



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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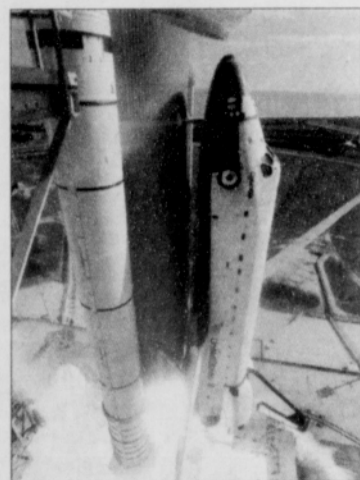
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## Week in The Review

### Child, Gunman Killed in L.A. Police Shootout

A toddler was shot and killed when her father used her as a shield in a gunbattle with police following an hours-long standoff, officials said. The man also died and an officer was wounded. The man killed Sunday night after an hours-long standoff was identified as Jose Raul Lemos, and the girl, about 17 months old, was his daughter. The child's mother, Lorena Lopez, said she pleaded with officers to hold their fire.



### Countdown Begins for Discovery Launch

For the first time since the Columbia tragedy, NASA's countdown clocks were ticking down the hours, minutes and seconds to launch, heightening the anticipation for a Wednesday liftoff of Discovery. The countdown for the first space shuttle flight in 2 1/2 years went well this week, with no technical problems. The countdown began Sunday evening as Hurricane Dennis battered the Florida Panhandle off to the northwest.

### London Explosions Kill 52, Wound 700

Four blasts rocked the London subway and tore open a packed double-decker bus last week, sending bloodied victims fleeing in the worst attack on London since World War II. At least 52 people were killed and more than 700 were wounded in the terror attacks. An organization calling itself "The Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe" claimed responsibility. See full story on A2.

### Gulf Coast Cleans Up From Hurricane Dennis

With a sigh of relief, Gulf Coast residents began hurricane cleanup. Hurricane Dennis hit the storm-weary Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast on Sunday with less force than forecasters feared, sparing the region the widespread destruction caused by Ivan last September. There was scattered flooding in Florida and Georgia, and more than 680,000 customers in four states were without power, with some likely to be out for three weeks or more.

## Rest in Peace?

### Worker suspended for racial slurs

BY NICOLE HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When a loved one passes away, friends and family usually hope for the utmost care, respect and honor when dealing with the deceased—in funeral services, in burial and in remembrance.

But in April, a former cemetery employee of Rose City Cemetery in NE Portland filed a complaint claiming that manager Mike Orcutt had abused corpses and made racial slurs when discussing deceased clients.

According to former trainee Floyd Decker, managing director Mike Orcutt made racist remarks toward deceased African-Americans that were going to be buried at Rose City Cemetery.

Earlier this year, Decker alleges one incident where an African-American woman who had died of breast cancer was referred to as a "nigger lady that needed to be dead." Apparently the "n-word" was commonly used to describe blacks at the mortuary. In addition, Decker claims that in other instances, deceased clients were referred to in a sexual or size-phobic manner.

Rose City Cemetery isn't aware of any complaints against employees since its opening in 1905. Currently, 35 percent of the deceased that reside at Rose City Cemetery are African-American. There are policies in place that demand the highest respect to the deceased and their family.

State Sen. Avel Gordly has commended the state's Mortuary and Cemetery Board for punishing Orcutt for the offensive behavior and comments made in the workplace.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A former employee of Rose City Cemetery in NE Portland was recently accused of abusing corpses and using racial slurs in relation to his clients.

## Tightened Transit Security



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Police Officer Simmons patrols the Rose Quarter Max Station, as part of the heightened security measures being taken after recent terrorist attacks in London.

## London attacks spur alerts in Portland

Following last week's terror attacks on London's mass transit system, the United States put up its security radar, recognizing a high alert for possible copycat attacks. Until culprits and methods of the attacks are realized, transit systems in cities around the country, including Portland, are tightening their safety measures.

According to a statement made last week by Mayor Tom Potter, "Our community remains safe and secure, with hundreds of dedicated people working to insure Portland is protected. Federal officials have assured us that no new threats have been directed at the Pacific Northwest."

Although no specific threats to Oregon have been made, Potter said, the city is increasing its readiness level to orange for its ground transportation facilities.

Statewide city and transportation workers have been told to be fully aware at all times of their surroundings. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activity.

Extra precautions are being taken on Tri-Met, Amtrak and Greyhound, among others.

Riders should expect to see additional officers at some stops and in public gathering places like Pioneer Square, PGE Park and the Rose Quarter.

"The goal of terrorists is to create fear," Potter said. "They win only when good and decent people succumb to the climate fear they create with these kinds of barbaric acts. We cannot let our fears make us suspicious of each other, or be afraid to live our lives completely. Portlanders can do their part by remaining calm and living their lives normally. While each of us has a responsibility to be vigilant, we also shouldn't overreact."

