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Webb-Petett on Transition Team

by Jerry Garner

Freddie Webb-Petett, former executive director of the Urban League of Portland, and president of Freddie Petett & Associates, a Portland-based consulting firm, has been chosen by Governor-Elect Neil Goldschmidt to be a member of his transition team.

As a member of the Human Resources Task Force, one of ten task forces formed by Goldschmidt, Webb-Petett will advise Governor-Elect Goldschmidt on issues regarding human resources. In addition, as part of the Human Resources Task Force, Webb-Petett will make recommendations for legislation and legislative changes in regard to human resources. She will also advise the Governor on the budget for human resources.



Freddie Petett Photo by Richard J. Brown

Webb-Petett served as executive director of the Urban League of Portland from 1979-85. From 1976-79, she was administrative assistant to Goldschmidt when he was mayor of Portland. Webb-Petett has also served as project director for Nero & Associates consulting firm.

When asked whether her appointment to the transition team by Goldschmidt means that she will be offered a position in his administration, she replied, "No, my role as an advisor to the Governor will end Jan. 12th. Even if I was offered a position in his (Goldschmidt's) administration, I would not take it."

Webb-Petett's newly formed consulting firm, Freddie Petett & Associates, requires her utmost attention. The firm is a management consultant business and provides services in the following areas: organizational and staff development, training, minority affairs, and special affairs.

Webb-Petett is the only Black named to Goldschmidt's 17-member transition team.



Grim Winter Forecast For Homeless

by Jerry Garner

The nation's homeless face a grim outlook this winter according to a report by the National Coalition for the Homeless.

The report, entitled "National Neglect/National Shame, America's Homeless," says that presently there are more homeless men, women and children in America today than at any time since the Great Depression.

Furthermore, the report stated that although the ranks of the homeless continue to swell, with an average of 25 percent, the gap between the need for emergency shelter and the resources to provide it, widens. Families with children are now the fastest growing segment of the nation's homeless population, the report said.

The report's findings were based on surveys conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless of 21 cities across the country. Portland was one of those cities.

Each shelter's operators who participated in the survey in the 21 cities all agreed that the increase in the number of homeless is the result of the "extreme scarcity" of affordable housing for low-income Americans.

Michael Stoops, Director of the Burnside Community Council (the Portland agency that took part in the national survey), blamed the Reagan administration's massive cutbacks in federally subsidized housing and reductions in federal benefits programs that leave families unable to pay both the rent and put food on the table. Stoops is now in Washington, D.C. He plans to spend the entire winter living on the streets of the nation's capital to protest what he terms as the federal government's lack of concern for the homeless in America.

Stoops said during an interview before he departed for Washington, D.C., that there are some 9,000 homeless people in Portland with only 2,000 beds available to house them. He said he has noticed an increase in homelessness among women, families, and young people in their teens and early 20's.

The report stated that local governments and communities, even when responsive, are unable to meet the need for emergency aid for the homeless. Furthermore, it said that the current federal response to homelessness is grossly inadequate. In its conclusion, the report said "Recent federal policy decisions have caused and exacerbated the widespread homelessness that is evident on streets and in the shelters across America today."

The National Coalition for the Homeless, in their report, urges the federal government to implement a three-part program to address the problem of homelessness: first, emergency relief to ease the immediate suffering of the nation's homeless men, women and children; second, preventative measures to stem the increasing tide of homelessness; and third, long-term solutions to address the underlying causes of homelessness.

Former Michigan Klan Leader Moving to Oregon?

by Jerry Garner

"Anybody associated with the Aryan Nation should be considered extremely dangerous by law enforcement officials."

This quote is from a 1984 FBI report on the neo-Nazi hate group, the Aryan Nation.

If the above FBI report is correct, then Oregon's law enforcement officials and minorities living in the state should be concerned about the planned move to Coos Bay by Robert E. Miles. Miles, who is the former Grand Dragon of the Michigan KKK, has strong ties with the violent neo-Nazi hate group The Aryan Nation, located in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Last year, ten former members of the Aryan Nation, known as The Order, were convicted in U.S. District Court in Seattle of conspiracy and racketeering. Members of The Order claimed that Miles was given some of the money from the bank robberies. However, no charges of receiving stolen property have ever been filed against Miles by law enforcement officials.

The 61-year-old Miles has been in the hate movement for years. He and Richard Grint Butler, head of the Church of Jesus Christ Christians and its political arm, the Aryan Nation, were the chief organizers of the World Aryan Congress held this past summer in Hayden Lake.

Miles has served as both Grand Dragon and "Imperial Kludd" of the United Klans of America in Michigan. In 1970, he was convicted of burning school buses and on a conspiracy charge relating to the tarring and feathering of a school principal to protest school integration in Pontiac, Michigan.

Miles and other hate groups have declared the entire Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana) as a white homeland. In his publication "Beyond the Bars, The Stars," which is sent to some 3,700 inmates in prisons throughout the nation, Miles encourages the inmates to relocate in the Pacific Northwest once they're released from prison.

Although Miles claims that he and his followers don't advocate the use of violence, law enforcement officials dispute their claims. According to Kootenai County Prosecutor, Glenn Walker, the preaching of hatred by Miles and Butler, was the driving force behind The Order's series of armed robberies and bank robberies in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the United States.

