

HOUSING See inside,
pages A5-A8Drag Races
Safe alternative to
illegal street racing

See Metro, inside



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Week in
The Review**Top Bush Official Replaced**

White House chief of staff Andrew Card has resigned and will be replaced by budget director Joshua Bolten, President Bush announced Tuesday amid growing calls for a White House shake-up and Republican concern about Bush's tumbling poll ratings.

Reagan Era Secretary Dies

Caspar Weinberger, defense secretary under the Reagan administration, died Tuesday at the age of 88. Weinberger presided over an unprecedented peacetime military buildup costing more than \$1 trillion and was pardoned by former President Bush on the eve of his trial in the Iran-Contra scandal in 1992.

Remains Found Near WTC

Construction workers cleaning toxic waste from a vacant skyscraper near the World Trade Center site have found more bone fragments and human remains, officials said Tuesday. Officials plan to extract DNA from the remains and try to match it against a database of the 2,749 people killed at the trade center on Sept. 11, 2001.

No Election Delay

A federal judge Monday refused to delay New Orleans' April 22 mayoral election, but told lawyers on both sides of the case to identify any problems that might hinder displaced residents' ability to vote and then solve them.

Afghan Convert Vanishes

An Afghan man who had faced the death penalty for converting from Islam to Christianity quickly vanished Tuesday after he was released from prison, apparently out of fear for his life with Muslim clerics still demanding his death.

Bonds 'Life in Shambles'

Seven home runs shy of passing Babe Ruth, this should be a time of unbridled joy and excitement

for Barry Bonds. Not so, he says. "My life is in shambles," Bonds said Monday, following the recent

release of "Game of Shadows," the book detailing his alleged regimen for taking performance-enhancing drugs. See story, page B6.

Beach Clean Up

Saturday, 5,245 volunteers turned out to participate in the Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup. The entire Oregon coastline, 362 miles, was cleaned of debris that had accumulated during the stormy winter months. Volunteers removed an estimated 46.5 tons of trash.

