

Celebrate King Day

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Channel Two News



Marlene McClinton, Portland's newest news anchorperson, waits for her cue. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

KATU features new anchorperson

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—The newest member of Portland's news anchor community is also the newest member of the Afro-American community—a community which has not seen a sister with a steady news anchor position since Beverly Williams.

This week Marlene McClinton, 27, joined KATU's Richard Ross and Stan Wilson as a co-anchor on their 6:30 and 11:00 news broadcasts. Her presence is being heralded as a welcome addition reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of metropolitan Portland.

Born and raised in Illinois, McClinton calls herself an "army brat" who uses the versatility learned by traveling around as a journalistic tool.

"My background made me forthcoming. It gave me the ability to grasp things and talk with people right away."

She majored in Broadcast Journalism at American University in Washington, D.C., and started an-

choring in a small market in Florida.

From the smaller market to one of the largest in Dallas, Texas, McClinton was a 5:00-o'clock anchor. She said, "My first six months was anchoring by terror, but as time went by I developed a relationship with the audience and survived."

After three years in Dallas, she looked into the Portland market. "Lo and behold, there was a 6:00 and 11:00 spot available. Coming from Dallas, Portland seemed like a wonderful part of the country. The change was a good career move for me."

McClinton said a good anchor cannot afford to sit in the newsroom all day. "You need to get that hands-on feeling in news. When I was in Dallas I did reports every day, sometimes twice a day, along with anchoring a show."

Anchorwoman McClinton said the negative feedback the mass media is receiving from the public is good. "The media should be at odds with the public. Our role is controversy. But the media has become too comfortable with all its glory after

Watergate. We became 'professionals' and started making more money."

She said the job of the media is not to interpret the facts. "Our role is to dig. The public may not want to hear it, but if those are the facts than that is what we should report."

Her statement to Portland's Black community: "I'm glad to be here. There seems to be a lot of well-educated Black people here; people seem to take pride in the community and that is missing in other parts of the country."

McClinton said she believes Black journalists should not ignore the Black community. "In search of the big story, it is not right to turn our backs and not to be responsive to our community. We Black journalists realize that we are most effective in our own community. I know I will do stories in the Black community because I will be involved in the Black community."

She advises the community to "use the media." If there is something not being covered you have to call or write. "I'm not a big shot and I'll talk to you."

Blacks oppose CIA aggression

The Kissinger Commission report, as expected, recommends an 8-fold increase in military aid to the repressive El Salvador regime and continued aid to "contras" who are attempting to overthrow Nicaragua's new popular government.

Black spokesmen who have travelled to Nicaragua recently, disagree with the Commission's conclusion that Nicaragua is a threat to peace and stability in the hemisphere.

Dr. Joseph Lowery, who led a Southern Christian Leadership Conference delegation to Nicaragua in December, said, "We sense in the minds and hearts of the Nicaraguan people a genuine desire for peace and the strongest will to develop a government and a way of life that is in the best interest of the people... particularly addressing the abuse and neglect of the poor that has characterized their history as well as Central America generally."

"We are particularly impressed with the active participation of members of the religious community—lay and clergy—in the government, and the roles of women and youth."

"We have learned that the population is extremely youthful and we are duly impressed with the youthfulness of the leadership in government. (How tragic it is that an invasion would result in the killing of so many youths and women)."

"We are impressed with the progress of land reform and the expansion of educational opportunities and health care."

He added, "We are aware that the Sandinistas are not perfect; they admit mistakes and members of the opposition have pointed this out. But they are in the embryonic development stage. They need to be encouraged and supported when right and given constructive criticism

when wrong. They must be left alone to develop their government in their own way."

"We are more convinced than ever that we must urge a new direction for our government's policies. These policies support military aggression against Nicaragua, and threaten the economic stability of a nation already struggling with devastating poverty."

Mrs. Jackie Jackson, wife of Democratic Party presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, visited Nicaragua with a group of professional women from the U.S. who toured Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador.

Mrs. Jackson, who had visited Nicaragua the previous year, explained, "My presence here is to raise the level of consciousness of the North American people and to make them see that here the struggle

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Center gets King plaque

School District and City officials announced Tuesday that a plaque honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would be placed at the King Neighborhood Facility at 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.

Responding to the *Portland Observer's* call for action, the joint effort was announced by Portland School Superintendent Matthew Prophet as he and members of the Portland City Council met with members of the media at the Facility. Prophet said the plaque would be "a physical manifestation of the legacy that endures in our hearts and minds with respect to the giant contributions made by Dr. King."

"We are responding to the community call for action," Prophet said. "Today the City of Portland and the School District join in providing funds for the King Facility Neighborhood to create and place on this facility near the school which honors his name, an appropriate plaque to commemorate his life and dream."

"Dr. King would be pleased to know that in Portland, Oregon, years after his death, his legacy of teaching, preaching and living inter-racial understanding against adversity, and his struggle for human and civil rights endures and inspires a community and a school system to join in tribute to his lasting contributions to our society."

"It is to the young that the dream is passed. It is as strong today as it

was when his eloquent and immortal voice inspired society to reach beyond itself toward equality and equity for all people, regardless of race, creed, or color."

"In that sense, the ceremony we observe today is a celebration of life. It reconfirms that the legacy of freedom and equality bequeathed us by Dr. King lives on and has survived the tragedy of the assassin's bullet... and it will endure!"

During the briefing Mayor Frank Ivancie proclaimed January 8-15 as Martin Luther King, Jr., Week.

Commissioner Margaret Strachan, in describing the community process to be undertaken to select the plaque design, announced that a project committee made up of the chairperson and a member of the Facility Advisory Board, a representative of the tenants, the Facility coordinator and representatives from the City and School District would oversee the selection of a design.

The committee will call for design ideas from the community.

In his remarks to the media, Commissioner Charles Jordan outlined the history of the Facility and called on the assembly not to rest on their laurels with the announcement of a plaque, but also to remember the causes of equality and justice and caring for people that make us honor Dr. King today and to vow to carry on the work.

Also voicing tributes to Dr. King



DR. MATTHEW PROPHET

were Commissioners Mildred Schwab and Mike Lindberg and Tri-Met executive director James Cowen.

James Loving, Facility Coordinator, introduced the speakers and announced that the design-selection process would begin immediately with the plaque expected to be in place by early April, before the anniversary of the death of Dr. King.



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his life to the American proposition that we, as a people, have and can continue the achievement of non-violent social change; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King advanced the cause of the attainment of social changes for all people and the establishment of "The Beloved Community" worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King admonished us that it is far better to "love than hate" and to seek justice rather than revenge and to refrain from acts of violence and not condone those who engage in violence or profess hatred for any people, group, or race; and

WHEREAS, the Congress and the President of the United States have established by law a national holiday on the anniversary of Dr. King's birth starting in the year 1986;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Francis J. Ivancie, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses", do hereby proclaim the week of January 8-15, 1984, to be

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WEEK

in Portland, and encourage appropriate activities within our city to mark Dr. King's 55th birthday.



Francis J. Ivancie
Francis J. Ivancie, Mayor