"These people are not just right wing, they're far, far out of the mainstream of American politics. They're as undemocratic and as un-American as anyone can be," Walker said.

Indeed, members of the Aryan Nation, the Ku Klux Klan, and other white supremacist groups, have been involved in violent acts against minorities and government officials around the nation. For example:

- Individual members of the Aryan Nation have been implicated recently in a series of bombings in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

- Members of The Order were involved in a shoot-out with FBI agents in Portland, November 24, 1984. The group had come to Portland for a general meeting in which a new base of operations for The Order would be established near Mount Hood. A FBI agent was wounded in the shoot-out.

- Robert Tate, another former Order member, was convicted this year in Missouri of the 1984 murder of a Missouri state trooper. Tate, of Athol, Idaho, is currently serving two life sentences for that crime.

After moving to the Northwest, Miles and his cohorts plan to expel all non-Aryans from the area and declare it a separate nation from the United States. Under this nation, only white Aryans would have property rights.

In July of this year the Portland City Council passed a resolution denouncing white supremacist groups whose intentions are to move to Portland and other locations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Deck The Halls: Wreath-Making Workshops

No one knows winter greenery better than the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Our workshops will show you how to create special holiday wreaths that will have your own personal touch.

Fulton Park Community Center, 68 S.W. Miles; Session A, Dec. 11, 7-8:30 AM; Session B, Dec. 10, 7-9 PM. Bring gloves and clippers. Fashion a 12-to-14 inch wreath using a variety of greenery, cones, and bows. Learn secrets to keeping greens fresh. Fee is \$3.

Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott; Session A, Dec. 10, 1-3 PM; Session B, December 10, 6-8 PM. Includes greens, wire frame, pine cones, and ribbon. Bring any additional ornaments you may want to add. Fee is \$3.

Mt. Scott Community Center, 5530 S.E. 72nd; Session A, Dec. 9, 7-9 PM; Session B, Dec. 10, 11AM-noon. Uses fresh greens to make a wreath. Bring gloves, scissors, and any decorations you may want to add. Fee is \$3.

Woodstock Community Center, 5905 S.E. 43rd; Dec. 8, 7-9 PM. Bring pruners and wire cutters; gloves optional. Make your own wreath from fresh greens and decorate with bows and cones. Fee is \$10.

Binnsmead Community School, 2225 S.E. 87th; Dec. 9, 7-9 PM. Bring your own greens. Fee is \$3 plus \$2 for materials.

Bridlemile Community Center, 4300 S.W. 47th; Dec. 9, 6:30-9 PM. Pick up supply list before class. Preregistration required. Fee is \$3.

Markham Community School, 10625 S.W. 35th; Session 1, Dec. 9, 7-9 PM; Session 2, Dec. 10, 1-3 PM. Bring gloves, wirecutters, evergreen boughs (fir, pine, holly, arborvitae, etc.). Includes ribbon, wire frame, floral wire. Fee is \$5.

Kids' Days Off—What To Do

Rest easy over the two-week winter break. Portland Parks and Recreation has plenty of fun and adventure in store for kids while school is out.

Fitness "Dayz", Dec. 22-23, 11:30 AM-1PM, St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central. Coed, grades 1-8. Emphasis on physical skills and endurance. Fee is \$1.

Mom's Shopping Special, Dec. 23, 9:30 AM-1 PM, Peninsula Park Community Center, 6400 N. Albina. Ages 2-5. Take the hassle out of last-minute holiday shopping—send the children to the park. Activities, crafts, games, cooking. Class size is limited. Fee is \$6.50.

Bumper Madness, Dec. 22, 6-9 PM, Hillside Community Center, 653 N.W. Culpepper. Ages 6-12. Ride the fastest cars in the USA—crash, bash, and crunch. Fee is \$12.

Snow and Bunny Lodge, Dec. 29, 8:30 AM-5 PM, Peninsula Park Community Center, 6400 N. Albina. Enjoy inner-tubing down the slopes of Snow Bunny Lodge near Mt. Hood. Bring lunch and a change of clothes. Transportation and inner tubes are included. Pre-registration is essential. Fee is \$14.

Mexican Fiesta, Dec. 30, 10 AM-12:30 PM, Peninsula Park Community Center, 6400 N. Albina. Ages 5-10. Start the new year with a fiesta—mask-making, Mexican flowers, food specialties, and more. Fee is \$6.

Holiday Vacation Day Care, Dec. 22-Jan. 2 (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1), 8 AM-6 PM, Sellwood Community Center, 1436 S.E. Spokane. Ages 4-11. Classes, field-trips—each day's schedule is different. Limited enrollment; pre-registration is essential. Fee is \$1.25/hr. for 6½ hours or more; \$1.50/hr for less than 6 hours.

Holiday Fun Day Camp, Dec. 22-24, 9 AM-noon, Overlook House Community Center, 3839 N. Melrose. Ages 3-9. Activities are centered around the upcoming holiday. Included are crafts, cooking, games, songs and even a visit from Santa himself. Fee is \$12.