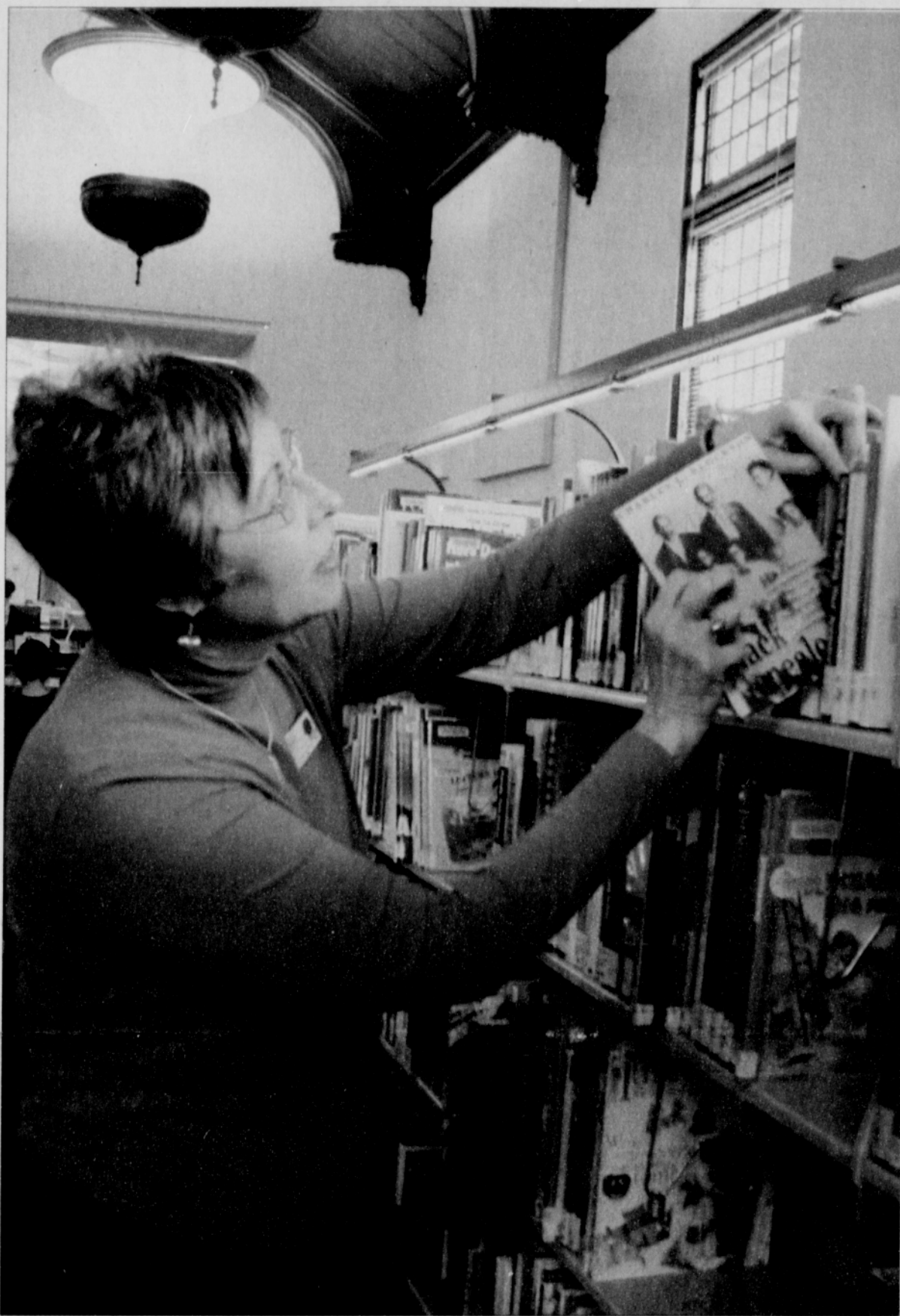


PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County librarian Wanda Snyder pulls a book on black genealogy at the North Portland Library. The branch at 512 N. Killingsworth St. houses the Black Resource Center, the library system's major collection of black history information.



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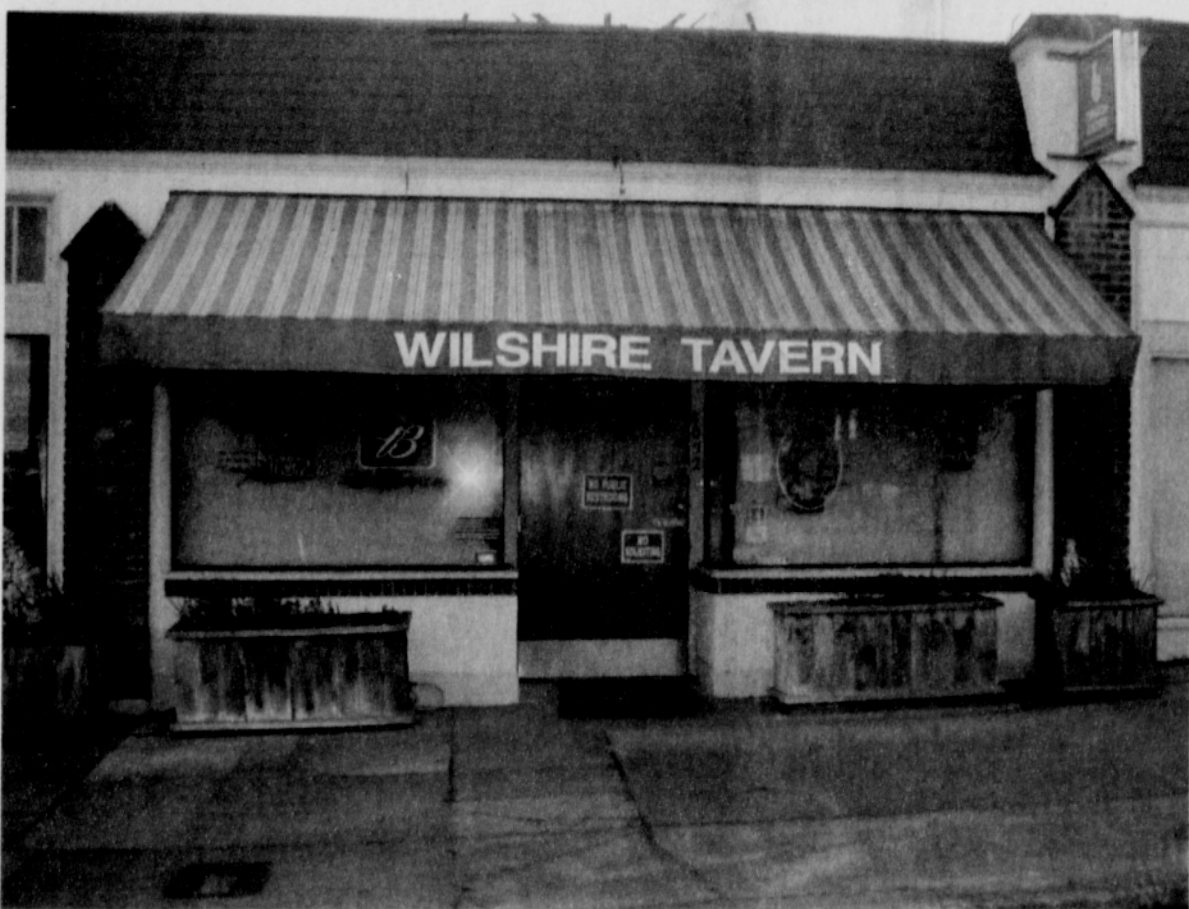


