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# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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Two Sections

## Ollie Smith—Black liaison in Mayor's office



Portland Mayor Bud Clark (left) and Ollie Smith.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Jerry Garner

Ollie Smith is the only Black on Portland Mayor Bud Clark's staff.

Smith is the liaison to the mayor for the following organizations: Portland Industrial Council, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission,

Metropolitan Youth Committee, Aging Committee, and the Youth Services Center.

Besides serving as liaison for the mayor to the above organizations, Smith is temporarily in charge of the Office of Neighborhood Associations. "Dan Steffy was in charge of the Office of Neighborhood Associations, but he is currently working full-time on the problems of the homeless in Portland," said Smith.

Smith is a native Portlander, and a 1964 graduate of Lincoln High

School. He received a Bachelors Degree from Portland State University in political science.

Prior to coming to City Hall as the mayor's staff assistant, Smith worked for Western Electric. He has also worked for KGW TV and the John Dere Co. Smith was appointed by Mayor Clark in March of 1985.

When asked whether he receives feedback from the Black community concerning their problems, Smith replied, "I have a good rapport with the Black community. Some leaders call me to tell me what problems they are concerned about in the community. The areas in which Black Portlanders are most concerned are economic development in Northeast, unemployment and crime. Mayor Clark has made the livability of Northeast Portland one of his administration's top priorities," said Smith.

Smith was asked what the Mayor has done to assist Blacks in finding employment. He stated that Mayor Clark allocated \$300,000 from the city's general fund during fiscal year 1984-85 to the Portland Private Industry Council (PPIC). Also, \$350,000 was diverted from the Housing Community Development for PPIC use.

Smith said the mayor supports the Leaders Roundtable, a group consisting of organizations which serve youth. The mission of the Leaders Roundtable is to create a comprehensive employment plan for youths, especially disadvantaged and minority youth.

"Black men and women should become more of a role model for our young people," says Smith. "Many of our youths look up to those who are making fast bucks through illegal means. We, as adults, must show them that life is much more than living in the fast lanes. Our children should be told the importance of an education. They should seek the education that is available to them and take full advantage of it. Once they have attained the necessary skills, it is the responsibility of the entire community to see to it that they are employed."

## Junior League awards lock money to inner NE

by Jerry Garner

The Irvington Community Association has been awarded \$3,000 to buy locks for low-income residents in inner Northeast Portland. The grant was awarded to the Association by the Junior League of Portland, after the Irvington Community Association requested it. The money will be used to purchase locks for senior citizens and single parent families who are unable to afford better home security.

Jean Josephson, Chairwoman of the Community Assistance Fund of the Junior League, stated that the organization had become very concerned about citizen safety and had set up the fund in May to respond to emergency and critical need requests from the community.

The check was presented last Wednesday to Linda Robert, President of the Irvington Community Association.

Roberts said 200-225 homes can be provided with locks.

"We hope to encourage other groups and individuals to contribute dollars or services for home security for those people least able to afford protection," said Roberts.

Volunteers from Project Linkage will install the locks after officers from North Precinct do a home security survey and identify qualified recipients.

Residents from Piedmont, Woodlawn, Concordia, Vernon, Sabin, King, Humbolt, Boise, Eliot, and Irvington neighborhoods are eligible for the locks. According to Roberts, priority will be given to seniors.

Anyone who meets the criteria for obtaining locks can call the Northeast Neighborhood Office at 248-4575 or North Precinct Crime prevention at 248-5720.

## Great Kings and Queens of Africa series to appear at Portland Building

The Budweiser Great Kings and Queens of Africa art collection, a highly acclaimed series of portraits commissioned for the world's largest brewer, will be showcased at the Portland Building from Wednesday, Dec. 18, through Friday, Dec. 20.

The collection will be on display in the Metro Visual Arts Gallery of the Portland Building at 1120 S.W. 5th St. It can be viewed daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The exhibit will be presented by the Member's Gallery, a local black artists organization, and will be sponsored by Budweiser beer and its local wholesaler, Columbia-Maletis Distributing Company of Portland.

Paintings on display include Queen Nzingha of Matamba, West Africa; Cleopatra VII, Queen of Egypt; Sumni Ali Ber, King of Songhay; Askia Muhammed Toure, King of Songhay; Idris Alooma, Sultan of Bornu; Mansa Kankan Musa, King of Mali; Menelek II, King of Kings of Abyssinia; and Osei Tutu, King of

Asante.

The art series began in 1975 when eight noted Black American artists were commissioned by Budweiser to create the paintings of eight great kings of Africa. The collection was thoroughly researched for accuracy of data and authenticity of the image presented on canvas. Professor John H. Clarke, Ph.D., an historian at Hunter College of City University of New York, is the key advisor for the collection.

The paintings have been admired by more than 12 million people at museums, college campuses, libraries, conventions, state capitols and cultural festivals in the United States and abroad.

The Great Kings of Africa display was the principal attraction at the African-American Exhibition at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, TN, where an additional 11.1 million people had an opportunity to view the famous art collection.

## Commissioner Bogle's statement on Dr. Martin Luther King holiday

I believe the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to American society are self-evident.

The issue which I have had to deal with is how to treat our employees with respect to this day.

Based upon the State Legislature's action and according to City Code, non-represented City employees are entitled to a holiday.

At my request, the Director of Personnel discussed this issue with the City's union leaders, specifically how they felt about giving a day of recognition to Dr. King.

Without exception, the union leaders' response was that although they recognize the contributions of Dr. King, they are not willing to exchange a current holiday or personal day for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

After much deliberation on the issue, my recommendation to the Council is based on the enormous contributions of Dr. King, budgetary considerations, fairness, and current City Code provisions.

In accordance with the City Code, I am recommending to Council that we grant a day off to non-represented employees in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Further, I am recommending that we urge represented employees to use a personal day, if they so choose.

Given this recommendation, approximately 704 non-represented City employees are entitled to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on January 20, 1986.

Additionally, my personal feeling is that if Dr. King were alive today, one of his major concerns would be the plight of our nation's homeless.

In light of that I am encouraging those City employees, who have that day off and so wish, to contribute a portion of those eight hours to working with several local social service agencies as volunteers to assist some of Portland's homeless. This is a demonstration project with perhaps only a small number of employee-volunteers, but it is one I hope would grow into large numbers in future years.

Keeping the faith of Dr. King's philosophy of concern about the poor, the disenfranchised, and the downtrodden, I feel reaching out to the homeless on this day is an activity befitting the memory of that great man.

It is my hope that on this issue, this may be, to use the words of Dr. King, "... the day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands..."



The Black Educational Center (BEC) held its annual Wine and Cheese Tasting event Saturday. The affair was held to benefit the BEC, a school for the elementary grades whose curriculum is oriented to include the impact Blacks

have had on the world. Hosting the affair were (left to right) Lillian Crumble and her daughter, Margie Keller; Bill and Judge Mercedes Deiz; and Director of the BEC, Joyce Harris. About 75 people attended the affair.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)