

METROPOLITAN

Portlanders fight Sickle Cell Anemia

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — A routine of severe and frequent pain affects an estimated 30 Portlanders afflicted with Sickle Cell Anemia.

A hereditary blood disease, Sickle Cell gets its name from the sickle shape of red blood cells. This unusual shape prevents oxygen from circulating throughout the body. When the brain, lungs and kidneys do not get enough oxygen, pain and illness are the results.

"Next to cancer, Sickle Cell is one of the most devastating diseases I've ever treated," said Dr. Gunner Waage from Kaiser Permanente. "All we can do is offer the patient hospitalization and pain reduction."

Ten percent of all Afro-Americans inherit a genetic trait commonly referred to as the Sickle Cell trait. If two trait carriers start a family, there is a 25 percent chance that each child will have Sickle Cell.

Dr. Robert Bigley, Professor of Medicine and Medical Genetics at Oregon Health Sciences University, said the physical complications from infections, dehydration and other deficiencies created by the lack of oxygen makes Sickle Cell a life-shortening disease. "Ten years ago the medium age for survival was 40 years old. Now, it's 30 years old."

The Sickle Cell Foundation provides supportive services to Portland Sickle Cell patients. Marcia Taylor,

Executive Director, said currently a calendar of events are being planned to network and fund various resources.

"Our primary purpose is to educate and increase awareness of the disease," said Taylor. "We provide counseling and support to those with Sickle Cell. Also, we plan to develop free Sickle Cell screening for low-income families."

Jimmy King, 25, lives in constant pain. He receives injections of morphine four times a day. Bigley said narcotics are necessary to control recurring pain. "Most pain is manageable but there are crises which require hospital admission. There is no point in suffering when you have something to control the pain."

"I go to sleep with pain and wake up with pain," said King. "Sometimes it hurts so bad all I can do is lie

here. His mother said his education was constantly interrupted with Sickle Cell crises and that he was too ill to work.

"But I did get married and we have a 5-year-old daughter. My wife could not handle me staying sick all the time," King added. "I've told myself I'm not going anywhere until I take my kids to the zoo without getting sick," King said while praising his family for giving him the strength to survive.

"Whenever I start feeling sorry for myself, my father starts lecturing me on the fact that there are people worse off than I am, and it brings out the fight in me. And it's just enough to fight Sickle Cell," King noted.

Taylor said her foundation wants to tap and organize this fighting strength. "We want Sickle Cell patients to know they are not alone."

Smith named to bank PR team

Floyd Smith has been named to the newly created position of vice president, public relations, First Interstate Bank of Oregon.

His office is in Portland where he may be reached at (503)225-2180.

Smith recently joined the bank following four years as director of news and publications with Northwest Natural Gas Company, headquartered in Portland. Prior to that, he was a reporter for KOIN-TV, also Portland.

A Board member of the Portland chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, Smith also belongs to the City Club of Portland, the Friends of Jeff Morris (building the fire museum at Central Station), and the Downtown Light Rail Public Infor-



FLOYD SMITH

mation Advisory Committee. He is a 1966 English literature graduate of Portland State.

Job information fair coming

Northeast Portland residents will have a chance to learn about jobs in State Government and how to apply for them at a job information fair being held in the cafeteria of the Martin Luther King Elementary School from noon to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26.

This is the second year for the fair, "which provides a unique opportunity for the community to learn about state employment opportunities, including summer jobs, current openings and positions which are frequently advertised by State Government," said Vicki Nakashima, ODOT civil rights manager. "Applications for specific positions will not be accepted at the fair. However, information on

the application process will be provided, as well as an opportunity to meet with representatives from various state agencies," noted Nakashima.

Representatives from the Transportation Department's Highway, Parks, and Motor Vehicles divisions, Executive Department's Personnel Division, State Police, and the Governor's Affirmative Action Office will be present. Also, the Department of Human Resources will provide resource people from several divisions: Adult and Family Services, Children's Services, Correction, Employment, Health, Mental Health, Senior Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.

For more information, call the Urban League Office at 280-2600.

Clinic caters to Blacks

by Robert Lothian

Stephanie Taylor, community support team leader at the North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center, recalls a client who was poor, unemployed and who ended up in a hospital under psychiatric care.

Through the help he received at the center, she said, he is now living in the community and benefiting from job training. "There are a lot of healthy persons there that in a lot of cases you can deal with," said Taylor.

Persons in crisis can walk into the center at 310 N.E. Oregon St., between 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, the chronically mentally ill can avail themselves of counseling, medication advice, help with housing, medical care and advocacy in dealings with utilities and other agencies.

About 40 percent of the center's 300-400 clients are Black, and the center staff, many of whom are Blacks or other minorities, are attuned to the mental health care needs of minority clients, said Taylor.

Richard C. Loudd and Ann C. Smith, for instance, co-coordinate recreation programs for clients who often can't afford recreational opportunities important to maintaining mental health.

Recently, they invited a Portland artist who had visited Kenya to make a presentation with slides, traditionally designed robes, and hand-carved dolls.

"Usually, what I get with this is a lot of heckling, but (the clients) seemed fascinated," said Loudd. Minorities and whites alike enjoyed the program, he said.

