

POLICE NEWS

Series Of Convenience Store Armed Robberies

Portland Police Bureau Detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a subject believed responsible for at least nine convenience store armed robberies in North, Northeast, and Southeast Portland, starting with the September 26, 1997 robbery of the Plaid Pantry at 2730 North Lombard.

Of the nine robberies, seven have been to Plaid Pantries and two have been to "mom and pop" type stores. One store, the Plaid Pantry at 2730 North Lombard, has been robbed twice by the suspect. On Saturday, October 18, 1997, the suspect robbed four stores, two in Southeast Portland and two in Northeast Portland. In two of the four robberies, the suspect fired a shot.

The suspect is described as a very light complected black male, approxi-



mately 30 years of age, 5'9", 170 pounds, with a moustache/goatee, and wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt, with a Nike swoosh on the left breast, and armed with a handgun.

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.

Search Warrant Served On Alternative Health Center

Officers from the Portland Police Bureau, Drugs and Vice Division, served Search Warrants at two Portland area locations this afternoon in connection with the Alternative Health Center. The Center, allegedly involved in the trafficking of Marijuana, is located at 333 SW Park Avenue and was the site of a September 24, 1997 Search Warrant.

Warrants were served at the Alternative Health Center and at 3645 N. Michigan. Since the September Search Warrant, investigators have discovered a change in the Center operation proce-

dures. Marijuana buyers contact the 333 SW Park address and prepay for a specified amount of Marijuana. The buyers, given a voucher, are then directed to the 3645 N. Michigan address to receive the Marijuana.

When police officers entered the Alternative Health Center location, Marijuana was being smoked by customers.

Arrested and charged with 3 counts of distribution of a controlled substance (DCS I) Marijuana and 1 count of Conspiracy to Commit DCS I-Marijuana was

Diane Densmore, DOB August 2, 1947. She was placed in custody at the Alternative Health Center location. Densmore is lodged in the Justice Center Jail.

Arrested and charged at the north Portland location was Clarence W. Harper Jr., June 15, 1949, 3 counts each of DCS I and PCS I-Marijuana. Matthew L.H. Harris, DOB February 3, 1933, 1 count each of DCS I and PCS I-Marijuana. Dennis G. Payne, January 23, 1948, 1 count each of DCS I and PCS I-Marijuana. The three men are also lodged in the Justice Center jail.

Observing Diversity Summit

Northwest still struggles with the issues of race

By JAMES L. POSEY

On October 25th Skyview High School (Vancouver, Washington), hosted the second in a series of Diversity summits sponsored by the Clark County YWCA.

The featured speaker was Morris Dees, renowned white civil rights activist and founder of Southern Poverty Law Center. Dees is most noted for his successful prosecution of national Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzger and his son, after the brutal killing of a local Ethiopian student (Mulugeta Seraw) in 1988.

The case, tried here in Portland, captured the national spotlight in part because it was the first time a Klan leader was held criminally liable for the death of a black person based on instigating racist hate crime activity.

In view of the upcoming Portland forum on race, the question is whether the state of Washington, or more specifically Vancouver, more progressive in its efforts to stem the tide of racist activity than Oregon or the City of Portland? Well, it is difficult to conclude based only on Vancouver hosting a few forums focused on diversity issues.

But what is clear is that the Northwest, like most of the

country, is still struggling with issues of inclusion in general and race in particular.

The Skyview event was reflective of this struggle and in many ways portrays the array of perspectives associated with diversity issues.

When the sessions broke out into workshops to discuss diversity involving employment and education, many views were emotional about the extent of racism experienced in the school districts, with major employers, law enforcement, etc.

But it was evident that dialogue was in effect, primarily preaching to the choir. And it became clear that no new answers would emerge as to how to effectively combat the forces of racism and intolerance.

Despite this inevitability, every effort was made to present a positive, upbeat mood about the progress of diversity strategies in the community.

Facilitator Darrell Simms and others worked to deflect more radical concerns about why racism and intolerance persist.

And it seemed that most participants were satisfied, given the mood of the country toward race issues, to merely celebrate the fact that they were able to attend such an event.

The arrival and speech by Morris Dees seemed anticlimac-

tic and highlights the dilemma that some find in this fight against racism.

Certainly no one doubts the importance of the work of Morris Dees and all his supporters. Many however believe, the more subtle, endemic forms of racism, like Texaco's racist employment practices, are more harmful to a progressive society.

And it is this benign neglect of these institutional practices which really perpetuate the existence of organizations like the KKK. So while Morris Dees becomes a living icon fighting the dramatized antics of white supremacists, the more subtle, stealth white supremacists in the school system act to prevent young minorities from getting a first class education.

Nevertheless, the organizers got it right by ensuring significant involvement by area youth. In fact, their participation may have been the brightest aspect of the summit.

Contrary to popular opinion that the youth today are unconcerned, these Vancouver-area youths seemed engaged and knowledgeable.

More importantly, they were not willing to let adults dominate the discussion on this most important issue. By this account alone, the summit can be judged a success.

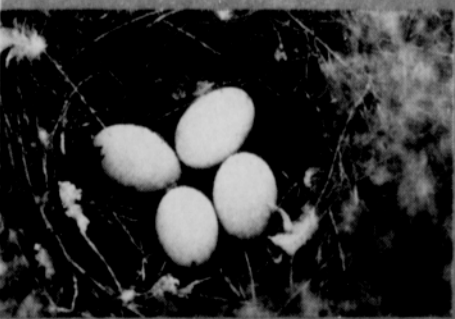
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We're committed to the global environment. That's why we've joined forces with the Nature Conservancy and others to protect tropical rain forests in Central and South America and are searching for ways to take advantage of renewable resources like our future wind project in Wyoming. Our commitment, however, may be most noticeable right here in our own backyard through our GreenCorps program. In 145 different projects since 1993, we've brought together employees and other volunteers throughout our communities to plant trees, restore wildlife habitat and educate others about the environment. And that's not only good news for the people in our area, it's good news for the entire planet.



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