

Introducing:



Valerie Currie

Valerie Currie is the new Employment Coordinate for the Internal Revenue Service. Currie began her career as a revenue agent in 1985 after graduating from Portland State University with a degree in Business Administration.

Currie stated that a few of the goals of the program will be to establish recruitment sites within the Community, promote the IRS as a career opportunity, and to continue VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Alive & Well!



Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

After a speedy recovery from a recent illness, Ms. Mattie Ann Callier-Spears will be performing at the Oregon State Fair, this Saturday, Sept. 3, at 3 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 11 a.m. The performance will take place on the Showcase Stage. Also appearing on the show will be the Byron Davis Singers and the very talented Brown Singers. Don't miss the powerful and inspiring concert!

Announcement:

As of today, all news items, calendar events, photographs etc., must arrive at the **Portland Observer's** News Desk by 12 Noon each Monday. All submitted material, including unsolicited articles, must be (1) signed, and (2) typed double-spaced with a name and a telephone number for verification. All submitted photographs must be black and white. Color photographs will no longer be accepted. Once submitted, all photographs becomes the property of the **Portland Observer**.

Before consideration for publication, all news items and articles will be researched for verification and edited for clarity. Priority will be given to community news and news that directly impact the community. News from and about role models, families, seniors, young achievers, etc. is welcomed. Unsigned material will not be considered.

And lastly, columns that usually appear on the editorial/opinion page will be moved to other sections of the paper. In the future, the editorial page will focus on commentary, analysis, guest editorials and letters to the editor. We welcome your letters ... Now. Thanks for your unrelenting support.

"Who Killed Ray Ray Winston?"

By: Jim Redden-Associate Editor
Willamette Week Newspaper

Editor's Note:

The following article appeared in the August 25-31 issue of the **Willamette Week Newspaper**.

The **Portland Observer** determined that the information contained in this article is valuable for gaining needed insight to recent incidents at Columbia Villa. It is reprinted with permission of the **Willamette Week Newspaper**.

Two weeks ago, Joseph Ray Winston was looking forward to his senior year at Roosevelt High School. As a junior, the 17-year-old excelled at basketball. He planned to return to the court in the fall, and also hoped to try out for the north Portland school's football team.

Last week, James Edward Twine was living with his grandmother in north Portland. He was a rifle marksman in the U.S. Army Reserves and worked at a downtown McDonald's, where his supervisor considered him a good employee with a cheerful attitude.

Today, Winston and Twine are dead, symbols of this city's growing epidemic of gang-related violence. On Aug. 17, Winston was shot to death in a small park in the Columbia Villa housing project—near a sign erected by the project's landlord, the Housing Authority of Portland, that proclaims, "We protect our own!" Five days later, Twine died after being shot in the chest while standing in a Piedmont Plaza Townhouses parking lot at North Mississippi Avenue and Simpson Street.

Police are trying to determine whether the killings are related. Winston reportedly called himself a member of the Columbia Villa Crips, an offshoot of a black youth gang that originated in California in the 1960s. Police say Twine was an associate of the Bloods, the Crips' archrivals.

For months, Portlanders have read and heard news stories about youth gangs moving up from California. According to some of the stories, the gangs have been lured to town by the huge profits to be generated by the sale of crack cocaine. Some of the reports allege the gangs have already attracted 600 followers.

The gang threat has galvanized government leaders into action. Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt has already announced that he will ask the 1989 session of the Oregon Legislature to build more jail beds. Multnomah County Sheriff Fred Pearce has announced that gang members will stay in jail longer than non-gang members. And Mayor Bud Clark has taken partial credit for the creation of a multiagency strike force to fight gangs in Portland.

These plans sound promising, but it is doubtful that they would have helped either Winston or Twine. Little was known about Twine by the time **Willamette Week** went to press, but Winston fit the classic mold of an underprivileged youth, handicapped by poverty and living in an

environment that did not seem to offer much of a way out. He was the kind of person that the government says it wants to help. But the one public agency that Winston actually came into contact with, the Housing Authority of Portland, evicted him from his mother's home one week before his death.

The fact is, the word "gang" has become such a loaded label

State Penitentiary, in Salem, for attempted murder. A brother, Stanley Jr., 19, is in a Salem work-release center serving a five-year term for first-degree robbery. The mother, Azzie, 34, has relied largely on public support to raise her family.

There were signs that Joseph Winston had already begun making the wrong choices. His mother says that her son was not



Roosevelt High School basketball team with Joseph Ray Winston (Front Row, Right)

that it immediately conjures up stereotyped images of swaggering, steel-nerved criminals wielding powerful automatic weapons and carrying piles of cash from drug sales. The problem with this stereotype is that it tends to obscure the real people behind the label, most of whom are kids who need more than the threat of jails if they are ever going to have a chance.

