

Crime Stoppers Armed robbery

Portland Police Bureau detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the subjects responsible for an armed robbery.

On Sunday, November 3, 1996, at approximately 2:10 in the morning, two suspects armed with knives used a fire escape to gain access to the bathroom window of a hotel room in the 700 block of SW 15th Avenue. After entering, the suspects assaulted and robbed a husband and wife who were occupying the room. A wallet, credit cards, and jewelry were stolen.

Approximately ten minutes lat-



er, a credit card taken in the robbery was used to obtain money from an ATM machine located at 900 SW 6th Avenue. A surveillance photo is available.

Suspect #1 is described as a male white in his early 20's, 5'6" tall, 145 pounds, short black hair, wearing a dark colored sport coat, slacks and shoes.

Suspect #2 is described as a male white in his early 20's, 5'8" tall, 155 pounds, wearing a dark colored sports jacket, slacks and shoes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Investigator: Investigative Sergeant Lloyd Higgins, Portland Police Bureau/Robbery Division, (503) 823-0886. Alternative Crime Stoppers Coordinator: Officer John Wrigley, Investigative Support Unit, (503) 823-4357 or (503) 823-0830.

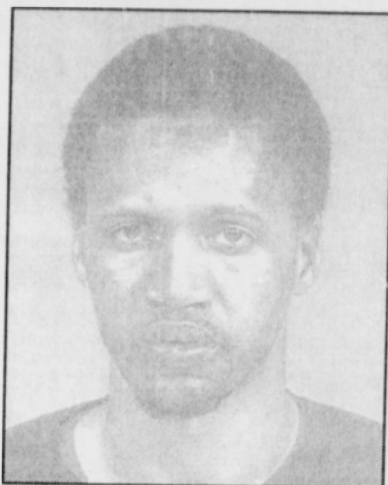
Homicide/Shooting

Portland Police Bureau investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers are asking for your help in solving a murder.

On Sunday, July 7, 1996, at approximately 3:00 in the morning, Legacy Emanuel Hospital Security called 911 to report that a dark blue Cadillac containing four young black men, two of which were suffering from gunshot wounds, had arrived at the hospital's emergency room.

One of the gunshot victims, who was shot in the right hand, was treated and released. The other victim, identified as 28-year-old Michael Arvell West, died as a result of his wounds.

According to investigators the



Murder victim, Michael Arvell West

four young men, who were all in their 20's, had reportedly been out socializing. The four were

westbound on Alberta Street and stopped for the red light at Williams Avenue.

When the light turned green, numerous shots, from an unknown location or vehicle, striking the two victims in the Cadillac.

While the surviving individuals admitted that all four had past gang activity, they claim to no longer be involved with gangs.

Crime stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you do not have to give your name.

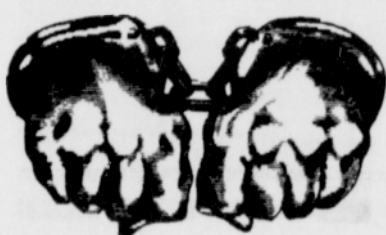
If you have any information regarding this case call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP (4357).

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Oregon Outreach, Inc.

The Gladys McCoy Academy was presented with a check for \$7,000 from the Trailblazer Wives Association at the November 29 game in the Rose Garden. Each year, the Trailblazer Wives Association raises funds for two local deserving charities. Their 1995-1996 campaign targeted the Morrison Center and the Gladys McCoy Academy as recipients of these fund raising efforts.

The Gladys McCoy Academy is a private alternative school for middle and high school students in Northeast Portland. This program serves eighty students in a school setting which focuses on academic excellence while providing a variety of supportive services, including day care, counseling, individualized instruction, and employing one teacher for every five students. The Academy is a program of Oregon Outreach, Inc., a local non-profit organization.

