

# Employees called winners in UPS settlement

A panel of Teamster local leaders approved Tuesday a tentative contract with United Parcel Service, ending a two-week strike that crippled package deliveries in the United States, a Teamsters official said.

The panel, which consists of two representatives from each of the 206 Teamster locals, voted unanimously to accept the tentative contract that now goes to a secret ballot by Teamster members.

The vote freed the 185,000 striking Teamsters to return to work at UPS, but a formal ratification of the contract depends on a secret mail ballot of union members. That mail vote would likely take three to four weeks to complete.

Teamsters said they would discuss the results of the local leaders' vote shortly. Workers could be back at work as early as Wednesday.

UPS Chairman James Kelly said the company's fleet of brown vans

## Oregon political leaders say workers won dramatic and exciting victory - See related story, Metro inside.

would be running full-out by Wednesday, while officials at the world's largest package delivery company would contact customers to try to win back business lost during the strike.

At picket lines near UPS head-

quarters in Atlanta, thousands of Teamster union members cheered the tentative pact announced late on Monday to settle strike, which was widely seen as a victory for organized labor.

President Clinton called the

settlement "a good thing for the country. It's good for the company, good for the employees," he said, speaking to reporters while on vacation on Martha's Vineyard, off the Massachusetts coast.

"It's a victory for the proposition that you can treat your employees well and make money. That's what I wanted to prove from the time I became president," he said.

Teamsters President Ron Carey said the 185,000 striking workers, who received \$55 a week in union

strike benefits, could go back to work Wednesday.

The breakthrough came Monday night after almost 90 hours of negotiations at a Washington hotel.

A federal mediator guided the talks and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman was at the hotel and pushed the two sides to keep talking.

Carey said the union had won sweeping concessions from UPS.

Volume XXVII, Number 34

Committed to cultural diversity.

Aug. 20, 1997

# The Portland Observer 25¢

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Fed leaves rates alone

The Federal Reserve Tuesday left key interest rates unchanged amid clear evidence the nation's economy is growing at a comfortable speed with low inflation. The announcement by the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee was widely expected and left the key federal funds rate which banks charge each other for overnight loans steady at 5.5 percent. With recent data suggesting that growth is moderate and inflation steady in the world's dominant economy, investors had little reason to expect any change in the Fed's policy stance now. But some analysts believe the Fed may move to tighten credit later in the year.

### Mir restarts computer

The crew of the troubled space station Mir managed to restart the station's computer system Tuesday, arresting a 24-hour tumble through space triggered by a technical failure during the docking of a cargo ship. A Mission Control spokeswoman said the crew will now be able to restore Mir's stable alignment with the sun. U.S. officials, meanwhile, are mulling whether to keep sending astronauts to Mir. David Wolf is scheduled to blast off on Sept. 25 aboard the space shuttle Atlantis, but whether he will actually embark on the station is still being debated. Three separate U.S. inquiries into safety aboard Mir are proceeding, said a NASA spokesman.

### Shuttle lands in Florida

The space shuttle Discovery touched down in Florida with a satellite carrying a bounty of data about the health of Earth's protective ozone layer. The German-built spacecraft flew free of the shuttle for nine days and took nearly 50,000 atmospheric measurements to aid scientists studying the depletion of the ozone layer. The satellite also provided evidence to support a controversial theory that the Earth is being bombarded daily by thousands of house-sized, water-laden comets.

### Texas inmates moved

Missouri officials are considering legal action against the operators of a Texas jail where guards videotaped prisoners being brutalized. A spokesman for Gov. Mel Carnahan said the state was reviewing all of its contracts with Texas jails where hundreds of prisoners have been housed in a bid to ease overcrowding in the Missouri prison system.

### ValuJet hearings start

The National Transportation Safety Board is meeting today to consider its final report on the crash last year of ValuJet flight 592 that killed 110 people. The DC-9 plunged into the Florida Everglades on May 11, 1996.

### Tobacco chief testifies

The tobacco industry's chief spokesman dismissed as overblown and unfounded medical and anti-smoking claims that cigarettes are addictive, jurors in a landmark secondhand-smoke trial heard this week. Samuel Chilcote, president of the Tobacco Institute, an industry trade group, also said the links between smoking and diseases such as lung cancer were not yet proven and that secondhand smoke was not a health danger.

## Aim is great care for children and families



Alison Kastner, the youth librarian at the Albina branch library, reads a story to area youth during a Children's Fair Saturday at the Lutheran Inner City Ministries at Northeast Martin Luther King & Skidmore. Several groups in north and northeast Portland, including the AMA Child Care Enhancement Project, sponsored the fair as they work together to meet the needs of child care providers, children and families. (Photo by M. Washington)

## Future for vacant market still up air

United Grocery says it's still committed to Wilshire site, neighborhood not so sure

