

National Urban League says Supreme Court Census Decision is unfavorable

The Supreme Court, in decision likely to inflame political tension throughout the nation, ruled that the 2000 census couldn't use statistical sampling to obtain a more true count of Americans. Sampling is the scientific method developed to reduce inaccuracy inherent in the census count and in particular the count of minority communities.

Ironically, the Courts decision is likely to have a lasting negative impact on the political influence in Congress of predominantly white com-

munities around the country. This is because the Court ruled that the 1976 federal census law prohibits the use of sampling for the purpose of apportionment - that is the division of congressional seats among the states - but the ruling did not restrict the use of sampling for purpose of legislative redistricting - that is the division of congressional seats within a state.

The result of this bifurcated decision is that States with significant pockets of minority populations, such as New York, will continue to lose-

out on the apportionment of seats in Congress due to the low count of minorities in those states resulting from the old counting methods. While at the same time, for redistricting purpose, cities that have sizeable minority populations within these states will reflect the greater actual numbers of minorities as a result of the use of statistical sampling methods.

As a consequence of the dual counting measures, these cities populated by minorities will be over-

represented in the allocation of congressional seats relative to the apportionment census count. This is likely to sit well with white communities when congressional districts are drawn based upon the 2000 census. Even worse, the two methods of population counting and the resulting disparities could lead to significantly increased political fighting between urban and suburban municipalities as the size of the pie will now be smaller than the sum of its part.

Health Division issues Measles Alert

(PORTLAND) Health officials announced today that two measles cases have recently been reported in Oregon. A Multnomah County man developed the characteristic rash on January 2, and a Clackamas County woman on January 4, according to Beletshachew Shiferaw, MD, MPH, epidemiologist with the Oregon Health Division. The cases were subsequently confirmed by laboratory tests. Health officials are now seeking to determine the source and extent of the outbreak.

Measles typically begins with a cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and fever. These symptoms are followed by a red, blotchy rash that begins on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. Measles is highly contagious and is transmitted by airborne spread.

Dr. Shiferaw cautioned that persons with a rash illness should not just "drop in" to their physician's office or to the emergency room. "Since measles is very contagious, we advise those who suspect they may have

measles to call beforehand and arrange an appointment where other patients will not be exposed," Shiferaw stated. Persons are no longer contagious four days after the rash has appeared.

The best prevention against measles is to be fully vaccinated. Adults born during or after 1957 who have not had measles or aren't sure if they have had measles should receive one dose of measles vaccine. College students and children one year of age and older should receive two doses of measles vaccine, given at least one month apart. Adults born before 1957 have probably already had measles and are presumed to be immune.

"Health-care workers have been at higher risk of measles in recent U.S. outbreaks," said Dr. Shiferaw. "Therefore, they should consult their infection-control practitioners about the need for vaccination." Health-care providers who suspect measles in a patient should notify the patient's local health department within 24 hours, Shiferaw said.

Don't Worry about Grandpa's Pacemaker in the year 2000

Many people who rely on computer chips to live such as individuals with pacemakers-are wondering whether the millenium bug will affect their lives. Well, grandpa and grandma don't have to worry that their heart devices will stop ticking in the year 2000. According to Providence St. Vincent Medical Center computer experts, the computer chips within pacemakers-unlike many other computers-don't care a bit about the date function. So, when the year 2000 rolls around, the chips inside pacemakers

will continue to function just like they always do.

CLOTBUSTING WITH LASERS

Each year, more than 700,000 people in the United States have a stroke. Almost one third OD U.S. stroke victims will die and another one-third face permanent disabilities. But a new clot-busting laser may bring New Hope to stroke victims. Researchers at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and Oregon Medical Laser Center and the Oregon laser thrombolysis. Laser thrombolysis uses laser light to de-

stroy blood clots blocking the flow of blood to the brain. Since lasers can vaporize clots in just a few minutes, the revolutionary technique may extend the window of time of stroke victims can successfully be treated-giving them a greater chance of survival.

ASPIRIN: DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

There are a wide variety of powerful new medications on the market to stop blood clots from forming and growing within heart patients-a class of drug known anti-thrombolytics. Studies

show that anti-thrombolytics are extremely effective when used in conjunction with stemming and angioplasty (procedures to keep the arteries open and blood flowing to the heart). Despite these advances, however, aspirin is still one of the best clot-busting medicines for surviving a heart attack. Providence St. Vincent Medical Center cardiologists suggest that people at risk for heart trouble never leave home without an aspirin and get to a hospital immediately if they experience chest pains.

About Al King



Al King (right) shown here speaking with a student (left).

kids land good jobs right out of high school. The Utility Trades Program he started is already serving over 200 kids at Benson and Jefferson and will soon be underway at Roosevelt. His program identifies talented students and exposes them to the classes they need to prepare for apprenticeships after high school. Along the way, Al is there to mentor them. On any given day, he can be found in local classrooms, reminding kids of all the reasons to remain in high school and take full advantage of the training available to them.

AL King grew up in Portland Public School system, graduating from Benson High School in 1954. Those were the days when inner-city high schools had a reputation for preparing youth for great careers as tradespeople - and Al was no exception.

He took a job with PGE in the early 1970's, having been recruited to the company through an affirmative action program. He started out in the company's storeroom and worked his way up the ranks over the next few years. He later transferred to PGE's Western Division, where he became a member of the aerial lighting crew

responsible for keeping the street lights glowing in an area extending from Wilsonville all the way to downtown Portland. For the next 14 years, Al didn't just change street light bulbs - he also changed the public's opinions about electrical workers with his friendly, outgoing personality. The company realized what a great spokesman they had in Al and promoted him to human resources specialist, a job he will retire from this spring at the age of 63.

When he joined PGE's human resources team, Al noticed two trends: The company was experiencing a

demand for skilled workers, linemen, carpenters and welders, but was hiring fewer and fewer skilled tradespeople among the minority population. After doing some research, he realized that local high schools weren't doing enough to prepare young people for these careers, having phased out their technical programs. Then he rolled up his sleeves and went to work on the problem.

Working closely with schools and the local business community, Al was instrumental in reintroducing the auto, carpentry, electrical and welding shop programs that help at-risk

Community Health Plan Clinic expands services, seeks board members and New Site

PORTLAND - The North Portland Nurse Practitioner community Health Clinic will soon expand its services to benefit children needing access to affordable health care. Now in its 19th year, the Clinic is recognized as a "safe place" for children in need of health care services and is known as the Clinic of "last resort". According to Rev. Victor Brown, Chairman of the clinic Board, "We have secured funding from several foundations and businesses that will allow us to better serve the health care needs of our community's children. We now seek a larger location and citizens who can volunteer their time as Board Members". Mariah Taylor, Clinic

founder and Nurse Practitioner, added, "recent years have seen a dramatic increase in homeless and Spanish-speaking families needing access to quality health care. Our Every Child A Healthy Child project allows us to hire a second nurse practitioner and two half-time Spanish-speaking outreach workers. This means that more children will be better served by our clinic. Health care is a right, not a privilege". Since early fall the Clinic has secured grant funding from the Northwest Health Foundation Pacificare Foundation, Templeton Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Lorene Sails Higgins Charitable Trust, Lamb Foundation and Larson Legacy

Trust. The Clinic seeks community residents who can commit several hours a month as Board members, serve on a Committee, help secure a new location or volunteer in other ways for the Clinic. Interested citizens are urged to call Mariah Taylor at 284-5239. The Clinic's mission is to develop and maintain comprehensive pediatric health care for the diverse cultural groups residing predominantly in North and Northeast Portland. Pediatric primary culturally-sensitive health care services are provided to children from birth to age 21, including prevention, wellness education, health maintenance, and treatment of minor acute illnesses.

Surf the Clark County Code Book

VANCOUVER, WA - Residents who want to find out about county ordinances the easy way can now scroll through Clark County Code Book on line.

Everything from marriage license fees to weed control to fire prevention ordinances can be found in the CodeBook, which is codified four times a year.

This is available on the county's Internet home page at:

www.co.clark.wa.us/commish/ord/index.htm

This page is linked to a list of ordinances that have been approved but are not yet codified.

Find it at: www.co.clark.wa.us/commish/anevord.htm



Steve Bradley Band
Thursday, February 11 · 7:00 pm

Valentine's Dance with X Angels
Friday, February 12 · 7:00 pm

Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Concert Series
KKJZ 5th Birthday Bash with Rick Braun
Sunday, February 14 · 7:00 pm · \$20 admission

Arthur Moore Four Blues Band
Thursday, February 18 · 7:00 pm

Paul Delay Trio
Thursday, February 25 · 7:00 pm

Songwriters in the Round · Craig Caruthers
Sunday, February 28 · 7:30 pm · \$7 admission

All ages welcome · No charge except where noted

February Music

McMenemy's Kennedy School
For information call: 249-3983
5736 NE 33rd · Portland, Oregon
www.mcmemey.com