

Portland, Oregon

PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 31

AUGUST 10, 1989

MARCUS POLK ROLE MODEL



By Jimi Johnson

Marcus Polk, a Junior Biology major from Portland, Oregon has a 3.84 G.P.A. at Jackson State University in Mississippi. He has been honored National Dean's List Scholar and as a Jackson State Dean's List Scholar. He has also received the Phil Reynolds Foundation Scholarship and the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship.

A 1986 graduate of Benson High School, Polk has made moves ranging from ballet to golf. Polk started taking ballet as a seventh grader while attending Harriett Tubman Middle School and was a co-op student at Jefferson High School.

Polk lettered four years in golf at Benson High School while graduating with a 3.5 G.P.A. Polk also served as Senior Class Vice President, and class speaker at the 1986 Graduation Ceremonies.

An accomplished golfer, Polk was recruited by Eddie Payton (Walter Payton's brother) to attend Jackson State University on a Golf Scholarship.

As a student of the "Minority Research Support Program" Polk has traveled to numerous National Institutes of Health to present his research.

Currently Polk is in Pearl River N.Y. working as a Summer Intern at American Cyanamid Lederly Laboratory, researching hypertension. Starting this fall while attending Jackson State, Polk will begin a Research Fellowship Project for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Polk ranked second in their selection for this fellowship out of 77 applicants.

After Polk completes his education in May of 1990, he will go on to medical school, saying he feels strongly that he can make an impact as a physician. "There is an under-representation of African-Americans among the ranks of physicians in this country". I have a deep concern about the health of my people." I think I can be effective in that role."

The Portland Observer salutes Marcus Polk for his dedication, ambition and desire to succeed in his chosen field.

GOLDSCHMIDT SIGNS ANTI- HARASSMENT, MLK HOLIDAY BILL

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt today signed into law two bills designed to improve reporting of malicious harassment crimes and to ban intimidation based on sexual orientation. The Governor also signed a bill extending the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to schools statewide.

"It is a sad fact that crimes motivated by prejudice and bigotry have increased dramatically in the Northwest in recent years. No one is immune from the viciousness of these mindless attacks. But let no one think for one minute that we are going to sit back and take it," said Gov. Goldschmidt. "Two of these bills send the message that the State of Oregon is fighting back against thugs and bigots."

Senate Bill 606, the bias Crimes Bill, requires law enforcement agencies to report to the state executive Department statistics concerning crimes motivated by prejudice based on perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability. The new law will help law enforcement agencies to determine the magnitude and geographic location of these "hate crimes."

The Executive Department will provide an annual report of hate crimes, and police officers will be trained to investigate, identify and report these crimes. Seven states currently require data collection regarding bias crimes, including Maryland, Virginia, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Minnesota, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

House Bill 2784 adds sexual orientation to categories protected by Oregon's intimidation law. It creates both a misdemeanor and a felony for acts of intimidation based on bias against sexual orientation. Tampering with property or subjecting another person to offensive physical conduct is a Class A misdemeanor. Causing physical injury or placing a person in fear of imminent serious physical injury is a Class C felony.

The bill was originally requested by Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Shrank.

The Governor also signed into law House Bill 2705, which designates Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, the third Monday in January, a legal school holiday statewide.

The Governor said there are many theories why crimes of hate are on the rise. "But one thing is clear," said Gov. Goldschmidt, "For the past decade, this country has been in retreat from the ideals of racial justice and tolerance that Martin Luther King lived and died for. We must reaffirm our dedication and redouble our efforts in pursuit of America's finest values--those of decency and fairness and equality."

Job Corp Honors Wyden, Nero, for Outstanding Service



Rep. Ron Wyden



David Nero

The U.S. Job Corp recently honored U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden, and Portland Businessman David Nero, for continued support of Job Corp projects in the Pacific Northwest.

Rep. Ron Wyden was honored for his continued support of Job Corps in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Jack Krois, Director of Region X Job Corps Services, presented a plaque made by the students at the Springdale Job Corps Center.

Rep. Wyden's contributions to the program include center visits to talk with many of the students, continued congressional support for Job Corps through his leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives and the recent promotion of the PIVOT program (Partners in Vocational Opportunity Training).

Job Corps is a vocational training and education program for youth 16 through 24 years of age who are economically, socially and educationally disadvantaged.

The PIVOT program is just the latest addition to the Job Corps commitment to providing educational and vocational training opportunities to disadvantaged youth, particularly young mothers on welfare.

Starting this fall, the PIVOT program will enable disadvantaged young parents to receive their training while working toward a high school diploma or G.E.D. with childcare services being provided.

In recognition of David M. Nero, Jr.'s 10 years of support and service to the Job Corps program, Jack Krois, Director of the Region X of Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Job Corps, honored Mr. Nero in a ceremony in the home office of Nero and Associates in Portland.

Mr. Nero founded Nero and Associates in 1971 with a commitment to providing access to training, job development and employment services by the most disadvantaged youth in our society. In addition to servicing Job Corps contracts for the last 10 years, NAI provided manpower services through the federal Model Cities program in the 1970's. The Oregon Small Business Association recognized Mr. Nero in 1973 as the Small Businessman of the Year.

"As the Job Corps celebrates its 25-year anniversary this summer, we thought it most appropriate to recognize a man in the region who has helped to make Job Corps the success that it is," said Mr. Krois.

Job Corps is a federally-funded program that provides youth 16 through 24 years old, who are disadvantaged economically, socially, or educationally, the needed vocational training and education to assist them in reaching the goal of "Making a New Life and a Good Living".

