

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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## Introducing:



Horace Sanders,  
Executive Director  
Cascade Business Center

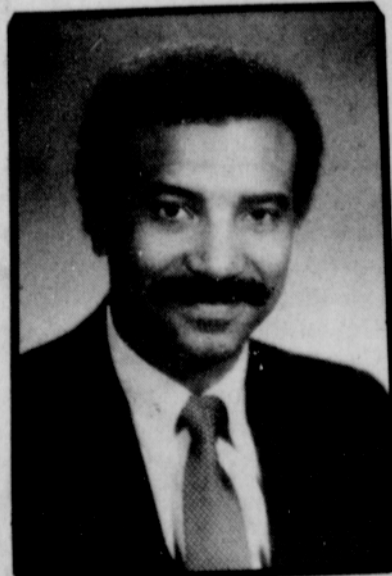
## CONGRATULATIONS..



Ms. Georgene Bailey

Georgene Bailey has joined the Multnomah County Auditor's office as Deputy Auditor. Mrs. Bailey has been a Senior Auditor in the State of California for nine years conducting performance audits. Prior to her experience in California, she was an auditor in the Audit office of the State of Colorado. Georgene replaces Wendy Haynes who joined the Inspector General Office of the State of Massachusetts. Anne Kelly Feeney, the elected Auditor said, "Georgene brings extensive experience auditing the performance of human services programs in California and I am excited about having her skills applied to the extensive number of social services programs that Multnomah County conducts."

The performance audit schedule for this year includes audits of Contracting for Human Services, Bridge Maintenance, County Tax, Assessment Function, Appraisal and Drug and Alcohol Programs.



Carl Talton  
Portland District Manager  
Pacific Power & Light Co.

## Observer's Commentary

At a recent press conference (July 12, 1988), called by the Coalition of Black Men, the Rev. James Martin (Mt. Olivet Baptist Church) criticized Portland's news media for perpetuating negative stereotypes of Portland's Black community. "What we are seeing on television is not indicative of the Black (African-American) community as a whole," he said.

Presently, news coverage of the problems related to gang activity in North/Inner Northeast Portland, is beginning to draw heavy criticism from numerous African-American organizations and residents. The criticism charges the news media with biased, one-sided reporting with almost a single, negative focus on the African-American community. Other criticisms point out that (1) news coverage of the activities of Asian, Neo-Nazi and white gangs is far and in-between; (2) the news media, in addition to inaccurate reporting, appears to be on a deliberate crusade to cripple the African-American community's economic growth and expansion by creating widespread fear among Portland's citizens—a fear designed to prevent companies, businesses and corporations from moving into the area while at the same time causing residents to move out for fear of their lives.

As a member of the news media, the Portland Observer agrees with the above observations. For too many months now, news coverage of drug/gang activity in North/Inner Northeast Portland has dominated the air and paper waves. Reported acts of violence, especially those that take place among Black teenagers, are often described as "gang related" although little or no evidence is presented to back up the claims. Take the case of Carl Franklin Jr.

Carl Franklin Jr., age 7, was reportedly shot while playing in the front yard of his home. The shooting was described by the major news media as gang-related (a drive-by shooting). However, it was later reported that Carl Franklin was shot accidentally by his brother while sitting inside a car. Nonetheless, by the time the truth had been uncovered and accurately reported, widespread damage had been done—the creation of fear that gangs in Portland's black community were now shooting 7 year old children.

Black Oregonians are also reporting incidents of white news reporters coming into the African-American community seeking in-

formal and illegal by day and night interviews with African-American children. With a microphone stuck down their throats, these children are often asked questions even an informed adult couldn't answer. Said one resident, "if our children aren't afraid to walk the streets now, they will be after the news media gets thru with 'em."

In a community of 45,650 residents living in North Portland, African-Americans constitute 6% of the population. In Inner Northeast Portland, African-Americans constitute 38% of the population—the largest Black community in the State of Oregon. In real numbers, according to the last count, 54,594 residents lived in Inner Northeast Portland with whites counting in at 55%. In real numbers, African-Americans counted in at 21,521. The median age of Black Oregonians (last census count) stood at (a) 24.4 years statewide and (b) 24.9 years for the City of Portland. At last count, 4,955 African-American families lived in Inner Northeast Portland.

On a national scale, Portland's African-American community ranks almost at the top when it comes to community development and implementation of workable, community programs. Portland's Black leadership ranks with the best in the country—this includes civic, educational, elected and grassroots leadership. The community also rank high in the theater/performing arts and science.

Even so, many Black Oregonians are starting to believe that the news media is out to damage the very fabric that holds the Black community together and that it (the news media) must be held accountable for the news and images it gives about African-Americans.

Black Oregonians do not support crime, drugs or gang activity. At the same time, however, they are not about to sit back and allow every Tom, Dick and Harry and Jane to impose his or her program on the Black community at the expense of the Black community. Nor is the community going to allow fear and panic to become the barometers by which vital decisions are made.

The news media must be held accountable for the way in which it reports and portray Portland's African-American community. It must begin to realize its impact upon the perceptions and emotions of those who rely on it for accurate information.

Anything less is criminal.



Reane Young (Left) and Mary Miller (Right) reminds us to take time to share with someone you care about... today...

