

The
Portland
Observer

Business

&
Finance

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Do You Know How to Write A Resume?

A workshop entitled *Resumes Made Easy* will be presented by Boly/Welch Career Management Services. To take place on Tuesdays October 29, November 19, and 26, 1996. The workshops start at 6:00 p.m. and go till 7:30 p.m. Call 452-9999 for information and reservations.

Imagine Loving Your Work!

A workshop entitled *Imagine Loving Your Work!* will be presented by Boly/Welch Career Management Services. To take place on Saturdays starting October 26, 1996. The workshops start at 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call 452-9999 for information and reservations.

Boost your business with a diverse workforce

The Wednesday, October 30, installment of the Business Roundtable of the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce will feature Mr. Catarino Soto of Interface Network Inc. with a presentation entitled "Boosting Business Through Diversity." Held at McMenamin's Pub & Restaurant, 2927 SW Cedar Hills Blvd. in Beaverton and starts at 7:00 a.m. There is a \$2 charge for coffee and a muffin. Call the chamber at 644-0123 for more information.

Stay sharp with weekly sales forum

On Thursday, October 31, Beaverton area businesses are invited to attend a free sales forum, designed to help salespeople stay focused and motivated. Hosted by Bob Ward of Bob Ward Auto Sales and Leasing and sponsored by the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Bob Ward Sales Forum is held every Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the BG Westgate Plaza, 3800 Cedar Hills Blvd., room 155 in Beaverton. Admission is free with donations accepted for coffee.

McCormick's to host area businesses

On Friday, November 1, McCormick's Fish House and Bar and the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce will host a networking event for Beaverton area businesses. Networking begins at 8am at McCormick's, 9945 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, in Beaverton. Admission is free and all area businesses are invited to attend.

Wall Street in selling mode

Weakness in bonds and high tech stocks is dragging down the Dow Jones industrial average. In early-afternoon trading, the Dow was off 33.17 points at 6,057.70, and the Nasdaq composite index was down 18.15 at 1,218.26. Analysts say technology stocks have had strong moves recently and were overextended.

Arrest in Japan

The man at the center of Japan's largest financial scandal was arrested today. Yasuo Hamanaka was taken into custody on the same day prosecutors raided his home in suburban Tokyo. Hamanaka allegedly falsified documents while working as a powerful copper trader at Japan's Sumitomo Corp. His deals allegedly cost the company \$2.6 billion in losses.

Health Insurance Still Problem

According to a study, insurance coverage and access to affordable care remains a pressing problem for millions of Americans. One of three people surveyed reported going uninsured for at least part of 1995.

U.S. says child labor declining in Central America

Ethical standards that have been widely adopted by U.S. garment importers may be helping to reduce child labour in some Central American countries, a Labour Department report concluded on Monday.

The department said 36 of the 45 large U.S. apparel importers it surveyed have adopted codes of conduct within the last five years that included bans on the employment of children younger than 15.

At the same time the report found that over the past two years fewer children in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were working in shops that make garments destined for the United States.

"Private industry now recognises that it can take steps to make sure boys and girls are not robbed of their childhood," Labour Secretary Robert Reich said in a statement.

But, he added, "No code is worth the paper it's printed on without strict

enforcement of its requirements."

The report, the third in a series on international child labour, said many companies have no way of checking to see if their codes were being followed in garment-producing countries. It also noted that it had to rely on anecdotal information since there were no reliable statistics on child labour.

Besides the adoption of codes of conduct, the report credited the downward trend in child labour on greater public awareness of the problem, less reliance on subcontractors in the garment industries of exporting countries and concern by exporters that importers may ban all child-made products.

"Most likely all of these factors have worked in a mutually reinforcing way to reduce the use of child labour in the export sector," the report said.

The report was based on the surveys of garment importers and visits

by department officials to 70 apparel plants in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India and the Philippines that make clothing for American companies.

Those six countries account for 15 to 20 percent of the nearly \$35 billion in garments that the United States imports from 160 countries, according to Andrew Samet, who heads the department's Bureau of International Labour Affairs.

Although the report found that child labour was down significantly in the Central American countries, it found that children in the Philippines and India continued to work for subcontractors at home, where work was difficult to detect.

"Codes of conduct are not a panacea," said the report. "Child labour remains a serious problem, with hundreds of millions of working children around the world."

A previous report found a sharp drop in child labour in Bangladesh.

But it also said thousands of those children were dismissed from their jobs with no immediate safety net.

"Thus it is possible that in the absence of government programmes to assist the children, the precipitous dismissal of child workers can en-

danger, rather than protect them," it said.

The report considered the term child labour to mean work that prevented school attendance, rather than light work performed by teens after school or apprenticeships.

China disagrees with U.S. figures

Chinese officials on Monday voiced disagreement with Sino-U.S. trade figures announced by Washington last week, saying goods in entrepot and processing trades should not be counted as Chinese exports.