Loudd and Smith also organized a Wednesday film program, with movies

like "Lady Sings the Blues," about Billie Holiday, and "Trading Places" with Eddie Murphy. Clients have attended Blazer and hockey games with donated tickets, and they visited an exhibit of the work of Black artists at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

Such activities are important for building a better self-image, but clients would probably not do them on their own, said Loudd. "Once they pay the rent, there's just not enough left over to do recreational kinds of things," he said.

"Money, money and more money" would go a long way toward solving many clients' problems," said Taylor. Mental health care agencies also need funds to continue serving the community, but impending budget cuts may affect their ability to deliver services, she added.

That could be a particularly tragic situation at the North/Northeast center, she said, because it is providing statewide leadership in minority mental health care. "We probably serve the largest number of Black clients of any agency in the state, other than the penal system, and that's not what I'd call a mental health system," she said.

Each year the center sponsors an Ethnic Minority Conference, focusing on agencies and topics, education and training for cross-cultural social services.

Taylor and Loudd feel that the North/Northeast center has been able to correct some problems faced by other agencies in providing mental health care for minorities. "Nowhere in my professional training were minority health issues discussed," said Taylor, who did graduate work in clinical psychology at Western Kentucky University. "Black people have traditionally been underserved by the mental health system... and poor Black people in particular," she said.

Originally from The Dalles, Loudd worked at mental institutions throughout the state before finding his home at the center. "For me, personally, it helps my identity as a Black person working with Black people in need," he said. "I feel really good about what I'm doing, I feel like I'm making an impact in the community."


Donated tickets and other services are always appreciated, he said. "These people are part of the community. They have special needs, and we hope the community will offer support by being good to these folks."

Announcing wide area paging coverage without the wide area price.

The paging people who have always brought you selection and service now bring you one of the widest coverage areas in Portland.


Plus one big advantage: Our competitors charge you for "extended coverage." RAM includes it as standard bill of fare.

Premium coverage without a premium price. Because at RAM, we believe your pager is only as good as the area it reaches.

226-1507 

RAM Broadcasting of Oregon, Inc., 713 S.W. 12th Avenue

INTERESTING FACTS



brought to you every week by


AMERICAN STATE BANK
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Maine is the only state in the union that borders on only one other state: New Hampshire.

A letter is coming, it's believed, if your nose itches.

What some considered to have been the first English-language newspaper in America, *Public Occurrences*, was published in Boston in 1690.

We do not do business with South Africa.



American State Bank

AN INDEPENDENT BANK
Head Office
2737 N. E. Union
Portland, Oregon 97212

Support our advertisers

Say You Saw It in The **PORTLAND OBSERVER**

TOMATO KETCHUP



Hunt's
32oz. Bottle

98¢

Ea.

REG. MARGARINE



Blue Bonnet
lb. Pkg.

49¢

1st 2 Ea.

SPREAD MARGARINE Blue Bonnet 3 lb.	\$1.89
ORANGE JUICE Tropicana 64 oz. Carton	\$1.98
DAWN LIQUID Detergent 25' off Label 22oz.	\$1.19

SE 20th & DIVISION Forest Grove - 2329 PACIFIC 14410 SE DIVISION
SE 72nd & FLAVEL Oregon City - 878 MOLALLA 3955 SE POWELL
NE 15th & FREMONT Canby - 1051 SW 1st NE 74th & GLISAN
W BURNSIDE at 21st LLOYD CENTER HILLSBORO - 960 SE OAK
SAN RAFAEL - 1910 NE 122nd

TRADEWELL

For School Board

He

Chuck Beadle

For

Works!

For You!

Paid for by the CHUCK BEADLE for School Board Committee
Linda Koenig, Treasurer 55 N.E. Holland Portland, Oregon 97211

CASCADE NATUROPATHIC CLINIC

"Our Goal Is Healthy Families"

Safe, Effective Natural Therapies • Individualized Health Appraisals • Family Medicine • Herbal and Homeopathic Medicines • Athletic and On-The-Job Injuries • Women's Health Care Complete Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing

Phone 289-9914

Dr. Steven Bailey

Dr. Adam Ladd

Licensed Naturopathic Physicians

819 N. KILLINGSWORTH

PLAN YOUR FUTURE NOW!

INVEST IN THE OREGON STATE POLICE



THE OREGON STATE POLICE IS CONTINUALLY SEEKING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXCITING AND REWARDING CAREER.

IF INTERESTED - CONTACT THE NEAREST STATE POLICE OFFICE OR WRITE TO OREGON STATE POLICE, TRAINING DIVISION, 107 PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING, SALEM, OREGON 97310.

CALL 643-4702 OR 229-5980 AND ASK FOR DEBORA KIM OR JAVIER OLSON

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



JACKSON'S OWL RADIO, TV & RECORD CO.

Northwest's Largest Gospel Record & Tape Selections Authorized Zenith Color & V. Sales and Service SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1952
WEBB T. JACKSON, SR., Owner
GARY A. JACKSON, Certified Technician & Service Manager

4623 N. Vancouver
Portland, OR 97217
Office: 287-2042