The first newspaper stories of Winston's death promised a major break in Portland's war against gangs. "A suspected leader of the Crips gang dies in a small park in the Columbia Villa housing project," proclaimed the subhead on the front page of the afternoon edition of the Aug. 17 *Oregonian*. Winston's role as a head of the Columbia Villa Crips was amplified in the next day's edition of the paper, which contained no fewer than five references to Winston as a gang leader, couched in such terms as "reputed" and "admitted."

The designation "leader" was significant. Until now, Portland's gangs have been faceless. Identifying a leader—even a dead one—would go a long way toward helping people understand how the gangs were operating in the city.

But, as details of Winston's past came out, the image of a coldblooded gang leader began to vanish. He was not from out of state, but had grown up in Portland. Although apparently known to the police, he had no criminal record. And his high school basketball coach called him a gifted boy with potential on the basketball court.

In reality, Winston was what social workers call an "at risk" youth. By that, they mean a young person who could easily turn to crime unless given a helping hand. When Winston was 7, his parents were divorced. His father, Stanley, 45, has a long criminal record and is currently serving a 20-year sentence in the Oregon

Let's Stop The Violence

by: Ms. Azzie Winston
(Mother of Ray Ray Winston)

One cannot explain the pain and grief of losing their child. It is like a part of you has gone, too. You feel this emptiness, the loss of one of your children is hard to express, the hurt and loneliness you feel inside.

My son, Ray-Ray was loved by everyone. He enjoyed his life some, his family, his school and classmates. He loved his sports activities, he helped out and worked hard to help at home. He wasn't a problem child, he gave respect to everyone. He had high hopes of attending college and wanted to be a professional ball player someday.

I hope that no one would have to feel the pain and suffering that I have gone through since the loss of my son. The shock and grief that I felt at the time of his death caused a lot of feelings to run through me, but I have to put it in the hands of the Lord. My son was deeply loved by his brothers and sisters and all the kids that knew him; he will be greatly missed by us all.

Nothing or no one could ever replace what we had or what we feel for Ray-Ray.

We, the family of Ray-Ray Winston, in no way seek any revenge and hope that this will bring an end to all the violence; that men will lay down their guns, stop killing and start loving.

Tragedy On Roselawn

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Last night at 10 p.m. there was another shooting in our Northeast community, at 744 N.E. Roselawn.

Brothers Johnny Leroy Williams, 25, and Kevin Ray Williams, 20, of the Roselawn address were critically injured and their step-brother, 11-year-old Kenyata Black suffered a pellet wound when caught in the hail of bullets fired by their assailants.

According to Det. David Simpson, public information officer for the Portland Police Bureau there were two cars in the area of N.E. 8th and Roselawn. The cars stopped, and the occupants got out. The Williams' were in the doorway of the residence when the attackers opened fire at close range. Handguns and a shotgun were fired. The force of the blast reportedly knocked the older men back through the doorway and into the house.

The police were in the area and heard the shots being fired. They gave chase and stopped a vehicle between N.E. Jarrett and Simpson Streets.

Four juveniles were apprehended and taken into custody. No other details were available.

The three injured youths were rushed to Emanuel Hospital

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Youth Gang Gang Prevention: An Exclusive Interview With The Rev. Clarence R. Hill R. Hill of Inglewood, California.

by Stephen E. McPherson,
Special Correspondent

The cruel reality of Portland's growing youth gangs came into sharp focus last week when Ray Ray Winston, a popular 17-year-old athlete and Columbia Villa resident, resident, was eulogized by the Reverend Clarence R. Hill of Inglewood, California. Rev. Hill readily admits that he once was a gang member who graduated to selling dope



Rev. Clarence Hill in Portland This Week

and then to running a gambling joint. There is a difference. Rev. Hill got out of it and now devotes his entire career to saving young people. He is the executive director of the Community Care Program in Inglewood. The following is an exclusive interview he gave to the **Portland Observer** just before returning to California.

Portland Observer: I understand that you had the opportunity to talk to some of the young people who identify with the Bloods and the Crips here in Portland.

The Rev. Hill: Mr. Maccio Pet-

tis accompanied us on Sunday and we met several young men. We interacted with them and I shared my perception of the Black genocide they are perpetrating. Most of the crimes we are experiencing are Black on Black. I talked to them about what we must do with the younger people to prevent them from getting caught up in such a downward thrust.

Portland Observer: In talking to some of the gang members did they indicate why they are involved in such activities? Did they express a desire to get back into the main stream of society?

The Rev. Hill: There is a very interesting situation here in Portland. The drug element is a very strong issue. Once they have a taste of it and have experienced what money can buy, it is difficult to compete with that attraction. This is why something must be done at a younger age where crisis intervention is effective. Certainly something must be done to identify those young people who might be vulnerable to these negative influences. I talked with many of the Bloods and Crips who expressed a desire to do something other than what they presently are doing. My concern and question is what does Portland have that will create this alternative? Is there a business man, is there a corporation who will embrace one or two of these youths with financial support? It is my understanding that there are less than 200 such persons involved with gangs. California has at least 37,000. Is there a business

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