



Happy Thanksgiving!



**Preparing Your
Holiday Table**

See Focus, Inside

*Celebrating
30
Years
Of Service to Our City*



**Money Magazine
Rates Portland #1**

See Metro Inside

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1610

The Portland Observer

Volume XXX
Number 47

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
November 22, 2000

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Israeli Helicopters Attack Gaza

KFARDAROM, Gaza Strip—Israeli helicopters fired rockets at Palestinian targets in Gaza City, witnesses said, hours after a bomb attack on a school bus that killed two Israelis and injured nine others. The helicopters were seen hovering near Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's offices along the sea-coast before the rockets were fired. Witnesses said targets appeared to include a police station and a building used as a headquarters of Arafat's Fatah movement.

Fujimori Resigns as President of Peru

LIMA, Peru—President Alberto Fujimori submitted his resignation to Congress in a letter, making good on his pledge to end 10 years of iron-fisted rule that reshaped Peru. Fujimori's letter spoke of a "New correlation of forces." It was an apparent reference to the fact that opposition lawmakers won control of Congress last week.

Clinton Seeks a New Chapter with Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam—Offering "a new page in our relations with Vietnam," President Clinton became the first U.S. president to visit Hanoi, capital of the communist country that America could not defeat 25 years ago. The Vietnamese-aided effort to recover the remains of Americans missing in action, the improvement of human rights in Vietnam, and U.S. investment projects, and the bilateral trade agreement, which has yet to be ratified, are on the agenda for his meetings there.

Coca-Cola to Pay Discrimination Settlement

ATLANTA—The Coca-Cola Co. agreed to pay \$192.5 million to settle racial discrimination suits by black workers. The settlement, includes \$113 million in cash, \$43.5 million to adjust salaries, and \$36 million for oversight of the company's employment practices. The lawsuit claimed Coca-Cola discriminated against salaried black employees in pay, promotions and evaluations. The settlement covers salaried black employees in the United States who worked for Coke between April 1995 and June 2000.

Leah Rabin Buried Alongside Her Husband

JERUSALEM—In a solemn, simple ceremony, Leah Rabin was buried next to her slain husband—the Israeli prime minister assassinated for his peace policies after tributes from world leaders and a memorial attended by hundreds of mourners. Rabin died of cancer at age 72.

Philippine Senate Plans Estrada Trial

MANILA, Philippines—Philippine senators began debating for the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada, who faces allegations that he accepted millions of dollars in payoffs from illegal gambling operators. The Senate has no impeachment procedure because it's never had such a trial before. Their chosen model: the U.S. Senate during President Clinton's impeachment trial.

Civil Rights Leader Hosea Williams Dies at 74

ATLANTA—Hosea Williams, a top lieutenant to Martin Luther King Jr. who battled for civil rights for more than three decades after King's death, died of cancer. He was 74. Williams founded Hosea's Feed the Hungry and Homeless campaign, which serves 35,000 holiday meals. He also served in the Georgia Legislature.

Portland Police to Study Racial Profiling

A panel of Portland leaders Monday outlined plans to address concerns about racial profiling in the Portland area.

The Portland Police Bureau will begin collecting data on police stops at the first of next year. The bureau also said

it will also work to hire and promote more minorities and increase diversity training for officers. "They really want to do

the right thing but I think just admitting that police profiling is taking place in Portland was the first step to us being able to deal with the issue more concretely," said Urban League president Margaret Carter. Police Chief Mark Kroeker put together the panel six months ago. The 18-member panel will meet quarterly to review and analyze the information once the tracking program begins.

The compiled data is intended to determine whether police stop minority drivers at a higher rate than white drivers. "We all believe that racial profiling exists, but the data collection will give us the hard, cold statistics to show us to what extent this is going on," said the Rev. Ronald Williams, a panel member from the Bethel AME Church in Portland.

Kroeker said he believes that the perception of racial profiling in traffic stops—whether true or not—is eroding public trust and needs to be addressed if community policing is to be successful.

