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The Portland Observer

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

Volume XXX.
Number 37

www.portlandobserver.com

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Established in 1970

Wednesday
September 20, 2000

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Hijacked Cuban Plane Down in Water

MIAMI—A sea plane carrying between 14 and 18 people was hijacked after taking off from Cuba and went down in international waters off Key West, aviation officials said. The Russian-made An-2 Colt went down about 20 miles west of Key West, Fla., Coast Guard officials said. There is no word on the passengers.

Fuel Protests Continue

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Angry truckers and farmers in Sweden and Spain blocked transit to harbors, rail terminals and fuel depots to protest high fuel prices, while Spanish fishermen called off a protest that had blocked the entrance to the port of Barcelona for a day. Protests are expected to intensify in Spain, with demonstrations in 34 provinces of the country, including a tractor strike through Madrid, which could paralyze the Spanish capital.

Fujimoro Paves Way for New Elections

LIMA, Peru—President Alberto Fujimori, dragged down by a bribery scandal involving his feared intelligence chief, met with his Cabinet to pave the way for new elections and plan his exit from power. Peruvians took to the streets and flooded radio stations to voice their joy or sorrow. Health Minister Aljandro Aguinaga said that the new elections would be held in six to seven months.

Cambodia Flood Death Toll Hits 100

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—The death toll in Cambodia's worst flooding in seven decades has surpassed 100 and fears of food shortages have increased, the country's top relief official said. Peou Samy, secretary-general of the National Committee for Disaster Relief, said 12 more people were reported killed in recent days in the southeastern province of Kompong Cham, raising the nationwide death toll since July to 109.

Scams are After Black Elderly Identity Theft

LITTLE ROCK—Hoax letters have been mailed to elderly black people across the South over the past three weeks, telling them they may be eligible for \$5,000 in slave reparations or Social Security reimbursements. The letters, which include requests for Social Security numbers, are apparently part of a scam aimed at stealing people's identities and running up credit bills under their names, Arkansas Attorney General Mark Pryor said.

Africa Gets \$500M in Credits to Battle AIDS

WASHINGTON—The World Bank has approved \$500 million in credits to help Africa combat the AIDS epidemic and will propose an additional \$85 million to \$100 million in loans for countries in the Caribbean. The bank said the first two African countries to benefit will be Ethiopia and Kenya, which will receive \$59.7 million and \$50 million respectively.

Explorers Find New Evidence of Great Flood

WASHINGTON—Artifacts found at the bottom of the Black Sea provide new evidence that humans faced a great flood, perhaps that of the biblical Noah, thousands of years ago, the discoverers say.

INS Director Retires Over PDX Flap

Official's Strict Policies Put Portland on World Map as 'Deportland'

(Portland-AP)—The director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Portland district will retire October 3rd after being criticized for the way his employees treat foreign visitors.

The retirement of David Beebe was announced by Johnny Williams, western regional director of the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service. Williams said Beebe decided on his own to retire and believes this is the best thing he can do.

Under Beebe's watch, Portland was dubbed "Deportland" by some Asians because of reports of unfair treatment of Japanese and other travelers at Portland International Airport.

A Chinese businesswoman filed a federal claim for 500-thousand dollars after being jailed and strip-searched by immigration officials.

Meanwhile, an I-N-S report says the agency's Portland office lacks flexibility and needs to put

more emphasis on community relations, customer service and employee training.

Williams also said a team of experts has identified "a number of areas" where INS operations within the agency's Portland district needs to be improved.

The team has recommended improved customer service, employee training and community relations, Williams said. "We have an opportunity here to reinvent ourselves," Williams said in a faxed statement.

He said he will "work closely with the new leadership in Portland and the community to ensure that we take full advantage of that opportunity."

Complaints about the treatment of foreign-

ers by INS inspectors at the airport had brought a loud cry for Beebe's resignation from state and local government officials.

Beebe's office has received heavy criticism because of a disproportionately large number of foreign travelers, mostly Asians, who have been deported - and sometimes jailed - upon arrival because of paperwork deemed questionable.

