

**Sprewell banishment reviewed**

Was the suspension for the violence against P.J. Carlesimo suspiciously tough?



See Sports, page B5.

**Wyden makes Portland Observer stop**

Oregon's senior senator meets with the state's oldest minority publication.



See Metro section, inside.

**Holiday giving for kids**

Our Children's Store welcomes support from the community.



# The Portland Observer <sup>25¢</sup>

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**School loses shield case**

An Ohio university seeking to shield its student disciplinary records from public scrutiny lost a Supreme Court appeal Monday. The justices, without comment, let stand a ruling by Ohio's highest court that forces Miami University to release the records - with names deleted - to the school's student newspaper.

**Militants vow no attacks**

Exiled leaders of a militant Islamic group whose guerrillas massacred 58 tourists last month have promised to stop attacks on tourists, a newspaper reported. The leaders abroad of the Islamic Group said in a statement that they did not order the Nov. 17 attack and that the killers had acted on their own, the London-based daily Al-Hayat said.

**Failure caused crash**

Officials have absolved the pilots of the Russian cargo plane that crashed in Siberia of any blame and are instead blaming engine failure. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin praised the dead crew for doing all they could to prevent an even greater disaster. At least 65 people died when the huge plane slammed into a neighborhood on Saturday.

**Clinton nears decision**

President Clinton is close to a decision on whether he will ignore Republican opposition and install Bill Lann Lee in the federal government's top civil rights job. Lee received support from Attorney General Janet Reno at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, however, urged Clinton in a letter not to appoint Lee during the congressional recess.

**Gore offers 'flexibility'**

Al Gore reached out to Europe in the U.N. climate talks in Japan, receiving a cautious response from European officials. In a speech to the global warming conference, the vice president promised more U.S. flexibility in the negotiations for a global warming treaty.

**TWA 800 results revealed**

The National Transportation Safety Board is focusing on the explosive fuel vapors in the center fuel tank of TWA Flight 800. At the start of a weeklong hearing, Chairman James Hall said the temperature of the vapors had reached explosive levels before the jet even took off. Hall said that although the cause of the explosion is still a mystery, investigators are looking at the possibility of faulty wiring causing the spark.

**Swiss banks merge**

Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. announced they will merge, forming the world's second-largest financial institution with assets of more than \$600 billion. The announcement came in a joint statement after days of rumors that sparked a sharp rise in the shares of the two firms' stock.

**AIDS panel finds faults**

A White House advisory panel says the federal fight against AIDS has stalled in the absence of bold leadership by the Clinton administration. The 32-member panel issued a progress report which faulted the administration for failing "to lay out a coherent plan of action" to prevent transmission of the AIDS virus, HIV. The panel also criticized the administration's failure to find ways to expand Medicaid to cover all low-income people with HIV early in the course of the disease.

## Housing nears completion

### Apartments change face of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

By LEE PERLMAN

Housing on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is no longer a dream, a concept or a work in progress. It's a reality.

According to builder Jane Olberding, one of the three buildings in her new 38-unit project, facing Northeast Wygant Street, is "completed and occupied." Another will be so within a week and the third, facing Northeast Going Street, is about 16 weeks away.

Immediately to the south, the south end of Northeast Community Development Corporation's McCoy Village will be finished in late December or early January, according to Jaki Walker of NECDC and Channa Grace of the ONE Company of Los Angeles, its partner in the venture. When completed the three-story project will have 55 one to four-bedroom units clustered around small interior courtyards.

The two projects will join Albina Corner, a 42-unit building at Northeast San Rafael Street. On the drawing boards is Housing Our Families' Alberta Simmons project, a four-story, 74-unit structure slated for Northeast Dekum Street, and Bill Reed's Standard Dairy Project, which will rework the former dairy at Northeast Graham Street

to provide 64 units.

