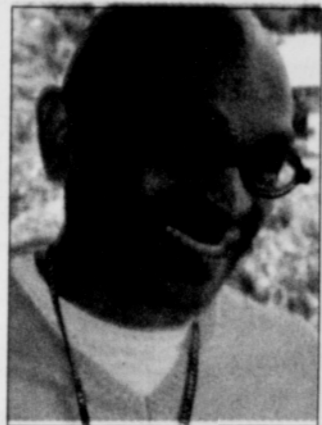


The Portland Observer



Instructor Plays Pivotal Role

Oregon Music Hall honors Calvin Walker
See Metro, page 9

Gun Violence in Portland

Residents, police and gun control advocates are alarmed
See page 3



The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



Volume XXXXI
Number 28



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • July 25, 2012

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of
community service



A movie theater in Aurora, Colo. is surrounded by police after a gunman terrified a packed audience at the premiere of the latest Batman movie by using tear gas, a semi-automatic rifle, shotgun, and pistol to kill 12 people and injure dozens more. Authorities said the weapons were easily purchased over the Internet.

Stocked-Up for Rampage

Theater shooter easily acquired deadly arsenal

(AP)—In a world where Amazon can track your next book purchase and you must show ID to buy some allergy medicine, James Holmes spent months stockpiling thousands of bullets and head-to-toe ballistic gear without raising any red flags with authorities.

The suspect in the mass theater shooting on Friday in Aurora, Colo. availed himself of an unregulated online marketplace that allows consumers to acquire some of the tools of modern warfare as if they were pieces of a new wardrobe. The Internet is awash in sites ranging from BulkAmmo.com,



James Holmes

a sale on a thousand rifle rounds for \$335, to eBay, where bidding on one armored special forces helmet has risen to \$799.

"We're different than other cultures," said Dudley Brown, executive director of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, which advocates for firearms owners' rights. "We do allow Americans to possess the accoutrements that our military generally has."

Gun rights activists like Brown celebrate that freedom, but even

some involved in the trade are troubled by how easily Holmes stocked up for his alleged rampage.

Chad Weinman runs TacticalGear.com, which caters to police officers looking to augment their equipment, members of the military who don't want to wait on permission from the bureaucracy for new combat gear, and hobbyists like survivalists and paintballers. The site receives "thousands" of orders daily, sometimes from entire platoons that are about to deploy to war zones.

On July 2, Holmes placed a \$306 order with the site for a combat vest, magazine holders and a knife, paying extra for expedited two-day shipping to his Aurora, Colo. apartment.

continued ▼ on page 5