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The FBI attempts to recruit minorities with a billboard campaign. Two of the advertisements are located in northeast Portland at Killingsworth Street and Rodney Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Russell Street.

FBI Campaign Recruits Minorities

The FBI in Oregon is taking a step to recruit female and minority candidates. Two billboards went up in northeast Portland last week to encourage new recruits to apply to be FBI Special Agents.

The billboards on Killingsworth, just east of Rodney Avenue and on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, just north of Rus-

set Street, will be up for two months, with one of the billboards rotating to a location in Cornelius in the second month.

As workforce demands on the FBI increase, the bureau is stepping up its search for employees who are intelligent, dedicated and motivated. The FBI hired more than 900 new agents in 2002 and plans to hire another 1,000 in 2003.

Currently, 18 percent of FBI Special Agents are women and 16.5 percent are minorities.

Special agents must be U.S. citizens between the ages of 23 and 36 with no felony convictions, three years work experience and very limited drug use.

For more information about applying for the FBI, visit www.fbijobs.com.

Vandalized Statue a Hate Crime?



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Joan of Arc statue, vandalized on Bastille Day, may have been the target of anti-French sentiment. Although the statue has been tagged before, the most recent damage was the most vicious and costly.

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As if Joan of Arc, the French child-warrior, didn't suffer enough indignities in her lifetime, pranksters defiled the statue remembering Portland soldiers who fought alongside the French in World War I.

Last week, vandals ripped the laurel wreath from the head and dumped a can of black paint over

the statue, standing at Coe Circle at Northeast 39th Avenue and Glisan Street.

Repairing the damage is estimated at \$7,500, half the budget to maintain 1,600 pieces of public art across the county for a year.

The statue was vandalized on Bastille Day, France's Independence Day. The attack was possibly a political statement against the French.

Last May, the Regional Arts and Culture Council refurbished the statue by changing the statue's finish from a dull green bronze to a gleaming gold leaf.

Police barricaded the area with yellow tape to lift fingerprints from the statue, which will only catch the taggers if their fingerprints are already in the bureau's criminal database.

Cop Rockers

Vancouver Police Band seeks musicians

The Vancouver Police Benefit Band "Civil Disturbance" is seeking a bass player and experienced lead guitarist to take the group forward.

The band formed in 2002 to raise money for fallen police officers, firefighters and emergency dispatchers. The group plays rock with a mixing

of blues and contemporary music. The set list includes the Beatles, CCR, Rolling Stones, Lynrd Skynrd, the Eagles, Melissa Etheridge, Tracy Chapman, Taj Mahal and Santana.

The band members are looking for flexible musicians willing to have a good time and dedicate Sunday nights for practice. For more information, visit ci.vancouver.wa.us/vanpd/benefit_band.htm or contact Officer Barb Knoeppel at barbara.knoeppel@ci.vancouver.wa.us.

Bank Robber Escapes with Loot

Federal and state law enforcement is asking for the public's help in solving a bank robbery at US Bank on Southeast Mill Plain in Vancouver.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 20 to 25 years old with brown hair and wearing a dark colored sweatshirt, jeans and a blue baseball hat.

He was seen getting into a silver-colored Toyota Celica near the intersection of North-

east 2nd Street and 116th Avenue just after the July 2 heist at around 5 p.m. The vehicle had someone waiting in it, according to witnesses.

If anyone was present near that intersection at the time of the robbery, they are encouraged to call the Vancouver Police Tip Line at 360-696-8148. Persons who call the tip line can be anonymous.

FBI Says Man Preyed on Children

(AP)—The FBI has arrested a Tigard man and charged him with using or trying to use interstate commerce to entice a minor to have sex.

Richard Irvin Detwiler, 61, was arrested near downtown Portland last week. He is the resource development director for the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

The FBI said the charges are linked to its Innocent Images program that targets people

who traffic in child pornography or prey on children online.

The program is in operation in 23 FBI offices around the country. President Bush is seeking more money to expand the program.

The FBI says each year one child in four aged between 10 and 17 is exposed to pornography and that one in five receives sexual solicitation on the Internet.

St. Johns Bridge Named in Threat Report

(AP)—An intelligence report issued by the FBI warning of possible threats to the nation's bridges specifically references the St. Johns Bridge in north Portland.

Federal officials acknowledged the reference despite the mention there is no indication that there is any threat to the bridge or the people of Oregon.

The FBI document mentioned a number of

suspicious incidents at bridges all across the country, including an act of vandalism at the St. Johns Bridge.

Road crews found the local bridge had a maintenance room window broken and a padlock tampered with sometime before June 5.

Authorities say there's no indication that the St. Johns Bridge incident was an act of terrorism.

Man Convicted in Outreach Center Fire

A Multnomah County jury convicted 32-year-old Bjarne Alex Lewis of three counts of arson, two counts of burglary, unlawful possession of a destructive substance and criminal mischief.

The charges were related to an incident on Sept. 25, in which Lewis sprayed flammable liquid in a room and lit it on fire at the "JOIN" community outreach center at 1136 S.E. Oak.


Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 18.



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