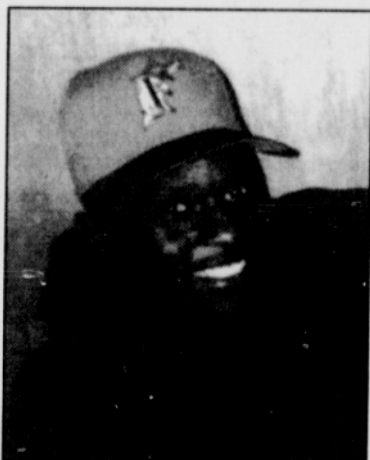


December 12, 1996
Happy Birthday
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Portland Observer

A Plea For Justice

On June 14, 1996 a senseless killing took the lives of two young men, Dennis Keith Hester Jr. and Damon Darnell Johnson. The people responsible had a powerful weapon in their hand. What a cowardly way to settle whatever transpired to force the bullets that ended the lives of someone's son, someone's brother, someone's father, and someone's friend.

The person or person's responsible for this shooting has not yet been brought to justice. The Hester and Johnson family is still trying to understand the purpose of this brutal murder of our loved ones. Although we may never find the answers in which we seek, we hope and pray that this plea for the arrest and conviction of the murderers is heard not only in Portland, Oregon but around the world.



Dennis Keith Hester Jr.

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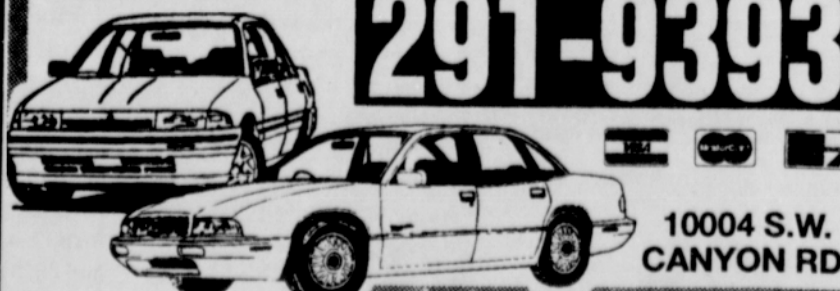
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"The Gift Club" pyramid scheme warning

Attorney General Theodore R. Kulongoski today warned prospective participants in an illegal pyramid known as "The Gift Club" that they likely will lose their money and be without remedies when the pyramid collapses. Kulongoski also warned current organizers in the scheme that they face up to a \$25,000 penalty for each person they attempt to recruit and that any enforcement action by the Department of Justice will seek the maximum possible penalty.

In March 1996, Kulongoski filed a lawsuit and later settled more than 80 civil prosecutions of organizers in

"The Gift club." Reports of the program subsided for several months, but recently resurfaced. In the past two weeks, the department received a dozen reports regarding the scheme. Many callers asserted that the scheme is lawful and asked the Department's staff to approve of their plans to participate.

"People who participate in this program ought to know better than to believe that they can get something for nothing," Kulongoski said. "Taxpayers don't expect the Department of Justice to spend their money to protect people against the consequences of their own greed -- and we

won't." The Department of Justice no longer will accept anonymous complaints about the pyramid, and will not give priority to actions to attempt to recoup money for players who did not profit from the scheme.

"We only will seek civil penalties against those people who attempt to continue the pyramid by recruiting new members," call the Attorney General's consumer hotline at (503) 378-4320 or (503) 229-5576 (Portland only), 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday or write Financial Fraud, 1162 Court Street, N.E., Salem, OR 97310.

Why do so many blacks oppose affirmative action?

BY EARL O'FARI HUTCHINSON, PH.D.

Many African-Americans called the handful of blacks who publicly supported the California Civil Rights Initiative that bars affirmative action in state programs racial Judas's. They believe that the Initiative passed because angry white males voted for it, Pete Wilson and Bob Dole pushed it and the California Republican Party bankrolled it. However, almost unnoticed is that slightly more than one out of four blacks voted for the Initiative.

There more than 60,000 votes would have pushed the "no" vote total past 4 million. This would not have been enough to defeat the Initiative. Yet it would have narrowed the margin of defeat. Given the court challenges, even more political urgency and legitimacy, and perhaps increase the chance of getting an injunction against enforcement of the Initiative and ultimately overturning it.

