

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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## McCoy Sworn In As Chair

by Jerry Garner

Former Multnomah County Commissioner, Gladys McCoy, was sworn in last Friday as Chair of Multnomah County by Circuit Court Judge Mercedes F. Diez.

McCoy defeated veteran state Legislator Glen Otto of Wood Village in the November general election for the newly created position. The Chair position pays an annual salary of \$43,180.

McCoy, a North Portland resident, was County Commission for six years before resigning in 1984 to run unsuccessfully for the Portland City Council seat vacated by Charles Jordan.

Before that, she was on the Portland School Board for eight years and also served as state ombudsman.

The Chair position was created by voters in a 1984 charter change that eliminated the position of County Executive. As Chairman, McCoy will administer the county but also will be one of five voting members of the Board.

McCoy said it was a wonderful feeling to win the election and to be sworn in. "It's a wonderful feeling. I think people don't go back too often, so I feel fortunate that the citizens of this county decided that they wanted me back."

McCoy is believed to be the first Black woman in the United States to hold such a position.

McCoy defeated Otto despite being outspent by 2-to-1 in the race. The Oregonian newspaper endorsed Otto over McCoy.

McCoy is married to State Senator Bill McCoy. The couple have seven children.

County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury was also sworn in by Judge Diez. Kafoury will serve her first full term as County Commissioner. Commissioner Kafoury said one of her top priorities will be to lobby for the reopening of Claire Argow Center and for the use of space at the Donald E. Long Center to relieve crowding in the Justice Center jail.



Gladys McCoy being sworn in as Chair of Multnomah County by Circuit Court Judge Mercedes F. Diez. Photo by Richard J. Brown

## First Lady Inspires Oregon Company

by Leon Harris

Many months have passed since First Lady Nancy Reagan, while addressing a group of school children on the hazards of drug and substance abuse, first uttered the words, "Just Say No". Since then, members of Congress have embraced the "Just Say No" theme and passed legislation aimed at eradicating abuse. The "Just Say No" theme has also been given wide coverage by the media.

Now those words can be displayed on automobile bumpers, thanks to an Oregon-based company called Marie Creations.

With most states, the problems of substance abuse has mandated a long overdue re-evaluation of this nation's feeble efforts to address a growing tragedy. Coping with antiquated techniques, drug and alcohol dependency was previously aligned with the narrow vision that punishment was the only alternative.

The epidemic emergency of cocaine (especially "Crack"), coupled with

our school systems; Portland, Oregon, notwithstanding. Instant success appeals to most and a mind not yet matured more readily succumbs to temptations without regards for the consequences.

Thus, as a society, we must undertake a more meaningful task—in addition to law enforcement for the provocateur. We must educate the abuser to the fact that drug and substance abuse destroys the family's moral fiber. Somehow First Lady Nancy Reagan's now-famous slogan, "Just Say No" must be adopted as a household word. And "Just Say No" is also being articulated by Marie Creation through the use of the Bumper Board(TM).

Marie Creations is the brainchild of Joanne Mansfield and Carthel Gales who, together as a team, offer a variety of profit-sharing ideas through community involvement and economic development.

One of its creations is the Bumper Board (TM) which is a plastic sleeve with a zip-lock pocket that accommodates bumper signs (stickers, etc.)

## Police, Firefighter Benefits Generous, Says Audit

by Jerry Garner

By all definitions, the Portland Police Bureau is a conservative organization. However, members of the department are receiving liberal benefits from the public. According to a 66-page audit conducted by former Portland City Auditor Jewel Lansing, Portland's police officers and firefighters are disabled more often and for longer periods than other uniformed employees statewide—and receive higher disability benefits.

In addition, the audit reported that the disability benefits of the police and firefighters were seven times greater than those provided to other uniformed public employees. The report also revealed that police officers and firefighters receive less in retirement benefits than members of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). However, the audit said the difference is due to higher contributions by PERS members.

The audit said changes are needed in the police and firefighters disability fund. It said the Board of Trustees and the Portland City Council can take a variety of actions to bring about those changes. They are:

- Eliminate the Basic Plan and Supplement Program and integrate fully with PERS, Social Security and Workers' Compensation program.
- Retain the Basic and Supplemental Plan administrative and management structure. Repeal charter benefits provisions and replace with new charter language redefining retirement, disability, death benefit and vesting coverages.
- Modify Basic Plan extensively and eliminate Supplemental coverage. Change management and administration duties of the Board. Revise charter and base benefits and employee contribution levels on PERS, Social Security and Workers' Compensation system. Contract for pension management and disability claims services.

