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"The Eyes and The Ears of the Community"

DECEMBER 13, 1989

Oregon National Leader in Adoption Needs

SALEM—Oregon is a national leader in special needs adoptions. In 1988-89, the Oregon Children's Services Division placed 389 children in adoptive homes. That's a 35 percent increase from 1986 and a 10 percent successful, Oregon CSD's adoption success rate is over 90 percent.

Many of these children have special needs. They may be school age children with siblings who need a home where they can stay together, minority children who

need minority families, or children with emotional or physical difficulties.

The rate of disruptions (placements that do not work out) has improved significantly, dropping to 9.8 percent compared to 19 percent in 1987 and 16 percent in 1986. A new program called Post Adoption Family Therapy, which is attracting national attention, is being used in the Multnomah County area to reduce adoption disruptions.

The CSD sponsored community-based

program One Church, One Child is successfully placing Black children in Black homes through the support of 26 minority churches throughout the state.

November 19-25 was National Adoption Week. While Oregonians can be proud

of their adoption successrate, there are still children waiting for families in our state. For more information call the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 1-800-342-6688 or contact your local Children's Services Division office.

FACT SHEET FOR CSD ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS* 1988 - 89 Statistics

- At the end of June there were 428 children with active referrals to the Legal Assistance Program to be freed for adoption. 76% of the children were under the age of 8: 108 birth to 3; 106 age 3 to 6; 113 age 6 to 8; 94 age 8 to 14; and 7 are 14 or older.
- Adoptive placements increased: 10% over 1987-88 to a total of 389 legal risk and adoptive placements in fiscal year 1988-89.
- The average placement rate is 32.4 per month, compared to 29.5 in 1987 - 88 and 24.7 in 1986 - 87.
- Legal risk adoptive placements went up to 102, comprising 26.2% of total placements, compared to 23% in 1987 - 88 and 18% in 1986 - 87. Our goal for 1989-90 is to substantially increase the number of legal risk placements, as a means of assuring permanence for children at an earlier age.
- The rate of disruptions (placements that did not work out) has improved significantly, dropping to 9.8% compared to 19% in 1987 - 88 and 16% in 1986 - 87.
- Older children are still being placed for adoption but the age distribution shifted slightly to younger children. This year 67% of the children placed were under the age of 8: 97 birth to 3; 82 age 3 to 5; 81 age 5 to 8; 106 age 8 to 14; and 23 were age 14 or older.
- 325 adoption decrees have been received from the courts finalizing CSD placements made earlier.

Adoption Statistics for 6 Years

Year	Number of Placements, Disruptions and Decrees		Total	Disruptions	Decrees
	Legal Risk	Adoptive			
83/84	28	227	255	27 (10%)	231
84/85	23	235	258	25 (9%)	217
85/86	26	250	276	31 (11%)	239
86/87	55	241	296	49 (16%)	219
87/88	82	272	354	69 (19%)	216
88/89	102	287	389	38 (10%)	325

Age Distribution of Placements

Year	0-3	3-5	5-8	8 & older
83/84	88 (34%)	45 (17%)	42 (16%)	80 (31%)
84/85	64 (24%)	49 (18%)	55 (21%)	90 (34%)
85/86	58 (21%)	53 (19%)	60 (21%)	105 (38%)
86/87	54 (18%)	42 (15%)	58 (21%)	101 (34%)
87/88	83 (23%)	48 (13%)	85 (24%)	138 (38%)
88/89	97 (27%)	82 (22%)	81 (20%)	129 (31%)

* Does not include Independent Adoptions of Children in CSD's Temporary custody
EJF/DA/BJ/WR

Prepared by: Permanency Services Section

Gov. Goldschmidt Proposes New State Actions To Help The Homeless

EUGENE—Gov. Neil Goldschmidt on Dec. 6th, proposed three new state actions to help Oregon's homeless. The new efforts are aimed both at helping the homeless with the immediate problems faced this winter and with long-term housing issues.

"Too many around the nation are saying, 'this isn't our responsibility; we have done what we can, and we don't have the time to deal with an unexpected increase in the numbers of homeless,'" Goldschmidt said. "Not in Oregon; not in this state government. We are going to accept some responsibility; we are going to do more—we are going to be a partner in helping Oregon's less fortunate."

Goldschmidt said first he would ask for a rule change that would allow the State to use \$250,000 of existing State homeless funds to obtain an equal amount of new federal funds. The resulting half million will go into a special Emergency Assistance Fund targeted for housing that would

lead to permanent homes for welfare families.