"The lack of success does not automatically mean lack of merit, capability or potential," Nero said. "What it does mean is that by recognizing these truths you can make a personal decision, a personal commitment not to become or stay a victim of the system. Young people have a choice to make--go for success or settle for failure."

"If you fail, you can blame it on racism--if you want to. You can blame it on sexism--if you want to. You can blame it on a lack of money or economic resources--if you want to. But if you say and accept those things--as right as they might be--you will not be a better person for it. You will still be their victim."

"Young people cannot blame failure to achieve success on a lack of opportunity, because the Job Corps gives that opportunity to them today. There are hundreds of Job Corps alumni possessing college degrees, including Ph.D.'s; thousands of alumni are holding down upper-middle class jobs, and all successful graduates are employed, with most on a career path."

American Bridge Association Helps Oregon Make National History Again!!!



L-R MARTHA JORDAN, ED WEST, ELLEN LAW

Last week more than 2,500 persons from all over the United States and several foreign countries invaded the City of Roses for the sole purpose of indulging themselves unabated in their favorite pastime addiction. They were dispersed among six downtown hotels where for the next ten days they would occupy more than 700 rooms as revenue generating guests.

This was their first visit as a group to the Pacific Northwest. For many years the local tourist groups had courted them until three years ago they made the decision to convene their convention here in the City of Roses. That decision brought smiles to local hotels, restaurants and merchants because these people already had established a reputation for dumping more than \$1.5 million into the local economy of any city they visited. Who are these mysterious fun-loving people? Let us take another look.

Back in 1930 a group of ardent tennis players from a small town in Kentucky discovered that they shared another common interest so they formed the American Bridge Association. When this single act is viewed almost sixty years later that particular amalgam might seem strange, especially when one considers the fact that at the time of their inception the entire world economy was mired in the most devastating depression history ever has recorded. Added to that observation is the fact that the newly formed group at the time was responding to a social need because they were Black and the white majority excluded them from participation in the national group.

Thelma Woodson of Detroit is their national president. She is a retired school principal who completed her undergraduate and graduate work at Wayne State University. Miss Woodson has been playing with the group for more than twenty three years.

Robert Price, a real estate broker from Chicago, did his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama made extremely famous by Governor George Wallace in the early civil right movement. He has been an ABA member for almost a quarter century and is the number one player having garnered over 15,000 master points. He also has been the recipient of the association's William Friend award for the last decade. This award goes annually to the player accruing the most points.

Miss Ellen Law hails from Portland, Oregon and is a retired principal of Jefferson High School. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon where she received both her graduate and undergraduate degrees. She is one of the co-organizers of the tournament along with Miss Martha Jordan, also of Portland and Ed West of Seattle.

While these fun loving people will inject more than a million dollars into the local economy they are still mindful of their social responsibility. For the last twenty years they have been giving annual scholarships to college bound African American students. They also have made significant contributions to the Urban League, and the NAACP.

Their activities will culminate on Saturday night in a Gala Rose Extravaganza where William Hilliard, editor of the local newspaper will be the keynote speaker. At that time numerous winners of various events will receive special awards and recognition by the entire group.

The Portland Observer feels privileged to salute these wonderful visitors to the City of Roses. Perhaps some of them will want to return as permanent residents to what is reputed to be the most livable city in these United States.

We wish them all a pleasant stay in our fair city and a safe and speedy return to their respective homes.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS WARNED OF INVESTMENT SCAMS

A growing number of con artists are swindling members of churches and religious groups by gaining their trust and selling them fraudulent investments. The Department of Insurance and Finance is joining with the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and the Council of Better Business Bureaus in issuing that warning, after a new study was released showing an escalating problem of investment fraud aimed at religious groups.

The study described a number of

religious scams that have been uncovered across the country. Some involve con artists who pose as "Christian" financial planners or who claim to have received "divinely inspired" investment advice. The phony investments they sell range from coins to precious metals, real estate, and oil wells in the Holy Land.

The Department of Insurance and Finance and NASAA advise members of churches and religious groups to be on guard for investment promoters who claim close ties to a particular religion or capitalize on connections to religious leaders. When

considering any investment, regardless of who is selling it, consumers should check the salesperson and investment opportunity with the Securities Section of the department.

NASAA and the Council of Better Business Bureaus have prepared an investor alert entitled "Preying on the Faithful" which discusses the problem and how to avoid being victimized. Copies of the alert are available by calling the Securities Section of the Department of Insurance and Finance at 378-4385, or writing to the Section at the Labor & Industries Bldg., Salem, 97310.

JEFFERSON CLASS REUNION

Jefferson High School Class of 1969 will hold their 20 year class reunion, August 18th thru August 20th.

A class get together will be held Friday 8/18/89 in the Jefferson High Cafeteria for Graduates only.

Saturday will feature a dinner and dance at the Airport Red Lion Inn all 69 graduates in the Portland area as well as other who graduated during the late sixties and early 70's.

Sunday is family day a picnic will be held at Blue Lake Park from 10 a.m. until Sundown ... Bring your Picnic basket and party.

For further information, please contact Nadine Clifton '69 Reunion Organization 283-4713.

BUF Host Forum

The Black United Fund of Oregon will be hosting a Community Forum on August 29, 1989 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Portland Library, Auditorium, 512 N. Killingsworth. The forum will feature a presentation by Kathleen Cornett, Program Officer, Oregon Community Foundation in which Ms. Cornett will discuss the process of obtaining funding from the Oregon

Community Foundation. Community organizations and individuals interested in obtaining funding from the Oregon Community Foundation are encouraged to attend. Informational materials will be distributed and there will be a question and answer period.

For further information contact Herman L. Brame, Technical Assistance Manager, The Black United Fund of Oregon at 282-7973.