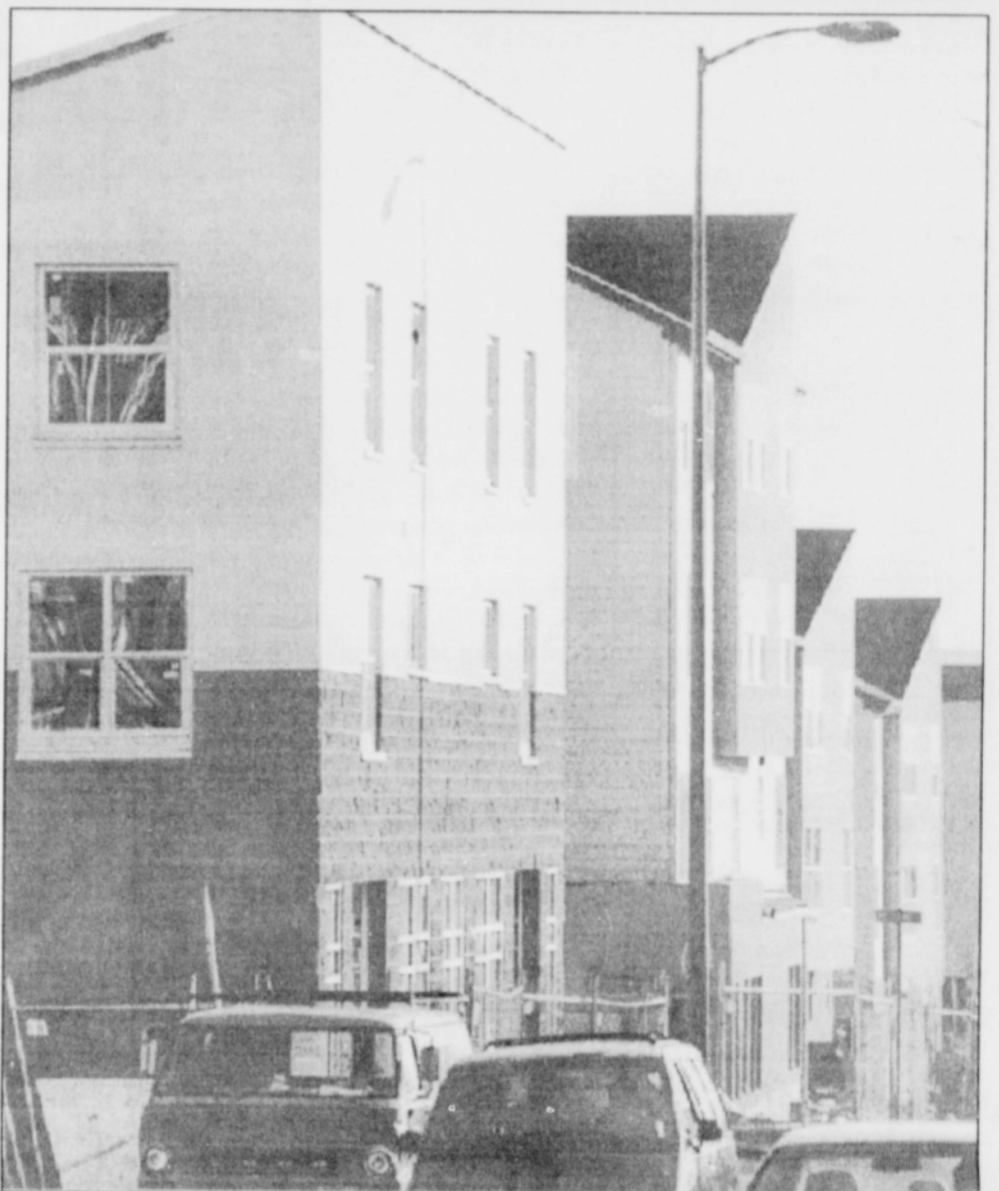
Reed's is the only market rate project on the avenue; all the rest are geared toward lower-income people. McCoy Village will have 10 units geared to families earning 30 percent or less of median income, with rents ranging from \$219 for one bedroom to \$335 for four. Rents at Olberding's project will range from \$380 for one bedroom to \$845 for four.

All five projects will have ground floor retail. Albina Corner boasts the Albina Community Bank, San Rafael Cafe, a day care center and Portland Community Design.

