



LEWIS WINCHESTER

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Albina Human Resources director to retire August 31

by Nathaniel Scott

Lewis Winchester, the director of the Albina Human Resource Center at N.E. Vancouver Avenue and Alberta Street, will retire August 31 of this year.

Winchester has worked for the state for 30 years. He began in 1955 as a case worker with the Multnomah County Welfare Department. At that time, Winchester said there were probably a half dozen Blacks working for the department.

"Health is the thing that really prompted me to retire," Winchester said. "I have very low energy. At times I very nearly black out from dizziness." Winchester said he suffers from a nervous disorder.

"I've been drained of energy and decided to pull back and regroup," he said.

Winchester has been director of the Albina center since August of 1980. He set up the first center in the Albina district in 1969. The center was located at Union Avenue and Alberta Street.

"I am going to rest a while and then my wife and I plan to travel abroad," Winchester said. "My wife was in Kenya for the women's forum and we intend to go back to Kenya."

Winchester has been cutting back on his activities but he still wants to serve the community. "If I can get my physical condition back together, I'll probably get back into community service as an advisor," he said.

Since moving to Portland in 1954, Winchester has served the community in a number of positions. He has been

a member of the board of directors to street crime; served on the Multnomah County Advisory Committee; the Vocational Rehabilitational Regional Advisory Committee; the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Department of Human Services; and the Board of Mental Health and Project Recovery. In addition, Winchester is a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers.

Winchester considers his most significant accomplishment to have been his ability to help people who found themselves in need of the center.

"The satisfaction is in knowing that I did what I could and the people do recognize that," he said. "The thing I would be most concerned about is that the center continue to function as a unified vehicle for the Albina community."

Winchester maintained that his philosophy has always been "to provide service in a human and dignified manner."

When Winchester became director of the center in 1980 he had 11 people working under him. Today that figure has been cut to six. "Our budget has been reduced slightly each budgetary period the last two sessions of the legislature," he said.

Winchester said, "I am looking forward to retirement. It's quite a strain to be involved in a political situation. You have to please many people and quite often you can't do what you want to do. First I am going to rest; do some traveling and then get back into community service."

Prostitution: legalize or decriminalize

by Nathaniel Scott

Thursday, August 22, at the downtown branch of Multnomah County Library, Radical Women, a socialist-feminist organization, held a meeting about Prostitution. The meeting was billed as "a feminist perspective on the prostitution debate."

Adrienne Weller, organizer for Portland's radical Women, said "Radical Women call for legalization of prostitution society-wide."

Much of Weller's speech refuted the City Club's recent report calling for the legalization of prostitution in zoned areas.

No surprisingly, many neighborhoods, especially the poor and less influential ones, asked: what areas would be zoned for prostitution? Naturally, most of those in the Northeast felt it would be zoned to the Northeast where a large percentage of the city's prostitutes congregate on a daily basis.

Weller's argument, in part, said, "The City Club report [gives] no reason why prostitution exists." Weller said prostitution has existed "since private property" has existed and women have been the so-called "property of men."

While women are more than half of the work force, "They are taught their value is in sexuality," Weller said, adding, "the Moral Majority attempts to force women to stay in the home."

Weller maintained that in July of '83 the "city Council unanimously passed" a resolution calling for prostitutes to be fined. However, she added, from July '83 to July '84, 17 men were arrested for pimping; 362 men were arrested for seeking the services of prostitutes, and 1,402 women were arrested for prostitution.

"Radical Women believe it is the height of hypocrisy to victimize women twice by making them criminals for prostitution," Weller said. "Decriminalization is bad; legalization will give women status. It would give them [prostitutes] in addition to other

things, access to social security."

"Zoning," Weller concluded, "will add to stigma instead of eliminating it."

Kit Draham, a financial management expert who wrote the minority report to the City Club's report, said, "Legalization does not mean what the word says. To decriminalize means you remove all laws."

Draham said the city of Portland has as many male prostitutes as it does female prostitutes, but "the City protects male prostitutes."

Draham maintained that a class-action suit is needed in Portland. "Somebody needs to sue Portland for millions," she said.

Draham said the City has nothing to gain by making prostitution arrests because the County gets the money. Furthermore, she said, "If the neighborhoods quiet down the police don't bother prostitutes."

The question of legalizing and/or decriminalizing prostitution is similar to the garbage dump: everybody wants it but no one wants it in their backyard. Citizens in St. John are screaming about "the girls" taking over their streets and citizens along Union Avenue are sick and tired of the whole damn thing.

