

# Black/black crime; Domestic Violence

Part III  
by Lanita Duke

*Grassroot News, N.W.*—One segment of black-on-black crime in Portland is closed behind doors and sheltered within a whisper. It's violence directed towards women and children. Crimes of this type—such as incest—were unthinkable within the black community decades ago. Tya Anderson, a counsellor for violence against women and children, believes assimilation is one of the reasons for these types of crimes. "The reason we have more rapes and violence in the home is two-fold. Adaptation, indoctrination and programming, besides all the other basic oppressions that we have. Also it's a reflection of our lack of self-esteem towards ourselves and each other. We've become indoctrinated to, 'If the white boy can do it so can I.' We are not considering we are being judged with a double standard."

"More and more women are coming out of the home and leaving their children unprotected and unguarded with that unemployed male. Some men have real problems dealing with their frustrations. This explodes in domestic or sexual violence. It's a power status and black men have very few power symbols. This uncontrolled frustration shows the woman that he still has power over her, if he has to kick her butt to prove it."

Ernest Cathcart, from Give Us This Day, a black adoption agency, agrees with this assessment. "The main item that messed up black people was integration. We are buying

into white values. We were not always like this because we were not allowed into their culture. Since the '50s we have been allowed to take part in it. I'm not giving Jim Crow credit but since we fought for integration we began to give up what was black. We destroyed what we acquired during that segregated order. We developed a culture, a way of life because we couldn't share in the white way of life. Now, we can share in it, although we can't get all the benefits from it.

"We are sharing the majority's culture and that is why blacks are committing those wierd and perverted things.

"I'm not trying to make white people into perverts, but there were some things that black people just didn't do. We as a people had some very high morals. We are looser now and are letting go of what is strong and black, such as respect for adults. You remember a time when you had to say Mr. or Mrs. Now everything is on a first name basis. This is something from the majority culture. Items that black folks just didn't do."

Tya Anderson says that domestic violence is viewed quite differently in the communities of color than in the Anglo-community. "In regards to punishing and sentencing there appears to be a double standard. In the black community there is not a lot of emphasis placed on the fact that women are getting beat up. They look on it as a family matter. This protects the police. Also, in the Anglo world violence against women is not even considered a crime. In

the upper class Anglo community it's not discussed and is dealt with in a low profile. In Portland most blacks live in one area or are centralized in other areas. If domestic violence breaks out the police can generalize who you are by where you live. And, if you are not black you are so low-income Anglo that it doesn't make any difference."

We can spend all day theorizing about the who, what, when, where and whys, but to the victim the theories do not matter. All that matters is the hurt. "I was raped by a black man and I'm black. I used to give the black man a lot of credit and was never afraid of him. Now, I treat him just like any other stranger. I once thought all the crime and hurt in our community was the white man's doing. Now, I know that we are doing it to ourselves. The criminal justice system is not the answer. The answer lies within our culture."

Cathcart concludes, "We are losing that self-help concept. Children are born into a world without the struggle of their grandparents. This has gone on for the last 30 years and it's hard to reverse. There will have to be a revival of black values. A lot will dwell on Afirka but a lot will remain with what Grandma and Grandpa said. Of course, there are things in the past that we should let go of. But, there are some values we should never let get away from us. There needs to be a revival of what Malcolm, Martin, DuBois and Garvey said if we are to survive our current plight."

In 1971 the late Fannie Lou Ham-

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re said, "But you see now, baby, whether you have a Ph.D, D.D., or no D, we're in this thing together. And whether you're from Morehouse or Nohouse we're still in this bag together. Not to fight to try and liberate ourselves from the men—but to work together with the black man, then we will have a better chance to just act as human beings, and to be treated as human beings in our sick society."

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## Emanuel Hospital President dies

Roger G. Larson, nationally known health care administrator and President of Emanuel Hospital and Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc., in Portland, Oregon died Tuesday, December 14, in a local hospital of heart failure while receiving outpatient dialysis treatment. A native of Brahm, Minnesota, Larson was 53.