See full story on recent London attacks on page A2.

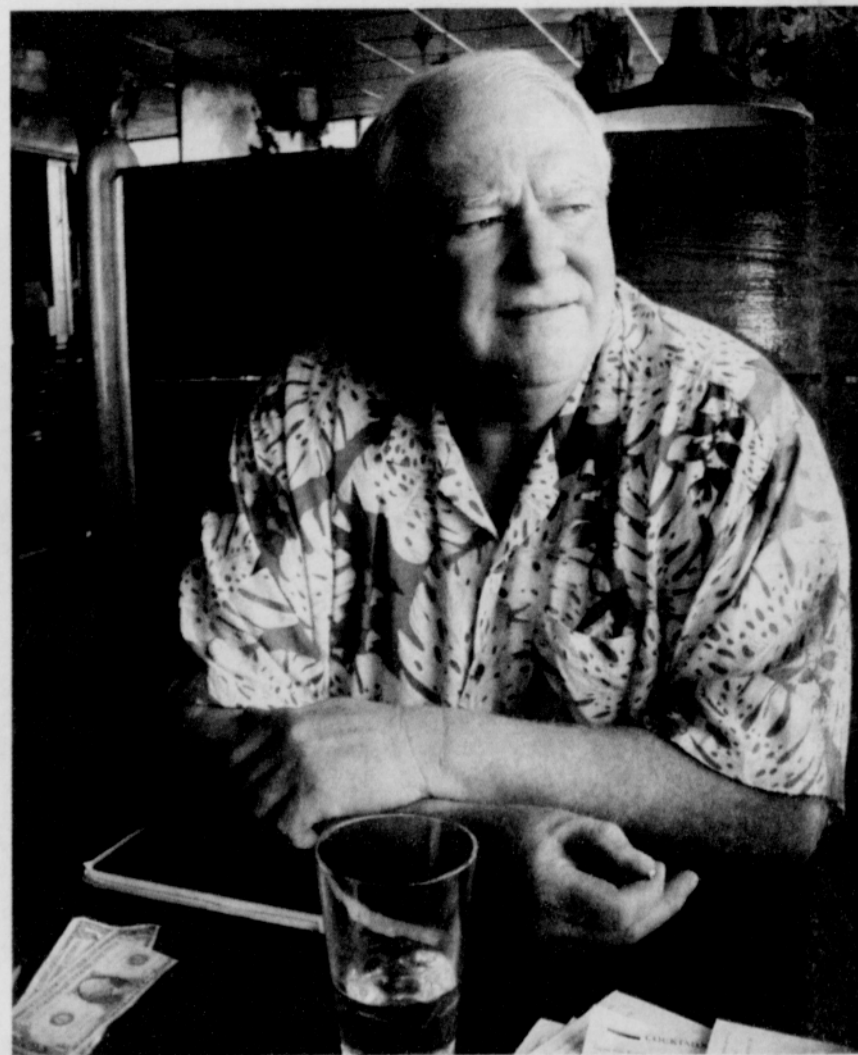


PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James Miller, founder of Assured Compliance, is using his past experience with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to help local bars, clubs and taverns meet their regulatory obligations.

## Enforcer turns retirement into a business

BY NICOLE HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James Miller is helping local bars, clubs and taverns reduce the risk of liquor license fines, suspensions and terminations.

Last year, after retiring from the OLCC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission), he founded the company Assured Compliance to

use what he knows about liquor laws to start his own business and help establishments serving alcohol navigate the many pitfalls of regulations.

Like the retail business uses "mystery shoppers" to test the skills of its company employees, Miller uses decoys to test the skills of people employed in the liquor serving business.

"My family has been supportive and wonderful. Many just wonder, how come no one ever thought of this before," said Miller.

The business has progressed

at first employing decoys to catch bars and stores selling alcohol to minors, to now monitoring bartenders who are not following protocol when establishments have installed electronic devices that can spot faulty ID's.

The ID machines are a computer like contraption that stores legal data from across the country. It works similar to a credit and debit card. When a bar patron is not of legal age, an alarm goes off, but for others the verifier states the age of the patron.

Both the OLCC and police have

offered this service to bars where an offense has occurred. Miller finds that even with the verifier, many bartenders or bouncers don't use the machine. If a bartender is caught not checking ID's, they can face a potential citation and get a notice of violation from the OLCC. Usually this fine is no less than \$900.

The training Miller provides includes tips for checking identification, how to pass the decoy tests and how look for signs of intoxication.

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## Decoy Drinkers



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bars like the Wooden Chicken in northeast Portland take extra precautions checking identification to prevent underage drinking.

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