Second, Goldschmidt announced his intention to ask the December Emergency Board for additional \$300,000 to help cities and counties with their homeless efforts. The funds would be provided to cities and counties on a match basis. Smaller local governments without the resources for the local match would be allowed to use their Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) funds.

Goldschmidt also announced that he would bring together representatives from the business community, many who are already providing leadership on housing issues for the low-income, to attempt to identify additional housing options that the private and public sector could work on together.

Details on the actions announced today will be presented to the December Legislative Emergency Board.

Youngest Multi-Channel Cochlear Implant Recipient Celebrates Xmas With The Gift Of Sound

Four-year-old Ashley Beghtel will have a very special Christmas this year—with the gift of sound.

Ashley, of Tigard, near Portland, is able to hear sounds again, after becoming Oregon's youngest multi-channel cochlear implant recipient. Cochlear implants can restore sound and speech recognition to people with severe to profound deafness. Ashley lost her hearing after a bout with spinal meningitis at age one. She received her cochlear implant at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in Portland.

Now Ashley is looking forward to all the sounds that accompany Christmas—reindeer's footsteps on the roof, sleigh bells, and the marching feet of wooden soldiers.

"Ashley is doing quite well since her implant," says Judy Benko, Ashley's speech pathologist at the Infant Hearing Resource in Portland. "She is showing awareness of sounds that she never showed before and developing speech skills that she never demonstrated before."

Ashley's parents and Ms. Benko would be happy to share Ashley's heartwarming yuletide story with your audience.

Mayor Declares Dec. 16th "Kids Care Too Day" In Portland

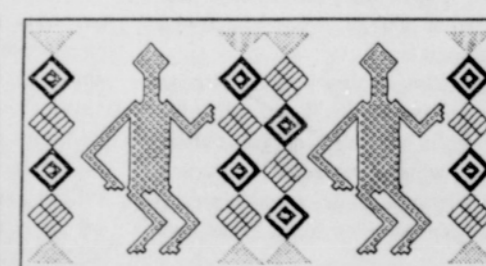
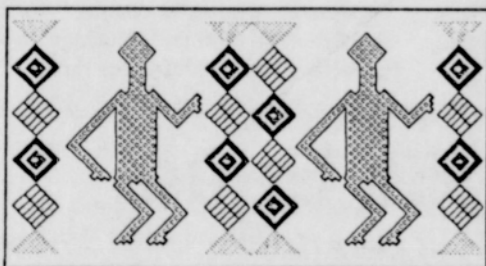
Mayor Bud Clark has declared Saturday, December 16 "Kids Care Too Day" to honor the efforts of the Mattel Kids Care Too Program in Portland. Mattel Kids Care Too is a nationwide program sponsored by Mattel, Inc. The toymaker is donating up to \$2 million in new toys and up to \$250,000 in cash to several national charities and is setting up nine thousand giving sites across the country so children can donate new or used toys to benefit less fortunate kids. National charities sponsoring the Mattel Kids Care Too Program include the Easter Seals Society, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the National Sclerosis Society, Boys Clubs of America, Goodwill Industries and K.I.D.S. (Kids In Distressed Situations).

Mattel Kids Care Too encourages children to help other children less fortunate than themselves by donating a toy—any toy. Through participating in this program, a child learns both the value and joy of giving as he brightens another child's Christmas.

In Portland, Mattel Kids Care Too is working in conjunction with the Channel 8

Toy Drive to benefit seven local charities: Portland Fire Bureau's Toy and Joy Makers, Fire District 10 Toy and Joy Makers of East Multnomah County, Portland Salvation Army, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's Toy and Joy Makers, Beaverton Elks Lodge, Clackamas County Toy and Joy Makers and the Clark County Salvation Army. All toys collected at Mattel Kids Care Too events and ongoing giving sites will be delivered to needy Portland-area children for Christmas.

On Dec. 16, "Kids Care Too Day," Mattel Kids Care Too will be collecting toys at the Musical Company's performance of "The Wizard of Oz" (Eastside Performance Center, S.E. 14th and Stark). Children who bring toys to donate will have the opportunity to design their own button to wear for the day. Other Mattel Kids Care Too collection sites include the Galleria, Lloyd Center, OMSI, KGW-TV, G.I. Joe's, U.S. Bank Winter Light Festival (Metro Washington Park Zoo) and The New Rose Theatre's "Christmas Carol" performances (Winnigstad Theatre).



