

"OWLS", people who inspire
Members of the "OWLS" group, whose purpose is to promote social and economic equality for women age 40 and over.



See Metro, inside.

The Voice of An Angel
Grammy award winning CeCe Winans has new hit album "Everlasting Love".



See Religion, Page B4.

See Popeye's Coupon's Inside!

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Oscars Ratings Bonanza

ABC said the Academy Awards show was the most-watched Oscar telecast of all time in the United States with an estimated 87 million people tuning in. The show scored a 40.5 rating and 60 share in Nielsen Media Research's overnight measurement from 38 major markets. It is expected to be the top Oscar telecast in ratings since 1983. The extraordinary interest in "Titanic," which won 11 Oscars, fueled the ratings.

Xerox To Cut Jobs

Xerox is reportedly preparing to eliminate 10,000 jobs, or 11 percent of its work force, over the next two years. The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle said fewer than half of the cuts will come from U.S. jobs, as many as 2,000 at its production plants in Rochester. Xerox currently employs 91,400 people.

Clinton Wants S. Africa Partnership

President Clinton became the first sitting U.S. president to visit South Africa and called for a partnership "of mutual respect and mutual reward." Clinton praised South Africa for ending apartheid and making a peaceful transition to majority rule. Clinton was greeted by President Nelson Mandela in a formal, red-carpet ceremony. He said he would build trade and political interaction with Mandela's government.

Classes Resume at Arkansas School

Students returned to the Westside Middle School, two days after a bloody ambush by two children that shocked the nation. Two Westside students - Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Andrew "Drew" Golden, 11 - are accused of gunning down four schoolmates and a teacher. The boys are being held on five counts of murder and 10 counts of battery.

A white cross of flowers with a red bow was on the flagpole in front of the school and the flag flew at half-staff. Classes resumed as people tried to get their lives back to normal. "Life goes on, and from there we're going to start a new beginning," said sixth-grader Colby Brooks.

U.N. Inspecting Iraq Palace

U.N. weapons inspectors made their first-ever search of one of Saddam Hussein's palace compounds. The inspectors were accompanied by senior diplomats as Iraq had demanded in an agreement that averted a possible military confrontation.

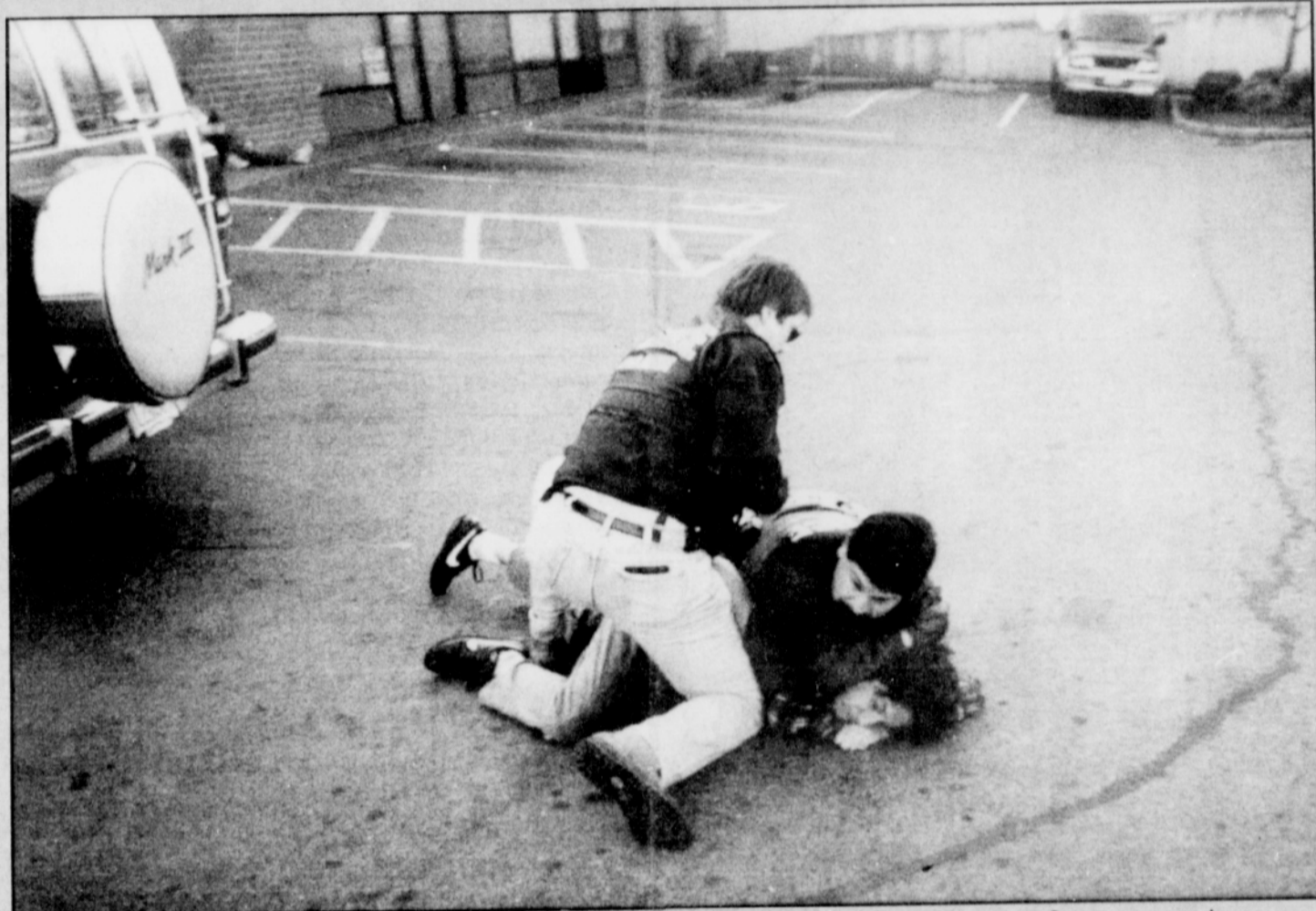
A U.N. official said the American-led team went to Saddam's Radwanayah palace, believed to be one of the largest of the presidential compounds. The inspectors and diplomats broke into several teams inside the palace. A German diplomat says Iraqi cooperation has been "fantastic."

