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"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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House of Umoja to Open in Portland

by Dante Che

The House of Umoja, Philadelphia-based safehouse for gang-related youth has a new home in Portland.

Administrators David and Falaka Fattah have agreed to be the home's first house-parents and have indicated that they will stay here from two months to two years until suitable local house-parents can be recruited.

Lorenzo Poe, chairman of the board of the House of Umoja, Inc. said that the Fattahs first came to his attention at the Hope For Youth Conference held at Viscount Hotel. The Hope For Youth conference addressed the issues of at-risk youth, and the growing phenomena of gang involvement of local area youth. The Fattahs were speakers at the conference and aided in the attendant workshops during the conference.

The Fattahs have over twenty years of experience in the field of gang-related youth rehabilitation. They first became involved when one of their sons who was a gang member, thus starting a program that has successfully responded to the threat of gang-

related activity for over twenty years.

The new House of Umoja will be located on Seventeenth & Alberta in a building which most recently housed the black education center. Washington Federal Savings and Loan has also donated to other houses in same vicinity.

The program of the House of Umoja incorporates traditional African tribal values, in which there is a mother and father figure, basic family principles of respect and love for the community, responsibility for ones brothers and sisters, accountability not only for oneself but the larger community as well, and strong work and educational ethics with group dynamics, tutorial components and counseling components. There will be a computer lab to aid with the tutorial component as well.

The Umoja project has gained significant corporate, government, and community sponsorship in the entities of Nike, Inc., \$100,000; City of Portland, \$75,000; Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division, \$10,000; Oregon State Drug and Alcohol Office, \$14,000; and Washington Federal Savings and Loan, two properties totalling

approximately \$195,000 in contributions thus far. However, according to Poe, the projects still needs \$150,000 to complete renovations.

Referrals to the House of Umoja will be from three areas: local, county, juvenile division, Oregon State Training school, and community referrals for gang-related, and youth at risk of being involved in gangs. Due to the later aspect of the referral system Poe said that it is very important to secure funding from sources other than government agencies.

Poe states that the gang issue is no longer one of California import; it is how our children, relatives, and neighbors' children who are the active participants in the gang activities now. He estimates that we have about five years to stem the tide of social phenomena. We know the Umoja model works and has worked for over twenty years with these kind of kids and it works effectively. The House of Umoja anticipates opening by next Fall. Contributions to the House of Umoja may be made directly by contacting Iris Bell 287-7488, or in the House of Umoja Trust Fund at Washington Federal Bank.



(Photo courtesy of the 'Oregonian')

David Fattah and his wife, Sister Falaka Fattah, will be the first house parents of the House of Umoja, a sanctuary for street-gang youths. Organizers said this building on Northeast Alberta Street in Portland will be home for the program, modeled after the Sister Fattah's House of Umoja in Philadelphia.

Norm Rice, Seattle's First African-American Mayor Discusses Agenda for the 1990s

Norm Rice, who took office in January as Seattle's first African-American mayor, will discuss his agenda for the 1990s Friday, March 23 at City Commissioner Dick Bogle's first "Commissioner's Forum Luncheon" of the year.

The luncheon will be held at the Travelodge Motel, 1441 NE 2nd Ave., off Weidler.

A 1972 graduate of the School of Communications at the University of Washington, Rice earned the Master in Public Administration degree in 1974.

He first won election to the Seattle City Council in 1978, and was elected council president in 1983 and 1984. He has chaired every major council committee, including education, finance, labor policy, personnel, public safety, and transportation.

As an undergraduate at the University of Washington, he worked as a reporter for KIXI Radio for two years, and as a writer and editor for KOMO-TV for two years.

He served as assistant director of the Seattle Urban League while attending graduate school, and as director of government services for



Norm Rice, Mayor of Seattle, WA

the Puget Sound Council of Governments for the two years immediately after.

At the time of his election to the Seattle City Council, Rice was manager of corporate contributions and social policy for Rainier National Bank.

He also was elected to Seattle's Metro Council in 1978, and served for 10 years as chair of the council's personnel and finance committee.

During his 12 years in office, Rice has established himself as a recognized expert on issues ranging from crime and public safety, to fiscal and budgetary policies.

