

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Elian's Dad Gets U.S. Visa

WASHINGTON — Cuban diplomats are preparing for the arrival here of Elian Gonzalez's father as negotiators attempt to work out the details of how he will be reunited with his son. The State Department issued a visa to the Juan Miguel Gonzalez. It was unclear where or when the father would meet his son, who has been living with relatives in Miami since he was rescued off the Florida coast more than four months ago. Officials said one possibility was that Elian's reunion with his father would take place in Miami.

Japanese Volcano Emits Ash and Smoke

HOKKAIDO, Japan — The volcano of Mt. Usu in Hokkaido, northern Japan has been emitting ash and smoke for several days now. Thousands of residents living near Mt. Usu have been evacuated and transportation and tourist facilities have been shut down. Scientists warned of the possibility of a violent eruption at the 732-meter mountain.

Ugandan Cult Deaths Rise to 924

KABUMBA, Uganda — Ugandan police revised the number of deaths linked to a Christian doomsday sect to 924, surpassing the 1978 Jonestown tragedy and making it one of the largest cult-related killings in history. The death toll rose after police re-estimated the deaths in the March 17 church fire that first revealed the deadly activities of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God. Authorities initially reported at least 330 died in the blaze, but said they had confirmed that at least 530 people perished in what was believed to have been a gasoline-fueled fire.

Cohen: Taiwan Can Defend Itself

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Cohen said he feels Taiwan could defend itself against China should Beijing use force as threatened to try to unify the countries. China still claims Taiwan as part of its territory even though they have been governed separately since splitting 51 years ago. However, Cohen would not comment on a published report that the Pentagon believes Taiwan has a "host of problems" that make it vulnerable. The Washington Post reported that a highly classified Pentagon report concludes Taiwan could have trouble defending against air and missile attack from China.

Norway Cooperating With OPEC Boost

OSLOW, Norway — Norway will increase its oil production to help control prices that soared after oil producing nations reduced supplies. Norway, the world's second largest oil exporter, will raise production by 100,000 barrels per day. The decision came after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries promised to increase its production by about 7 percent, or 1.7 million barrels a day.



Police News/Vancouver

Mayor Pollard accepts gift from Matsuhita Kotobuki

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On March 28, 2000, Clark County Chair Craig Pridemore and City of Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard, presented Matsuhita Kotobuki Electronics Industries of American, Inc. (MKA) with the first of six awards from the Business Recycling Award Group (BRAG). In return, MKA's Vancouver Plant President Kenzo Hayashi, presented the City of Vancouver with the first 27" TV/VCR/DVD unit manufactured in Vancouver, WA. Mayor Pollard accepted the gift on behalf of the City. The set will be housed in City Hall and will be used for a variety of purposes including viewing the internal City training channel, Clark-Vancouver Television (CVTV), and training tapes. MKA is located at 2001 Kotobuki Way, Vancouver, WA. Established in 1986, MKA manufactures combination TV/VCR and TV/VCR/DVD units for Matsuhita's Panasonic and Quasar brands and employs 500 people locally. MKA received the BRAG award after implementing an environmental management system that resulted in a variety of waste reduction practices throughout the facility. Most notably, MKA reduced the amount of waste material per unit from one pound to less than one-half pound for a total reduction of over 50 percent. The reduction translates to almost two million pounds of waste diverted per year and savings of nearly \$65,000. MKA achieved the reductions by including employees with environmental performance standard improvements. "Rarely does a business show such commitment to waste reductions to the community and I thank them for the generous gift they presented to the City of Vancouver."

For more information regarding waste reduction, visit the City web site at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/solawaste/index.html>

Police accountability campaign files challenge

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Police Accountability Campaign 2000 (PAC 2000) filed a formal legal challenge on March 14, 2000, to the ballot title language assigned their initiative by the Portland City Attorney. A hearing has been scheduled before Circuit Court Judge Marcus on April 13. The initiative, which would appear on the Ballot this November, would strengthen civilian oversight of the Portland Police. PAC 2000 representatives argue that the City Attorney's language is confusing and misrepresents their initiative. "It's totally misleading," said PAC 2000 Volunteer Coordinator Adrienne Ratner. "The City Attorney overstates the powers of the current review system, and that makes it nearly impossible to understand the changes we're proposing." PAC 2000 members charge that the

summary overstates the current board's power to review police policy. Currently the review board cannot carry out its own investigations of police misconduct or take complaints directly from the public, but the suggested ballot language implies that it does. The City Attorney's summary makes no mention that the initiative would leave the responsibility for discipline in the hands of the chief. "We'd like to have this settled as soon as possible," states Adrienne Ratner. "We need 25,000 signatures by July 7 so that the voters will have a chance to decide this issue." The motion filed Friday by Attorney Paul Loney was the first step toward having the ballot language reviewed by a judge. Once that happens, and the final language is in place, PAC 2000 will begin gathering signatures to place the initiative on the November ballot.

Smith and Wesson firearm agreement is good — but does not go far enough

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kweisi Mfume, President & CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) today said firearm manufacturer Smith and Wesson's settlement agreement with the Clinton Administration is encouraging, but does not go far enough to reduce illegal trafficking in many communities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reached the agreement, the Department of Treasury and several cities with pending litigation against the industry. About half of the 30 cities that have lawsuits against the gun industry have refused to sign an agreement dropping their claims against Smith & Wesson. "While the agreement contains certain key safety provisions designed to greatly reduce the occurrence of child firearm injury and death, it lacks teeth with regard to multiple gun sales which is attributed as a leading source of firearm in the underground market," said Mfume. Last year, the NAACP initiated litigation against the

firearm industry to address the negligent distribution of firearm and its disproportionate affect on minority communities. Today's agreement does not substantially affect the pending litigation, which does not seek any monetary award.

Mfume said: "I would urge the public to be cautious in viewing today's agreement as a cure-all for this country's need for greater gun control. Much more must be done to cut down the number of handguns in our society. With that goal in mind, we intend to pursue down the number of handguns in our society. With that goal in mind, we intend to pursue our litigation for more comprehensive change. Hopefully, the other gun manufacturers will follow Smith and Wesson's lead in accepting responsibility for their role in gun violence." Founded in 1909, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It's half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter registration drives and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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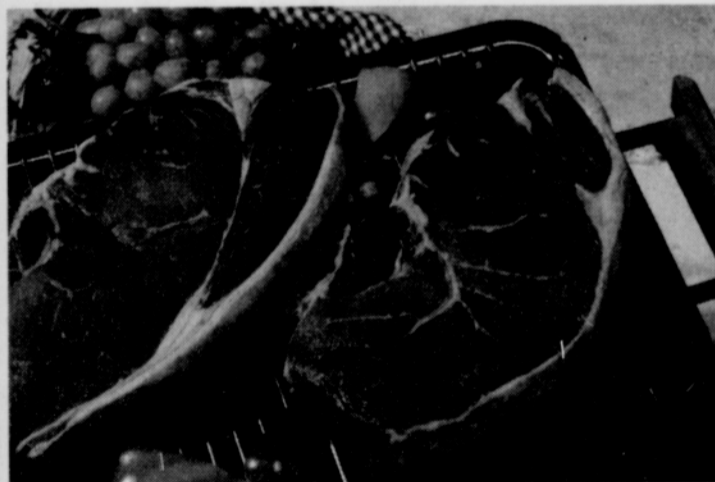
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