

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

## Pope Arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel—Pope John Paul II became the first pontiff to visit Israel, and said Christians and Jews must make "courageous efforts" to bring about peace. The pope has said his visit isn't a political one, but said relations between the Vatican and Israel have grown over the years and that he would like to see them grow further. The frail, 79-year-old pope says he's fulfilling a "strong personal desire" to visit the Holy Land, and that his visit is both a personal pilgrimage and a spiritual journey.

## Court Rejects

### 'Racial Balancing'

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court let stand a ruling that bars race as a factor when public school students seek to transfer to another school. The court rejected the appeal of a Maryland school district that refused to let a white boy transfer to a mostly white magnet school from his minority-dominated neighborhood school. Today's court action set no legal precedent, but left intact the appeals court's ruling that said such "racial balancing" is unconstitutional when not needed to remedy past discrimination.

## Ugandan Death Toll Could Be 500

KAMPALA, Uganda—Officials say the death toll from a church fire in Uganda believed to be a mass suicide of parishioners has reached at least 500. Police said all five leaders of the Christian sect Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, four of them former Roman Catholic priests or lay workers, had died in a morning blaze just outside Kanungu trading center, 220 miles southwest of Kampala. Syncretic Christian religious sects are mushrooming across Africa as many people become disillusioned with the inability of politicians to improve their lives.

## Several Hurt in Amtrak Derailment

CARBONDALE, Kan.—Sixteen cars of Amtrak's Southwest Chief derailed and injured at least 31 people, one of them critically, authorities said. The Chicago-to-Los Angeles train carrying about 160 passengers went off the track shortly after 2 a.m. CST in a field near Carbondale, about 15 miles south of Topeka in eastern Kansas. The cause was not immediately known. An Amtrak spokesman said the cars derailed as the train was rounding a "gentle curve" in an area of flat terrain. He said it was going about 60 mph, well within the speed limit for that area.

## OPEC Official Sets Target Oil Prices

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—A top OPEC official says members of the oil group should increase production just enough to achieve a desired price of \$24 a barrel. Secretary General Rilwanu Lukman said OPEC is studying global supply and demand levels on which it will base its production decision at its meeting March 27 in Vienna. An agreement signed in 1998 and 1999, OPEC and non-OPEC producers jointly removed about 5 million barrels a day from the market through March 31, 2000 to boost oil prices. The move sent U.S. oil prices surging from \$10.72 a barrel on Dec. 10, 1998 to a nine-year high of \$34.20 earlier this month.



# Police News/Vancouver

## City's safe walkways program to include two applications cycles per year

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Each year the safe walkways program, for the City of Vancouver has a total of \$80,000 to improve pedestrian safety along any arterial or local street. Pedestrian improvement projects can include repair of an existing sidewalk, construction of new sidewalks, and/or crosswalk improvements. An Additional \$ 35,000 per year is available to improve curb ramp accessibility at intersections and other possible locations, consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Project proposals for the safe walkways program will now be accepted twice per year. For the 2000 calendar year, the first funding cycle deadline is April 1. The second funding cycle closes August 1. Any projects that exceed the amount to be funded by safe walkways program will be folded into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process the following year.

By accepting applications twice per year, the program will better meet the primary goal of constructing a majority of projects within six months of prioritization. Projects requiring right-of-way acquisition or notable environmental impacts may exceed six months.

Following the application deadline, each project will be evaluated under a set of uniform criteria. Arterial and local streets will each have their own set of criteria to address the different

issues related to their classification and use. Projects are assigned points based on these criteria.

They are then ranked according to total scores.

Each project will go through two levels of evaluation. First, project will be evaluated based on consistency with other City programs such as the City's Comprehensive Plan and environmental impact. The second evaluation requires site visits to properly assign points. The number of accidents, traffic speeds, traffic volume and proximity to trip origin or destination points are also considered under the second level of evaluation. The following projects have been recently completed or more currently scheduled for construction through the safe walkways program:

New sidewalks and curb ramps in the vicinity of St. James St. and 54th St. A new sidewalk in the Van Mall Neighborhood connecting Thurston Way and the Westfield Shopping Town entrance.

sidewalks and curb ramps on E. 18th/20th St. from Grand Blvd. To Norris St accessibility improvements to Oakbrook Park.

To propose projects for the April 1 deadline, residents are asked to complete a simple application detailing the proposed project benefits. Application are available at Transportation Services, 601 W. Evergreen Blvd. To request a copy by mail, phone Jennifer Campos, Transportation Service, at (360) 696-8290, ext. 8409. To learn more about

the City of Vancouver Transportation services, visit the web site at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/vanpw/vantrans.index.html>.

