

Kitzhaber home armed

Union electricians add security at the official residence of the Governor.



See Housing, page A6.

Expressing yourself

Portland tap dancers light of the stage.



See Metro, inside.

Jazz legend honored

It's a long and distinguished music career for Portland resident Leroy Vinnegar.



See Arts and Entertainment, page A8.

The Portland Observer 25¢

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Army Sergeant convicted of rape

An Army drill sergeant faces the possibility of life in prison after being convicted of raping six female trainees under his command at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. A six-person military jury Tuesday found Staff Sgt. Delmar Simpson, 32, guilty on 18 counts of rape. Simpson was acquitted on one additional rape count, but was found guilty of indecent assault in that incident. Simpson also was convicted of 25 of 35 other sexual misconduct counts against him, not guilty of seven and guilty of lesser offenses on three. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for Monday. Prosecutors argued that he exploited his power over the young women to prey on them sexually. The defense says the sex was consensual.

Key witness accuses McVeigh

A key witness testified Tuesday that Timothy McVeigh told her he decided to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City because it was "an easy target." Lori Fortier, who is testifying with a grant of immunity from prosecution, said McVeigh was motivated by anger over the federal assault on a cult compound in Texas in 1993 and believed agents from the Waco raid were inside the Oklahoma City building.

Texas Town Reels from Standoff

The town of Fort Davis, Texas, is reeling from the armed standoff between law enforcement officers and armed separatists. The town used to be a quiet place prized for its easy-going character and spectacular mountain scenery. Now, armored personnel carriers and military trucks rumble through the area and its residents are afraid the standoff could explode into violence.

Breakthrough for AIDS

Medical researchers are reporting a possible major breakthrough in AIDS research. University of Pennsylvania researchers say they have successfully vaccinated two chimpanzees against the virus that causes AIDS, pointing the way to possible use of the technique in humans. Researchers say the vaccine's effectiveness is unprecedented in a primate species that is susceptible to infection with HIV.

Volunteerism Summit ends

The three-day summit on volunteerism ended in Philadelphia Tuesday. Former President George Bush, retired Gen. Colin Powell, and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton closed out the event by exhorting Americans to engage in civic activism. The summit drew some 3,000 participants, including state and local delegates, civic and corporate leaders, and celebrities, to encourage volunteerism in support of disadvantaged youth.

Racism decried on capitol steps



Community leaders assemble in northeast Portland, unified in one voice against racism and bigotry.

(Photo by Mark Washington)

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON AND LARRY J. JACKSON SR.
Community leaders and government representatives assembled Thursday to respond to what they called blatant racism and sexism against Kay Toran, director of the state office of Services to Children and Families.

Gathered at the King facility in northeast Portland, the group sent out the message that bigotry will not be tolerated in Oregon.

The response followed an incident April 18 in which a man held an effigy of Toran with hangman's noose around the neck. The man said he had a grievance with Toran over the custody of his children.

"The act that occurred on the capitol grounds was indefensible, totally unaccept-

able and yes, it was, and is racist," said state Sen. Avel Gordly, D-Portland.

Gordly warned about a growing threat from white supremacist groups in Oregon, substantiated by investigations by Oregon State Police and the state Department of Justice.

The Urban League of Portland said the incident in Salem was a "disheartening, sad blemish on the reputation of the great state of Oregon."

"While we should forgive bad behavior and poor taste, we cannot forget the historical significance and pain that it causes many of the residents, citizens and people of goodwill in our state," the Urban League said.

The Portland Rainbow Coalition commended Democratic Reps. George Eighmey and Margaret Carter, for their courage in

confronting the protest.

"We join together to express our outrage as members of the community and to point out again the need for continuing multi-cultural education," said Joseph Tam, Rainbow Coalition steering committee member.

The Black United Front said the state senators and representatives who left the House chambers to confront those responsible, "displayed courage and accountability in bringing the racist demonstration to a halt."