Pressure for Beebe's removal came to a head last month when the INS strip-searched and jailed a Chinese business woman, Guo Liming, on the mistaken belief that she had a bogus passport. She was held two days in jail in The Dalles before her passport was found to be valid.

Business Targets Drivers, Not Owners

Car Share Program Finds Niche

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER

More and more people are getting behind the wheel of a car they don't own.

CarSharing of Portland, Inc. has grown to 21 vehicles, stationed at 19 locations across the inner city neighborhoods of Portland.

"People love the alternative to owning a car," said Maren Souders, spokesperson for the business group.

CarSharing is targeted to people in town who don't need to drive on a regular basis.

Members have access to the vehicles through a reservation system, 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

David Brook of northeast Portland started the environmentally friendly business in 1998. It was the first car-sharing program in the United States, and its appeal is growing fast.

About 325 people are now enrolled, with the company adding about one car a month to its fleet.

The latest vehicle is the Toyota Pirus, which runs on both gasoline and electric power, allowing it to achieve the impres-



Maren Souders shows off the latest edition to its CarSharing fleet, the environmentally friendly Toyota Pirus, which runs on both gasoline and electric power.

sive fuel economy of 52 mpg in the city.

The 4-door Pirus sedan is stationed in the parking lot of the Lloyd Center Tower building at Northeast 7th and Multnomah. It also serves as part of an innovative partnership between CarSharing Portland and the Lloyd District Transportation Management Association.

Workers in the inner-northeast Portland neighborhood are eligible for a sub-

stantial discount on CarSharing membership if their employers also participate in the Tri-Met PASSport transportation subsidy.

CarSharing enables workers to commute to their jobs via public transit, cycling, carpooling or walking, while still having a car available for use by the hour during the day.

It gives people the ability to run mid-

day errands such as doctors' appointments or meetings, Souders said.

A full membership without public subsidy runs \$10 a month or \$100 per year. A \$250 refundable security deposit, and a \$25 application fee to validate credit and driving histories is also required.

For more information, contact CarSharing Portland at 872-9882.



Adela Valdes (from left), Kristina Bird and Pastor Max Garza are enjoying the 'neighborhood' at the Alberta Street Fair. See additional coverage, Metro section inside.
(Photo by Mark Washington)

North MAX Funds Win Federal Approval

Note: Related story on Westside MAX ridership on page A6, inside.

The U.S. Department of Transportation will sign a full-Funding Grant Agreement with Tri-Met for the design and construction of Portland's Interstate Max Light Rail Project in North Portland.

The announcement was made Monday by Senator Gordan Smith, Senator Ron Wyden, Representative Earl Blumenauer, Representative Peter DeFazio, Representative Greg Walden, and Representative David Wu.

"The agreement represents another milestone in the revitalization of North Portland. It shows national confidence in the hard work and persistence of our citizens. After years of supporting other projects in the region, it is now North Portland's turn," Congressman Blumenauer said.

"The MAX alignment is the next step in transforming Portland's light rail system into a transportation network worthy of a first-class city," said Smith. "The project rose out of a community-based, citizen-led effort and

I will continue my efforts to obtain the needed federal funding to complete this project," Senator Smith said.

"This funding is a welcome shot in the arm for the people of North Portland," Senator Wyden said. "After years of hard work, now communities all along Interstate Avenue will be connected. This addition, along with the Airport MAX extension, will turn the Banfield Westside lines into a true light rail system for the 21st century."

"We are extremely lucky to have a delegation and region that set transportation goals and work together to accomplish them. I-MAX is a wonderful project and it is going to do wonders for the renewal of the North Portland area," Congresswoman Hooley said. "This is one more step in the process of addressing Oregon transportation challenges with common sense solutions. I look forward to joining the delegation on the first I-MAX run," Congressman Wu said.

The full funding grant is the last step necessary to commit Federal funds to a light rail project.