

# The Portland Observer

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Prosecution rests in Nichols trial

The prosecution rested its case against Terry Nichols Tuesday, leaving jurors with the image of a Marine captain and his comrades buried in rubble after a bomb destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building. "The United States rests its case," prosecutor Larry Mackey declared, wrapping up 20 days of testimony from 98 witnesses. Nichols, 42, could face the death penalty if convicted of murder, conspiracy and weapons counts. His former Army buddy, McVeigh, 29, has appealed his conviction on identical charges.

### Reno goes to deadline

Attorney General Janet Reno worked right to the deadline on her decision for an independent counsel to investigate telephone fund raising by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Clinton, awaiting word, said people outside the Justice Department should not have tried to influence Reno's decision.

### FDA approves irradiation

Plans to kill beef bacteria with radiation have the approval of the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA acted on a proposal by a N.J. company with long experience in medical sterilization. The company will offer meat processors a system to be used at the end of production, after meat is in sealed packages and can't be contaminated. No radioactive material would come into contact with the beef. The Clinton administration has been under pressure to improve meat safety after some highly publicized recalls of tainted ground beef.

### Classes back after Kentucky shooting

Students gathered in the lobby of Heath High School before classes Tuesday to pray silently for three friends shot to death during a prayer meeting 24 hours before. Moments after 35 Heath High School students murmured "amen" Monday morning in their informal hallway session, eight of them were shot. Three of the survivors remained hospitalized. Authorities immediately arrested a 14-year-old freshman, a self-professed atheist who would sometimes mock the daily prayer group but who was not considered a danger by his classmates.

### Pakistani resigns

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif triumphed over his two top rivals Tuesday in Pakistan's political feud, suspending the chief justice in a move that prompted the president's surprise resignation. President Farooq Ahmed Leghari - who quit rather than appoint a replacement for the chief justice - bitterly accused Sharif of trying to grab sole power and thwarting attempts to end the feud. With neither side in the feud showing signs of backing down, some had feared the army - which has ruled Pakistan for 25 of its 50 years - would step in and seize power.

### Guilty plea in crack death

A woman charged with killing her fetus because she smoked crack cocaine pleaded guilty Tuesday to involuntary manslaughter. The 27-year-old woman was given a three-year suspended prison sentence. In return for her plea, prosecutors had dropped a charge of murder by child abuse. South Carolina's Supreme Court was the first appellate court in the nation to allow prosecutions of pregnant women who take drugs, ruling in July 1996 that a pregnant woman could be criminally liable for actions that endanger the health of a viable fetus.

### Internet tackles porn

The online industry has agreed to report activities involving child pornography to law enforcement officials. Vice President Al Gore was to announce the initiative Tuesday when he addressed a conference on ways to make the Internet a safer place for America's children. Under the policy, Internet providers would remove child pornography from their own bulletin boards and services.

## Oregonians look to children on World AIDS Day

Area residents joined in commemorating the 10th observance of World AIDS Day on Monday. This year's theme, "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS," emphasized that even those under the age of 18 are affected, directly or indirectly, by HIV/AIDS.

Local health departments, AIDS service organizations and community based HIV/AIDS prevention groups throughout the state sponsored a variety of activities including speeches, student essay and poster contests, candlelight vigils and displays of AIDS memorial quilt panels.

World AIDS Day aims to increase understanding of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, its global dimensions and that it continues despite new treatments. It emphasizes promoting action and sound policies to prevent HIV transmission and to minimize the epidemic's impact on children, their families and their communities.

Around the world, 191 countries commemorated AIDS day to draw attention to the AIDS pandemic. In the U.S., the day linked communities around the country in a unified observance.



### Holiday greetings!

Alex Meidike, Christopher Albright and Scott Waggner ride the Meier and Frank float train in Friday's Meier and Frank Christmas Parade. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

## New census for King, other neighborhoods

Residents recruited to obtain more complete information

Three Portland area neighborhoods are part of a population census to be conducted during the first two weeks of December.

Information gathering procedures will be identical to the US Census, but with several questions of local interest added, such as childcare, health insurance, and hunger.

The sites were chosen because they contain people who are hard to count in regular Censuses. These include low income households, minorities, immigrants, and foreign speaking residents.

The sites are in the Brentwood Darlington area of southeast Portland, the King neighborhood of north Portland, and the Rockwood area of Gresham.

One unique part of this census is that it will be conducted by neighborhood residents, whom project directors believe can obtain more complete information from residents than outside census takers.

Census takers have been recruited from unemployed people and others interested in training and short term employment. They receive officially approved US Census training, and are paid \$8 per hour. Supervisors will receive \$10 to \$14 per hour.

All information taken by the census will be confidential, and all enumerators will carry official Multnomah County identification.

Information collected will be compared to US Census data presently being released by the US Census. The Census data was collected during 1996 using a new sampling technique being tested by the US Census. The intent of the present project is to determine the validity of the US Census data in small areas of the county.

US Census data is important to all citizens, because it is the basis of most federal and state funding to local governments and determines the geographic areas used for Congressional districts and state legislatures.

## African-American plea: give gift of life

Community leaders tackle passionate need for blood and marrow donors

Portland's African American community has a proud heritage of pulling together to help their own and others.

"Because African Americans need blood, we need your help," said Benita Harris of the American Red Cross.

For nearly 10 years, American Red Cross has partnered with community leadership and churches, including the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Maranatha Church, to increase awareness of the critical need for African American blood and marrow donors through sponsorship of the Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr., Memorial Blood Drive.

Last year's event, held in conjunction with the World Arts Council's "Keep Living the Dream Celebration," at Jefferson High School, was the most successful drive ever, with 95 pints of blood collected, 26 from first-time donors. Fifteen community members also helped increase the survival odds of African Americans needing marrow transplants by joining the National Marrow Do-

nor Registry.

"We need your help to build on last year's success and increase participation in this lifesaving event. Studies show that the primary reason many African Americans don't donate blood is because they feel they've never been asked," Harris said. "With your support, we can ensure that

CONTINUED ON PAGE A3



Heartfelt Thanksgiving - Lynn James (left) and her mother Jamie, volunteer with Mothers Against Gang Violence at a Thanksgiving dinner for the community with generous donations from the Oregon Food Bank, Safeway, and Portland Trail Blazer Brian Grant. (Photo by Tony Washington)

## Marines collect holiday toys



Billboard unwrapped - Families that can't afford to buy toys for their children this Christmas will benefit from goodwill the Toys for Tots campaign advertises at NE Broadway and 33rd Avenue. (Photo by M. Washington)