"The racial attack on Ms. Toran was a mean-spirited attempt to undermine the credibility and integrity of one of Oregon's highest-ranking African Americans," said the Black United Front's A. Halim Rahsaan.

The Metropolitan Human Rights Com-

mission was unanimous in calling the image of a hanging black person, a terrifying symbol, one that relates to the historical lynching which were used as an instrument to maintain the oppression of race.

"It is an image of terrorism against blacks. It is an image of terrorism against women," said Nylon McCarthy, commissioner for the group.

Gov. John Kitzhaber was thanked for supporting Toran and condemning the tone of the protest.

"We challenge other Legislators, such as the speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and other public officials to condemn this type of behavior and show Ms. Toran the same level of support that the governor has shown," a statement by the coalition said.

Trade show diversity vital

Raymond Reyes, assistant professor in the school of education at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. will be the featured keynote speaker at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Annual Luncheon and Tradeshow.

More than 1,000 small business owners, community leaders and government officials are expected to take part in the event on May 1 at the Oregon Convention Center.

This year's conference is sponsored by U.S. West, PGE, Nike, Bank of America, Pacific Gas Transmission, McDonalds and PacificCorp.

Sam Brooks, president and chair of the board of OAME, says this year's theme of "Oregonians United for Business Success" is the fourth year of a seven year program focus on different ethnic groups; 1994 Hispanic-owned businesses, 1995 African-American, 1996 Asian-American, 1997 Native-American and 1998 European-American.

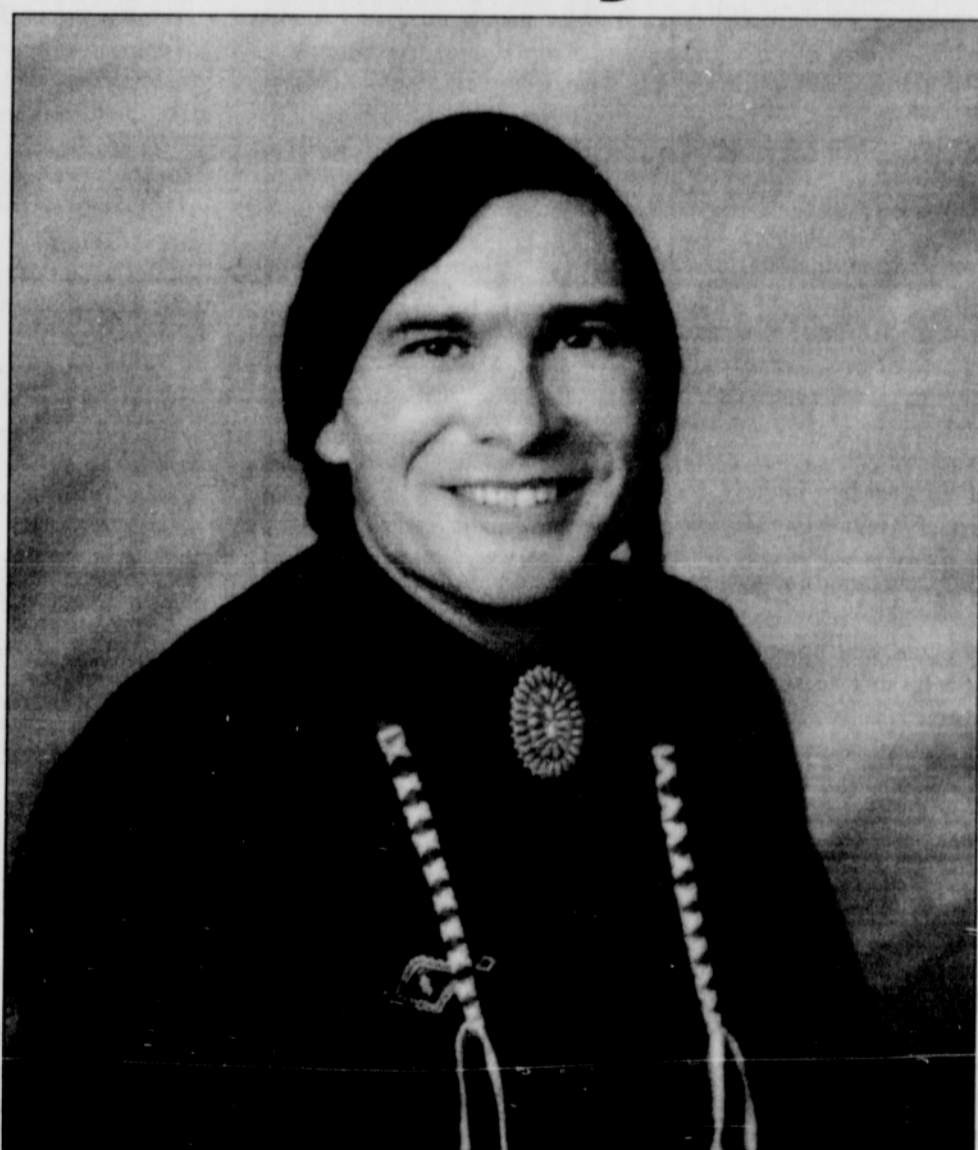
In 1999, a joint presentation will be conducted culminating with a name change to "The Oregon Association of Entrepreneurs in the year 2000."

