

NEWS AROUND TOWN



This Week in History by Angelique Sanders

Making Our Voices Heard Via Our Government

In correlation with the primary elections, the focus of this week's column shall be choosing those who lead us.

Flipping through the voters' pamphlet, I found only seven Blacks and thirty women out of over 100 candidates. This clearly does not reflect the true percentages of these minorities in society. What this means to us as a people is disproportionate representation.

What can we do to help compensate for this? Minorities, I implore you: register to vote! Every one of us needs representation if we don't want to hear our voices of power dwindle. Any other ways we can get involved--not only with the government, but with making ourselves heard--help dramatically. Pay close attention at election time...candidates like to appear "reachable" to voters, and will freely publish--and indeed, even send to you--their addresses. Write these down and save them for later use (when the candidates are elected to office and aren't as reachable).

The poverty rate for Americans is 13.1%--or one American in eight. The Hispanic poverty rate is 26.8%; for Blacks, it's 31.6%--one Black American in three is living in poverty!

And while the top two-fifths of the income groups had increased earnings, the bottom two-fifths became poorer. A rising tide might lift all boats, but not equally: African Americans seem to be

left stranded on driftwood. The rich-poor spread is the most immense that has ever been recorded. Taxes should be doing Robin Hood's job, but the governmental leaders are in the upper class and therefore see nothing wrong with the status quo. And although economists predict a 5.7% rise in national income this year, taxes are projected to take a 7.2% jump. According to Oregon Tax Research, Tax Freedom Day--the day you'd have all your taxes paid if you paid all your earnings toward them from January 1--arrived on May 1 this year, the latest date ever.

To make matters worse, the taxes we pay often go to the wrong sources. Up until 1987, a law was in effect which provided tax advantages for companies doing business in South Africa. Additionally, property taxes are much too high in Oregon, because our slated use for them (education) is much too vast. Below is a graph (obtained by the Oregon Department of Revenue, the Highway Division, and the Legislative Revenue Office) of the six largest tax sources.

Type of State Tax	1988-89 Revenue
Personal Income	\$1,725,324
Unemployment Insurance	328,037
Gasoline & Fuel Use	210,916
Corporate Income	157,770
Weight/Mile Tax	139,492
Cigarette	78,340

Parks Seek Volunteers

Portland Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for assistant Recreation Leaders for the 1990 Summer Playground Program. These volunteers will assist the Park Directors in planning, directing, and supervising recreational programs in 30 Portland parks and six Community Centers.

In addition to the rewards of working with children on a volunteer basis, benefits also include CPR and First Aid certification, and training in the areas of arts and crafts, team sports, and leadership.

Applicants must be age 15 or older, and able to work at least 10 hours per week for the first six weeks of the summer. This is an excellent opportunity for those people interested in careers of education, recreation and child development.

The Summer Playground Program begins June 18 and runs through August 24. The application deadline is Friday, May 18. For those interested in applying or have questions, contact Portland Parks and Recreation Volunteer Services at 796-5113.

Bogus Telemarketers Run Out of Town

Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer announced a \$27,500 settlement in the first lawsuit filed under Oregon's new telemarketing laws. A judgment order signed today by Marion County Circuit Court Judge Rodney W. Miller also stops telemarketing activities in Oregon by a Nevada company and requires it to pay restitution to Oregon consumers who paid a credit card application fee but didn't receive a credit card.

"Oregon's new telemarketing laws are working well," Frohnmayer said. "Not only are we resolving enforcement actions quickly and getting restitution for Oregon consumers, but questionable telemarketers are choosing to take their operations elsewhere."

Frohnmayer's office filed a lawsuit on March 6, 1990. The lawsuit alleged that Credit Financial Acceptance Cor-

poration (CFAC) violated Oregon laws by using automatic dialing and announcing devices (ADADs) to solicit consumers, failing to register as telemarketers with the Department of Justice and failing to register with the Secretary of State's office to do business in Oregon.

An unknown number of Oregon consumers received computer-generated telephone calls or mailings offering to obtain credit cards if consumers paid a \$25-\$35 application fee.

The settlement was signed by Robert Raymond Corbett, of Las Vegas, president of Computer Systems Development Corporation, which also does business as CFAC.

The settlement prohibits the defendants from violating the Unlawful Trade Practices Act and from operating as a

What we desperately need is a revamped tax structure, as well as leaders that are working for us, not just voting themselves huge pay raises while cutting social security.

Now for the good news: yes, there have been improvements, too, as shown by various Louis Harris polls. In 1972, the whites that would vote for a qualified Black president numbered 74%. By 1982, this figure rose to 86% (Jackson, are you listening?). In 1956, half of the white Americans did not feel schools should drop the color line and integrate...by 1982, only 9% felt this way. 47% of white Americans in 1973 would be "only a little" or "not at all" upset if Blacks moved into the neigh-

Taxes should be doing Robin Hood's job, but...

borhood. This percentage jumped to 70% by 1978 (we have a way to go: there are still plenty of Bensonhursts). Additionally, the percentages of African Americans that own homes has progressed steadily between 1940 and 1980, increasing from 23% to 44%.

I hope that someday we'll reach the summit of equality. The only way to get there is to keep climbing. It is frustrating to find that for all the good you can do, there are still bigots such as Tom Metzger and his clan undoing it. But we ARE rising, don't forget, so Martin Luther King, Jr. was right: we SHALL overcome. Ask yourself this when you're at the election booth: who will help us? It seems mundane, but it's easy to get caught up in rhetoric, false-bottom claims, and credentials rather than good ideas, integrity, and motivation.

