

Portland, Oregon

PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

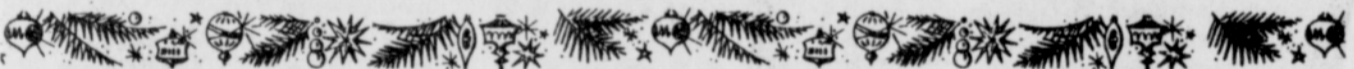
VOLUME XIX NUMBER 50

"The Eyes and The Ears of the Community"

DECEMBER 20, 1989



"MARY" CHRISTMAS FROM DISNEYLAND--Disneyland guest Kirstin Kjeldsen of Portland, Oregon, assisted Mary Poppins and Mickey Mouse in lighting the Magic Kingdom's spectacular 60-foot Christmas tree on Tuesday, Dec. 5, took part in the special tree-lighting ceremony that illuminates the colorfully decorated white fir tree, the centerpiece of Disneyland's festive yuletide decor. The Magic Kingdom's holiday season continues daily through Jan. 1.



Helping Children Become Culturally Diverse

CHICAGO, ILL.--If parents want their children to thrive in today's culturally diverse society, they must teach kids about people from different racial, economic, religious and cultural backgrounds, advises the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association.

The National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has devoted its December 1989/January 1990 issue of PTA Today magazine to articles about ways to help children respect differences in others and develop into culturally literate adults.

"The success of our children in a culturally diverse world is greatly influenced by the actions and attitudes of the environment in which they live," says Mary Lou Fuller, associate professor for the department of elementary education in the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D.

Writing in the PTA's award-winning

Vacant House Renewed Through Volunteer Effort

A ceremony celebrating the completed renovation of a vacant, deteriorated house will take place at noon on Thurs., Dec. 21 at 2334 SE Morrison. Thanks to the energy of dozens of volunteers from the Xerox Corporation working in partnership with REACH Community Development, Inc. and Portland Impact, this cozy home will be ready to provide a homeless family a safe place to live just in time for the new year.

Xerox Corporation volunteers have worked with REACH, who recently purchased the house, to transform this neighborhood eyesore into a community asset. Volunteers have spent three Saturdays over the last two months painting, pruning, cleaning and landscaping. REACH staff and contractors have worked during the weekdays to do the roofing, electrical, plumbing and carpentry. The building is being renovated with a low interest loan made available from the Portland Development Commission and a \$2,000 contribution made by Xerox.

REACH, a private nonprofit community development corporation, will lease the refurbished house to Portland Impact, a

magazine, Fuller notes that one way to develop cultural literacy is through the school curricula. For instance, the state of Minnesota is mandating multi-cultural education as part of its K-12 program.

Parents should also educate children at home. Fuller suggests that parents examine their own knowledge and attitudes about other cultures, then begin by selecting a given culture or country they wish to know more about. "The goal is not to become an expert, but to learn to appreciate and feel comfortable with cultural diversity," says the author.

She suggests that parents gather books from the library--both fiction and nonfiction--about the group of interest, then read and discuss the books with their children. They can also use local newspapers and news magazines to become familiar with the culture's current events.

The food of a particular country or

nonprofit social service agency, for use as transitional housing for up to 90 days and will receive comprehensive case management support to help them get back on their feet. Security Pacific Bank has agreed to donate funds to Portland Impact to cover the first six months of the lease payments.

The idea for this exciting partnership developed last summer when members of Xerox's Community Involvement Program began to look for a project that would make a positive impact on the community. Their search led them to REACH and Portland Impact. REACH has renovated over 300 units of housing in southeast Portland, however, this is the first time REACH has worked so extensively with a private corporation.

Participating in the celebration will be: REACH Community Development, Inc., volunteers from the Xerox Corporation, Portland Impact, and Security Pacific, Bob Strayhan, District Manager for Xerox and Jim Aalberg, Senior Vice President of Security Pacific Bank will be on hand to present their companies' contributions to REACH and Portland Impact.

culture is another good introduction. Get a cookbook from the library and try some recipes. If possible, shop for the ingredients at a grocery store in a neighborhood representing the culture of interest. Another option is to visit restaurants that are operated and frequented by people of that culture. Remember, ethnic fast-food and chain restaurants generally are not culturally representative.

Another way to expand children's horizons is by encouraging them to correspond with pen pals from other cultures (Fuller's article lists three organizations to contact). Or, arrange to have a foreign exchange student live in your home.

