

## Police Look at Options to Lethal Bullets

(AP) - Following two fatal police shootings this year, the Portland Police Bureau will review new technologies that allow officers to disable suspects without using lethal force, according to Chief Mark Kroeker.

The bureau's training division looks at such options as an ongoing basis, Kroeker said, but uses few of them because they require officers to get too close to an advancing suspect and do not consistently work.

That leaves officers and possibly bystanders vulnerable, Kroeker said in a letter to Mayor Vera Katz that was released last week at a Latino business community luncheon. "But since technology is ever-changing, we will continue to look at emerging less lethal options, including high-wattage nervous system neutralizers and taser-like guns that deliver chemical agents," the letter said. Kroeker did not say how long the review of such options would take. He denied that Portland police have a "shoot to kill" policy in dealing with suspects who are

threatening officers or bystanders, despite some community concerns to the contrary.

"Our policy is that an officer shoots to stop a deadly threat," he told representatives of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. "The issue is stopping a person."

Kroeker also told Latino business leaders he was frustrated by his department's inability to recruit Latino and Spanish-speaking officers. Portland has 24 sworn Latino officers and six non-sworn Latino employees out of 1,436 total employees, he said.

"We lag way behind this emerging population," he said.

In the fall, Kroeker will take a group of officers to Mexico for 10 days of "full immersion" language and culture training, he said.

In a time of budgetary reductions, he expects to be criticized for spending money on such training, but he defended the plan.

"Sure, everyone should speak Spanish in this country. But the reality is they don't."



PHOTO BY SHERENA SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Gospel Gumbo Delights a Crowd

Area residents enjoy some sweet sounds thanks to the Portland Metro Youth Choir (above) and scores of other entertainers at the "Gospel Gumbo" celebration held at Holladay Park Lloyd Center. The recent event was developed by the Portland/Vancouver Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America and sponsored in part by the Portland Observer.

## Cultural Diversity Award Presented

Rashanna Lynn Edwards, who received her bachelor's of science degree in human development and family science from Oregon State University this year, is being honored for her leadership in promoting cultural awareness on the OSU campus.

Edwards helped coordinate an OSU diversity summit conference this spring.



Rashanna Lynn Edwards

Her efforts in the college's Minority Education Office also helped the department win the Year 2000 Beaver Spirit Challenge Award for welcoming new students to campus. The Minority Education Office at OSU was founded in 1997. The office seeks to increase the recruitment, retention and academic performance of students of color.

## Report Finds Alcohol, Drug Problems

A new report by a task force for the Regional Drug Initiative finds alcohol and drug problems are declining; yet most who need treatment still can't get help.

The figures show student alcohol and marijuana use is trending lower, and student cigarette use by young people declined more than 30 percent between 1988 and 2000. Tobacco sales to minors and positive drug tests in the workplace also declined in 2000.

Alcohol-involved traffic deaths in Multnomah County dropped 43 percent in 1999 and a remarkable 30 percent more in 2000. Last year's 14 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Multnomah County contrasted sharply with the peak

level of 55 deaths in 1986.

Almost as dramatic was the 35 percent reduction in Multnomah County drug-related deaths from 153 in 1999 to 99 in 2000.

Yet the percent of juveniles arrested and testing positive for drugs remained at record levels, with over half testing positive for drugs.

Much of this year's report focused on showing the positive impacts of substance abuse treatment.

For every public dollar spent on treatment programs, about \$2.50 was saved in cost reductions to other pub-

licly-funded programs.

But it's estimated that less than one in five people needing treatment receives it.

Task force officials said the challenge is to increase funding for these extremely effective, successful programs, when their very success makes funding seem less critical.

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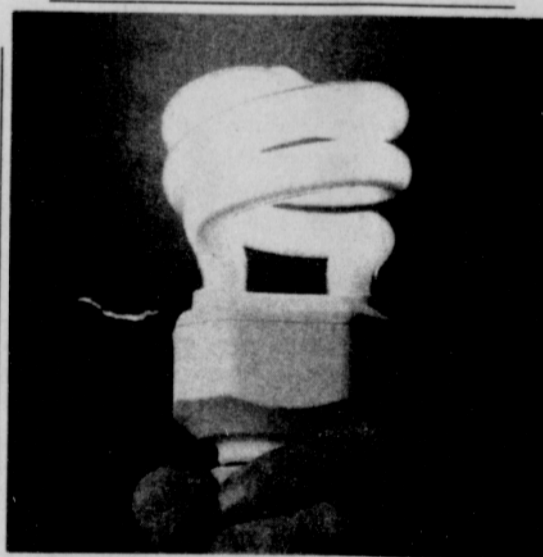
## Change is good.

### And it's not as hard as you may think.

A lot of things, from the growth in high-tech industries to increased population, tell us the energy crunch our region is facing right now will continue for awhile. Dealing with it means that each of us has to change the way we use energy. And we have to start now.

Here are some changes and tips that will make a difference now and in the future:

- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in lights that remain on three or more hours per day. They use only one quarter the energy of regular bulbs.
- Clean lightbulbs and fixtures. Dust can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent!
- Turn off one 60-watt light that would normally be on during the peak summer hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If every one of our 1.5 million customers did, the energy saved could power about 45,000 homes.
- Install dimmers. The amount you dim equals your energy saved. For example, lights dimmed 15 percent reduces energy consumption up to 15 percent.
- Install motion sensors or timers to automatically turn lights on and off. Motion sensor lighting is great for outdoors and in your workshop or laundry room. Timers are the right choice if you'd like an indoor light switched on and off at specific times.
- Make saving energy a habit.



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## Group Wants Lottery Abolished

(AP) - An anti-gambling group is seeking to overturn the voter-passed law that created the state Lottery.

Portland lawyer Dan Meek says a lawsuit filed in Marion County Circuit Court challenges the constitutional amendment that established the Lottery in 1984.

The lawsuit, brought by Oregonians for Gambling Awareness says the Lottery measure had too many issues for one amendment and that it should have been put to voters separately. That's the same grounds used recently by a Marion County judge in overturning a law limiting state lawmaker's terms. That decision is on appeal to the state Supreme Court. Meek says courts are taking a narrow view of how voters can amend the state constitution by initiative measures. He says as long as that's the case, a lawsuit might as well be used to "rid ourselves of harmful measures" such as state-run gambling.

## Peace Group Sets Workshop

Oregon Peace Institute is sponsoring "The Art of Living Workshop" on Aug 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 S.W. Jefferson, Room 134. The session will be led by Shyam Gannavaram of the Art of Living Foundation.

For more information, or to register, call 503-725-8192.