

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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**Vestie Mannings**  
"Everyday is Mother's Day, you should honor your mother always."



**Jessie Varner**  
"Mothers need to possess unconditional Love."

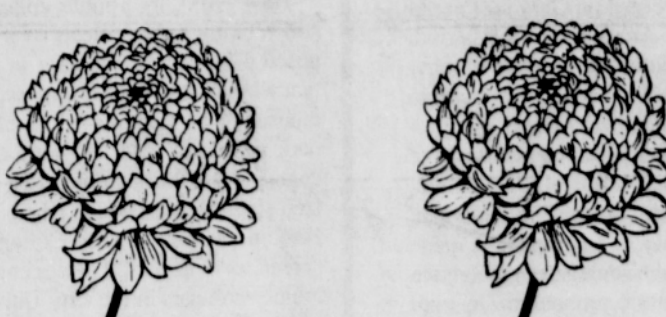


**Joyce Harris**  
BEC "The African woman is the mother of civilization. As African-Americans we should be proud of this legacy."



**Patti Coxeff**  
"Mothers are the fiber that holds families together."

## A Mother's Day Salute



### Saluting: Some of the Beautiful People of Our Community

#### BEAUTIFUL BLACK WOMAN

by Jimi Johnson

I love you  
for being such a wonderful person,  
the heavens must have lost a star.  
I love you for the patience you gave  
when mine was all gone,  
when I was feeling weak,  
you made me feel strong.

I love your olive skin  
and your beautiful brown eyes,  
you're my inspiration,  
you make me happy to be alive.

I love the way you forgave me  
when I took you for granted.  
I'll never take you for granted again,  
because I love you.

When I wanted to lie down and quit,  
you made me stand up and fight.  
You stood like a mountain  
when my whole world was crumbling down.  
Your love flowing like the great Nile, and just as deep.

I love you for the courage you have,  
thank you for sharing it with me.  
You took years of abuse  
from those who didn't understand,  
you were a mother and a father  
when there was no man.

Extraordinary women; when you're tired  
and want to rest your soul, rest  
for the universe will rest with you,  
"you have a heart of gold."  
You deserve the best,  
because you are the best.

Beautiful Black Woman, I love you!!!



**Sonja Johnson**  
"Patience, endurance and a whole lot of love, is mother."

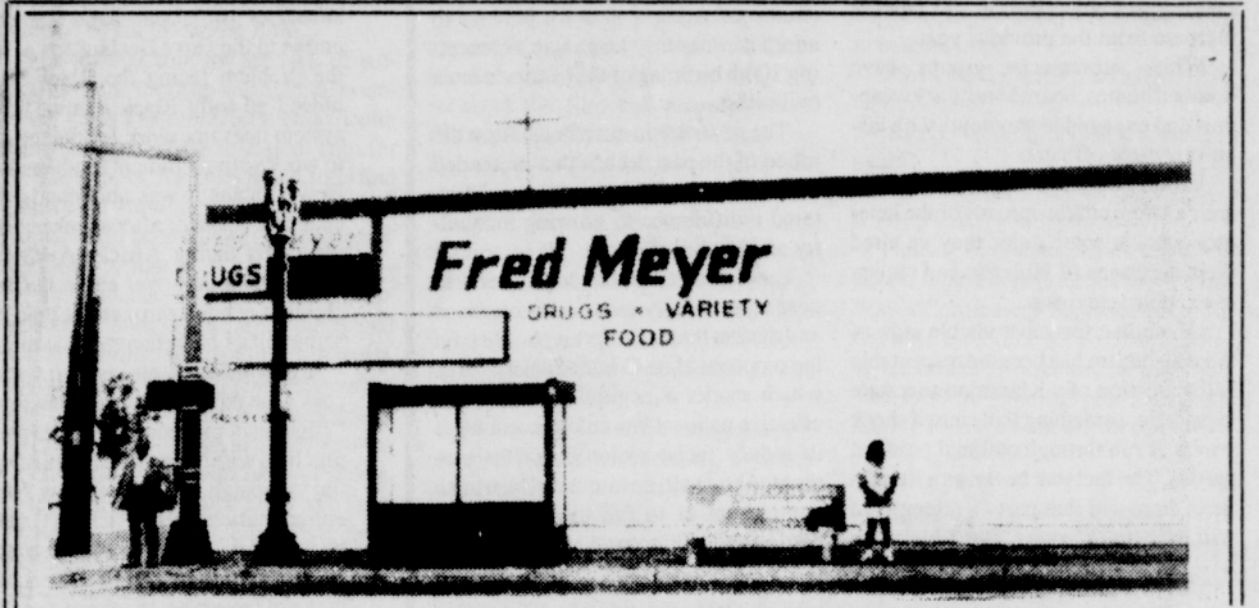


**Lynn Ervins**  
"Being a mother is a blessing and a flowing fountain of endless love"

## Embattled Urban League struggles for fiscal integrity

Landlord of Walnut Park facility still negotiating with prospective buyers.

