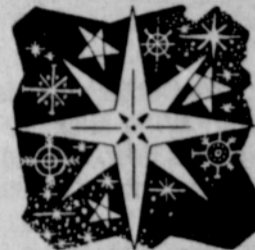


# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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The Eyes and Ears of the community

December 15, 1988



## Christmas Donations Needed

The Community Care program, located at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 5828 N.E. 8th, Portland, is seeking Christmas donations of food, bedding, furniture, blankets, new and used clothing, cooking utensils, transportation, Christmas trees, and toys, to distribute to the homeless, the underclass, the needy and others in need, in North/Northeast Portland, including the Tri-County, Intra-State areas.

Since the early '50s, the Community Care Program has existed in Portland's African-American community, and currently serves approximately 3,000 persons each month. It's distribution area covers Columbia Villa, and migrant workers.

With human services diminishing in the Black community, i.e. the recent staff cuts at the Albina Human Resource Center, programs such as Community Care are vital to the maintenance of basic care of the less fortunate in our community.

The *Portland Observer* is asking the community to join us in helping the Community Care Program bring hope, joy and a Merry Christmas to those who cannot afford it.

Donations can be brought to Bethel Church at 5828 N.E. 8th, or to the *Portland Observer* at 525 N.E. Killingsworth.

Let's join hands and make it happen!

## Children and Learning

Much has been written and said about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of public school systems in the United States. We have been compared one to another and to systems on other continents, good and other-wise. "Why can't our children learn?" "Why aren't the schools teaching our children?" These questions plague parents concerned with their children's education. The answer may be as simple as "What can I do to help my child?" Or, the answer may be as complex as getting your system to recognize different learning styles and begin to teach all students.



By Lurlene Shamsud-Din

"All children can learn." So powerful is this message left by the late Ron Edmonds that, years after the death of this young educator and scholar, school districts across the nation have adopted this core belief to make their educational systems "effective schools."

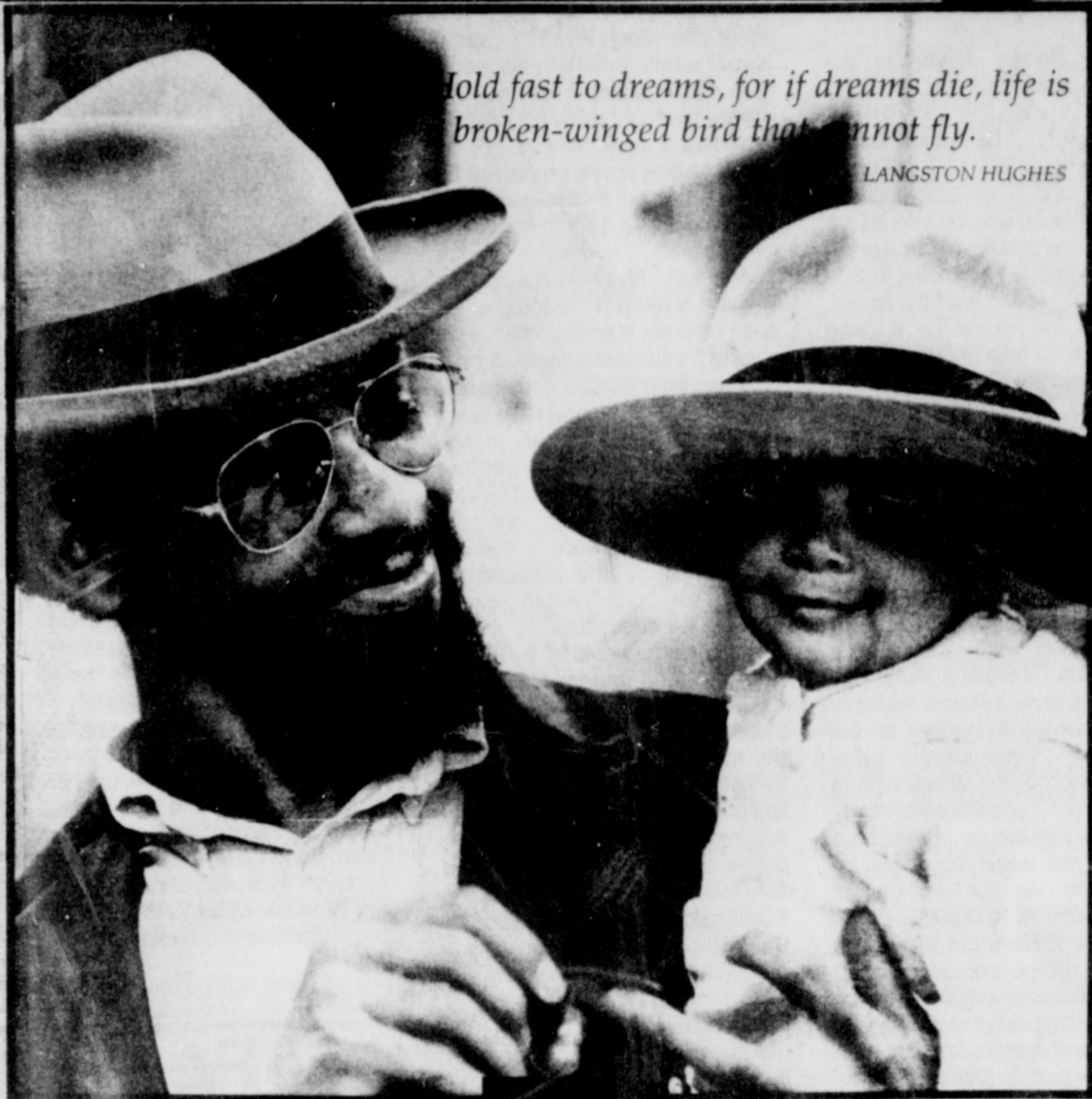
What is an "effective school"? A school that recognizes that all children can learn if content is culturally relevant and has the following basic essentials is considered effective in producing secure, motivated staff and students: Strong administration; safe and clean environment; high expectations; and monitoring of services and achievement.