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Wilshire Tavern on Northeast 42nd Avenue is one of four Portland bars to be robbed at gunpoint in the last two weeks.

String of Robberies Hit Local Bars

Cash registers and customers cleaned out

Several customers at a Northeast Portland tavern were robbed at gunpoint Saturday, the fourth armed attack at a Portland tavern in the past two weeks, police said.

Two men carrying handguns came into the Blue Diamond Tavern at 2016 N.E. Sandy Blvd. around 12:24

a.m., held the guns to the customers' heads and forced them to give them cash, said Portland Police Bureau spokeswoman Kathy Kent.

The pair took the customers' wallets and cleaned out the tavern's cash registers before leaving the building, said Debbie Relling, the manager of Blue Diamond.

There were no injuries, she said.

The men, who were not wearing masks, were de-

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**Unlocking
Bloodline
Mysteries**

DNA mail order
approach opens widows

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When author Alex Haley set out to trace his roots, it took him 10 years, a half a million miles and three continents. 40 years later, it takes around a hundred bucks and a quick Internet search to reveal the mysteries of your bloodline.

Thousands of people are taking advantage of mail order genetic testing, a service that's gained popularity and notoriety over the past few years. Scientists can read your DNA to uncover a wealth of information on gender, predisposition to any one of the 3,000 diseases, and our guilt or innocence.

For thousands of African Americans, DNA answers questions not about themselves, but a family legacy that was significantly blotted out centuries ago. Private companies who charge a fee to study DNA are banking off individuals who want to trace their African American history. This "swab and ship" approach opens an incredible new window — without DNA a genealogy search can hit a brick wall, with absent birth records and skewed written and oral histories.



The recent Public Broadcasting System series "African-American Lives" touched on the popularity of DNA science. The series featured prominent African Americans, Oprah Winfrey among them, tracing their black history through DNA and genealogy, with surprising results. Oprah was convinced she had Native American blood. Her DNA told her she's right out of Africa.

Questioning Technology

Portland State University professor Greg Fowler has closely followed the recent attention and controversy of DNA science. Fowler is executive director and founder of GeneForum, a non-

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**MAX Riders Stop
Baby Snatcher**

A young African American man was one of the heroes as bystanders thwarted a child kidnapping from a TriMet Max train.



Lamar Curry helped rescue baby. (KATU photo)

Max passenger Lama Curry helped wrestle the alleged kidnapper to the ground during the Sunday incident.

Randy William Koon, 41, was held for police and charged with kidnapping.

Witnesses said Koon was moving from seat to seat in the train as they approached a stop at Southwest Fifth Avenue and Morrison Street. He then grabbed the 2-year-old girl out of

her stroller and ran off the train.

He didn't get far before Curry, the toddler's parents and other quick-thinking passengers tackled him.

"We saw a dude jump on the girl and her mom jump on the dude, so we just pushed the dude down to the ground," Curry told KATU Channel 2.

The family was a bit shaken, but the toddler is doing fine, police spokesman Kathy Kent said.

Police said Koon was a stranger to the family who was visiting Portland for spring break and using the Max Red Line. The family from LaGrande also had their 5-year-old son with them at the time.



Randy Koon charged with kidnapping.