"OAME's efforts to bring Oregon diverse business communities together at this time is large, in light of the diminution of targeted services for minority and women businesses," says Brooks.

The OAME conference and trade show is an opportunity for diverse groups to connect and network.

Reyes is currently an assistant professor with the School of Education at Gonzaga. He has a joint appointment, teaching classes at both the undergraduate and graduate level for the Department of Teacher Education and the Department of Administration, curriculum and Instruction.

Before coming to the university, he was the



Raymond Reyes will highlight Oregon native American business at north/Northeast Portland trade show.

Chief Executive Officer for the Coeur 'D Alene Tribe of Idaho. He has 17 years experience in Indian Education and has conducted hundreds of teacher training workshops throughout the United States and Canada.

OAME is a not-for-profit organization formed to promote and develop entrepre-

neurship and economic development for ethnic minorities in the state of Oregon.

The trade show is sold out with 85 small, minority, major corporate and public organizations participating. The luncheon cost is \$40 with tickets available by calling (503) 249-7744.

Poor may lose safety net

BY LEE PERLMAN

Multnomah County budget cutters may cut away part of the health care safety net for poor people.

To meet a \$4 million general fund budget reduction the county Health Department plans to close its North Portland Health Center at 8918 N. Woolsey Ave. and its East Portland Health Center at Southeast Powell Boulevard and Main Street in Gresham. The four remain clinics - at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Emerson Street, Southeast 127th Avenue and Division Street, Southeast Powell Boulevard and 34th Avenue, and Southwest Fourth Avenue and Stark St. - will also lose staff and service capacity, according to Sharon Armstrong, the department's Primary Care Director.

Each already has a waiting list for visits of two to four weeks. Clients of the two clinics to be closed will henceforth have to go to the bottom of these lists to obtain care.

The North Portland Health Center has 9890 visits a year. Of these, 3362 are from people with no health insurance and few other options for care, and 2868 were from people needing "interpretive services."

They include care for people with heart and lung diseases, diabetes, and many pregnant women. Without the county's services the people who use it will probably wind up "getting delayed care or no care, and may end up in hospital emergency rooms," Armstrong says.

At stake for denying prenatal care to poor women is creating long-term health problems for the children they bear.

EDITORIAL.....A2
HEALTH.....A4
HOUSING.....A6
EDUCATION.....A7
ARTS & ENT.....A8
METRO.....B1
SPORTS.....B2
FAMILY.....B3
RELIGION.....B5
CLASSIFIEDS.....B7