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# The Portland Observer

## Seattle's Kingdome is a thing of the past

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One minute the Kingdome was there, all 100,000 hulking tons of it. Then it was gone.

Sparks flickered across the roof as 21.6 miles of demolition cord exploded, setting off a series of blasts that knocked down the support posts and collapsed the dome.

The 25,000-ton roof settled tidily onto the ground Sunday like a doily — distinctive ribs still visible — as dust from the blast blew north.

"It's a shame. It was a good-looking building," said Steve Albert, 46, of Seattle, who watched from nearby Pike Place Market. "It didn't seem that old as buildings went. It's a waste."

It took 16.8 seconds to implode the 24-year-old Kingdome, which brought professional football and baseball to Seattle. The demolition makes room for a new \$430 million football-soccer stadium just south of the Seattle Mariners' brand-new \$517 million arena in Pioneer Square.

Tens of thousands of people gathered to watch from hillsides, in office-tower parties, and in boats of all description bobbing off the downtown waterfront.

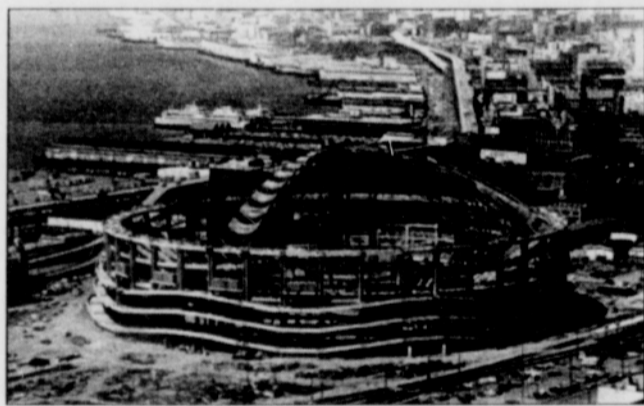
"It just happened so fast. Everyone started clapping. They were just gasping and yelling and clapping," said Susan Clark, one of about 130 people who watched the implosion at a \$250-a-head fundraiser from the 11th floor of a nearby building.

Vibration from the collapse — gauged by seismic experts from the University of Washington and the U.S. Geological Survey — was less than expected and well below allowable limits, said Maryland-based Controlled Demolition Inc.'s Mark Loizeau.

Some windows in nearby buildings — draped in fabric to protect them — were shattered by the concussion as 68 million cubic feet of air inside the dome was displaced.

"I'm going to miss the Kingdome,"

(Please see 'Dome' page 5)



Left: Sept. 21, 1974: Viewed from the side, the Dome's familiar curved lines are already visible. Photo by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Above: The Kingdome implodes Sunday, March 26, 2000, in Seattle. The Kingdome, which went from engineering marvel to anachronistic eyesore in just 24 years, was demolished in a controlled implosion Sunday to make room for a new, more expensive stadium. Photo by Stevan Morgain. Right: A closer-up view of the Dome's remains on March 26, 2000. Photo by Paul Kitagaki Jr./Seattle Post-Intelligencer



## Census Bureau battling in Oregon to get accurate head count

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Census Bureau is struggling in some places in Oregon to get its head count for 2000 and start off the new century with a better idea of who lives in this state.

Some people consider the Census 2000 questionnaire an invasion of privacy while others, such as migrant farm workers, mistakenly fear the information will be given to immigration authorities.

Gordon Morris, 65, a retired computer analyst, says he received the long version of the questionnaire, but he's only filling in his name, age and race.

He'll leave the other 50 questions blank.

"It's none of their business how much I make," Morris said, referring to questions about income. "They can go ahead and come to my door — I still won't tell them."

The number of so-called "nonrespondents," who for various reasons don't return their census forms, nearly doubled during the past three census takings, from 22 percent in 1970 to 35 percent in 1990, officials say.

During the last census in 1990, groups such as the Voluntary Census Committee promised to burn their forms instead of taking part in the government tally.

The last census already had problems enough: It failed to count more than 7,500 Hispanics in Oregon — and thousands more Asians, Indians and blacks.

The majority of the undercounted in Oregon, however, were migrant farm workers, the homeless and children, said Sam Davila, outreach coordinator for the Census Bureau in Salem.

Officials estimate that those not counted in the 1990 census caused the state to lose \$162 million — money which could have funded

everything from new schools to job placement programs.

"There is a lot of concern," said Ramon Ramirez, a farmworker union spokesman. "I've talked to a lot of people. The concern is immigration. The concern is the confidentiality." To combat the fears of migrant workers, the Census Bureau has joined with the farmworker union, health care providers, social service agencies, Spanish language radio networks and religious organizations to assure people the census forms are strictly confidential.

Randy Hilderbrand, who heads the Salem census office, said Eugene may

suffer less accurate census reporting because of its anarchist community.

Incomplete or unreturned forms also are likely to be a worse problem among the one in six people who receive the long form, he said.

By not mailing in census forms, Oregonians throw away thousands of state and federal dollars each year, Hilderbrand said.

Salem alone missed out on funding for two schools and 39 teachers as a result of the undercount from the 1990 census, he said.

Still, several radio talk show hosts

(Please see 'Census' page 5)

# United States Census 2000

### Weather

Through the weekend

Today		55°F/13°C
Mostly cloudy		39°F/3°C
Thursday		65°F/17°C
Mostly cloudy		44°F/6°C

Friday		70°F/20°C
Mostly cloudy		42°F/5°C

Saturday		64°F/17°C
Scattered Showers		39°F/3°C

Sunday		60°F/15°C
Showers		38°F/3°C

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### This Week in History

On March 29, 1973, the last United States troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.  
On March 30, 1981, President Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C. hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr. Also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, a Secret Service agent and a District of Columbia police officer.  
On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn.