



# BUSINESS



## Gates, Jackson Tackle Digital Divide

Microsoft founder Bill Gates (from right) joins Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Tavis Smiley, talk show host and community advocate, during a recent conference to address issues related to people who are underserved and disenfranchised by high technology. The meeting in San Diego was the third annual Digital Connections conference hosted by Jackson and the Silicon Valley Project of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

## Documents Allege Energy Price Fixing PGE-parent Enron accused in Portland operation

(AP) — State attorneys general in Oregon, California and Washington have sent congressional investigators newly uncovered Enron documents outlining corporate schemes to drive up power prices.

The documents were handwritten notes found in Enron's Portland office. Enron owns Portland General Electric.

The notes were taken in October 2001 by Tim Belden, head of Enron's West Coast trading operations, during Enron meetings to prepare for investigations.

He discusses energy plans with names such as "Get Shorty," "Fat Boy" and "Death Star."

Investigators said Enron used these plans to create phantom congestion and engage in fake sales to drive up energy prices throughout California.

The memos said traders coined such colorful terms for trading strategies that sought to maximize profits in California's newly deregulated electricity markets.

Describing "Death Star," the lawyers wrote: "The net effect of these transactions is that Enron gets paid for moving energy to relieve congestion without actually moving any energy or relieving any congestion." A later memo challenged the accuracy of the first report and Enron lawyers have said they don't know which is right.

California officials have said for 18 months that Enron and other energy companies took unfair advantage of California's deregulation by manipulating power supplies to force prices to all-time highs. Wholesale power rates increased tenfold.

## Why Deadly Force?



continued ▲ from Front

"Homicide is scrutinized more than any other crime or investigation," he said, "and officers involved are scrutinized the most."

Police psychologist Dr. David Corey spoke of the devastating impact on officers involved in shootings, upon their personal and professional lives.

"This is a situation most officers don't want to find themselves in," he said.

By the end of the eight-hour seminar, the media for once seemed at a loss for words. Perhaps they were so swayed by the policies of the department that there was no longer a need for questions. Or maybe the fatigue of police work kept their mouths to a murmur.

Afterward, participants were presented with a Certificate of Achievement, and a Portland Police photographer took a group photo.

As the local journalists bunched together for the shot, one of them asked, "What are they going to do with a picture of us?"

A photographer in the front row chimed back, "They'll probably throw darts at it."

## White House Praises Tri-Met Switch

Tri-Met's environmentally friendly switch to re-refined motor oil for its bus fleet was recently featured by the White House in "Closing the Circle News," a quarterly publication on the environment.

Tri-Met is switching its entire fleet of 670 buses to re-refined motor oil after testing the product for a year. In doing so, Tri-Met joins a few major transit agencies in the country at the forefront of this conservation effort.

Re-refining oil is better for the environment because it can be re-

refined again and again, using fewer natural resources. The product takes less energy than producing and refining crude oil.

Capturing and re-refining used oil also keeps improperly discarded motor oil from entering rivers, streams, lakes and ground water supplies.

In July 2000, Tri-Met began testing re-refined oil in about one-third of its bus fleet and found no significant engine-wear differences among the buses.

## Enron Calls Off PGE Sale

(AP) — Enron Corp. said Thursday it has agreed to call off the sale of Portland General Electric, a \$1.8 billion deal that was struck just weeks before the Houston-based energy giant collapsed in bankruptcy last December.

Enron had planned to sell PGE, the largest and oldest utility in Oregon, to Northwest Natural Gas Co.

Both PGE and NW Natural are based in Portland, with headquarters just blocks apart. A PGE spokesman said that abandoning the deal gives the Oregon utility a better chance of becoming part of a restructured Enron.

"We think we're a strong company with a promising future, no matter what company owns us," said Scott Simms.

NW Natural Chairman Richard Reiten said the Enron collapse posed too many problems.

"The agreement signed last October, before Enron's problems began, simply doesn't work given the complexities of the situation," Reiten said.

Stephen F. Cooper, Enron interim CEO, agreed the bankruptcy spoiled the deal.

"Although we had hoped to complete the sale to NW Natural, it was not possible to fully satisfy the terms," Cooper said.

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