By LEE PERLMAN

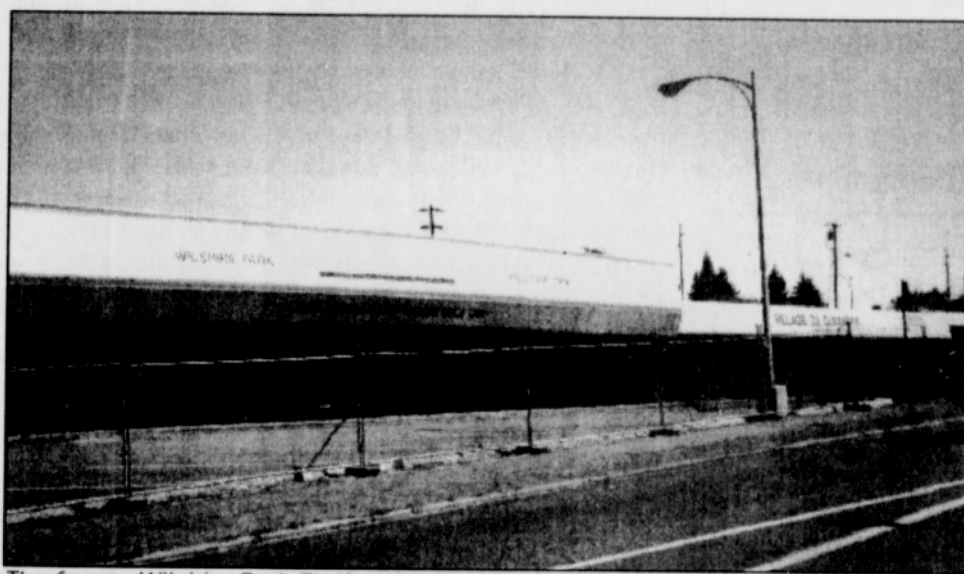
Despite closing their second grocery in the area, United Grocers is committed to replacing the Wilshire Park Thriftway, officials told the Concordia Neighborhood Association last week.

Last month Bill Seidl, the grocery cooperative's director of real estate and store development, told the community group that his organization was committed to re-opening the Wilshire Park store on Northeast 33rd Avenue at Killingsworth Street, now vacant for two years.

He said that an experienced operator was considering taking over the store, and that if an agreement could be signed it could open for business "within 180 days." The day after the meeting the T.J. Sentry Market at 4636 N.E. 42nd Ave., also affiliated with United Grocers, announced that it was closing its doors within a week.

Some residents took the two events as a betrayal. "Right now United Grocer's reputation in the neighborhood is not good, and we need to do something about that," former Concordia president Ron Fossum told Seidl.

Seidl insisted that the two events were a coincidence, and that he did not know of the



The former Wilshire Park Thriftway remains a blight in its northeast Portland neighborhood, frustrating area residents.

impending closure at the time of the meeting.

"We kept the 42nd street store open longer than we should have out of consideration for the neighborhood," he said. Sentry store had been losing as much as \$60,000 per week, he said.

"Because of potential liability, we don't generally publicize these things in advance,"

he said.

As to the pending deal at Wilshire Park, Seidl said that it had fallen through. However, he said, United Grocers remained committed to reopening the store. As proof of this, it is offering potential operators \$1 million toward its renovation. Last month the figure was \$500,000.

A major obstacle, Seidl said, is the small

size of the store and the limitations that places on its operations.

"We expect to do less than \$125,000 a week worth of business there," he said. "Larger groceries do \$500 to \$600,000 a week." The existing building is less than 20,000 square feet.

Another problem may be fear of the area by potential operators.

It was stated that one developer withdrew after a recent drive-by shooting on Northeast Alberta Street.

Neighborhood board member Maggie White took stern exception to the remarks. "This happens everywhere. Beaumont Market was robbed recently," White said.

Seidl said the neighborhood could help him "sell" the market and area to potential operators. "I told one person, 'Look what's happening on Martin Luther King. Who ever thought that would be happening.'"

The neighborhood association can also "help manage the emotion," Seidl told the board. "I know you guys are upset and you have every right to be, but every hour spent on P.R. and spin takes away from finding a solution."

Board member Phil Carrier told Seidl, "You get it open, and I won't buy anything anywhere else for a year."

## Apology for slavery debated

### Community dialogue: Apology and reparations for slavery

How do you feel about President Clinton and Congress officially apologizing to black Americans for slavery?

What do you think about reparations - compensation for their ancestors' suffering - to black Americans?

The Metropolitan Human Rights Center will facilitate a Community dialogue on Apology to Black Americans for Slavery, Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 S.W. Capitol Highway.

All races of people are encouraged to

participate in open and honest dialogue on this subject.

Everyone will have an opportunity to express opinion and offer ideas for positive change.

Metropolitan Human Rights Center's Community Dialogues on race promote mutual understanding and respect.

To register for the Sept. 9 dialogue, or for more information, contact Linda Hunter at 823-5136. If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation, you're asked to call 48 hours in advance.



## Companions lost, future pondered

John Lee survives a boating accident last week and is left to mourn the loss of his two fishing companions and friends, James E. Riley, 28 and Joe A. Banks, 44, who drowned in the mishap. Their bodies have now been recovered from the Willamette River. A memorial service for the men was scheduled for Wednesday at Maranatha Church.