

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Expert Asserts Portland Gang Problem

by Stephen E. McPherson,  
Special Correspondent

Last month the Rev. Clarence R. Hill, executive director of the Community Care Program in Inglewood, California was invited by some of his colleagues here in Portland to deliver the eulogy for Ray Ray Winston, a popular 17-year-old athlete. Because of his expertise in dealing with the gange culture, the Rev. Hill was encouraged to contact a number of youths who identify themselves as gang members and to determine if there were some means available for addressing the problem. The Rev. Hill is convinced that the youths here in Portland who are involved with gang activity can be redirected if they are offered an alternative lifestyle.

The Rev. Hill gave the **Portland Observer** and exclusive interview. This week we continue with his analysis of what can be done to resolve the gang problem here in Portland. He discussed a four pronged approach that had met with enormous success in southern California. It is a concept that involves every level of the community.

**Portland Observer:** We understand that the Community Care Program in Inglewood has developed a module which effectively redirects Black youths away from gang activity. Can you describe how it works?



The Rev. Clarence Hill

**The Rev. Hill:** We employ a number of concerted efforts. One is called "pick up" which is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies. They also protect and preserve the peace. "Lock up" is the responsibility of the courts because it is in court that an individual has an opportunity to be adjudicated as to their guilt or innocence. "Clean up" is the responsibility of community based organizations and other rehabilitative thrusts that have been active in creating an avenue by which delinquents or substance abusers can have the opportunity to be redirected into the community. "Follow up" should be the responsibility of the entire community in terms of its ability to provide a program that would lend itself to the continuation of that person's rehabilitation. "Go

up" is the responsibility of the church wherein moral fortitude is nurtured and re-enforced. The situation where in Portland is complex but it is not altogether hopeless.

**Portland Observer:** The Black community has complained for some time about gang activity and its attendant drug problems without getting substantive relief from elected officials. Some citizens now express the view that gangs, prostitution and drug traffic could not persist without the intentional neglect of the official world. Drugs are dealt with rather openly. How can a 12-year-old sell drugs with impunity? Do these facts suggest that a state of corruption or non-feasance exists here in Portland?

**The Rev. Hill:** I certainly would not want to think that this is a matter of official corruption or neglect. In some cases I do believe that other issues ensue. Politicians and people in leadership have directed their attention to other things. This is a Black problem. Blacks need to commit themselves to dealing with that issue. If there are Black politicians involved, they need to demonstrate their commitment to the effort. On the other hand research has revealed that there is some wickedness in high places. It even goes to the White House. Not to affirm that far certainly would be to dismiss the truth. I don't know enough about Portland to be able to make a statement in that regard.

**Portland Observer:** Would the approach to this condition be more effective if the Black community were to demand an immediate resolution of the problem?

**The Rev. Hill:** I would rather see our making an effort to entreat them. At the point in fails, we would have to employ some other means by which we could seek their involvement so as to address the problems of the Black community. But, the officials certainly are going to have to be involved in this effort.

**The Portland Observer:** Can you cite an example from your Inglewood, California experience which would indicate how you were able to turn the tide?

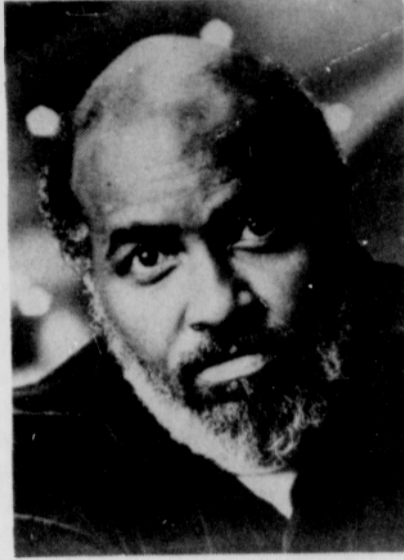
**The Rev. Hill:** I don't think we actually have turned the tide, yet. I think we have done something to alter and to deter the course of the tide. We have in place a community care program that features four prongs: One is personal redirection where we deal with the individual's personal value system. In our workshops and culturally enriched environment a person can see themselves just as they are. Based on our ability to affect their lifestyle in most cases they see the need to do something about their personal condition. The second prong is a job search and training assistance. The third is counseling and the fourth is the

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Mr. James DePreist

For the past two years the Black United Fund of Oregon has pushed for access into the payroll deduction market and has been successful. We are successful because of the generous and consistent support of people like you. Concerned individuals, who are willing to do a little extra to help others, make up the foundation of the Black United Fund of Oregon's charitable program.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for your past support of the Black United Fund of Oregon and ask that you continue your support on an even greater scale through payroll

## "Message To The Community"

deduction during our 1988 Charitable Campaign.

This year the Black United Fund of Oregon will be participating in payroll deduction campaigns at Portland Public Schools, Pacific Power and Light, the State of Oregon, IBM Corporation, Tri-Met, N/NE Mental Health Clinic, Portland Community College, St. Andrew Legal Clinic, the Combined Federal Campaign, City of Portland and Multnomah County.

If payroll deduction for the Black United Fund of Oregon is not available at your workplace, I encourage you to mail your tax deductible contribution directly.

The Black United Fund of Oregon is your way to support and share in the responsibility of promoting the practice of self-help and economic self-sufficiency in the Black community.

James DePreist  
Campaign Chairman  
Conductor of the  
Oregon Symphony



From left to right: Carolyn Leonard, Kathleen Saadat and McKinley Williams pose for a picture after receiving a plaque of appreciation from the IRS.



Stepping into a new season: African-American dance troupe, Woodlawn Elementary School.

## Mayoral Candidate To Face Portland Observer Panel

A two part series of Portland's Campaign '88 will be hosted by the **Portland Observer**. Larry Dunham, executive director for the popular Northeast Spectrum announced that Ron Still, the mayoralty candidate, will appear before a panel of distinguished writers from the **Portland Observer** on its Friday, September 23rd show at 7 p.m. Ron Still will be fielding a battery of questions from temporary host, Stephen E. McPherson, a special correspondent to the **Portland Observer**. He will be assisted by News Editor Nyewusi Askari and Religious Editor Mattie Ann Callier-Spears.

Mr. Still will be asked a number of questions of concern to the Channel 38 listening public, the **Portland Observer** readers and the lower Northeast community in general. Mr. Still, a former Portland police chief is pitted against the popular Mayor Bud Clark in a struggle over who will control City Hall for the next term. During his tenure as police chief Mr. Still was embroiled in a number of controversies which affected Black people. His toughness as a police officer earned him the appellation of der Gestapo.

During the second part of the program Mr. Still will answer call in questions from the public. It is expected that he will have to address the defunct Emanuel Hospital urban renewal project which he promised to research in an earlier interview with the **Portland Observer**.

Mayor Clark has promised to appear at a later date yet to be decided. The **Portland Observer** under the auspices of Roger Cable Television is presenting this program as a public service. The listening public is urged to call in their questions.

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## Queen Ida

and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band  
Rainbow Coalition Benefit  
Sat. Sept. 24, 8 pm

\$12.50, Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall, 1410 SW Morrison  
Food by Cajun Cafe. Tickets at Music Millennium, Laughing Horse Books,  
A Woman's Place Bookstore, Artichoke Music and at the door.



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