



Multi-Cultural Fair Celebrates Diversity

First Mississippi Street Fair Draws a Crowd

See story and photos, page A10.



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Why Deadly Force?

Walking in shoes of local police brings some answers



John Richards of the Portland Police Bureau fits KATU Reporter Corinna Allen with a gun belt and pistol as part of a demonstration about the use of deadly force.
PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Members of the local press, including the Portland Observer, have a better understanding about the use of deadly force within the Portland Police Bureau because of an educational seminar.

The focus of last week's hands-on event was to increase media and public awareness of police procedures, during and after incidents that involve the deadly use of firearms.

"There are a lot of times when we're just not communicating with each other," said Sgt. Brian Schmautz, of the sometimes-strained relationship between police and media.

An introduction to the seminar by Police Chief Kroeker called the work of a police officer in today's world an "awesome responsibility."

Journalists were fitted with a gun belt, bulletproof vest and briefed in basic handgun use on a live firing range.

Officer Cory Roberts spoke at length of the decision making process officers go through when called to make life and death decisions.

"Someone can act quicker to hurt you before you can react to hurt them," Roberts said.

Officers are authorized to shoot in defense of themselves or a third party when lower levels of control

have been ruled out.

Media members role played as cops on the beat, going through three different scenarios set up by the department to illustrate the stress and difficulty of the jobs officers face every day.

In one scenario, partners defend themselves against a disturbed man wielding a handgun. In another, they were called to defend a woman whose boyfriend was threatening her with a knife. In both situations the participants had to make shoot or not to shoot decisions.

After a video scenario that pitted journalists in a shoot out with "bad guys," the often-skeptical writers and photographers could

many times not recall how many shots they had fired. In one case, the photographer of a local newspaper overestimated the number of his shots by 16.

Discussions at the forum centered mainly on the release of information issues.

Journalists often feel short changed by police who provide as little information as possible to the public in order to protect the integrity of their investigations.

One reporter questioned the possibility of police cover-ups to Sgt. Ed Brumfield. He maintained that such cover-ups would be unlikely in a system that provides so many checks and balances.

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Police Investigate Local Shooting

Customer shot while waiting in line outside liquor store

A man was shot in the arm while waiting in a line outside the state liquor store at 3636 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Friday.

The victim, identified as Joseph Bernard Robinson, 29, suffered a gunshot wound just above his right elbow.

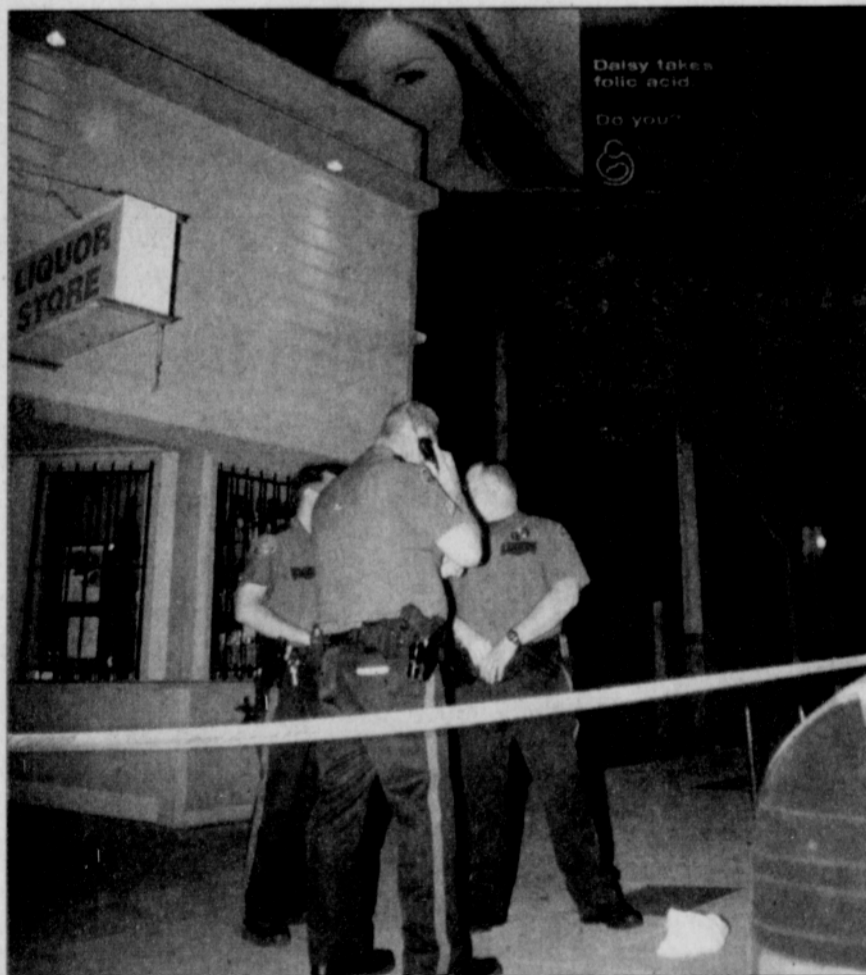
A police sergeant happened to be in the vicinity at the time of the shooting and reported hearing four shots ring out. Robinson told authorities he heard just one gunshot before realizing a bullet had struck him in the arm.

