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The Portland Observer

Volume XXX.
Number 20

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
May 17, 2000

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Man Releases Hostages at Nursery School

HJELMELAND, Norway—A man charged with rape and upset over losing custody of his children released 25 students and 10 adults after allegedly holding them hostage for over 10 hours at a preschool here, 185 miles west of the capital city of Oslo. All 35 hostages appeared to be in good condition after the gunman surrendered following a televised interview with psychologists.

Caller ID Traced 'Love Bug' Virus

MANILA, Philippines—A local Internet provider said it used caller ID to trace the origin of the "Love Bug" e-mail virus to a Manila phone line that had been used before for breaking into its computer network. The disclosure explained how investigators were quickly able to center their investigation on the residents of an apartment in a lower middle-class Manila neighborhood, including a young computer student who has acknowledged he may have accidentally unleashed the "ILOVEYOU" virus.

Public May Greet Solstice at Stonehenge

LONDON—The public will be able to greet the dawn of the millennium's first summer at the ancient stone Circle of Stonehenge, the first time in 16 years the site has been opened for the summer solstice. Stonehenge will be opened the night of June 20 for eight hours under tight security, the watchdog body English Heritage. In the past, Stonehenge—a stone circle erected by prehistoric Britons 5,000 years ago—has been a magnet for unruly revelers. During the 1980s, a four-mile exclusion zone was established around the stones on solstice night following a series of disruptions.

India's Billionth Person is Born

NEW DELHI, India—With the birth of a baby girl named Astha—"Faith" in Hindi—India's population officially hit 1 billion. The six-pound 13-ounce baby was born at 5:05 a.m., putting India in an exclusive club with China as the only nations with populations exceeding 1 billion.

Olympic Torch Lit for Sydney Summer Games

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece—In a ceremony invoking the gods of antiquity, the flame that will burn at the Sydney Olympics was ignited in the ancient birthplace of the games. "Apollo, god of the sun and the idea of the light, send your rays and light this holy torch for the hospitable city of Sydney," intended Thaleia Prokopiou, the 28-year-old who led 20 women dressed in pleated, cream-colored robes before the Temple of Hera. The flame will travel for 10 days around Greece before being handed over May 20 to the Sydney organizers in a special ceremony in Athens' all-marble Panathenaic stadium, where the first modern Olympiad was held in 1896.

AIDS Drugs' Prices May Be Less for Africa

GENEVA—Five pharmaceutical companies announced they would slash the cost of HIV/AIDS drugs in African and other poor nations, which have complained that they are priced out of treating the epidemic ravaging their populations. Only one company, Britain's Glaxo Wellcome, was immediately ready to announce what it would offer. A company spokesman said the two-drug package Combivir would be made available at cost of \$2 per day.

Portland moms gather for stricter gun laws



Mothers march on the capital Sunday. 5000 people marched here in Portland.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neva Smith said she only wishes she could turn back time—back to two years ago, before her teen-age son took his own life with a gun on Mother's Day.

Smith said her 19-year-old son, Dustin Kellwick, was depressed over his older brother's death in a March 1998 car accident. Two months later, Kellwick shot himself with

an old gun he found in the house and bullets he bought at a store for 99 cents.

Marching with her only surviving son, Smith was one of many mothers on Sunday who opted out of the traditional Mother's Day brunch to rally for gun control in Portland's version of the Million Mom March.

"It's bad enough as a mother you lose a child, but on Mother's Day . . .," she said, trailing off. "I don't want this to happen to other

mothers."

Tens of thousands of supporters gathered at Million Mom Marches on Sunday in 70 communities across the United States, including Washington, D.C. Supporters held a similar rally in Eugene.

Police estimated up to 4,000 people attended the Portland event, and it attracted more than moms. Church groups, men, children and grandparents also showed up with petitions,

flowers and signs reading: "I have a right to feel safe," "A child's life should not end with a bang," and "It's easier to childproof a gun than to bulletproof a child."

Organizers said their message is simple.

"A lot of things strike us as common sense," said Lisa Laursen-Thirkill, regional coordinator for the march and vice president of legislation for the Oregon PTA. "We're not looking to take guns out of the hands of any law-abiding citizens—we're just making sure they're responsible."

U.S. Reps. David Wu and Earl Blumenauer, State Sen. Ginny Burdick and Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi were among those who spoke Sunday, pledging to do their part politically.

