

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XVIII, Number 52

The Eyes and Ears of the community

November 24 1988

## Introducing:



Bishop and Mrs. Hopkins



Rev. John and Vivian Parker

## SALUTING



Ms. Cora Smith

## REMEMBERING



Rev. John Garlington

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Observer has moved into the computer age. Recently, the newspaper purchased a Packard Bell Computer/NEC SilentWriter LC 890 Postscript Page Printer. As a result, the paper is in transition while the computer bugs are being worked out. Once that has happened, the entire newspaper will be formatted on the computer on a weekly basis. Until then, readers will notice changes, and at times, the absence of regular columns, announcements, etc. We ask your patience. We will be back on course within two or three weeks.

## Oregonians Must Take Immediate Action To Combat Racism

By Nyewusi Askari  
Editor - Portland Observer

Throughout Oregon's African-American communities, the beating death of Mulugeta Seraw has ignited anger, caution, meeting after meeting, rallies against racism and a new awareness of how deep and widespread racism is in the City of Portland and the State of Oregon.

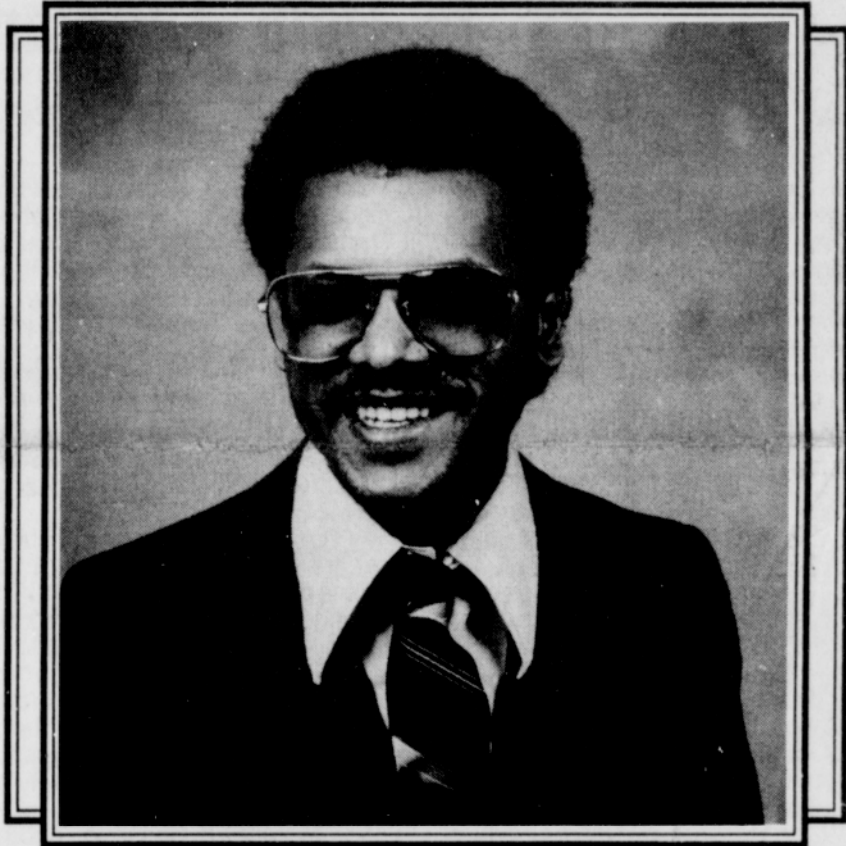
It is more than tragic that a man had to be beaten to death before most Oregonians realized that racism is not only evil but deadly—deadly to the positive growth and development of race relations; deadly to the cultural, social, economic and political development of Oregon; deadly to the sanity and well-being of all children—deadly period.

The fact that three white youths have been arrested for Mulugeta's murder has brought little comfort to Black Oregonians. Outside of the FBI and Portland Police, little

throughout the world. They don't care about Jews. They don't care about Blacks. They don't care about people of color. They don't care about whites who believe in the concept of One Nation under God. They only care about themselves.

If Oregon is serious about combating racism within its borders, it must start to do so immediately. Lawmakers, on both the state and local level, should be encouraged to enact strong laws which will protect Oregonians from the deadly fangs of racism. Because of the present racial climate, most Black Oregonians feel unsafe traveling outside of their own communities. They don't feel protected.

Black Oregonians must be given credit for their handling of Mr. Seraw's murder. Instead of seeking to find the killers of Mulugeta, Rambo style, they came together, with their neighbors, to seek a collective solution. They allowed law enforcement to do its



MULUGETA SERAW

is known about the evidence that was gathered leading to the arrest. Less is known of how a jury or judge will view it. At present, Black Oregonians can only wonder what the evidence will reveal, thus, a large majority are withholding judgment on the guilt or innocence of the accused.