An important part of understanding other cultures is understanding one's own culture. A good and fun way to accomplish this is by investigating the origins of one's own family, says Fuller.

The brochure, "What to Tell Your Child About Prejudice and Discrimination," is another resource. A free copy of the brochure, produced by the National PTA and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, can be requested by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to National PTA, Prejudice Pub, 700 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Copies of PTA Today are available for \$1 each by sending a check or money order made payable to the National PTA, 700 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611. The magazine is published seven times a year (October-May, December/January combined issues), and subscriptions are \$7/year.



Philanthropy and the Black Stereotype

by James A. Joseph

Two emerging trends are creating contradictory perceptions about the current status of African-Americans in our society. Black political candidates are winning increasing support from white Americans. Yet, on the other hand, there is an alarming surge in acts of racial violence and intolerance.

This same contradiction manifests itself in other areas as well. I long have been concerned, for example, with the public perception of African-Americans as the recipients of charity rather than as a benevolent community in their own right.

Like most labels and stereotypes, this one does not fare too well when facts are allowed to shine from clouds of ignorance. There is more than a 200-year old tradition of organized charitable giving by blacks through institutions developed by blacks. Yet, long after blacks have struggled and died for equal access to public facilities, housing and voting rights, American society is not fully aware of the highly-developed giving traditions and practices of African-Americans. Although these giving traditions are played out every day in the black community, now is the time to celebrate these traditions by spreading the word.

The history of black philanthropy is the history of being black in America. In response to discrimination and the ambivalence of mainstream, majority and governmental institutions, black Americans over the years have forged a tradition of communal self-help practices to address their most critical problems.

The primary example is the black Church--an institution which has been the cornerstone of black economic, philanthropic and political initiative for two centuries. Churches and church-related organizations in the black community have raised charitable funds to provide for basic needs, and they have served as catalysts for political endeavor and the guarantee of civil liberties. Moreover, they have helped buttress long-term economic health by providing funds for the first black schools, banks and insurance companies.

Other strong philanthropic institutions have developed throughout history in response to changing socio-economic conditions. These include mutual aid societies; anti-slavery funds; the African Union soci-

ety which helped ease the transition of blacks from slavery to freedom; and black fraternal and social organizations. More recently, the civil rights movement heralded greater black empowerment and led to the founding of large scale black fundraising organizations like the Black United Fund and the Associated Black Charities.

Despite the perception of some that affluent blacks in the 1990's are more interested in the personal accumulation of wealth than in philanthropy, a burgeoning movement among them has resulted in large scale giving by such well known blacks as Dave Winfield, Bill and Camille Cosby, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jackson, Eddie Murphy, Dave Stewart and many others who choose to give anonymously. Yet, a substantial amount of giving in the black community comes from smaller, but consistent, donations from persons of modest means.

American society should encourage the giving traditions of black Americans. American philanthropy in the 21st century will be distinguished by its commitment to cultural diversity and ethnic pluralism. Rarely do we think of the American philanthropic tradition as a multi-cultural legacy. Yet, minorities and new groups migrating to this nation bring with them helping and giving traditions which enrich the fabric of our society.

As part of an effort to educate Americans about the giving traditions of blacks and other minorities, the Council on Foundations, the international membership organization of foundations and corporations with charitable giving programs.

has initiated a new project, "Pluralism in Philanthropy." It has two major objectives: to increase awareness among African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians about the options for giving offered by organized philanthropy; and to educate the public about the benevolent traditions and giving practices of these Americans.

This marks the first such national effort targeted to minorities. Having fought many battles as a leader of the civil rights movement in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, I am proud now as president of the Council on Foundations to put in place a project that seeks to educate, and in so doing, help tear down some of the barriers which still fracture our society.

By helping to foster a broader public understanding of the African-American philanthropic tradition, we take a giant step by educating Americans that the stereotype of the black American as being only a recipient of charity is inaccurate. Moreover, we remove one more block in the ideological walls which still plague some communities in this nation and we sustain a value system which heralds cultural diversity and denigrates racial discord.

[Mr. Joseph, one of the highest ranking black officials in the Carter Administration, is president of the Council on Foundations, the international membership organization of foundations and corporations with charitable giving programs.]



