

Gun safety bill introduced

Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer today introduced a bill aimed at curbing the alarming rise in accidental gun deaths among children.

"Every 90 minutes a child is killed with a loaded gun," said the Third District Congressman. "Shootings are the fourth leading cause of accidental death for children, and for every child killed by gunfire, four more are wounded. This is a tragedy, but it is a tragedy that we can do something about."

Blumenauer's bill, the Defense of Children Act, would require gun dealers to offer to sell a locking device or "lock box" for gun storage, and post a sign stating that

this law is in effect. It would also make owners legally responsible for leaving a loaded firearm, or a firearm near ammunition, in a place where children could gain access to them.

"By making potential gun buyers aware of these problems and by offering a solution at the point of sale, we can 'child-proof' guns in the home, leading to fewer gun-related accidents and a greater sense of awareness about gun safety," said Blumenauer.

The bill is modeled after similar laws on the books in 15 states and many more localities. These laws, known as Child Access Prevention laws, encourage parents and anyone

else who might have children around to keep their guns safely locked away. Florida was the first state to pass such a law, and immediately showed 50 percent drop in unintentional shooting deaths among kids in the first year after passage. California has shown similar results after passing its own version of a Child Access Prevention Law.

"Now it's time to take this success story national, so that children everywhere can be protected from sudden tragedy. And this is an approach that we know works from the experiences we've seen in our cities, counties and states," said Blumenauer.

Long Before "Amos and Andy", We Had "Mr. Hambones"

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

In the early 1960's, Fairmont High School in Eugene, Oregon, graduated a talented group of white teenagers. The Fairmont Singers.

Eventually they became nationally known as The New Christy Minstrels. The word "New" in the title had no significance until one day in 1973, I noticed an unfamiliar periodical in the PSU library.

The latest issue of the Cambridge University Journal (England) featured a historical article, "Music of the Christy Minstrels: White comedians in Black Face".

It was noted by the Graduate students who did the research that "of all the white minstrel shows that reaped fortunes in Europe with their Black-face imitations of African American song



and dance, none were more successful than the Christy Minstrels who came to Dublin, Ireland in 1859."

"Black artists who fled slavery in America to find economic opportunity in Europe soon found that the master had followed them." The Irish Theatre going public was warned by a prominent newspaper, Free-Man's Journal.

"Wait and see a practical company of real niggers (sic) with genuine woolly heads and skins of sable that cannot be washed white"

Black artists went on into legitimate theatre, from Shakespeare to Opera.

I have maintained a productive relationship with Cambridge students over the years, they have provided me with fascinating revelations of black cultural and technological contributions.

Julian Bond to lecture at OSU

Julian Bond, who rose to national prominence during the 1968 Democratic Convention, will discuss the current status of the civil rights movement in America during a lecture on March 11 at Oregon State University.

Bond's free public lecture, "Civil Rights: Now and Then," will begin at 7 p.m. in OSU's LaSells Stewart Center, 26th Street and Western Boulevard in Corvallis.

He also will meet with college and local high school students during a reception from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Stewart Center on March 12. The reception will be followed by a student discussion with Bond from 9 to 10 a.m. moderated by Meghna Chakrabarti and Steven Fuller of OSU's University Honors College.

Co-chairman of the Georgia Loyal National Delegation to the Democratic Convention, Bond mesmerized the delegates and made history when he was nominated for Vice President of the U.S. - the first African American to be so honored by a major political party. He withdrew his name because he was too young to serve.

"Julian Bond electrified the coun-

try in 1968 when he was nominated for Vice President, and he has played a significant role in the civil rights movement ever since," said Joe Hendricks, director of OSU's Honors College, a co-sponsor of the lecture. "He offers a long-term perspective on civil rights that few people in America can match."

Bond's history of civil rights work spans four decades. In 1960, while a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, he founded the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a student-run civil rights organization that staged three years of non-violent, anti-segregation protests. Those protests were credited with helping integrate Atlanta movie theaters, lunch counters and parks.

Bond was arrested during a sit-in at an Atlanta City Hall cafeteria during a protest of its segregation.

His political career began in 1965 when he was elected to a one-year term in the Georgia House of Representatives. However, members of the House voted not to seat him because of his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War.

He won a second election in 1966 - to fill his own vacant seat - and was

again barred from membership. He won a third election in November of that year and, a month later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Georgia House had violated Bond's rights in refusing to seat him.

Property tax cuts benefit rich

A new study of the effects of property tax cuts in Oregon suggests that the economic growth stimulated by cuts benefits the rich more than the poor. The study, conducted by economists Edward Waters and Bruce Weber at Oregon State University and David Holland at Washington State University, focused on the near-term impact on the Oregon economy of Measure 5, the property tax limitation initiative passed by Oregon voters in 1990.

"The study reaches some interesting conclusions about the effects of large property tax reductions," said Weber. "First, in the short run, household income increases as growth is induced by the property tax cut. High income households benefit the most - so that income inequality increases under a property tax limitation.

"Furthermore, even as income grows and state income taxes increase, total state and local government tax revenues and spending shrink," We-

ber said. "The induced income growth does not generate nearly enough new tax revenue to offset the property tax cut."

Weber said the researchers' analysis was done with a 1990 model of the state economy in which Oregon was a relatively high-tax, high-service state.

"In 1990, Oregon's state and local taxes represented 12.1 percent of personal income, and Oregon ranked 12th in the nation in state-local taxes as a percent of total personal income," he said.

By 1997-98, Weber said, Oregon will be a low-tax, low-service state, relative to the nation, placing around 40th in this ranking, with state and local taxes representing 10.7 percent of personal income.

"With the recent passage of Measure 47, Oregon in 1998-99 is expected to rank about 44th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, with state-local taxes representing 10.1 percent of personal income," Weber said.

The researchers estimated income, consumption and taxes for the 1990 Oregon economy, and for high-, medium- and low-income households under the pre-1990 property tax system. They then compared these projections with estimates from a scenario that simulated the Oregon economy under a fully phased-in Measure 5 property tax system.

"The report examines how firms and households respond to the price changes induced by the tax cut, but it does not attempt to value the public services that will be partially replaced with substitute private services," said Holland. "It suggests that consumption expenditures of high income households would be substantially increased, while those low income households would increase only modestly.

Low income households may be less able than high income households to replace lost public services with their post-Measure 5 increases in income," Holland said.

SPREAD THE NEWS! IMPORTANT NOTICE!

THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE GOVERNOR'S ADVOCATE FOR MINORITY, WOMEN AND EMERGING SMALL BUSINESSES

WILL HOLD AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR:

Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses
March 10, 1997 3-5 p.m.
Portland State Office Building
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March 13, 1997
4-6 o.m.

OAME Center
4134 N. Vancouver, Large Conference Room
Portland, Oregon

- Department of Corrections representatives will discuss their prison building plans and contracting opportunities;
- The Advocate's office will discuss proposed goals for an Emerging Small Business Program;
- The Office of Minority, Women & Emerging Small Business (OMWESB) will be on hand to answer certification questions and provide certification applications.

For further information, call Lydia Muniz at 503 373-1224.

Houseboat intruder shot

Multnomah County Sheriff's Deputies were called to the houseboat moorage at 14555 NW Larson Road about 5:00 am on 2/27/97 regarding an intruder to one of the houseboats who had been shot by the home owner.

The intruder was taken to Emanuel Hospital with a gunshot wound to his abdomen. His

condition is not known at this time.

The recently formed East County Major Crimes Team has responsibility for the crime scene and will be conducting the investigation.

No names are being released at this time pending completion of the investigation.

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