



Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SEATTLE

| AND THE NORTHWEST |

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2000 SECTION B

NEWS BRIEF

WATER CONSERVATION: In an effort to reduce water consumption by 1 percent a year, Seattle Public Utilities and other local water providers are offering rebates to businesses that install water-saving technology.

Seattle Public Utilities said more than 1,000 businesses have received more than \$4 million in direct incentive payments in the past five years and have contributed to water savings of 2.3 million gallons of water each day.

For more information about the program, contact Seattle Public Utilities at 206-684-7283.

NEWS BRIEF

GENE RESEARCH: The University of Washington has received a \$12.83 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that will allow it to set up a multidisciplinary Program for Excellence in Gene Therapy.

The UW program, one of only four in the country, will include researchers from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, who are also on the UW faculty.

The grant will pay for basic research, clinical trials of new therapies and education. Among the human trials planned are gene therapies for cystic fibrosis, graft vs. host disease, and anemia.



Mount Baker ships in all its glory yesterday as a chilly day fell on the city. Cold weather is predicted through the week.

SEE WEATHER, D6

LOW BAR/STAFF

Stowaways nearly suffocated in crate

Chinese headed to California rescued from container in Hong Kong

BY LAURA J. WINTER
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Twelve illegal immigrants from mainland China were short on oxygen and semi-conscious when authorities found them in a shipping container, according to police who said yesterday that the men probably would have died en route to California.

Tarpaulins and packing tape had been used to create an airtight seal at the container's mouth in an effort to fill carbon dioxide detectors — hand-held meters that Hong Kong customs inspectors use to find signs of life within containers.

"What they almost did is nearly kill themselves," said Todd Bamcroft, the police detective in charge of the investigation.

The migrants were well-equipped with food and clothing and even had an electric fan to circulate the air, but they apparently were overcome by a lack of oxygen after spending just a few hours in the container on Sunday, officials said.

Authorities arrested 12 men and two women suspected of being part of an international human smuggling syndicate after they opened the container Sunday and found the mainland Chinese wait-

SEE SMUGGLE, B4

Another contractor for Hanford

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHLAND — A new contracting team has been selected to design and build a radioactive-waste glassification plant at the Hanford

LOOKY WHO!



Cindy Lou Who, also known as Jolene Jang, pulls a surprise visit on her friend, Steve Barham in Pioneer Square. Jang is in business as an "interactive fun specialist." She recently competed with her boyfriend in the Jingle Bell Run as Cindy Lou Who and her boyfriend as the Grinch.

DON MARQUESS/2

PDC left some in dark, say report

Enforcement of sunshine law for candidates, lobbyists called inconsistent

P-I STAFF

The state has unfairly applied different standards to special interests and politicians from year to year when enforcing a sunshine law designed to expose campaign and lobbyist expenses, a new legislative report says.

Under a law approved by voters 28 years ago, those who run for state or local office or who lobby state lawmakers must publicly report what they spend and how. The idea is to let people know what interests are influencing government.

The state Public Disclosure Commission collects the reports at regular intervals and can penalize those who fail to file on time.

According to a report to be presented to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee tomorrow, the commission skipped a year for companies and groups who use lobbyists. Timber and oil companies, for example, are among lobbyist employers whose reports were not checked in 1998.

Then, during the 1999 elections, the PDC went the other way and treated political candidates unusually strictly.

For decades, the PDC used a "two-letter approach" to enforcement. First, a warning letter gave candidates and lobbyists a chance to file late and avoid penalties. If still no reports came in, a second letter went out sched-

uling an enforcement which often led to the commission's list of non-compliant employers. According to P-I reporter Rippe, the age transition to a disclosure report.

And the state had the technical list of non-compliant employers when that transition.

As a result, as failed to report winning and losing. However, the check the set reports filed by themselves into employers.

By contrast, went from slack to send political straight to enforcement without the letters. Instead of so candidate filings, there were Rippe said.

The two-letter approach in getting a required information report by the joint audit's auditing.

"Applying the law is unfair in the subject of the

Former Councilman Brian one of the candidates for late reporting he lost a tough in his Issaquah-area Republican David Denkowski said that he missed report campaign

SEE P-

WTO protest anniversary event cost \$550,000 for police, fire

2000 P-I READERS CARE FUND