

Smile For the Taxi Camera

continued ▲ from Front

Ty Kovach, chief of staff for Commissioner Leonard. "It's a different kind of world that they work in and they have a natural skepticism when it comes to the government. Having a camera driving around with you all day has some implications and they were nervous about it."

One Portland cabbie is opposed to cameras because he thinks they will give drivers a false sense of security.

"Has camera placement stopped bank robberies?" asked Joe Roney, a cabbie that has driven in Portland and San Francisco for 14 years.

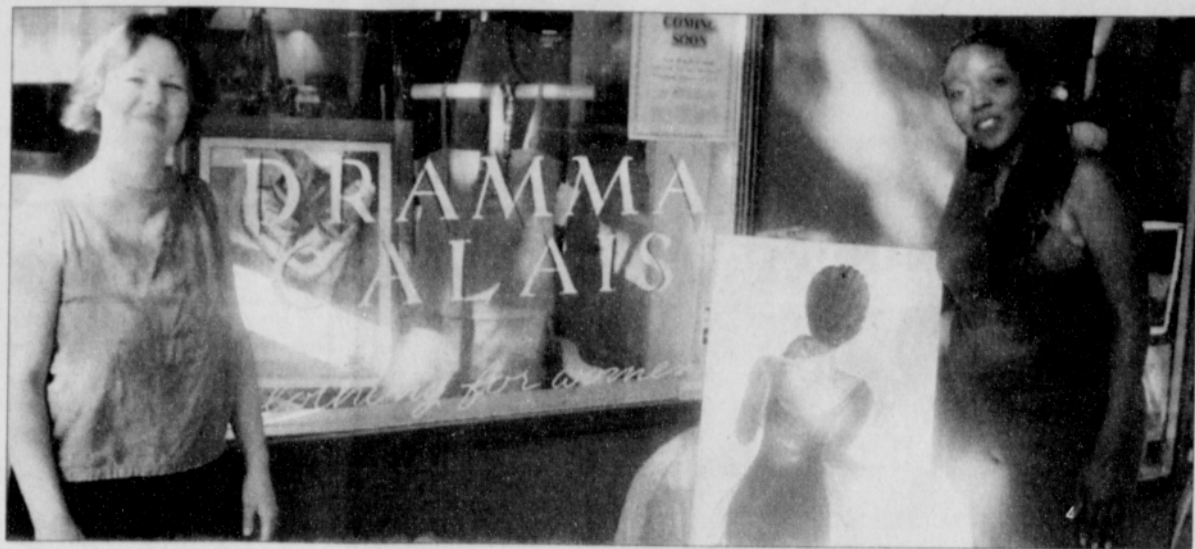
Roney says he feels very safe driving in Portland, but emphasized, "it's still a judgment call and you

have to be alert and perceptive." Another concern for drivers is being spied on by their supervisors, the police or the city.

"A cabbie considers the interior of a cab to be their office space and the thought of a camera would be invasive. I don't think passengers would like to be under surveillance, either," Roney said.

Entler is a proponent of very limited access to cameras.

"We're working very hard to make sure the images cannot be accessed by anyone other than the police in a felony situation," he said. "Conveying that to the passenger, who may be deterred from riding if they think big brother is watching, is going to be another story."



Marcia Wertz (left) and Sunshine Dixon have made a business of displaying unknown and diverse artists with New World Avenue, a traveling art show.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New World of Art on the Avenue

Culturally diverse and fairly unknown artists are finding a forum to show their work with a traveling art show called New World Avenue.

The street gallery, just a few weeks old, shows art in front of retail vendors on Southwest Morrison between 10th and 11th Avenues during the First Thurs-

day arts walk event.

The show continues through October with the artists' work on display on the first Wednesday of the month, and the artists them-

selves on hand, selling their work at the first Thursday.

For information about displaying work with New World Avenue, call 503-248-9970.

Pledge is Best Minority Contractors Get

continued ▲ from Front

Wally Mehrens of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council disputed charges that unions use such requirements to exclude minorities. He said minority hiring goals on such projects as the Rose Garden, Oregon Convention Center and MAX had been met or exceeded.

Leonard, a former state representative and Portland firefighter, defended agreements that get workers prevailing wages.

"I'll do anything I can do to help recruit women and minority workers and contractors with one exception: I have no sympathy for any contractor, of any race, that doesn't pay

prevailing wages," Leonard said.

When told of Leonard's remarks, Joanne Bowman, vice-chair of the African-American Chamber of Commerce, told the Portland Observer, "I can see where he would say that. As a union member, he's benefited from this system all his life."

Bowman said such requirements tend to screen out new aspirants to city contracts.

"All we're looking for is a level playing field," she said.

Baugh had a somewhat more reserved view.

"We found some interests in common, but there was a lot of distrust and suspicion," he said. "We have a long way to go."