Born in Denver, Colo. in 1943, he moved to Seattle in 1968 to attend the University of Washington. He is married to Dr. Constance Rice, a successful small business owner. Their son, Mian, is enrolled at Eastern Washington University.

Persons wishing to attend should call Commissioner Bogle's office, 248-4682, no later than Tuesday, March 20. Cost of the luncheon is \$9.50. Seating is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Retired Pepsi-Cola Vice President Discusses Affirmative Action During 55-Year Business Career

NASHVILLE, TENN.--With a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and an MBA Degree from the Harvard Business School, H. Naylor Fitzhugh found in 1933 that he, and other Blacks, could not get a job in Washington, D.C. as a department store clerk.

Fitzhugh's skills went instead into the teaching of marketing at Howard University and into "The New Negro Alliance--a distant localized forerunner of Jesse Jackson's People United to Save Humanity (PUSH)."

In a recent speech to the Minority Students Association, Owen Graduate School of Management, Vanderbilt University, Fitzhugh said: "For a while we picketed

stores until they either capitulated or closed."

The Alliance's efforts were opposed by local courts but upheld in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1939. Fitzhugh told the business students during his discourse on "An affirmative African-American Experience in Corporate America."

In 1955 Fitzhugh joined the Pepsi-Cola Company. He has since retired as a Vice President of Marketing but continues, at 81, to work for the company as a Project Consultant.

"An affirmative action approach to corporate America calls for optimism as well as realism," Fitzhugh told the students. "It calls for focusing on the half-full

glass, rather than the half-empty part--for lighting a candle, rather than cursing the darkness."

He said, "There may be occasions when such an affirmative approach seems beyond our reach; however, we should try hard not to let it escape from us when it is within our reach."

Fitzhugh said, "By 'affirmative', I mean a realistic, creative, positive, productive approach. To those who disparage the term as preferential treatment or reverse discrimination, I say, 'consider the draft system in major-league sports. If the first-place teams were given the first draft choices, the games would quickly lose their character and popular appeal.'"

Saluting Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts, Bureau of Labor and Industries

Mary Wendy Roberts was first elected Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in 1978, and was re-elected in 1982 and 1986. She is the first woman labor commissioner and the first woman Democrat elected to a statewide office in Oregon.

As commissioner, Roberts is charged with enforcing state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and the statutes regulating payment of wages and hours of employment, basic working conditions and child labor laws. She also oversees the Bureau's apprenticeship and training program and chairs the Oregon Apprenticeship and Training Council.

She first entered public service in 1973 as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives, the youngest woman ever elected to the state legislature. Two years later she ran for the state Senate where she served from 1975 to 1979. She was a member of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, State Emergency Board, Senate Labor Committee, Consumer Affairs Committee and Apprenticeship Task Force.

As a member of the Oregon Legislature, Roberts played a key role in the reorganization of the Human Resources Department, and her legislation created the Secure Treatment Unit for Emotionally Disturbed Children at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem. She sponsored and successfully pushed through a bill prohibiting employers from discriminating against women employees because of pregnancy.

Roberts is immediate past president of the National Association of Governmental Labor Officials, which is comprised of all the directors and commissioners of state labor and industrial departments. She is currently serving a second term as president of the National Apprenticeship Program Board, an organization representing state apprenticeship programs in working with the U.S. Department of Labor.



Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts

She is also on the Oregon State Job Training Coordinating council, and the Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. She was Advisory Council on Career and Vocational Education, and the Oregon Council on Economic Education.

Roberts earned an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Oregon where she was a member of the Honors College. She was the recipient of a National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship to the University of Colorado's Chinese-Japanese Language Institute for Chinese language study.

Prior occupations have included curriculum consultant to Mt. Hood Community College, court counselor for Multnomah

County Juvenile Court, social worker, and real estate agent for S.J. Pounder Realty and Award Realty in Portland.

She lives in Portland with her daughter Alexandra, who is eight.

