

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XVIII, Number 42

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

September 15, 1988

Introducing:



Doris and Jewel Thomas
Co-owners and operators
Doris Cafe



Angela Davis
Political Activist
and Educator

Lecture On South African Issues

★ FREE ★

Speaker: Angela Davis
Sept. 30, 1988

Lecture - Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Reception - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Portland State University
Smith Memorial Ballroom

Angela Davis is the author of numerous essays in the areas of Black liberation, political prisoners and the penal/judicial system, the struggle for women's equity, and U.S. history. A professor of philosophy, Ms. Davis is the author of her best-selling book, *Angela Davis: An Autobiography, and Women, Race and Class*.



Ms. Ernestine Broadous,
Manager,
Steen's Restaurant

CORRECTION

Due to an error in last week's article, "The Struggle to Dream: Prelude," readers may have been led to believe the city of Portland was reluctant to acknowledge problems that exist in the Black community. That passage, in column two, should have read: (3) the city's seeming reluctance to highlight, in its marketing plan, the positive and very real aspects of the African-American community."

We regret any confusion this error may have caused our readers.

An Observer Special Report

The Struggle To Dream: Part II of IV: Economic Homefront

by Nyewusi Askari

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Riot Commission, in a report to the President of the United States, said, "Most Americans know little of the origins of the racial schism separating our white and Negro citizens. Few can appreciate how central the problem of the Negro has been to our Social policy. Fewer still understand that today's problems can be solved only if white Americans comprehend the rigid social, economic, and educational barriers that have prevented Negroes from participating in the mainstream of American life. Only a handful realize that Negro accommodation to the patterns of prejudice in American culture has been but one side of the coin—for as slaves and as free men, Negroes have protested against oppression and have persistently sought equality in American society."

When one examines the fragile economic and social relationship between Portland's African-American community and the governments of the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, it is immediately apparent that the commission's report could have been written yesterday—or to-

days. Harold Williams, a local businessman, explains: "Most Black businesses in the Black community are under-capitalized. In other words, many have enough money to implement projects but not enough to carry them out. Also, lack of a credit line ... this really slows down the development of any Black business. All too often, a Black business has to over collateralize. It becomes a five to one ratio. For every one dollar a bank will let you have, you have to secure five."

"I don't know if it's a blatant insensitivity to Blacks in business or because of a standard rule of lending institutions," he says, "but they have not changed their patterns. They just look at the bottom line ... not at the diverse society that they are interfacing with."

Jewel and Doris Thomas, co-owners and managers of Doris Cafe, decided to approach the problem in a different manner. Said Jewel: "Once Doris and I found out what the banks required of us, we decided to do it our way. First, we took our life savings and acquired the building. There was no way we were going to go to the banks seeking a loan. To do so would have



STEEN'S KITCHEN: A new black-owned business on Union Avenue.

day. All is not well on the economic homefront.

On one homefront, city leaders and economic planners seem determined to revitalize around, under and over the African-American community. It has been previously pointed out, by Professor McKinley Burt, that "A newcomer to Portland would find it hard to believe that Union Avenue was once a bustling thoroughfare of retail stores, groceries, restaurants, clubs, banks, florists and new and used car dealerships."

Professor Burt's reminder is but one in a series. Long-term Black Oregonians remind us that many Black properties and businesses were wiped out by programs like Urban renewal (Urban removal), the Coliseum, Emanuel Hospital, Model Cities, Freeways and by white, privately-owned commercial enterprises.

On the economic homefront, Black businessmen and women are re-grouping. Many are disappointed with the poor prospects for starting new businesses or maintaining the ones they have. Most say the problem stems from rigid policies set forth by banks, thrifts and other lending institu-

meant putting up our home, our car and anything else of value as security." Doris joined the interview. "After we acquired the building, we put the restaurant together piece by piece. One day we might buy one table. The next day we might buy a tablecloth. We continued like this until we had furnished the entire restaurant."

"Both Jewel and I were committed to idea of building a business from the bottom up with what we had," Doris said, "Now if we would have thought that we could have secured a bank loan without having to sign over our souls, we would have done it. However, from what we learned about the banks lending policies, we knew we didn't qualify. But, we didn't let that discourage us."

Jewel and Doris are typical of a new breed of black entrepreneurs who are committed to making it "in spite of." However, for every Jewel and Doris, there will be hundreds who won't make it unless city and state support is forthcoming.

It is this reason, and more, that Portland's African-American community insists on equal educa-

Continued to Page 4

Fair Housing Amendments Act Signed

President Reagan last Tuesday signed what he called "the most important civil rights legislation in 20 years."

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 is designed to punish violators of the federal fair housing laws.

Here are the major provisions of the Act (reprint by permission of The Oregonian):

HOUSING ACT

Protection against housing discrimination will cover the disabled and handicapped and families with children under age 18. Current law already covers race, sex, religion or national origin.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will try to settle complaints. If that fails, the case will go to an administrative law judge or a U.S. District Court judge.

If an administrative judge finds evidence of discrimination, he can issue an injunction or impose fines.

Maximum fines would be \$10,000 for a first violation, \$25,000 for a second violation within five years and \$50,000 for two or more violations within seven years. Civil penalties ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 would be added when a pattern of discrimination has been proved.