"This gives us the opportunity to deal with it forthrightly," Kroeker said. "This is emerging in the classic community-policing fashion. We're dealing with it independently. We're not under a consent decree to do it. I'm really proud of what we did."



A blue ribbon panel gathers at Bethel AME Church in northeast Portland Monday to outline recommendations in a plan to fight racial profiling in the Portland Police Bureau. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Urban League Grows Under New Leadership

The Urban League of Portland continues to rebound financially under the leadership of its new executive director Margaret Carter, a former state representative who was elected senator for north and northeast Portland in the Nov. 7 election.

In recent days, the Urban League has announced major corporate donations from Intel, U.S. Bank and Scott Thomason Motors.

Intel has awarded the Urban League a \$50,000 technology grant that will be used to rebuild the non-profit's entire computer work. U.S. Bank has donated \$15,000 to support general operating and program expenses, and Thomason has donated a

new van for transportation services.

Urban League officials said it shows how the agency is regaining the confidence of its largest supporters.

Carter said it reflects the hard work the Urban League has put forth to make it "a premier organization that will continue to help the people of North and Northeast Portland achieve prosperity and equality."

The Intel grant will be used to build a new computer information system using the highest technology available.

"This grant will help the Urban League build its financial system and help provide

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE B3



Urban League of Portland Executive Director Margaret Carter (right) and Linda Wright, community development officer with U.S. Bank, acknowledge the receipt of a corporate donation that's helping put the agency back on solid financial footing.

Factory Finds Market for Inner-City Housing

BY LEE PERLMAN

FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There is no one way to build affordable housing and create jobs in inner northeast Portland, but Bart Jankans thinks he has some of the pieces to the puzzle.

He is doing it by building pieces of houses at 5131 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and then putting them together in the community.

Since February, Jankans' Northwest Housing Company builds "modular homes" in the 30,000 square foot space leased from the Portland Development Commission.

They put together panels—walls containing insulation, plumbing and electrical wiring, plus doors and windows according to plan. These are then assembled into

"modules" equal to one or more rooms of a house or commercial building.

The modules are then trucked to a building site, lifted into place by a crane and attached to each other to create a finished structure.

This method allows better quality control, Jankans and his partner Roger Kling say, and allows them to work in all weather easily. Kling estimates that the cost of construction of a modular home is about \$45 a square foot, as compared to \$80 to \$150 for conventional methods. "As our crew gets better trained, the cost will come down even more," he says.

The crew, now consisting of 10 men, were referred by Parr Lumber and other stores,

word of mouth, or simply dropped by.

They are being paid \$10 to \$15 an hour, Jankans says, and are learning skills that could help them secure other building trades jobs. Some of them do not have high school

diplomas, and Jankans says he is trying to set up a training program for them to allow them to gain GED certificates.

What do modular homes look like? "Anything you want them to," Kling says. The

company offers several stock designs to clients, including one for a Queen Anne Victorian, and can copy others.

The siding "can be cedar, brick, stone, glass or adobe," Kling says. For the standard price, "they're delivered with toilets, sinks, stoves, cabinets and fireplaces," he says. You can order extras—10-foot ceilings and special custom cabinets—but "obviously there'll be a surcharge on the price," Kling says.

Jankans has created one such house at 5829 N.E. Mallory Ave., and the finished product made believers of another customer.

Contractors Doug and Barbara Knudsen, owners of Hammerworks Construction, were looking to expand an existing 600-foot house at Northeast 63rd Avenue and Hancock Street as a home for their son-in-law and daughter, Corey and Tina Fox, but instead decided to replace it with a 1,520 square foot modular home. The new

house is being built by Northwest House Company in seven pieces.

"Bart said, 'I can design you a house to fit that site,' and

he did, Barbara Knudsen says. "We drove by the Mallory house twice before we figured out which one it was, it fit in so well."

She adds, "There's such a need for this. Affordable housing in Portland now is non-existent."

Jankans, who has observed and partici



R. Boone Sumantri (left) and Roger S. Kling of Northwest House Company demonstrate the quality construction of its new "modular homes" factory on northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.