

METROPOLITAN

Prison inmate seeks better life



Grassroot News, N.W.—Ms. P. Fisher is serving time for forgery. She defines her life before and after Claire Argow, Multnomah County's women's jail, as a spiritual experience. "My life was going so fast out there on the streets; I had lost a number of material items like a home and car. I got caught up in the fast life because I felt despondent over this loss." Ms. Fisher received money from a lawsuit enabling her to acquire a home and car. Her spouse began to use drugs and depleted her savings and assets. Like so many other inmates she was introduced to drugs by her man and attained a desire for material things without the discipline of savings.

"I felt I had to make up for what I lost and really when you are out there you are not making up for what you lost. There are so many things going on in your life you are not making up. You are just adding to the problem. Over a period of eight months I accumulated so many cases. And prior to this I had no record. I feel that I was going so fast that if I had stayed in the streets I could have died. God took me off the streets so that I could have time to think and get my life back together."

Ms. Fisher was spiritually reborn behind bars, which she feels gave her this new attitude. "It's only by the grace of God that I've maintained. Two women have died right under me. One hung herself and the other O.D.'d. You see so many women that are confined and the ex-

perience can either make you bitter or a better person. I'm at a very soul-searching state. I'm thinking of my children and how I can be a better mother to them. Now that I am reborn I can see what life is all about. It is not about all those material things. When you get caught up in that material bag it's easy to get caught up in drugs to escape what you are doing to attain those things. Instead of dealing with life as it is you are debating the whole purpose of life."

With this unique outlook on life how are her fellow inmates responding to her? "Many knew me when I was out there and they see me and they think I'm really handling it. But it is not that. There was a purpose for me in here. It does not make you slick or bad to be behind bars. There are a lot of people suffering mentally in here."

Ms. Fisher says that none of her friends in the fast life came to her aid when she was arrested. "I just hope God uses me to get to them. People are always talking about what they can and cannot do. But you never know what each day brings. You could be like me. One day you are free of a record and the next you are in the penitentiary. That is a hard thing to accept. Life is going so fast now where no one can really capitalize on anything. All you can do is take each day at a time." She concludes that she'll take each day as it comes with the help of her new-found strength.

Democrats ask precinctperson resignations

by C. Eddie Edmondson

The Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee voted last Thursday night to censure two of their precinctpersons and to ask them to resign, because they are actively working for opponents of Democratic candidates in their districts.

In addition, a vote to reject the application for precinctperson of Charles Stoudamire, a State Representative candidate in the 18th District primary last May, was overturned after Stoudamire was given a chance to affirm his allegiance to the Democratic party.

"A Democrat is a Democrat is a Democrat," said Mindy Leek, following introduction of a motion to censure Rose Gangle, a precinctperson in District 18. Gangle, who also was a candidate in the 18th District State Representative primary, is campaign chairperson for Kent Ford, running as an Independent in the district.

Ms. Leek's husband, Ed Leek, is the Democratic State Representative candidate. Several blacks in the dis-

trict have offered themselves as alternatives to Leek, in a district which is roughly half black.

The Central Committee executive board said that after reviewing charges against Gangle, it was recommending censure. That is when Mindy Leek rose to speak.

"I'm sorry this has to do with a district where my husband is a candidate, but the number one goal of a precinct committee person is to elect Democratic candidates. And when you sign that piece of paper, you have promised to do that."

She amended the motion to censure by asking that Ron McCarty, 19th District State Representative candidate in last May's primary, be included. He is actively campaigning for the Republican candidate in the 19th District. Neither Gangle nor McCarty appeared to be at the meeting.

By voice vote, Thelma Carlson, Central Committee chairperson, said the vote to censure and request Gangle's and McCarty's resignations carried.

Ross Danielson, District 18's

Democratic leader, spoke for Gangle. She had not thought supporting a candidate who was supporting the Democratic platform and principles was a conflict with her office, he said. "I think that that's kind of loose thinking," Danielson said. "However she has been a hard worker and has carried more campaign literature than almost anybody. If she resigns, I'll certainly promote her for reinstatement after this campaign is over."

Charles Stoudamire's request to be a precinctperson in the 18th District had been held up by the executive committee pending clarification of his name being listed as Kent Ford's campaign treasurer. Ms. Leek read from a story in last week's *Observer* quoting Stoudamire as saying he had not thought of running as a Republican because he had always been a Democrat. "There is a big difference between whether you run as a Republican or as a Democrat," she said.

Danielson appealed an earlier vote by the body to reject Stoudamire's offer on grounds he had not

had a chance to defend himself. Besides, he said, Stoudamire told him he had called the Secretary of State's office to have his name removed as Ford's treasurer.

Danielson said the 18th is a new district with a number of candidates running for the state representative office.

"People don't even know who the Democratic Party candidate is," he said. In addition, he as actively been trying to get black precinctpeople. And they were rejecting the first one he had gotten, he said. "And you tell me the first black person I sign up to become active there is rejected? If this motion remains, I'm going to submit my resignation." A motion to allow Stoudamire to defend himself was passed.

"I'm not helping an independent candidate," Stoudamire said. "I'm a Democrat and I never considered being anything else but a Democrat."

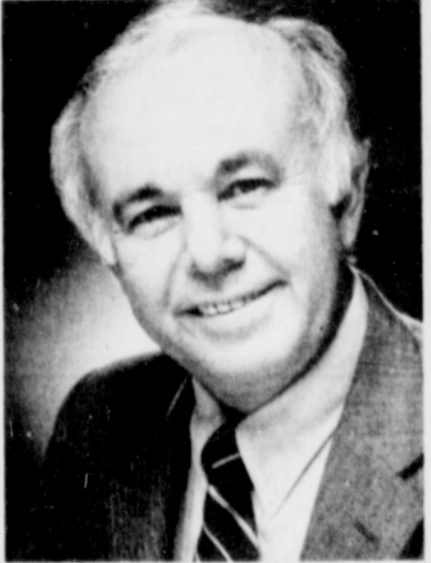
The group voted to accept Stoudamire's application to be a precinctperson in District 18.



JOHN R. CHECKETT



ESTER HUEY



DON CLARK



KAY TORAN

PSU workshop stresses affirmative action

To help raise public and official awareness of the minority employment situation, Portland State University Affirmative Action Officer Major Morris, with the help of the PSU President's Affirmative Action Committee, has organized Affirmative Action Awareness Week,

Oct. 11-14, on the University campus. The week will be highlighted by a four-day workshop examining recent activities affecting affirmative action laws and regulations and assessing the current affirmative ac-

tion environment.

Morris says specific issues such as sexual harassment and sex discrimination, services to handicapped individuals and alternative remedies for discrimination will be addressed during the workshop. The workshops, which are free and open to the public, will feature discussions with federal, state and local officials as well as representatives of private business.

The workshop sessions run generally from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 11, 12, 13 and 14, in 338 Smith

Memorial Center on the PSU campus.

The opening session, Oct. 11, will feature a keynote address by Ester Huey, Assistant Vice-President for Staff Relations at Washington Mutual Savings Bank in Seattle, Wash., who will give an overview of the historical background and the laws and regulations surrounding affirmative action. Her presentation will be followed by a panel discussion.

Other major topics to be covered during the four days are: sexual har-

assment and sexual discrimination; handicapped services; affirmative action and PSU administrators, faculty, staff, students; and current affirmative action environment and strategies.

The final session, 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 14, will feature Multnomah County Executive Don Clark.

For information regarding the PSU Affirmative Action Awareness Week workshops, contact the University's Affirmative Action Office at 229-4417.

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