Lights Out in the Modern World

East Coast officials say blackout caused by antiquated technology

(AP)—The blackout that turned out the lights for millions of Americans and Canadians on Thursday once again showed how the interconnected engines of modern life are vulnerable to massive disruptions.

Nuclear plants stopped running. People were trapped in subways and elevators. Planes were grounded. Traffic lights went out.

And, until they learned otherwise, those caught in the steam of summer asked whether America had been attacked again.

"It shows us we have tied together so many systems to build a high quality life, and that creates its own vulnerabilities," said James Gilmore, the former governor of Virginia.

The electric grid is perhaps the



New York's Brooklyn Bridge carries a multitude of people out of Manhattan after a blackout shut down the city. (AP photo)

most vulnerable of the country's systems. Grids are interconnected and, unlike natural gas that can be stored, electricity must be produced in real time, when it's needed.

"With electricity, if there's a loss of a major transmission line or generator, the system can come under an unstable situation where there's

Congress to require national standards for the reliability of the electric power system.

"In my view we're the world's greatest superpower but we have a Third World electricity grid," Richardson said. "We have antiquated transmission lines. We have an overloaded system that has not had any new investments and we don't have mandatory reliability standards on utilities, which caused this problem."

In a post-Sept. 11 environment, there clearly was a psychological effect.

"When something like this happens and you have to come down from the 37th floor it makes you wonder, was this terrorism or what?" said John Meehan, 56.

Another Sniper Brings Terror to East Coast

continued ▲ from Front

Kanawha County Sheriff David Tucker said authorities received more than 100 leads and were ques-

tioning several suspects.

Police are looking for a dark color Ford F-150 extended cap pickup. The truck may be black, dark blue,

dark green, or maroon. Tucker backtracked from previous descriptions of the driver as a large white male, saying darkness may have obscured eyewitness views.

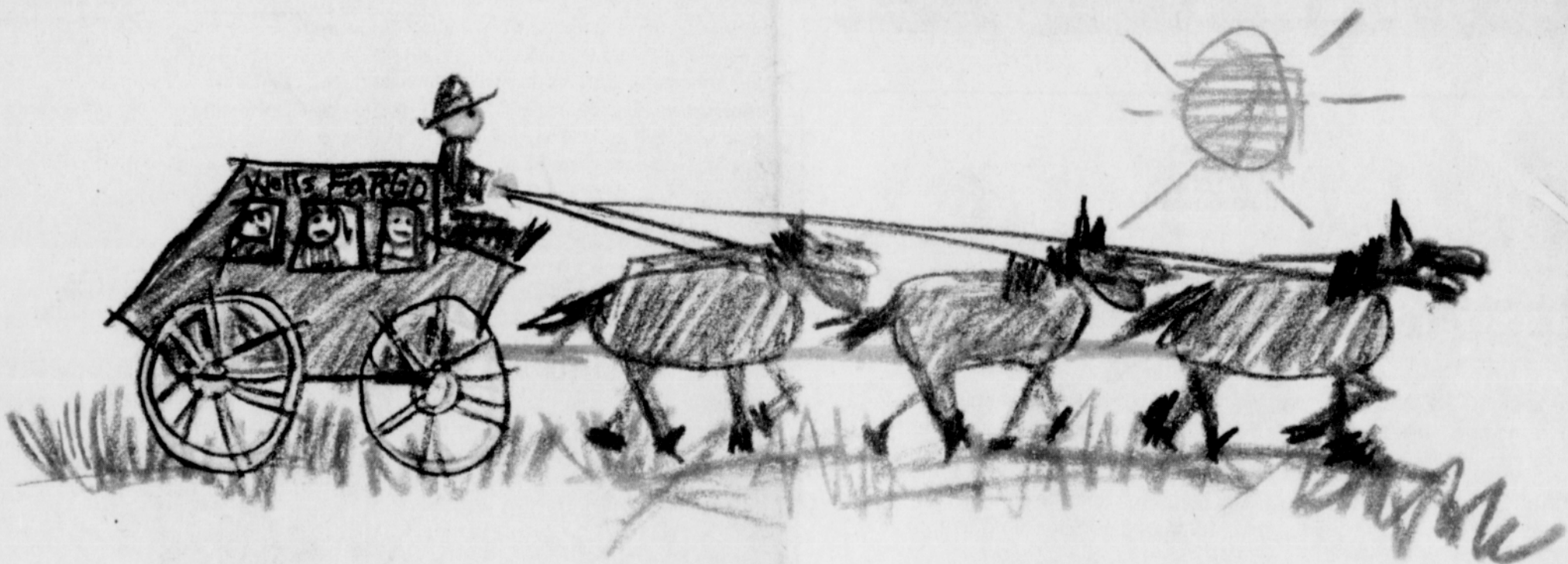
Tucker cautioned residents to be vigilant and take precautions when out late at night.

CORRECTION: Rosy Foster was misidentified in a photograph accompanying the story "Activists Work for a Better Tomorrow," in our Aug. 13 issue. Foster is an Oregon Action leader.

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