'll return to work next year. Millions of dollars raised by volunteers participating in the Portland Public Schools foundation has made this possible at least 180 full-time equivalent jobs in the schools, district officials confirmed.

Dole Bows Out Of Senate This Week

It's farewell to senate majority leader Bob Dole, after 35 years in the U.S. Congress. Dole had announced that he was quitting the Senate to run full-time for his presidential Campaign. He was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1960. Among his legislative achievement was his effort in 1983, when he led the Senate to Create Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Portland Police Commander Under Investigation

Embattled Portland Police Commander Mike Garvey returned to the Central Precinct on Monday morning to turn over his gun and his badge. Detectives are investigating whether Garvey hired male prostitutes. Meanwhile, the Central Precinct Commander has been placed on administrative leave with pay.

Demonstrators Protest Clarence Thomas Speech

About 50 demonstrators chanting "No Uncle Tom in our County" gathered to protest the invitation of Justice Clarence Thomas to Central High School in Seat. Pleasant, Massachusetts. Thomas the only Black on the Nation's highest court, was invited to address the ceremony last month by the PTA of the Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts School in Landover, amidst protest from the school board.

Oklahoma Bombing: Seek Evidence Against Timothy McVeigh

Federal law enforcement officials revealed Monday that residue found on Timothy J. McVeigh's clothing and other possessions appear to link him to the Oklahoma City Bombing. They also said he warned a friend last year to "watch what you say" because the "G-men" might find out. The new allegations are included in Court papers prosecutors filed in Denver, Colorado.



Howard Nolte, the executive Director of HOST, examines one of the affordable housing agency's new homes on 37th block on North Michigan, the site of three affordable homes currently under inspection.

Photo by Michael Halle

Clinton Visits Church Burning

On Monday President Bill Clinton launched a broad attack on racial intolerance and decided to visit the site of a burned black church in South Carolina, one of 31 torched in a series of arson attacks.

Speaking on the steps of police headquarters in San Diego, close to the Mexican border, Clinton rebuffed Republican attacks on his administration's record in curbing crime and illegal immigration, while issuing a broad appeal for social and racial tolerance.

"Even though I'm a long way from there, my heart has been in my native South for the last several weeks as we have dealt with this incredible rash of church burnings," Clinton said.

"That's just another way of people finding a way, trying to blame somebody else or put down somebody else or put distance between them and someone else in a totally dehumanizing way, forgetting that everybody should be treated equally before the law, in the eyes of our fellow Americans, just as we are before God Almighty," he said.

A White House spokesman said Clinton would visit a burned church today in Greeleyville, South Carolina. He would view the ruins of the building destroyed last June and also inspect a new building which was under construction and would soon be rededicated.

Federal officials are looking for signs of a conspiracy in fires that have destroyed some 31 black churches over the last 18 months. Police in Charlotte announced they had arrested a 13-year-old white girl for setting a fire that destroyed a black church there last week.

"To burn a church is a terrible thing. We have got to stop these things," Clinton said. "We need to come together as one America to rebuild our churches, restore hope and show the forces of hatred they cannot win, just as we need to come together as one America to say, we are a nation of immigrants and we are a nation of laws."

Speaking with ranks of blue- and white-shirted police officers behind him, Clinton linked the series of church burnings in the South to the growth of general anti-immigrant feelings in the nation.

"Even as we crack down on illegal immigration and do more than has ever been done on that, we must never forget that we are a nation of immigrants and, except for the Native Americans, we all came from somewhere else," Clinton declared.

Minority Contractors Suffers Lending Discriminations

BY PROMISE KING

Even as the bashing beats goes on against Affirmative Action programs and politicians chuckle and dance pretentiously, depending on who they are listening to, the National Association of Minority contractors who gather in Portland last week, for their annual conference say it's no joke tempering with the program that has provided life blood for their businesses.