The motto of Sabin Early Childhood Education Center is "Education is important." The staff at Sabin is committed to excellence in education. We also recognize that education is not limited to educational institutions. We all have a role to play in ensuring that our children learn: home, school and community.

The Sabin Demonstration School Project which combines all of the elements of an effective school along with high technology and higher order thinking skills is an example of using innovative ways to help children learn and tap their potential.

Since the inception of this program in 1986, we have been using community members as mentors and models. Involving the community in education enhances student's knowledge about their world and how they fit into it. However, the home and the parent(s) remain the primary source of education for children.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, wrote in "Child Watch": "Students gained more in reading achievement from Fall to Spring if their teachers encouraged their parents to get involved. Fifth grade students whose teachers frequently involved their parents had more positive attitudes about school and did more homework on weekends. Become actively involved with your child's education. Here are some strategies for those of you who cannot regularly visit your child's classroom: 1. Tell your child you know he/she is smart, and you expect him/her to learn. 2. Tell your child you are interested in what he/she learns. 3. Provide a place for your child to study: same place, same time, every day. 4. Help your child with reading, writing, math and school projects. 5. Talk with your child's teacher about any concerns.



*Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is broken-winged bird that cannot fly.*

LANGSTON HUGHES

## Lindberg Elected To NLC Board

Mike Lindberg, Portland City Council member, has been elected to the board of Directors of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's largest and most powerful city issues lobbying group.

Nominated by the League of Oregon Cities President and Astoria's mayor Edith Henningsgaard, Lindberg was elected by the full membership of the national league. The national league represents 16,000 cities.

Seattle's Mayor Charles Royer, past president and current board member of NLC praised Lindberg's selection. "Mike Lindberg is one of the Young stars in American cities. He is bright, knowledgeable, and a real team player. building on his record of being a strong advocate for Portland at the congressional level, as an NLC Board member commissioner Lindberg will be a very effective advocate for all U.S. cities."



Mike Lindberg  
City Commissioner

Commenting on his election, Lindberg, said "It is an honor to be selected by the league. I understand

quite well that Portland shares with other cities serious challenges in public safety, housing, solid waste, the homeless, jobs and attention to the needs of our children. My job now, will be to join with other urban leaders in drafting and delivering detailed a plan of action to the president and congress. Increased federal support for dealing with our issues is absolutely essential."