Personal Income Jumps 0.6 Percent

Americans' personal income increased a strong 0.6 percent in February for the second consecutive month, putting cash in consumers' pockets that should help the economy withstand the Asian financial crisis.

The gain, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$7.14 trillion, outpaced the healthy 0.4 percent advance in consumer spending, the Commerce Department said.

FEDS MAKE VIOLENT ARRESTS



Federal agents arrest migrant worker in Plaid Pantry parking lot. Witnesses allege unnecessary force was used.

(Photo by Guretn Miles)

By LEE PERLMAN

A conflict between the Workers Organizing Committee, the Central East Side Industrial Council and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has escalated into violence.

On March 19 the INS arrested 18 Latino day laborers in the parking lot of a Plaid Pantry at East Burnside Street and Southeast Grand Avenue. The next day, in the same vicinity, they arrested five more. The Workers Organizing Committee, an advocacy group for third world workers, said at a news conference

last week that "about a dozen" people were arrested in the first raid and "six to eight more" in the second.

WOC charged that the agents used "unnecessary and unwarranted violence." Specifically, they say they tackled a man who was not resisting, that they chased another through heavy traffic, that they broke one man's nose, and that they applied "finger pain holds" against a man already handcuffed.

They also charged that the agents arrested a man legally in this country

also charged that the agents arrested a man legally in this country without giving him a chance to produce his papers. Gareth Miles of WOC, who took the pictures that appeared in this paper, said he was threatened with a lawsuit and arrested by Joe Shaffer, assistant director of the Portland district for INS.

According to WOC director Teresa Enrico, the raid began when some workers were lured into an unmarked van by INS agents and asked if they were interested in work. Only when one protested

the terms of the "work" did the agents identify themselves and begin the arrests, she says. WOC plans to file an official protest, she says.

Shaffer denies that excessive and unwarranted force was used, saying, "If someone takes a swing at an officer, he has to defend himself." He also states that "no one lawfully in this country was detained." An unmarked vehicle was used, he says, because "as soon as (undocumented aliens see an immigration van, they start to run." This does not constitute entrapment because "these people are already guilty of the crime of being in the United States illegally." He admitted to another reporter that he threatened Miles, but said he "wasn't serious."

Shaffer in his turn accused WOC organizers of encouraging the arrestees to try to run or resist. "I think their interest is misdirected," he said. "They're doing these people more harm than good." He suggested that they work on getting a "shelter" where casual labor hiring can take place in an orderly manner.