Ramon Ramos: A Tribute To A Real Life Role Model

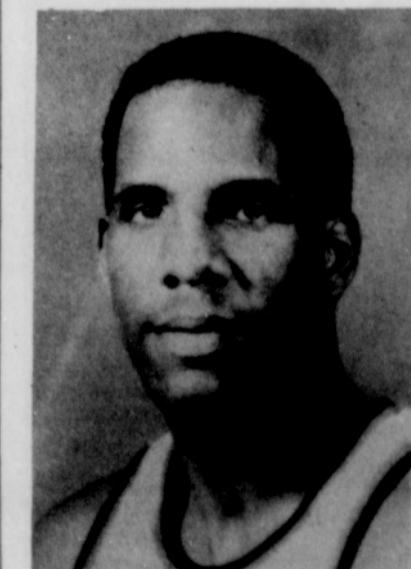
by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

"Hey Ramon," this writer hollered, "I'm still waiting on you to score that first NBA basket for me."

"Don't worry," he laughed. "There are plenty of games to go. I'll get you one before it's all over with." He raised a clinched fist and continued to shoot or fantasize about hitting that first basket. Perhaps, he would dunk on three Golden State Warrior defenders or shoot a three-point goal at the buzzer to give the Trailblazers a victory. The dream was alive and well in his heart. Ramon has a big heart.

A little more than eight hours later, Ramon's dream was altered by fog and a patch of ice last Friday morning. He lost control of his red Nissan 300ZX and slid about 600 feet sideways before leaving the ground for about forty feet. Ramos suffered extensive head and chest damage. Doctors give him a 50-50 chance to survive and if he does, it is doubtful that he will ever score a point in the NBA. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Currently in a coma and on a ventilator to help him breathe, Ramos, once again will have to dig down real deep and come up with the big play like he did in college and in the 1988 Olympics. He has to come up with the big play. His life depends on it. Let us continue to pray.



Sometimes, we as people take for granted that we have a lifetime to chase our innermost dreams and aspirations. We can be virtually sitting on the edge of a dream but tell that to life or "potential gut" checks like death. Death has a way of creeping up on humans when they least expect it. Some folks look death in the face and suggest that it go elsewhere. Others cash in their lottery ticket because it's their time.

Why does it take adversity, pain, or even people going "toe-to-toe" with death for people want to get themselves together? Why do people have to be scared into doing the right thing? Why can't people do the right thing naturally? It is sad to say, but, some folks deserve to die. Killers, drug dealers feeding our youth poison, child molesters, etc. . . . Admit it, we wish death and harsh times on people who won't be mused by society. Bad people have a way of escaping what die to them.

So, why does God use good people like Ramon as a means to make us catch a grip on life? People will not miss the drug dealer or criminal who exploits the community. God calls individuals like Ramon because he will be missed if taken. He is a credit to his native Puerto Rico, Sexton Hall, and to the Portland community. Bad things happen to good people. It makes people stop and reflect for a moment . . . Are you reflecting now or does it take more bad things to happen to a good person? Where and when life rears its ugly head is beyond human comprehension and control.

So remember, the next time you procrastinate that tomorrow is not yours. No one has a permanent leave on life. Do what you have to do when you are suppose to do it. Do it for Ramon. Score a basket in your life for him by living right before adversity strikes. Wake up and score the assist to Ramon.

Short Shakes: Next week the "Locker Room" will get back to basketball. Look for upcoming features on former Blazer--now Vice President of the Atlanta Hawks, Johnny Davis, Clyde Drexler, and Mitch Richmond of the Golden State Warriors, Yel

Helping The Needy Throughout The Year

For more than 32 years Community Care has been feeding Portland's hungry and providing housing assistance for the homeless. Clara Peoples, founder and director, estimates that over 900,000 food baskets have been passed out during this period providing emergency food assistance for more than 750,000 families.

The agency suffered a \$20,000 food lost in 1987 due to a fire which destroyed the interior of Ms. Peoples' residence which also serves as headquarters for Community Care. In spite of this setback, operations continued during remodeling, feeding some 15,000 hungry Portlanders.

It was because of this effort and those over the years that the Portland Muslim Community recently honored Ms. Peoples with an award for outstanding community service.

The agency now finds itself hard pressed for food and cash contributions as the cold weather makes the task of providing resources even more burdensome.

Community Care is appealing to the Public for support to provide emergency food, housing, and utility needs.

Contributions may be made directly to:

1st Interstate Bank
Walnut Park Branch
P.O. Box 11346
Portland, Oregon 97211
Attn.: Community Care
(Clara Peoples)