From Union and Broadway Avenues to Alberta Street seem to be a haven for prostitutes. They can be seen hawking their wares both day and night. Some prostitutes even engage in regular conversation with police officers in patrol cars. And "pimp-mobiles" cruise Union Avenue like it was 82nd Avenue.

What Northeast Portland citizens are asking is: what can we do? On one side they say legalize and on the other they say decriminalize. But we are caught in the middle with these damn prostitutes.

Edna Robinson, coordinator of the Northeast Neighborhood office, said, "I don't believe prostitution should be legalized." She added, "That would be saying it's alright to be a prostitute."



CYRIL GASKIN

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Cyril Gaskin dies

Cyril Gaskin, 77, died in his home last week.

Mr. Gaskin was a founder of the Western States Golf Association over 40 years ago at a time when Blacks could not join the U.S. Golf Association or the Oregon Golf Association.

Mr. Gaskin has received the Hall of Fame Award from the Western States Golf Association.

He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Albina Lions Club. The family suggests remembrances be made in the form of contributions to the American Cancer Society.

PSU forms committee

After nearly a year of debate and controversy, William Paudler, dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences at Portland State University, has appointed a committee to look into the feasibility of African studies being incorporated into the ongoing International Studies Program.

Paudler notified committee members Dr. Candice Goucher, Primus St. John, Dr. Earl Rees, Dan Newberry and chairman Dr. Michael Reardon "to examine the situation as expeditiously as possible." The memo

was dated August 15 of this year.

In a memorandum to Dr. Darrell Millner, director of the Black Studies Department, Paudler wrote: "The initial committee will be charged with the African perspective in connection with the International Studies Program currently available at Portland State University."

Dr. Millner said, "I feel very positive about the committee. All the members are highly qualified in researching the resources."

The Royal Esquire Club's Community Service Statement by A.D.S.

Volume V

Community Service Benefit Coming Up!

Portland, Oregon, is a unique slice of America for Blacks, who are able to produce and perform meaningful services. No-where in the world will you find a place that has the kind of background and history of racial prejudice toward Blacks, and yet has so many very successful Black professionals in business, as well as Blacks in key prestigious jobs. To name a few who readily come to mind are: Bill Hilliard, Editor, *The Oregonian*; James D. Priest, Director, Portland Symphony; Matthew Prophet, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools; Mercedes Deiz, Judge, Multnomah County; Aaron Brown Jr., Judge, Multnomah County; Hazal Hayes, Oregon State Parole Board; Bill McCoy, Senator, State of Oregon; Margaret Carter, Representative, State of Oregon, Multnomah County; Jim Hill, Representative, State of Oregon, Marion County; Dick Bogle, City Council, Portland; Venerable Booker, President, American State Bank, Portland; David Nero, Founder and Chairman of Nero and Associates, also of Nero Industries, Inc.; Walter Reynolds, M.D., Founder of Phil Reynolds Medical Center; Henry Scott, Founder and President of Coast Janitorial Services (Coast Janitorial is the second largest janitorial service in Oregon); Marion Blackburn, Founder and Owner of Raleigh Hills Racquet Club; Richard Washington, Oregon's first Black commercial artist, 46 years in business; Dr. E. C. Oqbuobiri, electrical engineer and founder of EZAK; Paul Knauls, very well-known businessman of Portland; Alfred Lee Henderson, Founder, *Portland Observer*; Gary Ann Garnett, Editor-Manager, *Portland Observer*; Al Williams, General Manager, *Portland Observer*; Bernice Foster, Founder, Editor and Publisher, *The Skanner*; Don Vann, Founder, Vann and Vann Funeral Directors; Arthur Cox, Founder, Cox Funeral Home; Thomas Boothe, Founder, Addiction Diagnostic Services; R. D. Sevier, Founder, Sevier Sanitation Services.

We can all remember those who are no longer with us, some who are deceased and some who have moved on such as Charles Jordan, Gladys McCoy, several TV news anchor persons; deceased Richard Muffet, Sherman Thomas, George Baldwin, Rosalie Boothe, Ira Mumford, Sidney Porter, Thomas Johnson, and many others.

I know that I have not named many persons who may be just as successful, if not more so, than some I have named; to those I apologize. However, my intent here is to show and document that out of a population of approximately 30,000 Blacks, success is not denied those who can perform and produce quality services. The above-mentioned Blacks excelled out of a population of approximately 700,000 people living in and around the Portland Metro area.

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