Time To Celebrate African-American Roots

On this holiday, December 26 thru January 1, tens of millions of African-Americans will honor those who have gone before, the living presence of a people, and those who will follow. Seven evenings of beautiful, solemn or festive celebrations will see nationwide gatherings of Black people to honor their roots and culture—and to renew their faith, strength and determination to secure a viable future against all odds.

The Black Education Center will sponsor the local series of celebrations at the Matt Dishman Center, 77 N.E. Knott St. The schedule, beginning Tuesday, Dec. 26th, is 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays, and 2-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Each evening a different program will be presented by such community organizations as the Coalition of Black Men, the Black Professional Network, The Black United Front, the Sirius Study Group, and others. For further information or needed supplies visit the Talking Drum Bookstore at 1634 N.E. Alberta St., Tuesday through Saturday afternoons (phone: 282-9465).

The Kwanzaa holiday was founded in 1966 by Dr. Mulana Ron Karenga, a renowned African-American professor of Black History. The structure, including homage, feasts, fashions, decorations, icons and an African Marketplace, is in the fashion of ancient and contemporary African agricultural celebrations of harvest and thanksgiving. These eons-old traditions antedate all

other of mankind's recognition of value systems and spirituality.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

There follows here a listing and description of meaning and purpose of each festival day.

1. **Umojo** [pronounced oo--MOH-jah] (Unity): Achieve unity in the family, the community and in the world diaspora.

2. **Kujichagulia** [pronounced Koo-gee-cha-goo-lee-ah] (Self-determination): Define, name, structure and speak for ourselves.

3. **Ujima** [pronounced oo-GEE-mah] (Collective work and responsibility): Work and build together a community that will serve our needs.

4. **Ujamaa** [pronounced oo-jah-mah] (Cooperative economics): Finance and build our own commercial enterprises to serve our needs.

5. **Nia** [pronounced Nee-ah] (Purpose): A commitment to a collective vocation of developing and restoring our community and people to traditional greatness.

6. **Kuumba** [pronounced kooj-oom-bah] (Creativity): A single-minded determination to use our proven innovative skills to render our community a better place than we found it.

7. **Imani** [pronounced ee-MAH-nee] (Faith): An unshakable belief in our people, parents, teachers and leaders, and ultimate victory in our struggle.



"A spirit set free to abide in eternity..."

Corbbrey

Given the steadily increasing participation of community leaders and organizations, it is expected that this year's Kwanzaa celebration will be the most successful and meaningful to date. There will be lectures and panel discussions which will examine the many issues critical to the well being of the community and its residents. And there will be speakers whose expertise and responsibilities will lend credence to their analyses. The festival nature of Kwanzaa will reveal itself in the incomparable panorama of African food, music, dance and drumming, and on Saturday afternoon when a magnificent African Bazaar will be set up for shoppers—and on Sunday afternoon, the day for Karami, the Big Feast.

If one sees symbols and icons which might suggest that Dr. Karenga has invented a religion, that is not the case at all. These who have read my column "Perspectives" for the past two years will immediately appreciate that Western Civilization has—from the Greeks onward—always turned toward Africa and the African for its spiritual sustenance, as well as the other facets of culture, and for its technology. But as the great cycle of an eternal world has been turning through its western phase of wars, pestilence, slavery, racism, atomic bombs and an alleged "conquest of space," we note a parallel and traumatic alienation of mankind as he has been wrenched from his spiritual roots. Who can sing a spiritual, really?

This pitiful mindset has been best expressed this century through the voices of those who have been labeled the "Existential Philosophers" (Sartre-Heidegger, et al) who, spiritually bankrupt, gave the cry, "God is dead!" It is not strange that this sad state of affairs coincided with the arrogant revisionist program to reject all things African in the historic literature and even the Bibles of the world. Under the aegis of the new Neanderthals, the woolly-headed patriarchs and law-givers of the Judeo-Christian Bibles and literature have become pale, soulless narrators of events now described as "folklore."

Ironically, at the very same time the most renown of modern scientists ran into an absolute dead end trying to follow Einstein into a universe of relativity and quantum theory. They now say that "in the beginning" there was a Big Bang wherein the universe was created instantaneously from a void which cannot be comprehended by the human mind. This is exactly what the Africans said 6,000 years earlier: "Spirit moved on the face of the primitive Nu—" I (God) created myself out of nothing." How fortunate we are that our forefathers wrote in stone and upon papyrus—still to be found in Ethiopia, Nubia and Egypt, and displayed in Muslims throughout the world. There is still hope.

What other treasures are there that the ancient Africans bequeathed us—

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