## To be shot was not enough ----The ordeal of Kalima Shamsud-Din

When Kalima Shamsud-din, a 14 year old black female stepped out of her home a week ago, she had walked less than two blocks before a bullet fired by a would-be assassin accidentally crashed into her head. From that point forward it seemed as if though the last petal of the infrastructure for which the City of Floses is known, withered and floated aimlessly away into an ill wind.

ITEM: It was a neighbor who knocked at the door and delivered the tragic message to her mother, Mrs. Naimah Shamsud-Din

ITEM: The police and the ambulance arrived, but ignored Mrs. Shamsud-din's request to take Kalimah to Kaiser Hospital where she and her family have a paid membership. Instead, Kalimah was taken to the Emanuel Hospital and Health Center which does not enjoy a good reputation among Black people for rendering good medical care.

ITEM: Such an allegation is supported by the following facts. Kalimah was placed in a bed in the emergency room and given a sputum bowl for a pillow. The head wound was never cleaned or medicated. When it was determined that the bullet had not penetrated the brain, she was discharged despite the fact that she experienced many episodes of vomiting. Her mother and sister spent the night cleaning up the blood that was oozing from the unbandaged wound. Nevertheless, she was discharged less than 24 hours after admission with a prescription for some aspirins and a caution from the resident that the now swollen wound might become infected. No medication was provided to prevent such an eventuality.

ITEM: At home, Kalimah continued to experience excruciating headaches, nausea, diminished hearing on the side of the wound and constant ringing in the opposite ear. Her mother called the hospital and spoke to a resident physician who informed her that this was to be expected and that Kalimah would simply have to live with it. By now Kalimah had become understandably terrified.



Mrs. Naimah Shamsud-Din

ITEM: On Saturday morning the organization of the Black Men's Coalition was informed of Kalimah's condition and dispatched a qualified medical person to the Shamsud-din home to assess the situation. That person confirmed all the symptoms Kalimah complained of and transmitted that information to the physician in charge of the emergency room who agreed that Kalimah required immediate medical attention. The representative of the Black Coalition had further conversations with the attending physician who expressed disbelief that Kalimah could be experiencing the symptoms described to him over the tele-

phone. Further he stated that he was not on call and could not provide medical assistance. He suggested, after some insistence from the Black Men's Coalition representative, that Kalimah be taken back to the hospital. This information was transmitted to the residential physician at Emanuel who also expressed disbelief about Kalimah's condition and refuted the suggestion that Kalimah return to the hospital. After some insistence she called the attending physician and then agreed to see Kalimah again with the proviso that some arrangement would have to be made to cover any expenses that might accrue.

ITEM: The medical representative from the Coalition of Black Men arranged to have Kalimah seen at Kaiser Hospital and joined her and other members of the family to insure that such a travesty against the Hippocratic oath would not be repeated.

ITEM: It would appear that several areas of capability exist with regard to the manner in which Kalimah's case was handled at the Emmanuel Hospital and Health Center. This matter has been referred to the Coalition of Black Men.

ITEM: Kalimah is not only a beautiful Black child, but she is also a heroine to have withstood the bullet and also the shabby medical attention that followed.

ITEM: The police have identified the culprit who shot Kalimah, but it is going to take the courage of the witnesses who saw that act to stand up in a court of law and point their finger at him. They are going to be the real heroes who help return this community to its law abiding citizens.

## Entrepreneurial Educators Targeting "New Majority"

- Oregonians combine forces with national educators -



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

by Jack Zimmerman

Black kids can't learn.  
Kids from low income families can't learn.  
Kids with only one parent can't learn.

Wrong! Wrong!! Wrong!!!  
Children in those circumstances are high academic achievers in the inner cities of gang-ruled Los Angeles, drug-infested Washington, D.C., refugee-laden Boston and poverty-ridden neighborhoods of Harlem, Dallas, Detroit, Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Pasadena, Louisville and even Havre, MT.

This came to light last week as two dozen hand-picked elementary school principals from those and other cities gathered quietly on the Oregon Coast to share with each other the things they are doing right for at-risk students.

Instead of shotgunning all of public education's ills, those visiting administrator/educators were rifle-shooting what each believes is this nation's most pressing socio-economic dilemma.

Each is aware traditional minority populations are on the verge of becoming a combined majority. And in the face of a rapidly evolving information-based economy,

expansion of literacy among the new majority is an element vital to national welfare.

They are dedicated to getting targeted children into schools and keeping them there long enough to learn what they need to survive and rise above conditions into which they were born.

The economic importance of their common mission is emphasized by a recent study showing the cost to society for this nation's annual class of school drop-outs is \$240 billion in lost taxes over their lifetime.

Impetus for the July 5-8 meeting at rustic Breakaway Lodge in the heart of unlikely Gearhart came from Portland's Ron Herndon, director of the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Head Start Program. The concept of an "educational skunkworks" captured early support from Tom Peters, co-author of "In Search of Excellence," whose Palo Alto-based consulting group waived fees

to coordinate and conduct the gathering entitled "Partners for Success: Business and Education."

Herndon recruited U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield, Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and Richard Butrick, President of Associated Oregon Industries. With their endorsements he attracted financial backing from Nike, Incorporated, U.S. West Communications (Pacific Northwest Bell), U.S. Bancorp, Benjamin Franklin Federal Savings & Loan, Safeway Stores, Inc., Oscar Mayer Corporation and other individuals, firms and organizations joining the public/private partnership effort.

Through the U.S. Department of Education, Head Start and other agencies and institutions, a roster of blue-ribbon participants was developed and each was issued an expense-paid invitation. Most

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