

# Local Leader Charged with Attempted Murder

A respected African American businessman and civil rights advocate from Portland faces attempted murder and kidnapping charges in The Dalles, according to the Wasco County Circuit Court.

Robert Larry, 45, is accused of attacking a female acquaintance, said



Robert Larry

Wasco County District Attorney Eric Nisley.

Larry was the longtime owner of the King Liquor Store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Portland and an officer with the Portland branch of the NAACP. His liquor store was closed last spring over alle-

gations he owned the Oregon Liquor Control \$38,578 in liquor receipts.

He was arrested two weeks ago in The Dalles for kidnapping, strangulation, menacing and harassment, and unauthorized use of a firearm, but the charges were upgraded Friday when a Wasco County Grand

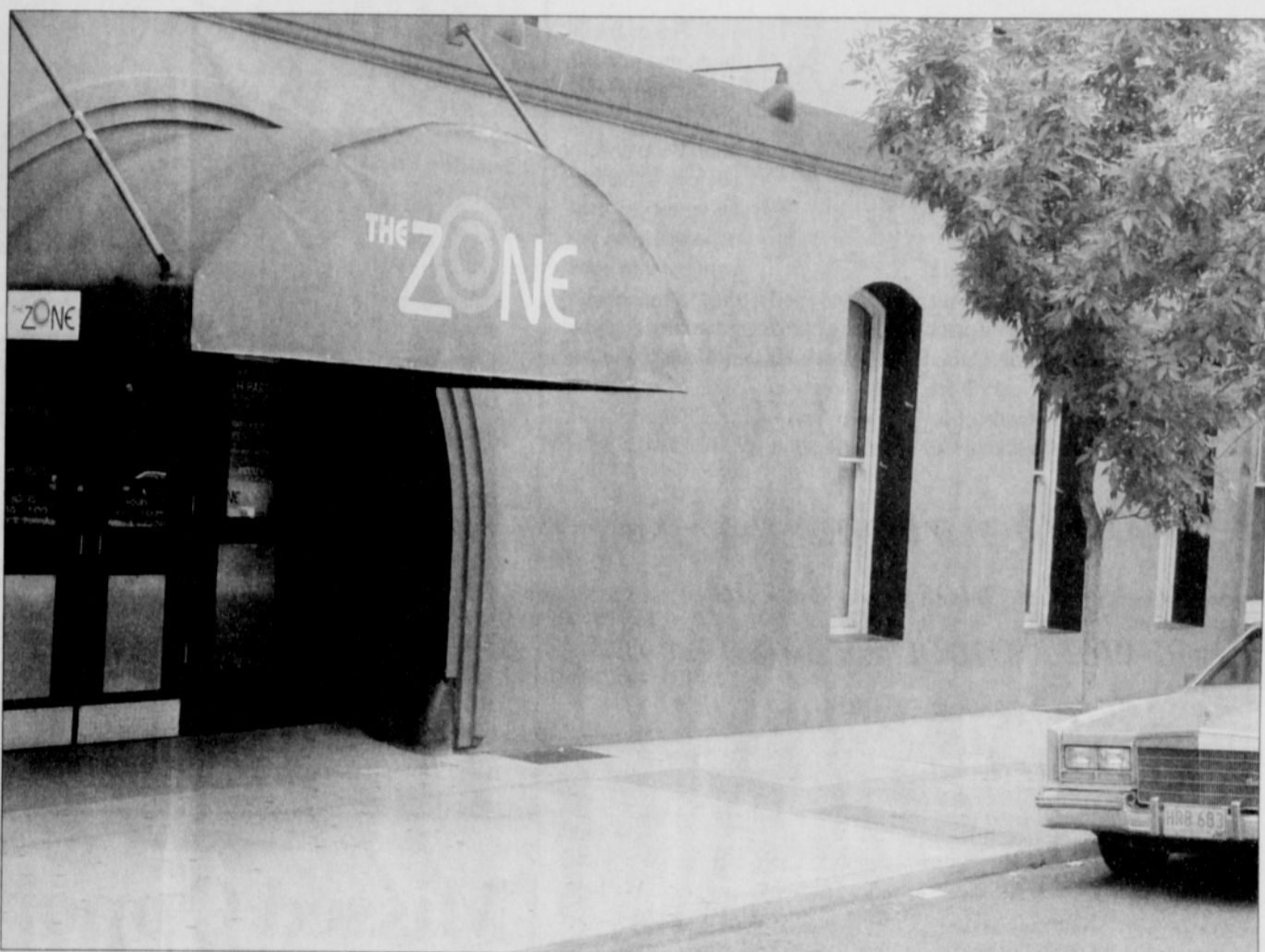
Jury added the charge of attempted murder.

At the time of the domestic violence complaint, officers said they had to draw weapons in a confrontation with Larry, though no shots were fired.

He was released from jail on bail pending an Aug. 22 arraignment.



Pedestrians walk past Metro Pizza on Southwest Washington where a shooting left a man dead.



The Zone, formerly Quest is one of the few underage nightclubs in Portland. People who are over 21 usually aren't allowed inside the downtown club with out an underage friend.

## Nightlife Shaken Up

continued from Front

Will taking away hip-hop music and police saturation really reduce crime?

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission said it has no complaint cases against the downtown entertainment clubs for

violence that originated inside their establishments and then spilled outside.

Meanwhile, some northeast Portland residents are complaining that with all the attention downtown is getting that their neighborhoods are being ignored and left vulnerable to future crime.

Many clubgoers believe that security saturation patrols on foot, bike and horseback, like the presence Portland police had last weekend, will curb violence near the clubs.

For many, the issue is more about crime prevention than music.



Some people think that the recent decision by The Vue nightclub to quit playing hip-hop music will be an economic downfall for the venue.

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Governor Signs Mental Health Bill

### Law requires equal coverage

Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed a bill Monday that requires fair and equal group health insurance for mental health and substance abuse disorders.

The governor was joined by Senate President Peter Courtney, representatives from the Oregon chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and Senators Kate Brown, Avel Gordly and Margaret Carter.

Sonja Tanner shared her story about how mental health parity will

help her son access the services he needs at an affordable cost.

Before Senate Bill 1, Oregon was one of a few states that did not require insurance to cover treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders, as it does for physical ailments.

"Today marks the day when we officially end discrimination in health benefits between mental and physical health problems," Kulongoski said. "But perhaps this day is more important for moving Oregon closer to ending the stigma so often associated with mental health and substance abuse disorders - and treatment."

Supporters said providing equal coverage for mental health and substance abuse and physical health treatments results in minimal - if any - increase in total health costs. When Oregon's Public Employees' Benefit Board implemented parity, the increase in cost over the first year was less than one-half of one percent.

"This legislation will help improve the lives for thousands of Oregonians and their families because of a core group of people who would not stop fighting for what is the right thing to do for our state today and for the future," Kulongoski said.

## Natural Gas Hike Wanted

Heating the house this winter could get much more expensive with a proposed 13 percent rate hike by Northwest Natural Gas. The request has been filed with the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

For an average residential customer

using about 59.2 therms per month, the increase would mean an additional \$9.28 per month, increasing the average bill from \$71.60 to \$80.88.

If approved by the OPUC, any increases would take effect Oct. 1.

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