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Portlanders won't be seeing Ed Whelan again. The entertaining, freestyle sportscaster is leaving

Newsroom 6 for a spot on NBC Sports in Cleveland, Ohio. We'll miss you, Ed.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Sportscaster Ed Whelan takes "milk run" to Ohio

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—One of T.V.'s most colorful local sports personalities, Ed Whelan, is packing up his "milk run" and moving to Cleveland, Ohio.

Whelan made KOIN's weekend sportscast something to look forward to. His lively reporting style created a dual audience for Whelan—one who wanted the results of the games and the other who wanted to hear how Whelan reported these results.

If a team was beaten badly or shut out of a game, Whelan would say, "The other team gave them what a fat boy should have for lunch," or, "The other team beat them like a

chain-gang boss."

Whelan came to KOIN in 1976 from a background in radio. In 1980 he started reporting sports. He brought not only the experiences of a news reporter but also the oral history tradition of Afro-Americans to reporting current sports scores.

He said, "When you are talking sports you are talking games, and games are the place for jive, showing off, and those kinds of things."

Born in Florida and raised in Spokane, Washington, Whelan played on a football scholarship for Florida A&M. The sparks now glowing in the reporting style of other sportscasters compliments Whelan.

He said, "Imitation is one of the best forms of flattery. If they cause

people to watch them instead of being dull then it's better for everybody."

His unique style of broadcasting earned him Oregon Magazine's 1983 Sportscaster of the Year award.

By the time this story is read, Whelan will be in Cleveland thawing out his boisterous style of broadcasting. He was hired by NBC Sports and hopes to use Cleveland to launch into NBC's national network. To say he is excited about the promotion is an understatement.

He does not see his departure as part of a brain drain among Black professionals in Portland. "People are sad to see me go but happy for me because of the opportunity."

## Veterans' income report due Jan. 1st

The Veterans Administration is reminding pensioners who have received the agency's Annual Income Questionnaire (AIQ) to be sure to return it immediately to avoid benefit interruption on January 1, 1984.

The AIQ was mailed to VA pensioners on or about November 1. If you did not receive a questionnaire, you should contact the nearest VA regional office either in person or by telephone. VA also has counselors standing by if you need help in completing the questionnaire. Veterans can call VA toll-free; just consult your local phone directory under the U.S. Government listing. Also, any

accredited veterans service organization can help you fill out the questionnaire.

Veterans should not delay return of the AIQ if they do not know the amount of unreimbursed medical expenses paid or expect to pay in 1983. Complete and return the questionnaire now and report these expenses later if you do not have the figures available at this time.

For more information about the annual AIQ, contact the nearest VA regional office or a veterans service organization, and remember, be sure to mail it to VA before January 1, 1984!

### Christmas layoffs:

## Greyhound sells Armour long-term workers fired

by Robert Lothian

Union workers who lost their jobs at the Armour meat processing plant in North Portland think that old Scrooge could take a few lessons from the managers of Greyhound and ConAgra corporations.

Eight days before Christmas, as the thermometer dipped into the 20s, 190 Armour employees were put out of work as Greyhound made good on its plan to sell its Armour subsidiary to ConAgra, a chemical and processed food conglomerate.

The plant on North Tyndall Avenue and Columbia Blvd., which produces hams, wieners, sausage and luncheon, was closed on Dec. 17th, then reopened two days later with new owners and a new workforce.

"They're all gone, all fired, all laid off," said Keith Jons, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1011, referring to the former Armour employees. Most have reapplied for work with the new company, he said.

Greyhound, which won eight percent wage cuts in the recent settle-

ment with striking drivers and baggage handlers, says the sale of Armour, including 13 plants across the nation, was forced by a union master agreement which made it impossible for Armour to compete with non-union meat packers.

When workers rejected a contract calling for wage and benefit cuts, ConAgra decided to close down and hire a new workforce. Greyhound retains an estimated 34 percent of ConAgra stock.

"It's definitely a union-busting strategy," said Jons. Former employees, some of whom had been on the job for 30 years, "don't particularly like it, but there's not a whole lot they can do about it," he said. "They're victims of another conglomerate and our phony labor laws."

New non-union workers are receiving an average of \$5.50 per hour while union workers had received an average of \$10.69 per hour, he said.

Armour chief shop steward, Donna Cost, said that inadequate training and longer shifts means that accidents are likely. "I feel very sorry for these new people—they have no

idea what they're up against," she said. "It's cold, heavy, fast work. Nobody should have to work for \$5.00 an hour under those conditions."

Jons added that workers at the other 12 plants around the country are "all in the same boat as this one."

Donna Cost's husband, Dave Cost, had worked for Armour for 27 years, starting at age 18. He said that in the two months leading up to the takeover, he had worked 10 hours a day seven days a week as the company built up a stockpile to last into the spring.

County Commissioners smoothed ConAgra's acquisition of the Portland Armour plant by approving the company's request for \$3.5 million in state industrial revenue bonds. As Commissioner Gordon Shadburne put it, "It's better to have jobs than no jobs."

Jons said that union representatives will be out in the morning to pass out union literature to the new workers in hopes of reorganizing the union. "I don't care if the snow is a foot deep," he said.

## Portlander wins race bias suit

A federal jury has awarded \$101,250 in damages to Tura M. Kantora, a Black Portlander, concluding that employees at a downtown Denny's Restaurant discriminated against him on the basis of race.

The all-white, six-person jury returned its verdict after nearly 18 hours of deliberation and after a one-and-one-half-day trial before U.S. District Judge Owen M. Paner. The jury disallowed a companion claim of malicious prosecution that Kantora had filed.

There was evidence at trial that Kantora, a resident of Northeast Portland, had married a white woman that he had met in 1977 at the restaurant, 330 S.W. Lincoln St., and that he lived nearby and went there

frequently, either with or without his wife.

Kantora testified that one waitress at the restaurant gave him bad service and made some racial slurs toward him.

He said that on Feb. 15, 1981, another waitress asked him to give his phone number in conjunction with his use of a credit card. Kantora testified that when he refused and offered other identification, an assistant manager came out and demanded his phone number. Kantora said that when he again refused, the manager told him to leave.

When Kantora refused to leave without the restaurant accepting payment by credit card, the police were called. There was testimony by

Denny's employees and the police that Kantora was then told he was banned from the restaurant.

Kantora testified that he went to the restaurant again March 2, 1981, and was served but that the assistant manager involved in the earlier incident took his food away and told him to get out. He said that when he again attempted to pay with his credit card, police were called and he was arrested on accusations of disorderly conduct and second-degree criminal trespass.

Kantora was acquitted of those charges June 24, 1981. He then filed his suit against Denny's Restaurants, Inc., in federal court, where he was represented by Portland lawyer Michael E. Haglund.



Democratic Senator Margie Hendriksen of Eugene, Oregon, announced this week her intention to run for the United States Senate seat currently held by Mark Hatfield (R-OR). Hendriksen has served in the Oregon State Legislature since 1980.



How do kids see Christmas and Kwanzaa? What are their hopes and dreams? The Portland Observer

presents a kids-eye-view of the holiday season in the special section of this issue.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)