

OHSU To Study Drug Addiction and Treatment

Oregon Health and Science University will receive \$4 million from the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center to purchase a high-power magnetic resonance imaging or MRI system and other equipment to investigate the neurological effects of drug abuse. "OHSU researchers are important players in a national effort to use advanced technology to find better ways to prevent and treat drug abuse," said Albert Brandenstein, center director. MRI is a noninvasive technology that can be used to study anatomy, function and neurochemistry in human and animal subjects. MRI creates three-dimensional, high-resolution pictures of the body through the use of a magnetic field. OHSU

currently has two MRIs that it uses for clinical and research applications. The new machine is twice as powerful.

OHSU will use the high-tech imaging system to further research into how drug use affects the brain.

Specific projects include the effects of chronic methamphetamine and cocaine abuse, the effects of anabolic steroids on the brain and looking at how genes can affect an individual's sensitivity to abused substances.

The new MRI system will be the centerpiece of the OHSU Advanced Imaging Research Center, a new facility that will be split between OHSU's main campus in Portland and its West Campus in Hillsboro. Completion is slated for 2003.

Regal Cinemas Files For Bankruptcy

(AP) — Regal Cinemas, the nation's largest movie theater chain and the Portland area's largest theater owner, said Thursday it will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as part of a restructuring plan that will shift ownership to a group led by billionaire Philip Anschutz. Regal, like several other major movie chains, aggressively expanded in the late 1990s and

ended up with too many theaters. It closed 98 theaters with 646 screens this year but remains tops in North America with 3,898 screens in 338 locations. Under the reorganization, Regal's unsecured creditors stand to recover up to 100 percent of their claims through a \$75 million pool set up by the new owners, the company said.

Homeless Camp Moved to Northeast Site

'Dignity Village' puts down roots on a city-approved site



People lacking a place to live are putting up this tent city on the outskirts of northeast Portland. City officials approved the site as a temporary location for the homeless and as an alternative to a former homeless camp under the Fremont Bridge, downtown.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

(AP) — After weeks of tension between them and the city of Portland, several dozen homeless residents said they are mostly pleased with a new location provided by the city on a leaf composting lot near Northeast 33rd Avenue and the Portland Airport. That has come as a surprise even for many of the homeless who lived in Dignity Village

close to downtown, and who had protested that the new site is far from services and grocery stores. By last Thursday afternoon, less than half of the 75 people who lived in the old camp had moved out to the site near the airport. One resident, Howard Henry, originally of Phoenix, Arizona, said they made it sound like a "hell

hole" — but he likes it. And 37-year-old James Johnson said he appreciates the quiet surroundings, after months under the Fremont Bridge. Some residents are calling the suburban location "Dignity 2." The city's order that the 75 or so people living in Dignity Village relocate to a composting field near the airport has resulted in the

group splitting up. Some wanted to stay because the downtown site is close to stores and public services. Others were willing to move to the new site chosen by the city. A third group said it is moving to a place they called "The Ranch," land in a Portland suburb that was offered to them by a private landowner.

Housing Group Hires New Deputy

A northeast Portland housing agency has hired as its deputy director a successful local developer who has a passion for neighborhood revitalization and community development. The Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. hired Martin Soloway to assist the nonprofit agency in fulfilling its mission of providing quality affordable rental housing to residents in north and northeast Portland. Soloway's development-related accomplishments include helping to develop more than \$13 million of housing in the metro area, including the pioneering loft concept. "With the addition of Martin Soloway to PCRI's staff, we have expanded our capacity and affirmed our long term commitment to

affordable housing," said Maxine Fitzpatrick, executive director of PCRI. "He brings the right balance of compassion and business acumen needed to make a non-profit like PCRI operate successfully." One of Soloway's most successful projects is the creation of the Everett Station Lofts and Galleries in Old Town. PCRI was formed in 1991 when an investor/banker known as Dominion Capital filed for bankruptcy, putting 350 families at risk of losing their homes. Through a community effort, PCRI acquired those properties in partnership with U.S. Bank. PCRI offered homeowners the opportunity to purchase their homes with the remaining homes preserved as long-term affordable rental housing.

Shark Attacks Lead to Feeding Ban

(AP) - After a summer of highly publicized shark attacks, Florida officials voted to ban all shark-feeding, saying it could be teaching sharks to seek out people. The target of the ban is "interactive" shark tours that use cut-up fish to lure sharks so scuba-diving tourists can swim with them. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had been considering rules to regulate such shark-feeding dives, but instead voted 7-1 Thursday for a total ban. It could become law after a final vote in November. Tour operators were outraged and threatened legal action if the ban goes through. They argued that officials had no evidence to prove the shark-feeding dives weren't safe and said none of their tourists had ever been bitten. But several commissioners expressed fear that by feeding sharks,

the sharks could be conditioned to associate humans with food. "You don't feed any of them. They're wild animals," said Robert Dimond, president of the Marine Safety Group of Deerfield Beach, a proponent of a ban. "We are talking about predators with teeth that can tear off people's arms."

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