Larson, a Lake Oswego resident, was named President of Emanuel Hospital in 1972 and Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc. in 1975. Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc., which Larson helped found, is a group of four Portland area hospitals including Emanuel Hospital, Meridian Park Hospital, Gresham Community Hospital and Physicians and Surgeons Hospital.

Larson was known nationally as an innovator in health care administration. He led the reorganization of Emanuel Hospital, one of the state's largest hospitals, into a major tertiary care center in the 1970s with such original specialized services as a Burn Center, Life Flight air ambulance service, Trauma Center and Oregon Children's Medical Center.

Many of those services were some of the first to be developed in the region and the nation. He gained national recognition as a specialist in the administration of urban hospitals.

In the early '70s he assisted in spearheading the organization of Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc., which were pioneers in the nation of the shared services concept for not only its member hospitals but also for other associated hospitals in the region.

This year he helped organize the formation of Health Network of America, the largest network of its kind in the United States. The network was formed when SamCor of Phoenix, Arizona and the Los Angeles-based Lutheran Hospital Society of Southern California and Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc. joined together in a joint venture to share services and business ventures. It was the first time in the nation's history that an entire non-profit hospital system had joined together in such a network. Larson was Vice Chairman of the Health Network of America.

Larson began his career in health

care administration in 1952 after receiving a Master of Health Administration degree from the University of Minnesota. He was named Assistant Administrator of Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that same year and in 1954 he was appointed Assistant Administrator at Emanuel Hospital. He left the Pacific Northwest in 1957 to accept a position as Administrator of Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, Colorado. In 1965, he was named Executive Director at Swedish Medical Center. He returned in 1969 as Executive Vice President of Emanuel and became President in 1972.

He also taught and published extensively.

He is survived by his wife Janet and his children, Paula Rae Penrod of Minneapolis, Craig of Portland and Jay of St. Peter, Minnesota. Other survivors include a brother, Dr. Gerald Larson of Cambridge, Minnesota, and two sisters, Mrs. Vivian Loren of Bellevue, Washington, and Shirley Goplerud of Richmond, Virginia.

The family asks that those who wish to make memorials do so to the



**ROGER LARSON**  
Emanuel Medical Center Foundation, the Meridian Park Medical Foundation, the Gresham Community Hospital Foundation and the Kidney Association of Oregon.

## OABA plans political conference

"The fourth Call-to-Action Leadership Conference will be held on January 22, 1983." OABA President Calvin Henry announced last week. This one day conference will be held at the Chumaree Rodeway Inn, located at 3301 Market Street NE in Salem. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the conference fee is \$20.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together persons concerned with the political development of

black people of Oregon, to discuss ways of developing political leadership in Oregon's black community, to examine processes of implementing goals of the black community, and to prepare a 1983 legislative package with a strategy for implementation.

"During 1981 and 1982, the Oregon Assembly For Black Affairs has witnessed setbacks in employment of blacks in Oregon as well as losses in education opportunities for

blacks. Oregon Court System and effective legal representation have become of great interest to Oregon's black community as the incidents of racism increase," Henry said.

"The Portland black community lost a golden opportunity to elect a member of the black community to the Oregon Legislature in State Representative District 18. District 18 was formed during the 1981 legislative reapportionment with the stated intent of concentrating the largest percentage of the black population in one district so as to increase the possibilities of a black being elected," Henry continued.

"The outcome of the 1982 election was a political tragedy for the Portland black community. No black emerged from the primary election as the candidate for either the Republican or the Democratic Party for the General Election. And no black was elected the representative

for District 18 at the November General Election. A political tragedy in the sense the Portland local leaders failed to help voters in District 18 to understand which candidate could serve the best interests of the black community and the district."

Henry stated, "Politics is the answer for Oregon's black community to address the issues confronting it." The black community must develop and involve its leadership in the political and economic processes of this state. This fourth Call-To-Action Leadership Conference is another step in the long process of political development in Oregon's black community.

For more information about the Call-To-Action Leadership Conference, interested persons can write OABA, P.O. Box 12485, Salem, Oregon 97309.

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