WOC has been attempting to do this for the past two years. They have faced opposition from the Central East Side Industrial Council. Based on INS claims that "80 to 90 percent" who gather in the area seeking work are illegal aliens, the business group says that a hiring hall would encourage potential employers to engage in illegal activity. The solution, they say, is immigration law enforcement.

The question of how many of the laborers are legal or illegal is "misdirected," Enrico says. "If we put up a center that serves only 10 percent, what happens to the others? They're looking for work, can't feed their families where they live, and there is a demand for their services. There can be a solution that's a benefit to everyone."

City Hall Opens After Two Years of Renovations

By NEIL HEILPERN

Let's get back to work," exclaimed Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi Monday morning as he and City Auditor Barbara Clark swung open the front doors of a renovated city hall and invited workers back in.

The historic building, declared dangerous in 1995, has been closed for almost two years during construction to meet fire, safety and seismic codes.

The two officials led visitors on a brief tour past marbled pillars, through brightly lit courtyards, and upstairs to city council chambers.

"Those courtyards used to be windowless offices," Clark told The Portland Observer. "It was just brutal."

"This place was seismically unsafe, with floor concrete that could break in your hands and had loosened with lateral stress from things like holes we drilled for computer hookups," she said. "The hot and cold water taps gave us brown, lukewarm liquid."

She also noted how inadequate wiring



Portland Commissioner Jim Francesconi invited visitors to tour the renovated city hall, when it re-opened Monday after almost two years of construction.

Photo by Neil Heilpern

caused many outages, affecting all the computer workstations.

"We took out everything except the walls," said Clark, "open to the sky, right down to the dirt under the building."

"I'm excited, but anxious to get to work," said Judy Tuttle, personal assistant to Mayor Vera Katz.

"It is gorgeous," exclaimed Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury as she viewed the new city council chambers and who recalled the old massive desks.

Her office manager Jona Davis thought "it is nice to be in an ergonomically correct place." She remembered her 1995 starting day, seeing "scary signs on the pipes warning of lead and asbestos," and wasn't sure about the workplace until told of the planned renovations. Free noon-hour guided tours are scheduled for the public during the week of April 13-17, followed by various fundraisers and celebrations that weekend.

With the front door changed to the other side of the building, City Hall is located at 121 SW Fourth.

New impotence pill wins U.S. FDA approval

By MAGGIE FOX, HEALTH AND SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

The first pill that men can take for impotence won approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday.

Viagra, made by New York drug giant Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, could become one of the top-selling drugs of all time, according to pharmaceutical analysts.

Known generically as sildenafil, Viagra will cost \$7 a pill wholesale.

The FDA said a man must be sexually aroused before the drug will work. But unlike mechanical devices that engage the penis, it mimics the natural effects of arousal.

"It's an erection enhancer," said Dr. Drogo Montague of the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tests on more than 3,000 men showed Viagra could help impotence associated with diabetes, spinal cord injuries, prostate surgery, and even impotence with mysterious causes.

"I think it will help a lot of men for a couple of reasons," said Dr. James Barada, a urologist in Albany, New York who helped draw up erectile dysfunction guidelines for the American Urological Association (AUA).

"The most important thing that this does is place erectile dysfunction on the radar

screen for patients and partners," Barada said in a telephone interview.

Also, it was the first oral therapy. Other treatments include injections, pellets that must be inserted into the end of the penis and mechanical pumps.

For example, Pharmacia & Upjohn's Caverject involves an injection into the penis and Vivus Inc's MUSE system is a pellet. There are vacuum pumps, and surgical implants.

Such therapies can be off-putting, for obvious reasons.

"People will prefer a pill," said Montague, who headed the AUA guidelines panel.

Barada and Montague said all of these

systems worked. "The vast majority of men who have a problem, the only thing they are missing is erections," Montague said. "Many men maintain a good interest in sex, or libido. They can still have orgasms and ejaculate with a flaccid penis."

There are drawbacks to any impotence treatment — especially the lack of spontaneity. Side-effects included headache, flushing and nausea. Men taking nitroglycerin should not use Viagra.

Some analysts have predicted that Viagra would generate revenues of \$2 billion by 2001 and sales upward of \$5 billion in following years, which could make it the biggest-selling drug ever.