

METROPOLITAN

PCC gains first Black resource specialist

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Halim Rahsaan was recently promoted to Human Resource Specialist for Portland Community College. His new assignment represents the first time a person of color has worked in that department.

"I'm looking forward to getting a background in collective bargaining and hopefully I can increase the representation of people of color in management and professional levels."

Rahsaan said personnel is one career area that needs more representation from all ethnic groups. He started his career in personnel development in 1973 when he became the state's first Affirmative Action officer. His experience led him to the belief that the excuse that there are no qualified minorities is inaccurate.

"When I came to P.C.C. three years ago, we started extending our job applicant list to include all cultural groups. You can't expect people to have an awareness of employment if they don't receive the notice," he added.

Rahsaan's professional accomplishment is fused with an active community profile and involvement. "A lot of Black professionals are not will-



Halim Rahsaan.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ing to be active professionally or politically. If you aren't active, our children will suffer because of the lack of role models. We as adults need to provide them with a frame of reference and stimuli," he said.

Rahsaan is chairman of the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee, a member of the Black United Front and the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. Rahsaan and his wife Fran have three children, Tonja, Khaleelah and Karim.

"It does not do any good to complain if you are not going to get involved. We have a historical investment in public education. During reconstruction, the majority of laws pertaining to public education were passed by former slaves."

Rahsaan added the fear of employment termination should not stop Black professionals from getting involved in community activities. "By not getting involved there is no guarantee that you will have job security. Anything that happens to me because of my involvement can happen to others because of your non-involvement. Everyone can't be out front, but we can all play a role. From unity, strength is gained," Rahsaan concluded.

Democratic breakfast club molds opinion

by Robert Lothian

The Campaigners, a group of progressive Portland area Democrats, works quietly behind the scenes to develop issues and help get Democrats elected.

Among their ranks are such prominent local Democrats as Bill McCoy, a founding member, Mike Lindberg, Gretchen Kafoury, Steve Kafoury, Vera Katz, Shirley Gold, Rick Gustafson, Barbara and Frank Roberts, and others.

The club is open by invitation and meets weekly for breakfast at the Standard Plaza downtown. "It's just a comfortable place to express an opinion," without having to worry about the press, said Campaigners

president Phillipa Harrison.

Opinions are floated before the group, and issues and platform ideas developed before they enter the public arena. Candidates also receive valuable public speaking experience.

"Progressive' means definitely more liberal than not," said Harrison, co-owner with her husband of Harrison typesetting in Southeast Portland.

Club members believe that government is a tool, she said, as opposed to the 'minimalist' views of Republicans and conservatives. "Most Campaigners believe that government is something you use to improve the quality of life," she added.

Current issues for the group are taxation, aid to two parent welfare

families, the death penalty, the possibility of an Equal Rights Amendment for Oregon and "human resources programs that need a creative government response," said Harrison.

"As far as I can tell," she continued, "everyone in the club would like it if Oregon were as creative in human resources as it has been in land use planning."

"The club is split on the sales tax," she said, however. Members have had to think about "what our kind of Democrat does when government has to restructure itself with less revenues," she said. The metropolitan area has been almost "schizophrenic" in favoring lower property taxes while approving levies, and those differ-

ences are reflected in club members' opinions on the sales tax, according to Harrison.

Democrats did well locally, she observed, electing the first Democratic secretary of state and retaining a majority in both the Oregon House and Senate. "It's always been a mystery to me why Republicans consistently take the top state offices," she said.

Portland Homeless guide published

The Burnside Community Council (BCC) is pleased to announce the publication of the third edition of the *Portland Homeless Authority* (PHA).

First published in 1979 with a later edition in 1982, the PHA describes all of the agencies and missions in the Portland Metro area that provide services to homeless poor. The PHA includes a map giving the location of the agencies and missions.

Michael Stoops, BCC Board Chairman and editor of the directory, says that the PHA serves a dual purpose: 1 - to make the overall community aware of the limited services offered to homeless people; 2 - to serve as a resource guide for homeless people in search of emergency social services.

The PHA is available free of charge to the public by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Burnside Community Council, 313

East Burnside St., Portland, OR 97214.

The PHA is made possible by the following organizations who donated their time, materials and expertise: typesetting, graphics and layout — Employee Community Help Organization (ECHO) of Pacific Power & Light; printing — *The Oregonian*; research, writing, typing and editing — Burnside Community Council.

Bogle appoints Personnel director

City Commissioner Dick Bogle today selected John Woods, 58, of Carson City, Nevada, as Director for the City of Portland's Personnel Bureau.

Woods, who will assume his new post May 6, 1985, currently serves as Nevada State Personnel Director.

In announcing the appointment, Commissioner Bogle, commissioner-in-charge of Personnel, said, "My decision was not an easy one. Many of the candidates had excellent skills, abilities and talents. However, only one could be chosen. I selected the candidate whose experience, skills, abilities, education and training I believe will best serve the City of Portland. I believe Mr. John Woods possesses all of the above."

Woods has more than 14 years of direct personnel and personnel-related experience including management; labor; employee relations; salary and benefits administration; pay equity planning and development; establishing performance standards and objectives; automation of personnel systems; and affirmative action.

In Nevada, he's responsible for administering a personnel system containing 9,000 classified and 2,000 unclassified employees with a budget of \$2,500,000. As Chief Labor Negotiator, he has negotiated and served as a key member of bargaining teams for such unions as AFSCME, IBEW, Teamsters, Pipefitters, Stationary Engineers, State of Nevada Employees Association, and Colorado Association of Public Employees.

Woods, who is married with four children, has a B.S. in Business Administration, as M.S. in Public Administration, and is a Graduate Fellow in Judicial Administration.

Commissioner Bogle emphasized Woods' critical strengths in issues facing the city today. "Considering

the challenges before the Council with regard to key personnel issues during these times of fiscal constraint and uncertainty," he said, "I believe Mr. Woods will be quite an asset to the city's team."

Cable access hearing

A public hearing will be held on March 16 from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 NE Knott. The subject of the hearing concerns the long term goal of Portland Cable Access, the acquisition of a northeast studio, and PCA's expected reduction in revenues. Public testimony is encouraged.

NAACP to meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Portland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be held Sunday, March 17, at the Bethel A.M.E. Church on 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave., at 4 p.m. Rev. W. A. Watley is host pastor.

According to the Branch President, Ora Nunley, Representative Margaret Carter has been invited to appear before the group and report on the legislation pending in Salem that affects minorities and women. The public is invited to come and participate. The President will also report on the NAACP Regional Conference which took place last weekend.

Black studies fundraiser

The National Council for Black Studies will sponsor a Fund Raiser on Saturday, March 16, 1985, at the home of Dr. William and Monica Little, 5735 NE Cleaveland, Portland. This fund raiser will benefit the upcoming 1986 National Council for Black Studies Conference to be held at Portland State University in February 1986. A donation of \$5.00 is requested. Refreshments will be served. Please R.S.V.P. to 229-3472.

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