

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

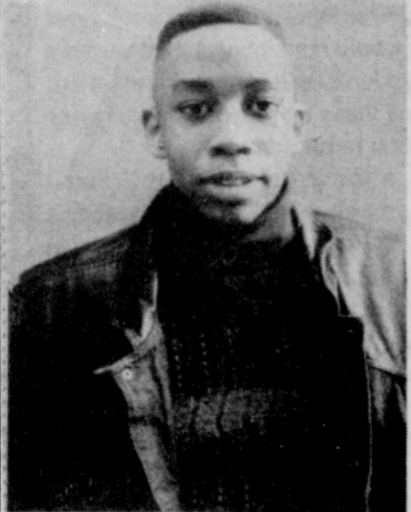
VOLUME XIX NUMBER 13

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## Introducing:



Ray Nelson  
Junior-Benson



Cannon Chatman  
Junior-Benson



Monique Norwood  
Senior-Benson



Durell Singleton  
Senior-Benson



Tanya Fox  
Freshman-Benson

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The **Portland Observer** has issued press passes to all of its employees. These passes are identifiable by (1) the **Observer's** logo at the top, (2) the employee's name and picture, (3) the word **PRESS** and, (4) a fingerprint of the right index finger. Anyone not in possession of an **Observer** press pass does not represent the **Portland Observer** newspaper.40

## CONGRATULATIONS!



The Reverend and Mrs. Michael Jones

Rev. Michael Stephen Jones, former Maranatha Church administrator, has been promoted to District Sales Manager of the Burroughs-Wellcome company in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jones was the principal of the Maranatha school before it closed and served in several leadership positions in Maranatha Church. Jones has been active in many community organizations, among them is Give Us This Day, Inc. where he served for eight years as board president.

He and his wife, LaVeta, were the third family to adopt a child through the Give Us This Day family recruitment outreach. They were also foster parents and participated in the Extended Family

Home Program by parenting two high-risk teenagers; one, a ward of Children's Services Division and the other a youth from the community who needed an extended family.

Jones attended Pacific University and received his BS degree in Biology in 1976. He joined Burroughs-Wellcome Company in July 1976 as a Sales Representative in Portland, Oregon. In January 1981, Jones was promoted to MCR. He was appointed Field Trainer in 1987 and was appointed to the Field Management Training Program in 1988. Jones was selected as a 1988 Premier Performer in Region 7.

## WOMEN MARCH FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE

by Imani Countess  
Special Report

(NIS)--Women from across the United States will converge on Washington D.C. April 9, to fight against the Bush Administration's attempts to reverse freedom of choice and reproductive rights.

Organizers say the march is especially significant for Black and poor women who are hardest hit when rights and choices are curtailed. Women of color represented 75 percent of deaths from illegal abortions before a Supreme Court ruling made abortions legal, reports Sabrae, Jenkins of the Women of Color Partnership Program, a D.C.-based educational group. In New York City alone 50 percent of illegal abortion deaths were Black women.

"Women of color already suffer from a variety of serious health conditions which may be exacerbated by pregnancy" Jenkins notes. Her group provides health facts to Black women, along with regional forums on comprehensive reproductive health care issues.

The Partnership Program, sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR), is aimed at Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific and Native American women who are sorely affected by limitations in choice because of poverty.

The Partnership Program recently convened a forum on abortion, reproductive rights and the role of the church in affirming choice, attended by some 150 women from Boston to New York. Jenkins says future conferences will address other reproductive health concerns including forced sterilization and the use of Depo-Provera, an injectable commonly used for contraception.

Depo-Provera, the center of a ten-year controversy, is banned for birth-control use in the United States but doctors are allowed to prescribe it for terminal cancer cases. The drug has been wrongfully administered as birth control to Native American, mentally retarded, and other women deemed "undesirable."

Many Black women regularly receive this drug from their doctors for female disorders. The vast majority are never told that Depo-Provera has failed to gain government approval.

The side effects are numerous and potentially dangerous. The National Women's Health Network reports that Depo-Provera users have suffered from irregular bleeding, depression, high blood pressure, excessive weight gain (more than 30 pounds), stomach pains, blurred vision, and a range of other ailments. Long-term effects have not been established, but animal and clinical evidence so far indicate risks of infertility, uterine and breast cancer, diabetes, anemia, blood clots, and excessive bleeding leading to hysterectomy.

Internationally, Black women in Namibia, Belize, South Africa, Kenya and Australia have been given the drug without information on the risks.

In Namibia, a country in southwestern Africa colonized by apartheid South Africa, Depo-Provera is routinely administered to mothers recovering from delivery and to teen-age girls at health clinics. Many examples have also been cited of the white minority government forcing young women to take the drug and then to become prostitutes for the occupying military force.