The administrative judge's ruling would be subject to review by a federal appellate court.

A U.S. district judge also could impose punitive damages.

New buildings with four or more units must be constructed so they are readily accessible to the handicapped.

Disabled tenants will have the right to modify dwellings at their own expense, but they would have to restore the property to its original condition when they leave.

Children could be barred from housing intended for the elderly, but that would be the only exception to an open-housing policy for those 18 and under. Housing for the elderly is defined as a community where at least 80 percent of the dwellings are occupied by at least one person age 55 or older, and significant facilities and services are provided; or those occupied solely by people age 62 and older.

Columbia Villa Demonstration Project Announced

Three local government leaders announced today the creation of a demonstration project to "deal with crime, fear of crime and to improve the quality of life" of residents at Columbia Villa public housing project in North Portland.

Mayor J. E. Bud Clark, Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy and Housing Authority of Portland Executive Director Donald E. Clark presented the concept.

A joint effort of the city, county and HAP, the demonstration project involves the formation of a public service team composed of staff from many disciplines that will both coordinate and deliver services to the more than 1,642 residents of Columbia Villa and the adjacent Tamarack housing projects, they said.

The Neighborhood Safety and Improvement Demonstration Project will begin Sept. 19, when a preliminary group of service providers from the three public entities will begin a start-up phase. The team will be housed at Columbia Villa.

"This is an opportunity for local government to work together more closely to solve the difficult problems of the people at Columbia Villa," said Don Clark, whose agency operates the two housing projects. "It's an opportunity to turn the neighborhood around before the problems of gang activity, drug abuse and violence get worse. It's also an opportunity to target services in a way that gives residents more opportunity and hope."

A two-track process is envisioned: 1) a community organizational effort in which the neighborhood will be encouraged to form a neighborhood group and begin to identify its needs, and 2) the service-delivery component which will involve the multi-disciplinary project team.

The team's responsibilities are to:

- Work together as a team to provide services and develop strategies for addressing problems with individuals and families at Columbia Villa;
- Link residents with other public services, as well as those of private agencies or organizations;
- Work closely with the neighborhood to identify neighborhood priorities and needs; and

Evaluate and refine the project as it progresses, including the composition of the project team

Primary services to be focused on are public safety, crime prevention, social services and community development.

Commissioner McCoy said that Multnomah County will initially send 10 county employees to be members of the team—seven from Human Services and three from Justice Services. They will include three community health nurses, a juvenile justice counselor, aging services specialist, child and family services worker, adult parole and probation counselor plus other staff, she said.

"While we do not have all the answers to tough social problems," McCoy said, "we do have a solid network of professional and compassionate workers who want to do the best job for all citizens."

McCoy added that Columbia Villa residents are part of the solution. "We are calling upon the people who live in Columbia Villa to become part of the solution—to work with government agencies ... to be part of the decision-making process, not just the recipient of services."

Mayor Clark said the project can become a symbol for the entire city—"a symbol of what people and government can do to get something they want—a strong, healthy, safe place to live."

Clark said a number of city bureaus, including the Bureau of Police, would be involved in the project. He said the project is fully consistent with the recently-announced Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Project, and said he hoped that other public agencies would become involved in the Columbia Villa effort.

"The residents of Columbia Villa have the full commitment of the city, county and the Housing Authority to do what's necessary to make this neighborhood safe and secure," Mayor Clark said. "They can be assured that we do not want to see the fear and violence that is breeding in this neighborhood continue."

HAP is contributing three staff members to the initial team—a new Area Housing Manager for Columbia Villa, the maintenance foreman and HAP's public safety specialist, Don Clark said.

The demonstration project is

Continued to Page 4

NEWSMAKER OF THE WEEK

PSU Affirmative Action Director Dr. Jacquelyn Y. Harrell

The appointment of Dr. Jacquelyn Y. Harrell, director of Affirmative Action programs at Portland State University, to the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIIAC) was announced by City Commissioner Dick Bogle.

A graduate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, Harrell came to PSU in August 1987 from Huntsville, Texas, where she served for two years as chief of employee relations for the Texas Department of Corrections.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in public administration and liberal studies from Florida International University in Miami.

From 1968 to 1979, she served as assistant director of Affirmative Action programs at the University of Miami, leaving to attend law school. While enrolled at Texas Southern, she held the full-time position of night director of the Women's Christian Home, a Houston halfway house for women in distress.

After receiving her doctor of jurisprudence degree in 1982, she worked as a staff attorney for North Central Texas Legal Services in Dallas until joining the Texas Department of Correction in 1985.

Harrell is alternate regional director and Oregon state representative of the American Association of Affirmative Action; local and national board member of YWCA; and a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, National Association of Human Rights Workers, American Association of University Women, National Urban League, and the NAACP.

She is a trustee emeritus of the Church of The Open Door, United Church of Christ.



PIIAC appointee, Dr. Jacquelyn Y. Harrell

OBSERVER'S INDEX

FEATURES.....	Page 1
EDITORIAL STORIES.....	Page 2
COMMUNITY FORUM.....	Page 3
RELIGION.....	Page 5
ENTERTAINMENT.....	Page 6
COMMUNITY CALENDAR.....	Pages 7
CLASSIFIEDS.....	Page 10-11