Earlier this year, Roberts testified in Washington, D.C. on the federal Parental and Medical Leave Bill of 1989, at the invitation of Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism. The Bureau enforces Oregon's parental leave law. Roberts also testified on behalf of Washington state's Family/Medical Leave bill and submitted testimony to the Pennsylvania Legislature which also is considering Parental and Medical Leave Legislative Roundtable in Boston later this year, sponsored by the National Center for Policy Alternatives, Washington, D.C.

As President of the National Apprenticeship Program, Roberts was invited to attend an International Symposium in Paris on Apprenticeship in 1988.

Under Commissioner Robert's leadership, Oregon has been very involved in the forefront of child labor issues. Recently the State Court of Appeals upheld a landmark case affirming the constitutionality of the Oregon Child Labor Laws and affirming the Commissioner's decision on a door-to-door candy sale case. This victory included the assessment of \$45,000 in civil penalties against Northwest Advancement for 75 child labor law violations in the use of minors in door-to-door sales.

Her efforts on behalf of migrant workers earned her two awards in 1989. On June 9 she received a Special Recognition Award from the Oregon Human Development Corporation and on Sept. 15, the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs presented her and the Bureau a plaque in recognition of "outstanding service to the farmworkers of Oregon."

Will The "New" Immigration Destroy Blacks-Before Drugs, That Is?

(First of a Series)

By Professor McKinley Burt

There is a growing and a very upset segment of African-Americans who are expressing fears that the rapidly escalating number of new citizens-to-be reaching American shores and borders portend a new round of economic and social disasters for Blacks (no longer the majority among hyphenated Americans). Their fears do not seem at all groundless to those who work in social services, ranging from employment and housing to the criminal justice system. The flames were fueled last month when top Bush Administration officials approved a plan to raise visa quotas and let in 140,000 more immigrants each year above the annual average of 490,000, citing "humanitarian and economic concerns." Things were not helped much when Representative Bruce Morrison said he wanted to raise the ante to 750,000.

Whatever the merits of that particular argument, Black leaders and many others know fully well that had not those early millions of white immigrants been cut off by German submarines in World War I, Blacks would have ended up displaced to reservations, just as the American Indians before them. African Americans in the nation's inner cities see a more direct, visible and contemporary threat, not only in job competition by new waves of Asians and Latinos for the lower-paid, unskilled minimum wage jobs that have always served as an economic refuge for those at the bottom of the ladder-but in the newcomer's

increasing acquisitions of those smaller ghetto businesses traditionally a stepping stone for Blacks into the world of commerce. (There are two kinds of immigration: people and money.)

It has exacerbated the situation as Blacks have perceived the new arrivals to have much greater access to bank loans, commercial leases, mall locations, and profitable franchises. Also, they have that which many of the immigrants are able to bring to bear financial resources from their land of origin, or from American combines of their brethren-or are able to tap capital pools formed by their American sponsors. Some blacks are asking where in the world are their leaders and urban organizations on these issues, what programs have they in the works.

Last year John E. Jacob, National Director of the Urban League, made the following statements in his weekly column (5/18/89):

I'm increasingly annoyed by the acceptance of a new myth about the poor. You've probably heard it, too.

It goes like this: "The success of the new immigrants to these shores proves that we don't need new government programs to end poverty."

Baloney. Our home-grown poor, and especially the African American poor, face a lack of economic and educational opportunities, as well as persistent racial discrimination, that makes such comparisons and conclusions odi-

ous. Instead of dealing with the very real problems faced by America's poor people, we're romanticizing an immigrant experience that has little relationship with reality.

Of course, many of the new immigrants are making it. But that shouldn't surprise anyone, since immigrants are a self-selected group--only the most ambitious, driven people leave their families and countries to start life in another land.

We shouldn't forget that many of the current immigrants to America are drawn from the educated middle class of their countries, so they come with advantages yesterday's immigrants and many of today's American poor don't have.

Of course, a lot of immigrants have backgrounds that are not middle class. Many, including large numbers from south of the border, come here to escape starvation. They're willing to do anything at any price.

But young African Americans are products of our own system and rightly expect the economic opportunities other Americans have.

Finally, too many of our kids are ground down by discrimination and grow up in crime and drug-ridden ghettos, racially isolated, consigned to schools that don't educate them."

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