And rightly so, however, the fact remains—Mulugeta Seraw was beaten to death because of the color of his skin. His death reveals how urgent it is for Oregonians to confront racism on all fronts—in the schools, in the workplace, in Arts & Entertainment, in the church, in our homes, in our language, everywhere...

### COMMENTARY

Although most Oregonians were caught off guard by Seraw's death, it didn't take long for them to organize around a common cause: to eliminate racism from Oregon. It is evident that Mulugeta's murder touched the hearts of all who are committed to creating a Nation where color doesn't decide whether a man, woman or child lives or dies. Now, it will be interesting to see if those same persons will follow through with their commitment.

It is important that they do. The racists, declared and un-declared, have made their intentions known

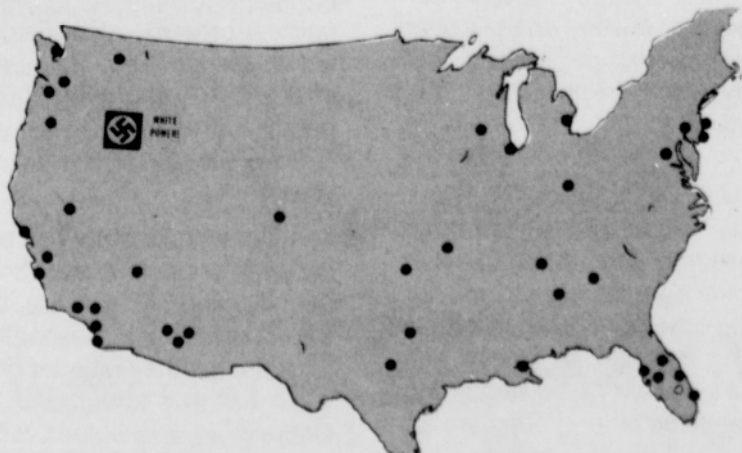
job. However, the question remains: If racism is not confronted and confronted soon, how long will cool heads prevail?

Mulugeta's murder has been very revealing. It has shown that most Portland communities can work together on this problem and do it very successfully. It has shown that law enforcement can seek out and apprehend those who disregard the lives of others. Even so, it remains to be seen if these actions will be symbolic of future actions on behalf of neighborhoods and law enforcement.

In the meantime, Black Oregonians must enact rules, policies and strategies that are designed to ensure the safety of the Black family, the Black woman, the Black elderly, the Black child and the Black male. In this present climate of racial hatred, everyone is a target. It makes no difference if you wear a three piece suit or jeans or tennis shoes. As long as you are Black, you are a target for death. That's how serious this situation is.

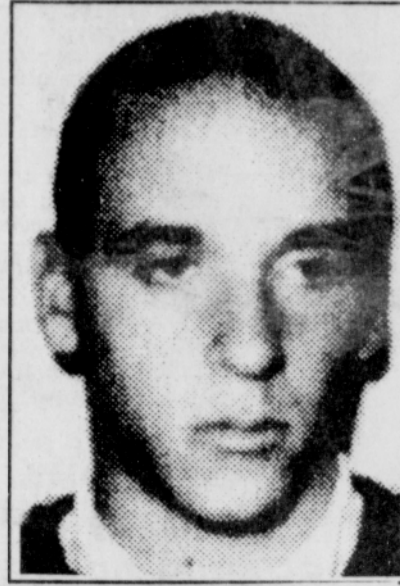
Our children must be encouraged to stay off the streets until a safer climate is created. We must change our behavior. We must enact a system where Black Oregonians are not easily targeted and victimized.

The time is NOW!



Locations Where Skinhead Groups Have Been Operating:

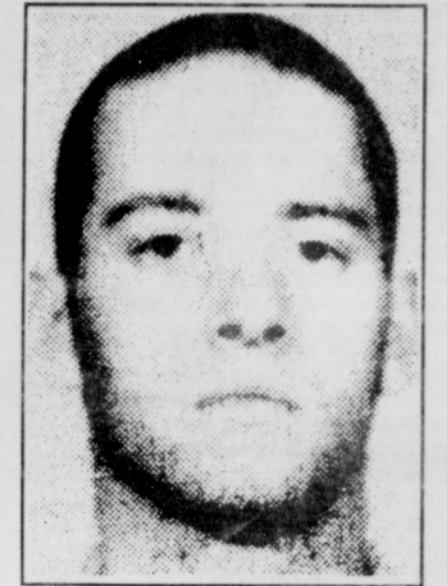
## The Accused



Brewster



Mieske



Strasser

### Summary Of Reported Racially-Motivated Incidents 87-88

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

08/87

The Vietnamese Seventh Day Adventist Church in Portland was spray-painted with racist graffiti which disparaged Asians and Blacks.