Other Portland city commissioners were actively involved in the Boston convention. Commissioner Bob Koch was a featured panelist in a workshop on handling urban solid waste problems. Commissioner Earl Blumenauer helped lead a seminar on land use, and commissioner Dick Bogle moderated a session on neighborhood revitalization.

Over 10,000 city officials have been gathered in Boston to forge a "Cities Agenda" for the next administration and the next congress.

## Martin Luther King Choir Selected For Presidential Inaugural Parade



ington. "This is a fantastic opportunity for these youngsters. Through their voices they have the ability to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. This shows them that they really can do anything they want with their lives--the dream is still alive!"

The choir needs to raise approximately \$20,000 to cover expenses for travel and lodging. The MLK Choir Commemorative Committee is soliciting support from the community to help defray the cost of the trip.

A fundraising kick-off event took place on Wednesday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium at King Elementary School. Congressman AuCoin joined teachers and students of the school in urging the community to donate funds for the choir's travel expenses. Entertainment at the fund raising event was provided by the choir.

"I urge all Oregonians to support this talented, exemplary group of young people," urged Congressman AuCoin. "We can all take tremendous pride in being represented by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Choir at the President's Inaugural.

Contributions can be made to:  
M.L.K. Choir  
Commemorative Committee  
c/o Mr. Charles Ford  
The King Neighborhood Facility  
4815 N.E. 7th  
Portland, OR 97211

Portland's Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Choir has been selected to represent Oregon in President-elect Bush's Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., Congressman Les AuCoin announced last Tuesday.

know this will have a long-lasting, positive impact on our students."

Giffert noted AuCoin's involvement in getting the King Choir selected to represent Oregon in the Inaugural Parade. "I want to personally thank Les AuCoin and his staff for all of their hard work in making this a reality. It wouldn't have been possible without their assistance."

Von Ray Johnson, President of the Parent Teacher Association at King Elementary School, has a daughter who will make the journey to Wash-

The choir was chosen by the Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural Parade Committee, the organizing committee for the January 20th parade.

AuCoin, who had been notified that the choir was planning a trip to Atlanta in January, helped facilitate the choir's application to the Parade Committee in Washington, D.C. In a letter sent in support of their application, AuCoin said, "I simply cannot imagine a more fitting and appropriate representative from Oregon than the Martin Luther King choir."

Kathryn Giffert, music director at MLK Elementary School, was ecstatic at the news. "Everyone at King Elementary School is walking on air today! This is a tremendous boost to the school and the entire community. I



Kathryn Giffert

## Role Model of the Week

by Jimi Johnson



Walter Ghant

Walter Ghant, who graduated from Warner Pacific College in 1988 with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Religion, has been accepted to study for a Master's of Divinity Degree at Howard University, the nation's most prestigious Black institution of higher education.

While at Warner Pacific, Walter distinguished himself as the recipient of the schools highest honor, the A.F. Grey Award for scholastic achievement and service. He was also the co-founder of the Bethlehem Inn, the nation's first homeless family shelter on a college campus. As a result of his efforts, Walter was featured on the cover of *This Week Magazine* (May 20, 1987).

Walter is committed to serving humankind in whatever way is beneficial. He currently works for the Urban League of Portland as Youth and Family counselor. He said that "Helping people is my main concern."

However, life wasn't always like this for Walter Ghant. A native of Portland, Walter and his three sisters grew up in the heart of Portland's Black belt. At the age of 15, Walter dropped out of high school and started "hanging out" with the fellows. This eventually led to spending time in MacLaren School for Boys where Walter eventually received his G.E.D.

A short time later, Walter joined the United States Air Force and credits the strict discipline of the service for helping turn his life around.

Upon being honorably discharged from the service, Walter entered Warner Pacific College to prepare for a life in the ministry.

These days things are looking very good for Mr. Ghant as he prepares to leave for Howard University on December 15th. He's been nominated for the Benjamin E. Mayes Scholarship Award to assist him in his academic endeavors. In addition, Walter plans to be married on December 31st to Ms. Claris Ann Delapenha in Grand Cayman, British West Indies, the brides hometown. The couple will honeymoon in the romantic Caribbean Island.

The *Portland Observer* salutes Walter Ghant as our "Role Model of the Week," and wishes him much success, because his success is "our" business!