One offer could convert present site into a mini-mall with multiple entrepreneurs.



by Stephen E. McPherson, Special Correspondent

Even during the day the big red and white neon sign facing out over Martin Luther King Avenue atop the former Fred Meyer facility at Walnut Park can be seen many blocks away. Now that it is darkened at night the history of its landmark status is now seriously compromised. For many years it was a beacon not only for customers who sought bargains within the store, itself, but it was also the guiding light for another type of client who sought sanctuary and solace within the state facility just across the street. It won't be long now before the sign itself will be relegated to an ignominious fate. Already the familiar corporate logo of the store has been painted over exactly as it has been done in the past when a well-known airline suffered a fatal crash and no longer wanted to be identified with its victims.

At the beginning of the year spokespersons for the corporation claimed that the Walnut park facility was a loser and a fiscal dilemma to an otherwise profitable organization.

This is an argument that many knowledgeable people on the street do not buy. As proof of their contention they assert that the Fred Meyer organization is only a name that its eastern parents have applied for local identity. They also own the Safeway chain. The store located at Martin Luther King Avenue and Ainsworth which is only several blocks away from Walnut Park was only recently refurbished and expanded at a cost in excess of \$1 million. It just doesn't make any sense in terms of profitability to maintain both sites where they would be competing for the same consumer dollar. Such a consideration certainly must have played an important role in the decision to close the older Fred Meyer Store.

The immediate deleterious effect was not only to proscribe those elderly persons who reside just across the street in the Walnut Park senior citizens complex

but also to contribute to the further degradation of the neighborhood. When the store was functional it maintained an excellent security force which was an adequate deterrent to auto burglaries and parking lot muggings. In less than two weeks their absence is striking. The covered parking lot has now been re-inhabited with a resident population of a different sort.

At first it appeared that Corno Foods would acquire the Walnut Park facility without an interruption in service. James Baker, a spokesperson for the Corno group, described in elaborate detail how John Corno intended to turn the site into a mini-mall with numerous adjunctive small shops run by independent entrepreneurs. He had nothing but praise for the unbridled cooperation extended to the Corno effort by the Fred Meyer group. But, then in a cryptically worded statement he indicated that the arrangement floundered at the eleventh hour because certain things had not been done in a timely manner.

Again the word is being passed along the street that the Cornos were unable to establish a \$100,000 line of credit in order to improve the cash flow of their new venture. If that rumor has any credence then the sale of the facility under those circumstance was compromised at the very outset.

The local daily newspaper reported on Friday that representatives from the Urban League and Corno Foods will continue to negotiate the sale. This is quite curious in that John Corno indicated at the very outset that the success of his plan depended upon the immediate acquisition of the property without an interruption in service. The building has been emptied and service has been interrupted for more than ten days. Any new acquisition would be faced with a complete startup rather than a simple transfer of ownership. Again, James Baker has indicated that he is unaware of any new conversations that were undertaken with a view to acquiring the property. He further stated that it would be unlikely if any such discussions could take place without his knowledge.

With so much attention centered on who will purchase the Walnut Park facility another kind of argument has emerged. A number of persons in the African American community have expressed serious concerns over the fact that the property involved represents one the largest pieces of real estate held by any African American unit in Portland. The fact that this sale would eliminate the ownership of this piece of property as one of the proud examples of African American success here in the Northwest would send a distressingly negative message to the young people who aspire to gain a share in the wealth of the community.

Indeed, given the kind of financial support both the Mayor and the Portland Development Commission have extended to ensure the success of this effort, it is appalling to observe that no African American entrepreneurs have availed themselves of such a singularly unique opportunity.

At least two African American groups have entertained the notion of purchasing Walnut Park but neither of these offers has been taken very seriously by the screening committee. To be sure, another proposal was presented last week which represented a substantial departure from previous overtures. At press time it was still under consideration.

Even now, some members of the league are expressing their displeasure with the fact that much of what has transpired was done in secrecy. They suggest that even the board of directors has not always been kept completely informed.

The Urban League certainly needs to resolve its fiscal incumbrances with all due speed, but in so doing its social responsibility should dictate that it act in the best interest of the African American community as a whole. The Urban League should insure that no short term gain will inevitably jeopardize the long term goals and aspirations of the community it is sworn to support.

## Housing Authority Enforces New "Get Tough" Policy for Illegal Activity

In an effort to curb illegal activity at its forty HAP locations, the Portland Housing Authority has announced a "Get Tough" policy which could lead to the eviction of tenants charged with "Outrageous Conduct".

The policy, first announced last October, enables HAP to evict a tenant within twenty four hours once notice is served. "Outrageous Conduct" is described by HAP spokesperson Carol Jelinek, as illegal drugs, prostitution, Arson, Assault discharging a firearm, or any activity that would endanger the life of tenants. For more information call HAP 249-5514.

## Jefferson High Grad Night Party Needs Funds

of the needed funds through various fund raisers and individual donations. However, May 22nd is almost here, and their budgetary goal has not been reached.

For this reason, the financial support of the community is being solicited. Please help sponsor this worthwhile event. No donation is too small. Contributions can be sent to Anna DeLorme, c/o Jefferson Mom's and Dad's Club, 2125 North Willamette Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97217. Make checks payable to 1989 Grad Night Party.

Jefferson High School's third annual Alcohol and Drug Free Grad All-Night Party is planned for Monday, May 22nd. The purpose of this event is to provide a safe, sane, exciting celebration for Jefferson's graduating seniors.

The Jefferson Mom's and Dad's Club and school faculty are working diligently to make this evening a fun-filled affair. Approximately \$6,000 is needed to ensure the success of the party. The planning committee has raised \$3,000

