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INSIDE

- 'Captain America' page 2
- Occupy Seattle page 3
- Troy Johnson page 5

DAY OF PROTEST



Eric Roberts, brother of Aaron Roberts, who was shot by Seattle Police in 2001, speaks at the 16th Annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation Oct. 22 at Westlake Park. The annual event, which was organized by the October 22nd Coalition, hopes to shed light on police brutality in America.

Hertz Fires Muslims

Somali workers claim company violates labor agreement

SEATTLE (AP) — More than two dozen Somali Muslim drivers for Hertz at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport are being fired after refusing to clock out for daily breaks during which they normally pray.

The 26 workers drive the company's rental cars to and from the airport for cleaning and refueling. They are among 34 Hertz employees suspended Sept. 30 for failing to clock out before breaks.

Teamsters Local 117, which represents the workers, said Hertz agreed during contract negotiations last year that union members would not need to clock out during prayer breaks. But the company maintains workers were violating a settlement with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reached two years ago.

"From our perspective, Hertz didn't even follow their own internal policy," union spokesman Paul Zilly said Friday. Hertz didn't provide a verbal or written warning and jumped right to suspension, he said.

"It was a huge disappointment and a tremendous frustration," Zilly said.

Eight of the 34 suspended workers signed the company's new clock-out agreement and have returned to their jobs, company spokesman Rich Broome said in an email. Termination letters have been sent to the rest.

"The failure of many employees to return to work promptly after prayers had created an unmanageable, unfair work environment at the Seattle airport location," Broome wrote. Clocking out ensured that everyone's interests were preserved, he said.

The company gave suspended workers until the end of the day Thursday to sign the clock-out agreement, if they wanted to be reinstated, Broome told The Seattle Times. The firings were first reported by KOMO-TV.

Zilly said Friday that instead of an ultimatum, the company should have sat down with the union to negotiate this change.

"Whenever there's a change in working conditions and you're working under a col-

Phone Bill Ripoffs Continue

McKenna calls on feds to protect consumers from 'cramming'

Joins multistate coalition urging FCC to ban unauthorized charges on telephone bills, write stronger regulations on phone and wireless services

OLYMPIA — Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna today called on the federal government to adopt stronger regulations to protect consumers against unauthorized third-party charges on telephone bills. In a filing with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), McKenna and a multi-state coalition of 16 other attor-

neys general urged the FCC to enact rules that prevent such charges, known as "cramming" — a fraud that a recent U.S. Senate report found costs consumers about \$2 billion a year.

"Consumers are fed up with attempts to slip charges onto their phone bills in order to trick them into paying for services they never asked for and don't need," McKenna said. "Today we ask for the federal government's help hanging up on cramming schemes."

"Cramming" occurs when

those other than the phone service provider add unauthorized charges to phone bills for non-call related services such as email, website hosting, discount buying programs or voicemail services. Investigations by the attorneys general, as well as complaints received by their offices, reveal that consumers usually do not intend to purchase these services and rarely make use of them. Most consumers are also unaware that they are exposed to such fraudulent billing practices just by

using a wireless or landline service.

In 2002, the Associated Press reported that then-Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers fined Qwest Communications \$575,000 to settle complaints the Denver-based telephone company had packaged extra but unwanted services to Oregon customers.

Myers said Qwest also had misrepresented its wireless service and high-speed Internet-access service.

See RIPOFF on page 3

See HERTZ on page 3

INDEX	
News	3,5
A&E	2
Calendar	2
Opinion	4
Books	6
Bids/Classifieds.....	7

White Supremacists Write Newspaper

Seattle murder suspect says he targeted 'non-White' Victim

One of two suspects in a Northwest killing spree that left four people dead wrote in a letter to a newspaper that they killed the last victim, in California, because he was "non-white."

The Oregonian newspaper reports it received the letter discussing the killing from David "Joey" Pedersen.

According to the newspaper, Pedersen wrote that he and his girlfriend, Holly

Grigsby, were looking for another vehicle to help them stay ahead of the law when they killed Reginald Clark in Eureka, Calif., in early October, just before they were finally caught.

Since their arrest the two white supremacists have given statements and interviews bragging about the crimes they are accused of committing.

The pair is being held in Washington state.

Both pleaded not guilty Wednesday to two counts of aggravated murder in the death of Pedersen's father and stepmother.

In his letter to The Oregonian, Pedersen used white supremacist justifications for the death of Clark. Pedersen wrote he and Grigsby decided to kill a "non-white."

"We felt it'd be optimal if, in securing

See MURDER on page 3