Police said up to 50 customers were in a line that stretched outside the store when the shooting occurred just after 9:30 p.m. Neither the victim nor other customers could identify the shooter or where the gunfire originated.

Police said they only have a vague description of a suspect vehicle in the area at the time of the shooting.

Police try to determine what happened outside the state liquor store at 3636 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on Friday after a man was shot in the arm.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Vecepia "Vee" Towery

She's the Survivor!

Portland native, former Grant student wins \$1 million prize

(AP) — A Portland native and former Grant High School and Portland Community College student, was left as the last one on the island, making her the latest millionaire on "Survivor."

Vecepia Towery, a 36-year-old officer manager who currently resides in southern California, was voted the winner in the fourth installment of the reality-based TV series Sunday.

Towery beat out Neleh Dennis of Utah by one vote during the final tribal vote.

Towery is the first black person to win the show's \$1 million grand prize.

The competition was taped during 39 days in the South Pacific's Marquesas Islands.

With the money, Towery plans to finish work on the home she and her new husband have been renovating. She plans to invest the rest.

Towery said, "I had the feeling that God would lead me, and he did."

Both she and Dennis were outspoken in their Christian faith during the series, and many fellow competitors dismissed them as "Bible-thumpers."

In contrast to "Survivor" alumni who sought to prolong their celebrity, Towery said she now expects to resume her former life. But she isn't shutting the door to staying in the public eye: "I'll be open-minded to whatever might come my way."

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Pilots Lose Bid to Carry Guns

WASHINGTON — The federal government has ruled against allowing pilots to have guns in the cockpits of commercial airliners. Pilots have wanted the weapons as a means of confronting hijackers.

High Court to Weigh In on Sex Offender Registries

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed to consider a constitutional challenge to some registries of known sex offenders, the second case the court will hear involving lists meant to keep tabs on potentially dangerous sex criminals.

Lawmakers Want Answers About 9/11 Memo

WASHINGTON — Under fire from angry lawmakers, the White House defended its decision not to alert Americans to information before the Sept. 11 attacks that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network wanted to hijack U.S. airplanes.

Machinery Saved People In WTC

The 16 people who escaped the burning top floors of the World Trade Center's south tower owe their lives to an unlikely hero: a row of giant elevator machines that shielded one stairway from destruction. They survived because the machines happened to be on the 81st floor where the jet's nose hit.

All-female Everest Team Turns Back

TACOMA, Wash. — A group of five American women tackling Mount Everest was forced to turn back just short of the summit. Health problems and weather halted the climbers just 285 feet from the 29,035-foot summit.

Bishops to Work on Plan for Priests

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop of Washington, D.C., said that the Catholic Church responded too slowly to the crisis of clerical sexual abuse, and the heat is on bishops to fix it now. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meets in Dallas next month.

Personal Bankruptcies Jump Over Past Year

WASHINGTON — Bankruptcy filings by American consumers jumped 15.2% to 1,464,961 in the 12 months ended March 31, the government said. Personal bankruptcies also rose in the first quarter of 2002, by 3.5% to 369,237, from the same period a year ago.

Obesity on Rise Among Americans Over 50

WASHINGTON — Americans over 50 are living longer, smoking less and developing fewer disabilities, but increasing obesity could cancel the health gains, an AARP report says. Obesity among those over 50 nearly doubled from 1982 to 1999, to 26.7% of that population from 14.4%, the report finds.

World Notes Laura Bush's Silent Power on Tour

BUDAPEST, Hungary — First lady Laura Bush is using her solo three-nation overseas tour to be a goodwill ambassador for the policies and priorities of her husband. Bush arrived in Hungary and met with political leaders.

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