Alberta Simmons will have 5,000 square feet of retail space and Standard Dairy as much as 30,000 if "flex space" is used for retail. By contrast, the two newest projects have relatively little commercial space.

Olberding will have two commercial tenants - Salt and Pepper Hair Products and a nail salon - taking up less than 2,000 square feet combined. McCoy Village has slightly more space - about 3,000 square feet - and will rent to the OCAA Company and Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, the latter for a computer lab.

Some have criticized the decision to put housing, rather than retail, on the ground



Apartments give new look to northeast neighborhood. (Photo by M. Washington)

floor, especially with buildings catering to families and located on such a busy street.

Stephen Foust of the King Neighborhood Association praises architectural features of both projects - Olberding's curb "cutout" to allow on-street parking and McCoy's interior courtyards, as well as the views the

upstairs units will have. However, he is unhappy with the "token" retail space, which he feels runs counter to neighborhood goals. Like business leader Bill Leigh, he wonders about the projects' viability.

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## Professor sees change through career

### For Portland State's Millner, knowledge can change society

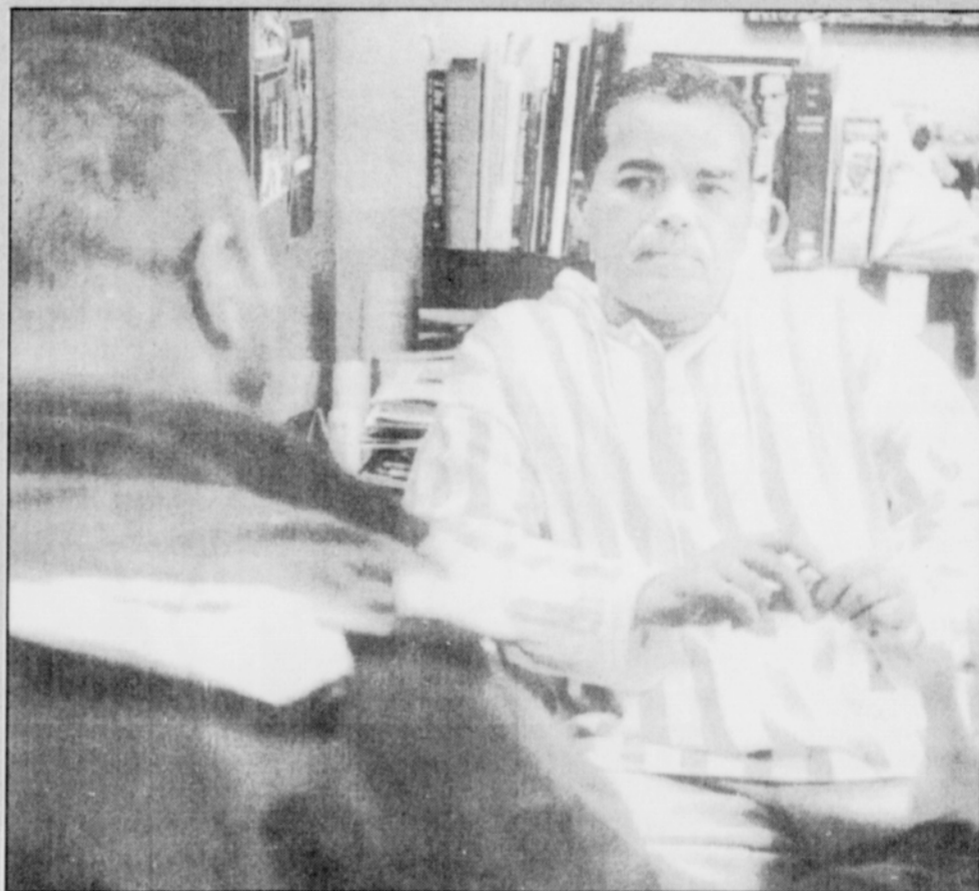
By NEIL HELPERN

Over the years Darrell Millner discovered greater revolutionary zeal and power to change society from his professional pulpit than he ever did as an activist in California's bubbling cauldron of protest movements a few ago.