11/11/87

A group of youths believed to be Skinheads terrorized a black woman near the Lloyd Cinemas complex, shouting racial epithets at her, spitting on her car and eventually throwing a chain through her car window. Pieces of the flying glass lodged in her cornea and she required treatment at a hospital emergency room. No arrests were made for that incident.

01/26/88

Residents in Gresham, Oregon found a publication denouncing "Negro-White Marriages" in their newspaper boxes. The publication, printed by the Lord's Covenant Church of Phoenix, Arizona, was found in the distribution of a local food magazine.

01/30/88

Vandals spray painted anti-Israeli graffiti on the exterior to two synagogues. The slogans were: RECOGNIZE THE PLO; YOU HAVE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS; JEW TRIUMPH = ARAB DEATH.

03/10/88

Three Skinheads were arrested for attacking an Asian-American male coming out of a downtown restaurant with his family. The Skinheads were reported as saying "GO BACK TO HONG KONG" and "GET OUT OF OUR COUNTRY". They called his caucasian wife a TRAITOR and called their two year-old daughter a "FUCKING SLANT". During the assault, the American-Asian male was struck in the face and kicked in the leg, head and stomach with heavy combat boots.

03/17/88

Active Skinhead recruitment reported at Fernwood Middle School and Grant High School. Skinheads promise that they will protect white recruits from the minorities.

04/03/88

A black male found his car vandalized. The windows were smashed and a magic marker was used to write "KILL THE JEWS", "COONS" and several Nazi swastikas on the car.

04/19/88

A black female stated that as she was seeing her children onto the

school bus in the morning when she confronted a white female, who was reported to have hit her children. The white female started yelling, "I DIDN'T HIT YOUR CHILDREN .....ONLY SHOVED THEM". "YOU CAN CALL THE POLICE ALL YOU WANT TO,

04/27/88

A large rock that had a swastika and "DIE JEW" painted on it was thrown through a window of Jewish man's home.

05/02/88

Racist literature was found in a phone booth located in downtown Portland. The anonymous author claims to spread the truth by interpreting biblical scripture to support race separation, white race preservation, and to decry interracial marriage.

05/27/88

Hate mail was received by Commissioner Lindberg. The writer expressed his anger against Lindberg's contribution to the Black United Front Saturday School.

05/29/88

Two Skinheads were approached by two black males who stated they were "Bloods". The black males asked if they were "Skins" and then assaulted them. One victim was examined at Kai-

ser. Suspects gone on police arrival.

06/01/88

An Asian man pulled up next to a car containing two white males who shouted racial epithets. The passenger in the suspect car pulled out a baton and started beating the victim's car. A Police officer went after the assailants. No arrest was made. Later on, the victim called 911 and the police officer/operator asked about damages. The victim said there was no damage to the car. The police officer responded, "IF THEY DIDN'T DAMAGE YOUR CAR, THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST BEING RUDE".

06/09/88

A white female was arrested for writing Skinhead graffiti on brick enclosure.

06/17/88

While standing at a bus stop in North Portland, two black seventeen (17) year-old males were approached by three white males wearing Skinhead-like attire (army boots, shaved heads). The three white males chanted racial epithets and assaulted the two black males. The black males fought back and were able to get away. Upon notifying their parents about the incident, one victim's parent

(Continued to Page 3)

## SENIOR OF THE WEEK



Mr. Wiley Carter, Sr.

Mr. Wiley Grant Carter, Sr. who will celebrate his 75th birthday on December 10, 1988 was born in Sheeplow, Mississippi in 1913. He moved to Portland in 1942 to work in the shipyards. He met and married Rosa Ann King in 1948 and together they raised eight lovely children before Rosa's death in 1986.

Retired since 1980, Wiley Carter, Sr. spends a lot of time tending his garden and traveling to visit his children and relatives who live throughout the United States.

A senior resident of Garitenbein Avenue (G Street) for nearly 40 years, Wiley Carter, Sr. has been an inspiration to everyone in his neighborhood. He is always willing to give a helping hand to a person in need, or some sound advice.

Mr. Carter says "live right and don't over indulge in food, drink or use drugs, and treat people as you would have them treat you" these are they keys to longevity.

On December 10, 1988 friends and family of Wiley Carter, Sr. will gather to salute this special individual on his 75th birthday.