The report recommended that Board members of the Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Committee direct the Chairman to appoint a committee independent of the Board, and recommend city charter amendments that could be referred to voters by 1988.

Lansing said she had wanted to conduct an audit of the retirement and disability fund for four years. Lansing said, "The fund was a black box nobody wanted to touch. There's a feeling that it's a sacred cow."

The Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Plan is funded by annual property tax levy and contributions from plan members. The tax levy for fiscal year 1984-85 was \$1.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and members contributed 7 percent of their pay. The plan currently covers 1,343 active members and 974 disabled beneficiaries. Total benefit costs for 1984-85 were \$204 million, three-fourths of which was for retirement pensions and one-fourth for disability benefits.



the already crippling effects of heroin and marijuana, forced this society to accept the fact that drug and alcohol abuse was indeed a disease and must be treated as such.

The difficult part was selling the idea that the "law and order" doctrine has little effect on combating the sale, distribution and usage of drugs, and, in fact, may have contributed indirectly to its popularity.

Of course, this contributing factor was abetted some what by a lenient judicial system.

But we hasten to add that while law enforcement officials perform, for the most part, a yeoman's-like task fighting the drug war, they were considerably undermanned on the streets and at the borders.

To understand why drugs, especially, are so popular, one must first understand the dynamics created when you either "hold" or have access to the "package". With it, friendship comes easily; long-sought luxuries are now accessible; you gain prominence and status in your circle of "friends". And all of a sudden, you're in demand.

But watching this sudden rise in illicit self esteem is a faction with a curiosity that must be defused immediately. That faction being the youth in

commonly found on vehicles traveling on streets, roads, highways and freeways.

While offering a complete network of bumper signs, Marie Creations offers two of particular interest as it addresses a major concern in this nation's school system. The slogans on the two bumper signs are: "JUST SAY NO" and "CRACK KILLS".

The purpose of the bumper signs, once inserted into the plastic Bumper Board (TM), is to educate youth in the nation's schools of the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse through promotion of the "Just Say No" theme. This would be accomplished through participation and profit sharing and would establish an on-going program vocalizing the schools' efforts at curtailing drug and alcohol abuse, as well as provide fund raising opportunities to ensure project continuity.

To accomplish the above stated goal, as well as promote a program designed to incorporate the efforts of drug abuse agencies, private business, the media, athletic programs, school administrators, students, parents and

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### North Portland Bible College Offers Classes

North Portland Bible College, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97211, will offer a series of classes, "Building God's People—God's Way", beginning the week of January 6, and continuing through March 21.

Tuesday Classes (6:30-9:30 p.m.): "Old Testament Survey II", Rev. L.J. Madison; "Christian Teacher Development II, Sis. E. Nance; "The Parables of Jesus", Rev. B.B. Yazzie.

Thursday Classes (6:30-9:30 p.m.): "World Christian Outreach II", Rev. P. Nelson; "The Book of Genesis", Rev. M.V. Lindsey.

Saturday Classes (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon): "New Testament Survey II", Sis. E. Nance; "Basic Bible Doctrines", Rev. M.V. Lindsey.

Register by phone—it's easy and quick! Just call 288-7241 weekdays, or 288-2919 anytime. Or talk to the N.P.B.C. Representative at your church!

You don't pay anything until your first class session! The fees are \$10 registration per term, and \$20 tuition per class.

### King's Son to Speak at Lewis and Clark

Martin Luther King III will speak at Lewis and Clark College's Agnes Flanagan Chapel at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23. King, the son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., will speak on: "Mainstreaming Outsiders: Increasing Educational Opportunities."

The free lecture is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund, the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College Alumni Association, the Minority Law Student Association, campus ministries, Associated Students of Lewis and Clark Education Programs and the College's lectures and concerts committee.

King's father, the winner of a Nobel Prize for his work in leading the civil rights movement in the United States in the 1960s, was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. King also will speak at the Martin Luther King School in Northeast Portland and at Portland State University.

For more information, contact Tony Kneidek, Office of Public Information, Lewis and Clark College, 293-2777.