A large poster of Bobby Seale loomed over his shoulder as the Portland State University professor chatted last week with a visiting former student, about the young man's plans for a filmmaking career. Millner, who heads up PSU's Black Studies program, teaches Contemporary African-American cinema and classes on state and national African/American histories.

Millner, 51, still considers himself an activist. After the student departed, he told The Portland Observer, "There is nothing more revolutionary than knowledge and knowledge of the black experience can change society."

That change would come, he said, by molding "individuals who have a vision of a possible different society, with skills and (intellectual) weapons to challenge and change the status



PSU black studies professor Darrell Millner chats with recent graduate Paul West. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

quo."

He recalled student days when black studies, Black Panther fever and anti-war sentiments were "on the front burner of social action."

"These issues were bubbling around us and it was impossible not to be touched by them," he said.

"We stayed up all night once planning a Free Huey Newton rally at a court house," he said, and black student union plans to close down the California Polytechnic Institute Campus at Pomona, "until we got a curriculum devoted to the black experience."

With puffed Afro hair, he "acted and looked like a militant," stopped by police five times in one day while driving to school. "They thought I looked suspicious."

"Those experiences made me analyze and confront the nature of the society I lived in," he said. It was a period of stress and challenge, that he saw as an evolution from the Harlem Renaissance Period of the 1920's, visions of black writers like Langston Hughes, Jean Toomen, Claude McKay and W.E.B. duBois wafted through his mind.

But it wound up being more a mixture of evolutionary processes with revolutionary ideas of justice and freedom that guided the academic

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## The Amistad 'revolt' - A story told too late?

By PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Clearly, the Amistad affair cannot properly be called a "mutiny," since only free-born men, rebelling against shipboard tyranny - real or imagined - can claim the role of "mutineers." Who is deceived?

Here we gave the 'revolt' of 53 African slaves taking over "by any means necessary" the ship that was transporting them to the worst hell-hole of all 'New World' slavery, the North coast of Cuba in the year 1839. How obscure has been this classic story of a heroic struggle by black men for freedom and human dignity - quite unlike those events endlessly recited from the novel and movie, "Mutiny on the Bounty."

But then, as I have clearly demonstrated and documented in these pages the past few weeks, all of the courageous revolts of Africans against

the inhuman barbarism of chattel slavery in the western hemisphere have been carefully excised from mainstream history and literature. The "Amistad Revolt" happened 158 years ago but only now has there been a movie produced about this enthralling account of man's never-ending struggle for freedom and dignity.

And, even at this writing (Monday, noon, 12/8/97), there is still doubt that the Steven Spielberg film, "Amistad", will open this week as scheduled. Black author Barbara Chase-Riboud has filed a \$10 million copyright infringement suit against Dreamworks which made the film. She claims the material for the movie was stolen from her novel, "Echo of Lions" which was submitted to the studio and later returned without comment.

If the name Barbara Chase-Riboud sounds

familiar, it is because she is the author of the best-selling revelation of President Thomas Jefferson's affair with his black mistress, "Sally Hemmings", Avon pub., 1979. By the way, CNN has just announced that the litigants have left the courtroom for now and may be trying to reach a settlement in adjoining chambers (no settlement at press time, Tuesday).

It has been reported that a former employee of the Dreamworks studio now admits to having had Chase-Riboud's 'Amistad' manuscript in his possession, but states, "I did not read it." Steven Spielberg says, "I consider 'Amistad' an extraordinarily important film, perhaps the most important of my career." We note he did not refer to the story as a "mutiny" and we respect him for that.

The advent of a movie like Amistad is "an extraordinarily important" event for many African Americans but unlike Spielberg, it is not the possibility of an Academy Award that is uppermost in their minds. Across the nation blacks are engaged in an intense dialogue, assessing the possibility that finally the entertainment industry may be ready to breach the 'colon and sugar curtain' - and that the American press and even academia might be ready to follow suit. The ebony-hued "Cinque" a hero?

But it is speculated that just as the title to this article suggests, this may be "a story told too late." Many blacks perceive that too many persons of color, across too many generations, have been born and have matured in a contrived culture

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