A delegation of Namibian women will march in the April 9 demonstration voicing support for the rights of women both in Namibia and the United States.

The march, is convened by the National Organization of Women (NOW) and assembles at 10:00 a.m. on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Contact (202) 331-0066 for more information.

## SPOTLIGHTING

GWEN COOKE  
One of Kaiser's Employees of the Year



Cooke, says being a payroll clerk gives her the opportunity to meet a variety of people. "Hospitals have people from diverse backgrounds in different positions. Since I work in payroll, I have the opportunity to meet a lot of them." She has worked at the prepaid health program for 19 years.

## MINORITY STUDENT CONCERNS FOCUS OF WORKSHOP AT PSU

"Black by Popular Demand," a combined video/workshop/seminar presentation currently gaining national prominence for its frank appraisal of academic, financial and social problems which black students can face on predominantly white educational campuses, will be presented to interested faculty and staff at Portland State University Thursday and Friday, April 13-14.

"Portland State has made a commitment to recruit and retain minority students and to assist them to be successful," said Jeffrey Moreland, PSU student and representative of the university's Black Cultural Affairs Board (BCAB) sponsoring the two-day

presentation at Portland State. "We strongly encourage your presence as well as support of this event," he urged in an open letter to members of the university community.

The free campus presentation is designed to encourage two-way communication between presenters and PSU personnel who have various roles which affect recruitment and retention of minority students.

A key element of the presentation, a "Black by Popular Demand" video created independently by students at Iowa State University during 1987, "...presents commentary from students, faculty, staff and administrators to evoke thought and ultimately action in resolving issues pertaining to black students,"

## State Treasurer Seeks To Weaken S. A. Divesture Bill

The House Committee on Human Resources has scheduled hearings for April 12, 1989 at 1:30 pm in Salem on two bills introduced at the request of State Treasurer Tony Meeker. House Bills 3190 and 3232, if passed, would seriously weaken the Oregon South Africa divestiture statute.

A broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans in both houses of the 1987 legislature approved a bill sponsored by Representative Margaret Carter which required the State of Oregon, by February 15, 1992 to divest itself of any stocks and bonds of American business entities which directly invest in South Africa or Namibia.

While he reports that he is actually ahead of schedule (the 1987 act set as a goal the divestiture of 1/4 of the offending stocks and bonds for each year of the four-year period), Treasurer Meeker is asking the legislature to delete the 1992 cutoff date. He has also expressed concern that he may not be able to purchase South Africa-Free stocks and bonds that have as high a return as those of companies doing business in South Africa and Namibia. He therefore proposes to permit state employees, whose pension funds comprise a large portion of the state funds involved, to elect whether or not they wish to have their potential retirement funds in South Africa-Free investments.

Other states, some with shorter time frames for divestiture than Oregon, have successfully divested without loss of income and without attempting to divide state workers on matters of investment policy. Treasurer Meeker also asked the legislature for more money to cover expenses of the divestiture law. It is inappropriate for the state treasurer to single out one of his legal responsibilities and request specific funding for it.

The Treasurer also proposes that the legislature amend the law to bar the state from purchasing goods and services from businesses investing in South Africa and Namibia. Were such a law to pass, responsibility for implementing it would, of course, be on other state government offices, not the treasurer. The potential impact of such legislation has not been analyzed by the treasurer but it would appear to be an appropriate objective which should be given consideration.

All persons and organizations who are interested in supporting the existing legislation and who object to the attempt to weaken the law are invited to contact Rep. Carter's Salem office (378-8823 or toll free number 1-800-327-7389).

## BAN APARTHEID!

## SENIOR OF THE WEEK



by Jimi Johnson

Mrs. Erie F. Robinson was born in Coushatta, Louisiana on October 14, 1905. She and her husband Floyd came to Portland in 1943 so he could find work in the shipyards. Mr. Robinson passed in 1973.

An active person, Mrs. Robinson exercises regularly in her home, she also takes short walks to visit friends and neighbors in her community. At 83 years old, Mrs. Robinson is a "picture of good health" and is currently raising her great nephew 'Drew' who is a junior at Jefferson High School.

Mrs. Robinson enjoys being around her family, including 2 sisters and 1 brother--now living in the Portland area. A member of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, Mrs. Robinson attends regularly and credits her strength and longevity to "trusting in God".

Mrs. Robinson believes "young people should go to school and trust in God. They should listen to their parents and elders because they can learn a lot from them" she continued.

The Portland Observer salutes this wonderful Senior Citizen.