Many insist that the blacks who supported the Initiative were confused by its deceptive language, or were misled by Republican trickery. This is much too simple. Many blacks are convinced that they have achieved their success in business

and the professions through hard work, education, and ability. They agreed that affirmative action, like welfare, discouraged incentive and unfairly stigmatizes blacks as social paupers eternally seeking government hand-outs. They feel insulted that many whites claim they got ahead because of their color and not competence.

Many younger blacks did not experience Jim Crow laws, have almost no knowledge of the civil rights battles that erased them, and only the fuzziest notion of how affirmative action benefits them. This deepens their feelings that affirmative action laws have little relevance to them or aid white females, Latinos and Asians more than blacks.

The anti-affirmative action sentiment among blacks is also fueled by the new wave of black radio commentators, writers, academics and politicians. They oppose affirmative action, welfare, abortion, and government spending programs. They advocate school prayer, more police and prisons, self-help and personal responsibility.

The early warning signs that more blacks are part of the growing conservative political sea change came

during the Clarence Thomas Supreme court nomination debate in 1991.

A USA Today poll found that nearly half of the blacks surveyed supported self help and not government quotas. During the recent presidential election, Haley Barbour Republican National Committee Chair claimed that 25-45 percent of blacks called themselves "conservative". His low-side estimate pretty much matches the anti-affirmative action vote by blacks in California.

If blacks are becoming more conservative and more resistant to affirmative action, it's because more blacks are prosperous. Since the 1970's, there has been a fifty-two percent increase in the number of black managers, professionals, technicians and government officials.

I'll challenge those blacks who think that affirmative action and indeed all government programs are lose-lose propositions whose time has long since past. But if the black vote against affirmative action in California is any indication almost surely their ranks will grow.

Responses may be sent e-mail to Earl Hutchinson: ehutchi344@aol.com.

One-year mark shows half the number of accidents in curves

It's been in place for a year now and transportation officials say so far a campaign to reduce speeds and accidents on Interstate 5 in the Terwilliger Curves is a big success.

According to police reports, accidents in the curves have dropped by approximately 50 percent since the safety effort began last November. During that time, police issued nearly 5,500 citations. More than 4,200 of those were for violating the new speed limit.

A growing number of major accidents and resulting traffic snarls prompted the Oregon Department of Transportation, Portland Police Bureau, Portland Office of Transportation, Western Insurance Information Service and Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., to kick off the Terwilliger Curves Enhanced Safety Project last fall. The project included a reduction in the speed limit from 55 to 55 mph, more and better-illuminated warning signs, a series of parking pads for patrol cars to safely monitor traffic and stepped-up police presence in the curves.

None of the accidents in the past year have involved serious injuries, according to police reports.

"Most drivers are heeding the warning and have decided that slowing down and driving safely in the curve is the right thing to do," said Capt. Patrick Nelson, Traffic Division commander. "As a result, we are not seeing the major accidents and traffic tie-ups that we frequently experienced in the past."

Although the accident rate has dropped significantly, some drivers continue to put the pedal to the metal. The majority of speeders in the curves is clocked at 65 to 69 mph and the fined \$99.

Nelson said officers are not only citing drivers who are exceeding the speed limit but have also nabbed a significant number of motorists for driving without a license, insurance or under the influence of intoxicants.

Marianne Macina, a task force member representing the Western Insurance Information Service, said insurance companies are also seeing a reduction in the number of claims from wrecks in the curves.

"Fewer accidents coupled with fewer injuries and less damage to property will equate to lower insur-

ance rates," Macina said.

Elwood Hedberg, a representative of Southwest Neighborhood, Inc., has spent many hours as the link between the local neighborhoods and the task force.

"I would encourage people that if they have the opportunity to become involved with local traffic management issues to do so," Hedberg said. "It's very noticeable that most drivers cutting through our neighborhoods to avoid the traffic jam."

Nelson said though police probably will not spend as much overtime on the project as in the past, he promises that commuters will still see police cars along the two-mile section of freeway.

"Just when you think it's safe to again speed in the curves..." he said.

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