"Change is in the air," said Blumenauer, D-Ore., who is unveiling a new effort in Congress to extend gun legislation for criminal background checks at gun shows. "I hope that in Congress we'll follow your lead here in Oregon. We need to close gun show loopholes."

Burdick, one of the lead sponsors for an Oregon measure that would require criminal background checks at gun shows, said she wanted everyone in the crowd to sign the petition and ask 20 of their friends and neighbors to do the same.

Measure 99 needs more than 80,000 signatures to qualify for the November ballot, she said. A similar measure failed last year in the Legislature by one vote.

(Please see 'Mom March' page A6)

African-American response rate on census improved

United States Census 2000

BY GIDEON LANTZ
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Local Census Office Manager Cynthia Jones called overall return rates for Census 2000 excellent in Multnomah County because of a 3 percent rise from the last census taken in 1990.

However, although response rates for African-Americans in North and Northeast Portland were the worst in 1990, that figure rose about 10 percent during Census 2000 because of the efforts of JoAnn Bowman, State Rep., Dist. 8, Serena Cruz, Multnomah County Commissioner, and Margaret Carter, State Senatorial candidate, Dist. 19.

"Historically, it's gone lower every 10 years," Jones said referring to Multnomah County's initial response rates for this year. "I feel we did excellent this year because we actually increased the response. We got a better response than we did 10 years ago."

As of April 25, the national initial response rate for state, local and tribal government entities receiving completed forms for Census 2000 was 65 percent, compared to the target rate of 70 percent overall, according to statistics provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The initial figure was formulated from numbers representing a check-in of all questionnaires received as of April 23, 2000.

The state of Oregon's initial response rate as of May 12, 2000 stood at 66 percent compared to a target rate of 72 percent. Initial response rates for Multnomah County as of May 12, 2000 stood at 69 percent. This amount is a 3 percent rise in overall statistics from the last census taken in 1990, in which the return rate was only 66 percent. By contrast Washington County's initial response rates as of May 12 were 70 percent compared to a target rate of 75 percent.

Comparisons of initial response rates by city

show the City of Portland at 70 percent with Gresham at 69 percent, Troutdale at 74 percent, Wood Village at 64 percent, Fairview at 60 percent and Maywood Park at 78 percent. Portland's initial response target rate was 71 percent with Gresham's target rate at 71 percent, Troutdale's at 73 percent, Wood Village at 64 percent, Fairview at 61 percent and Maywood Park at 92 percent, according to Census Bureau Data.

Historically return rates for African-Americans in North and Northeast Portland were affected during the 1990 Census because of those groups' distrust of the Federal Government and apprehension that information given to the Census Bureau would affect public assistance and be used by the Internal Revenue Service, Jones said.

"In 1990, the area in North and Northeast Portland that is predominantly African-American had the worst response rate. This was counted in those areas where the residents are made up of more than 50 percent African-Americans."

General overall return rates for 1990 in the area

(Please see 'Census 2000' page A6)

The Educational Crisis Teams 'Call for Action'

CONTRIBUTOR STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Educational Crisis Team called a press conference on Tuesday May 16, 2000, at the Center for Self Enhancement Inc., for the expressed purpose of pooling support from Community Organizations, that agree with the recommendations, submitted to the Portland Public School Board, in the form of a "Strategic Plan." The plan, among other things, calls for action NOW to raise student achievement at low-performing schools, those with 30% or more students below grade level. Many of the low-performing schools have predominantly low-income and minority student populations.

The Crisis Team demands include moving the most effective reading, math and science teachers to the lowest performing schools; using Title I or Desegregation funds to offer "Achievement Pay" to attract these teachers; adopting a standardized curriculum for all schools, established by successful teachers, which will help students and teachers who move between schools; transferring ineffective principals and allowing outstanding teachers to become principals or



"achievement czars" for low-performing schools; developing individual education plans for underachieving children; hiring only bilingual, bicultural teachers and administrators for ESL programs; and making Title I programs accountable to the children most in need.

The Crisis team, consisting primarily of leaders from Hispanic Parents, Self Enhancement Inc, The Black United Front, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Community Monitoring Advisory Committee, Coalition of Black Men, The Oregon Parents Center and Albina Head Start, were joined by State Senator Avel Gordley,

Candidate for Senate, Margaret Carter, The Honorable Bishop Wells, Kay Toran, Exec. Dir. Volunteers of America, and Harold Williams, just to name a few.

The Crisis Team plans to take its demands to the School Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 22 at the Blanchard Center.