



Police News/Vancouver

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This Week in History

October 25, 1983—The United States invades Grenada, after pro-Cuban Marxists threaten American students on the island (and an election was coming up).
 October 26, 1971—Bobby Fischer of Brooklyn becomes the first American to qualify for the world chess championship.
 October 28—1965—The Gateway to the West monument is completed in St. Louis. At 630 feet, it is the world's tallest.
 October 28, 1972—President Nixon signs a bill creating the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
 October 28, 1929—On what became known as "Black Tuesday", the New York Stock Market crashes, with more than 16 million shares traded. This event pushed the nation into the throes of the Great Depression. On October 27, 1997, more than 120 billion shares were traded.

Weather

Through the weekend

Today	Partly Cloudy	58° F High	39° F Low
Thursday	Partly Cloudy	59° F High	43° F Low
Friday	Mostly Cloudy	62° F High	45° F Low
Saturday	Scattered Showers	61° F High	45° F Low
Sunday	Mostly Cloudy	49° F High	33° F Low

Thought for the week

"Sometimes it takes a rainy day just to let you know, everything's gonna be alright."—Cris Williamson

Before he closed his eyes, he let them wander round his old room . . . familiar and friendly things . . . which were so glad to see him again and could always be counted on for the same simple welcome.
—Kenneth Grahame

Hillsboro Expands Racial Profiling Study

When a Hillsboro police officer pulls over a motorist for any reason, he must now note the driver's sex, age and race, whether he writes a ticket or not.

It's the next step in a pilot study to determine if Hillsboro police target minorities disproportionately when making traffic stops, a practice known as racial profiling.

The Hillsboro Police Department, the first in Oregon to launch the program in May, has just expanded the study from five officers to include its entire patrol force of 54. Several other Oregon agencies plan to start similar programs next year.

Police and state leaders across the nation have struggled to address the perception that police engage in racial profiling. Nearly 60 percent of the public thinks the practice is widespread, according to a Gallup poll released in December.

To answer critics, at least seven states, including Washington, have passed laws requiring police to collect traffic data. At least 25 states have introduced legislation in the last two years to address the problem.

Several Oregon agencies — including Portland, Beaverton, Gresham, Salem and Eugene police; the Multnomah and Washington county

sheriff's offices; and the Oregon State Police — plan to start collecting data on traffic stops as early as January.

"It's great that things are moving, but there's still a ways to go," said David Fidanque, executive director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

Because they all use the same dispatch center, Beaverton police and the Washington County Sheriff's Office plan to borrow Hillsboro's model, which includes the officers' perception of the driver's age, sex and race. Officers also record the reason for the stop, whether the car was searched and what, if anything, illegal was found.

Officers type a five-character code into their patrol car computers or radio the information to the dispatch center. Hillsboro police analyst Vince Alexander designed a database that pulls information from the dispatch center's computers into his desktop computer.

Alexander said he has information on about 1,300 stops since May, not enough to show a trend. With all patrol officers involved, Alexander expects to have an initial report by March.

"I do want to open it to the public, but I don't want to do that until we have real data," Alexander said.

Vancouver Homes Set on Fire in Arson Spree

Vancouver Fire Chief Don Bibins says three weekend blazes were intentionally set.


Firefighters fought the fires between 9 and 11 p.m. Saturday.

No injuries were reported. One fire caused extensive damage to a single-family home, and another leveled a garage. The third damaged a deck and siding.

The fire department says the owners of the first home thought they saw someone running away from the fire. Police have no suspects.

The arsons continued a three-week series of trash bin, house and business fires that have caused more than 400-thousand dollars in damage in Vancouver and Hazel Dell.

The weekend fires bring total number of recent Vancouver arsons to 29.



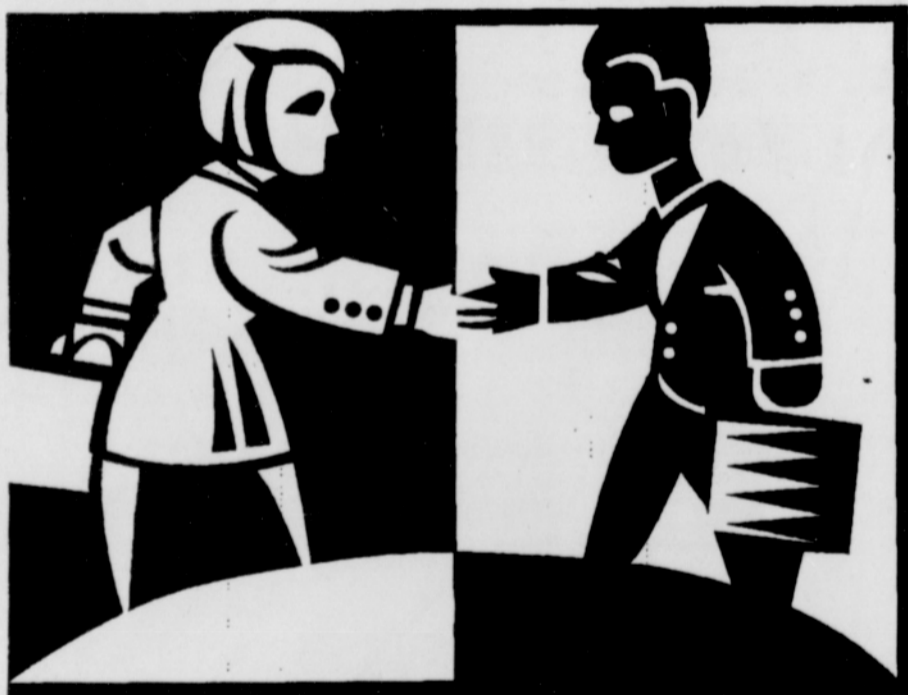
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If you own a business or would like to start a business someday, attend the "Governor's Marketplace 2000" to get an insider's look at doing business with the state of Oregon. This conference is especially valuable for women or minority business owners. Workshops will be offered on the following topics:

- Preparing Bids
- State Certification
- Marketing Your Business
- The Vendor Information Program

Chemeketa Community College
 Salem, Oregon

Contracting and purchasing staff from several state agencies will be available for individual appointments.

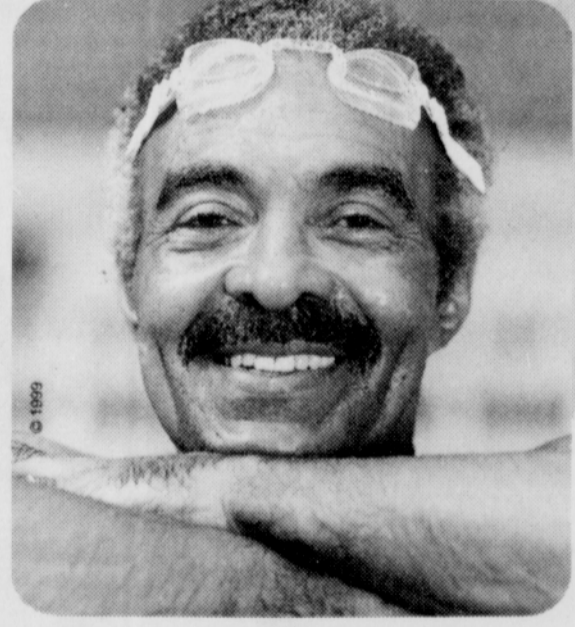
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