"We have always disagreed with United States' statistical data," an official with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation said by telephone.

The U.S. Commerce Department said last Friday the U.S. trade deficit with China had swelled to \$24.25 billion in the first eight months of this year from \$21.8 billion in the same period last year.

Imports of Chinese-made items like toys and Christmas decorations had jumped \$301.8 million in August while clothing imports were up \$86.9 million from July, U.S. figures showed.

Many Chinese goods had been exported to the U.S. through a third nation or territory, the official said, adding that Washington was wrong to count every item with a made-in-China label as being a direct export from China, the official said.

"China's entrepot and processing trade are reasonable, and cannot be included in China's exports to the United States," he said.

Current Employment In Oregon

The Oregon unemployment rate is 5.0%—down 0.4 from August, compared to the national unemployment rate of 5.2%—up 0.1 from August (seasonally adjusted).

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in September, according to figures released today by the Oregon Employment Department. September had the lowest unemployment rate in

six months.

With the exception of August 1996, Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been below the national rate for the past three years. September's unemployment decrease marks a return to Oregon's recent historical pattern.

"The decrease in the unemployment rate should not come as a surprise. Oregon's seasonally adjusted employment has increased steadily

over the last three months," said Jeffrey Dreiling, a Research Analyst with the Employment Department. Oregon has added 21,200 jobs since June, compared with 25,100 added during the first six months of 1996.

The monthly survey of businesses, conducted by the Employment Department, showed 7,200 seasonally adjusted jobs were added in September. Most industries experienced employment gains.

North-Northeast Business Association's Awards Banquet

The North-Northeast Business Association will hold its Tenth Annual "Excellence In Business" Awards Banquet on November 6, 1996 at the Red Lion-Lloyd Center Hotel at 1000 NE Multnomah, beginning at 6:00 p.m. six awards will be presented to outstanding business and persons active in the North-Northeast area.

The keynote speaker will be Baruti Artharee, Director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. Mr. Artharee will address the banquet theme, "Teaming

Up for Results." Mr. Artharee will highlight the many developments and projects taking place in N-NE Portland. He will specifically address the efforts and accomplishments of the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Main Street project in progress.

Mr. Ken Boddie, KOIN-TV 6 weekend anchor and business reporter, will serve as Master Of Ceremonies.

This event highlights business and community success stories of North-Northeast Portland during 1996. Three awards are given in the areas

of Business and Economic Development to a small, medium and large business which exemplifies the association's goals of creating opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in the area. A community service award and an effective government award are presented to individuals or groups which have made significant contributions to the community over the past year.

Advance registration is encouraged. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. For information call 284-3093.

Business Basics

Have you been dreaming of running your own business? The thought of doing something you really enjoy, setting your own hours and being your own boss can be pretty attractive. But getting started is a big step, requiring a lot of work and financial preparation.

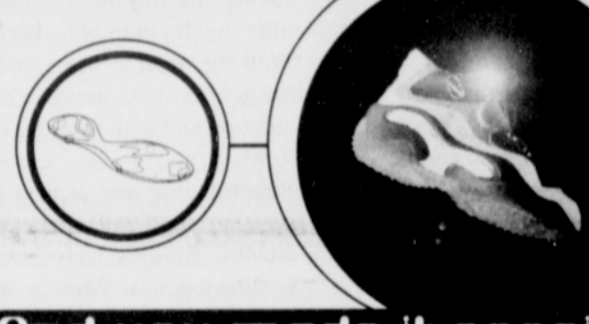
Two publications from MetLife and the U.S. Small Business Administration can help get you ready to take that step. Starting a Business will equip you with the basics of entrepreneurship. And Running a Business helps you make decisions that can strengthen your business, and make it grow. For a free copy of both publications, send your name and address to Business Basics, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Take the quiz in Starting a Business to see if you have the skills and personality traits you'll need to be a business success. You'll also learn how to choose the type of business you want to run, select a location and evaluate your competition. Find out how to get the money you'll need to start your business, and what you must consider legally before setting up shop.

Once you've gotten started, Running a Business helps you decide how to market your product or service, find solid business advisors, and hire and manage loyal employees. You'll also learn basic information about patents and trademarks, and find out what special things you'll need to consider if you work from your home, or if your business will be owned and run by family members.

When you write for the Business Basics publications, you'll also receive a free copy of the Consumer Information Catalog, listing more than 200 free and low-cost federal publications on a variety of consumer topics.

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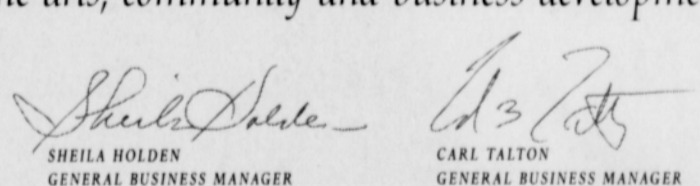
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