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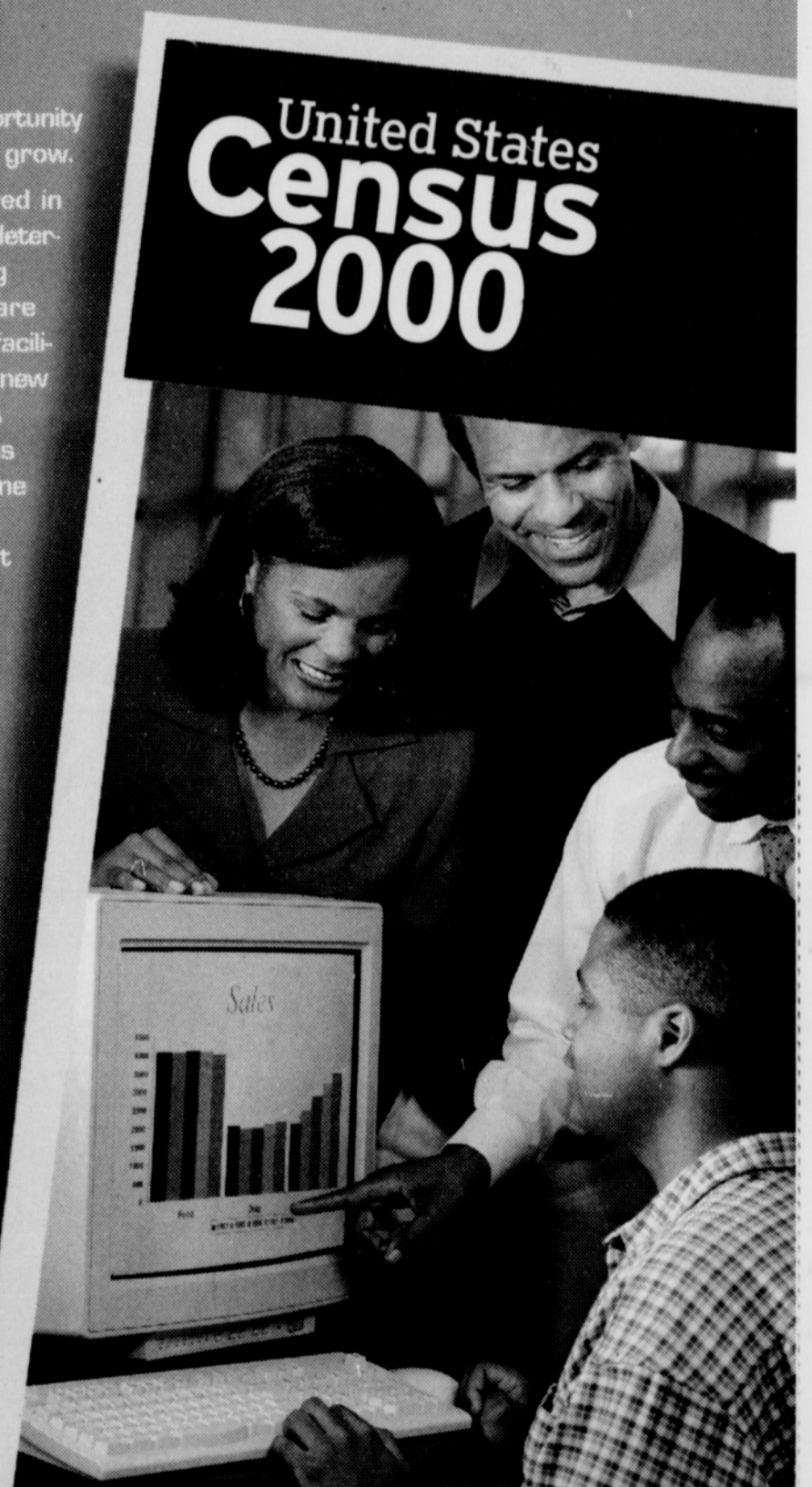
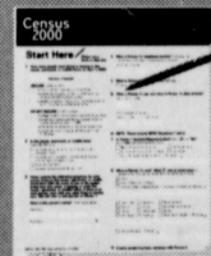
## A FORM OF OPPORTUNITY.

Census 2000 is an opportunity to help our community grow.

The information gathered in Census 2000 can help determine where job training centers, schools, daycare centers and healthcare facilities are needed. Where new businesses and factories are built. And it's Census data that helps determine our fair share of billions of dollars in government funding.

So, when your Census form arrives, fill it in and mail it back. It's a form of opportunity for our community.

Census 2000.  
This is our future.  
Don't leave it blank.



## Community notification of a sex offender

200 Block Of N Morgan ST

The Portland Police Bureau is notifying the community of a Registered Sex Offender living in the Portland area. ORS. 181.588 allows law enforcement agencies to release such information to the public regarding convicted offenders, who are required to register, when such information will increase public awareness and promote community safety.

The Sex Offender has been convicted of a sex offense that requires he register with a law enforcement agency in Oregon. His criminal history places him in a category which indicates he may reoffend. This subject is not wanted by the police at this time.

This Offender has served his sentence and is no longer being supervised by the Oregon Department of Corrections. The purpose of this community notification is to reduce the chances of further victimization by this offender as well as to promote community awareness and child safety. Intimidating, harassing, or threatening of this registered offender will not be tolerated and may be a crime.

If you have any information about this offender committing additional crimes, please contact the Detectives of the Sexual Assault Detail at 823-4636. Subject's name is Leslie H. Gederos.

Gederos has been convicted of Sodomy II, numerous counts of Sex Abuse I



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