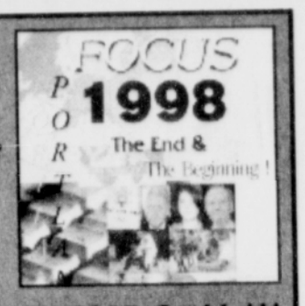
Volume XXVIII, Number 52 Committed to cultural diversity. http://www.portlandobserver.net DECEMBER 30, 1998

**1998 "The End & The Beginning**

***A year has passed, now we look back to our tragic and joyous past***




*See , FOCUS Inside!!!*

**Christmas for Inner City Youth**

***Concordia University's second annual Christmas program for the children at Lutheran Inner City Ministries.***

*See Metro Section*

LOVE THAT CHICKEN! POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS
See Popeye's Coupon Inside!

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Uncertain Impeachment

Within the Senate, there is more bipartisan support to censure President Clinton and not enough votes to impeach him. Both parties are searching for a compromise that would bring the proceedings expeditiously to a close next year. A major question is whether the president can win an acquittal in a trial or bow to censure.

### Iraqi Bombings

U.S. warplanes fired missiles in northern Iraq after being attacked from an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile battery. It has resulted in the death of four Iraqi soldiers. Iraqi officials are threatening to cut off relations with the United Nations and have flown planes over the "no flight" zones provoking an attack.

### Euro Currency

As of January 1, there will be 290 million residents in the 11 European Union countries converting to the new European currency. Most bank accounts will not be switching to the euros until these bills and coins appear in the year 2002. Financial institutions and banks are taking lead at informing the public of what to expect regarding the money changes.

### The Drug Fight

For three years, the U.S. has been donating dozens of helicopters and training hundreds of Mexican soldiers in the United States in an anti-drug operation that has met with many problems. U.S. relations with Mexico has been strained as a result. There are continuing reports of drug corruption by the Mexican military forcing U.S. officials to rethink their support and collaborative efforts with them.

### Violent Crimes Down

New statistics by the Justice Department show that robbery has fallen by 17 percent in 1997. Homicide crimes have also gone down considerably. The withering of the crack market and police efforts to seize handguns from criminals and juveniles are the likely contributing factors for this decrease in violent crimes.

### Internet Holiday Sales

Electronic retailers and small electronic merchants have benefited from the holiday on-line frenzy as proven in high sales figures nationwide. The Marketing Corporation of America determined that women still trailed men in total number of Internet purchases during the Christmas season. Men were 9 to 11 percent more likely to make online purchases.

# Oregon Braces for Flooding

*13 of Oregon's Rivers go on flood watch, as heavy Rains & Melting Snow threaten to test the limits of the Rivers' Banks.*

*(Photo by M.Washington)*

# Why The Year 2000 Problem Poses A Risk To The Public Health And Safety

BY PALOMA O'RILEY

Beyond financial losses, the year 2000 issue represents a significant threat to public health and safety and critical infrastructure. Computer programs that utilize dates also control nuclear power plant operations, water and sewer plants, chemical factories, petroleum pipelines, and weapon systems; failure of which may lead to serious injuries or the loss of human life as well as environmental damage. Any computer system that makes use of dates is potentially at risk, and that is most of them.

Beyond the publicized software problems, the aspect most overlooked is the literally billions of embedded computer chips powering everything from copy machines to medical devices to nuclear power plants. It is these embedded chips and systems that pose the greatest threat to our critical infrastructure and the public health and safety.

Examples of Actual And Possible Y2K Related Scenarios

Here are some examples of system crashes that have already occurred:

· The five year budgeting system of a US government agency failed while processing the fifth budget year (2000).

· A case management system of some courts will not accept a probation period of five years because '00' is flagged as an invalid date.

· Driving licenses due to expire in 2000 are being rejected as already expired by car rental agencies.

· Some credit card transaction processing systems refuse cards which expire in 2000.

·A recent example was of a multi-million pound UK hospital body scanner which would not work on 29 February 1996 because it couldn't handle leap years.

Examples of possible problems:

·Data on pharmaceutical drugs with expiration dates after the year 2000 would indicate that the medication is expired, preventing prescription refills.

·A medical center's computer cannot trace the medicines prescribed nor illnesses had in the past.

·If the 911 emergency phone system malfunctions for a municipality, the city's population could be at risk from lack of response by emergency personnel.

·Residents lose access to local public services: (e.g., heat, light, water, sewage, telephone, police, medical services, transportation, etc.)

·The power fails, and it's mid-winter (Northern hemisphere), or the air-conditioning fails, and it's mid-summer (Southern hemisphere) endangering the elderly, ill or infirm.

·The police cannot trace the records of known criminals, nor their fingerprints. Jails mistakenly release the wrong prisoners, nor track home detainees.

· If the security computers in nuclear plants lock doors and failsafes because of Y2K rollover problems, will plant operators be able to access the remote shutdown room or facility were it to become necessary?

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# CMAC Meet To Improve Student Achievement

*The Community Monitoring Advisory Coalition (CMAC), (a parent organization to improve student achievement), on Monday, December 28, held a conference to review the findings of the Audit Report, uncover biases and to make suggestions on how to make the recommendations move effective for student achievement.*

(L-R) Ms. Carrie Bauske, Halim Rahsaan, Richard Lucoetti.

(Photo by M.Washington)