While the "End- the- Affirmative- Action slogan of some right-wing republicans infuriates the contractors, the mend - it - don't - end slogan of Democrats did little to assuage their obvious dissatisfaction with the way the program is being reform by president Clinton. Speaking on behalf of his boss, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S Department of Justice, Deval Patrick, said the federal government is welding off traces of abuse in the program and tightening his eligibility. "Federal Affirmative Action must work to meet strict scrutiny. We are mending it and

not ending it" Patrick told the contractors whose members employ 60% of people of color who work in the construction business.

The Justice Department reform proposal drew sharp responses from the conference. Apparently, that is why the fiery speech by the association president Nigel Parkinson called for a united political front to confront the issue.

"We need to put our political act together. We need to elect people who will seek our interest and our future is connected to who occupy 1600 Pennsylvania Av." Parkinson said.

Even if the ball rolls in their favor, the contractors of color would still have to contend with discrimination in most lending institution. A study conducted in Atlanta five years ago find that race consistently determines the lending patterns of metro Atlanta's largest financial institution. The study had examined six years of lender reports to the federal government. Recent study by the justice department civil right division also agreed lending discrimina-

tion still pervades most lending institutions. "We find lingering effect of past discrimination continue to pose problems" the assistant - attorney general said. Which is why the contractors would have to grapple with this prejudice before they could meaningfully participate in the \$500 billion industry.

How the organization would get by in the next 25 years was the focus of the annual conference.

Baruti Atharee, Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services Department said surviving in the business world means embracing those whose ideas are progressive and prosperous.

"Learning how to grow and preparing for the future are vital issues for minority contractors" says James Posey President of the local chapter.

The conference poked into Issues and Attitudes in Dealing With Federal Programs, What is Partnering and How to Approach, The Churches Role in Development and Empowerment, and Construction Mediation.

Results Of WSU Racial Climate Survey is Reported

A recent survey of Washington State University students shows widespread support among all ethnic groups for the university's diversity recruiting efforts. In addition, most but not all ethnic groups feel the university has achieved a positive climate for diversity.

The results of the poll were reported to the Board of Regents by Paul Wong, chair of the Department of Comparative American Cultures, who directed the telephone survey. The university's Social and Economic Science Research Center conducted the poll of 700 students in early 1995. The sampling frame was designed to give adequate representation to American ethnic or racial minority groups including white American, as well as foreign students.

"Race relations at WSU are positive when looked at in the context of the larger society," Wong says. "Yes, there are complaints, but also there are positive elements of feedback."

African American students who took part in the survey departed from the majority regarding a positive climate for diversity. Only 42 percent of African American students said they agreed a positive climate has been achieved. Other populations agreeing with the statement ranged from 59 percent for foreign students to 78 percent for Asian Americans. Hispanic American responses were 75 percent in agreement, Native Americans 72 percent and white students 71 percent.

Wong says the widespread support among all students for recruiting students and faculty

of color is a positive factor given the polarization on some American campuses between majority and minority students. Support for active diversity efforts ranged from 90 to 99 percent among the student groups.

Also positive, Wong said, is the high percentage of students who said they have close friends of a different race or ethnic background. Depending on the group, 78 to 99 percent said "yes" to this question.

Wong reported that while most students felt WSU faculty and staff were racially sensitive in working with minority students, African Americans and foreign students were less positive. Only 47 percent of foreign students and 40 percent of African American students agreed.

Less than one percent of the respondents

reported they had been discriminated against by other students, faculty, staff or students "very often." However, a considerable percentage felt that they had been discriminated against by other students a few times, several times or quite often; and a fairly large percentage felt that they had been discriminated against by faculty or staff at least a few times.

The 1995 survey is comparable to a similar poll conducted in 1990, although there was no breakdown into minority groups in the earlier report. The percentage of minority, white and foreign students who felt that they have been discriminated against by faculty, administrators and staff because of their race or ethnicity is somewhat larger in the 1995 sample than in 1990.