I wanted to also extend recognition to Bob Marley, who helped to promote Rastafarianistic principles and equality via his music...he died nine years ago this May 11.

telemarketing business in Oregon. CFAC must obtain Department of Justice permission before any future telephone solicitation in Oregon and pay \$2,500 in attorney fees and investigation costs, an undetermined amount of restitution and a \$25,000 civil penalty. The civil penalty will not be collected if the defendants comply with the other requirements of the settlement.

Consumers who paid the application fee but did not receive a credit card are eligible for restitution. Consumers seeking restitution should call the Department of Justice Consumer Hotline at 378-4320, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays.

The telemarketer registration requirement and ADAD ban were enacted by the 1989 Oregon legislature.

Homosexuality: A Personal Choice Or Is It Genetic?

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Last week, I was invited over to a good friend's house, along with several others, for a mellow day of barbecue, music, and conversation. We have a way of getting together and attempting to solve or address some of the world's problems.

While there, I watched the Tracy Ullman Show for the first time, quite surprised that her father was gay. He also had a lover that was featured on the program. Considering the power of the PTA and other conservative lobbying groups, you would think that the program would inspire more protest at FOX TV 49. I hardly watch television outside of sports. When I do, I watch shows like Mr. Ed, Inspector Gadget, The Simpsons, The Adams Family, Leave It To Beaver, or the Andy Griffith Show. In short, there is no television program that I religiously dash home to watch. Being employed at a television station, I see more news in a day than the average person views in a week. My purpose, when I choose to watch television, is to "chill out" and recapture the inner peace that was lost in the day. I like to laugh too.

Homosexuality or bisexuality is not a laughing matter. When you consider the "confusion" that television causes or how it "allegedly" creates values, molds lifestyles, and influences young people, I thought my column should address the topic this week. Over the years, I've worked with my share of people who desire the same sex as mates, lovers, or as a companion. I have family members who are gay, also.

There are respected politicians, both locally and nationally, who are gay. There are activists, lawyers, doctors, police, neighbors, and people you work with who are gay. Some live an overt lifestyle and others keep it behind close doors. While watching the Tracy Ullman Show, the great debate between somewhat enlightened and educated

began. Is homosexuality a personal choice or genetic? Are you gay because you desire to be or is it because of some gene you inherited from a family member?

The term sexual orientation means erotic attraction towards people of the same gender (homosexual), the other gender (heterosexual), or both genders (bisexual). The first factor that interferes with people identifying their sexual orientation is the confusion between sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex roles. Gender identity refers to the feeling or conviction that a person is either a man or a woman (Klausner & Hasselbring). Sex roles, also called gender roles, are traits and behavior a given culture expects of its males and females.

Most often gender-femaleness or maleness--is determined at birth through a complex set of chromosomal, hormonal, and physiological differences. The female determinant of gender are the XX chromosomes, a preponderance of the female hormones estrogen and progesterone, and female reproductive and sex organ. The male determinants are XY chromosomes, a preponderance of the male hormone androgen and testosterone, and male reproductive and sexual organs (Klein).

Unlike gender, which is predetermined at birth, sex roles are behavior patterns acquired after birth through socialization. Sex role socialization occurs through parents, peers, and social institutions teaching children to behave in "gender appropriate" ways--how to act like a girl or boy, for example.

Researchers have extensively studied sets of identical and fraternal twins in which one twin was homosexual and the other heterosexual. The search for a genetic determinant for sexual orientation has led to inconclusive results. Hormonal research has yielded no simple cause-effect relationship between

hormones and sexual orientation. Psychological theories which attempt to explain homosexual behavior lacks evidence to show that homosexuality or bisexuality result from inadequate parenting. The one thing on which sexology experts seem to agree is that there is no agreement about what causes sexual orientation.

Personally, unlike some of my friends, I believe that is an individual's choice to be a homosexual or bisexual. I think that the genetic excuse is a convenience out of justification for a dysfunctional lifestyle. A person is gay because they desire to be gay in my opinion, not because his or her sixth cousin was gay. People should learn to stand up for what they believe in and live their life accordingly.

Even though the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 chose to remove homosexuality/bisexuality from its list of mental disorders, many of them continue to face social, vocational, and economic oppression. Homosexuality/bisexuality, be it unfortunate or not, will always be viewed as a character fault by society. Whatever the lifestyle, "those who live by the sword shall perish by it..."

In closing, I am reminded of a statement made by a lesbian high school friend, who by the way hated men because they "were dogs, insensitive, selfish..." and a host of other descriptive words. She suggested that only "a woman knows how to make a woman feel good." As one would expect, I then disagreed because I do not feel that way about men. I guess you could say that I'm from the Percy Sledge school of thought, you know, "When A Man Loves A Woman."

Ulysses Tucker Jr. is a contributing writer and is read regularly within the Portland Observer. His observations and opinions do not reflect the opinions of the Portland Observer.



Request for Input

The Portland Development Commission is considering implementation of an Emerging Small Business (ESB) Opportunity Program, intended to assure utilization of economically disadvantaged businesses in contracting and purchasing opportunities of the Commission.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal and economic development agency.

Comments and suggestions on the proposal are sought from small businesses who might benefit from this program, particularly minority and women businesses. Copies of the proposal can be obtained from:

David Nemo, Chief, Admin. Services
Portland Development Commission
1120 S.W. 5th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204 - Phone 796-5348

Interested businesses are also invited to meet with PDC representatives to provide input on this proposal or explore business opportunities with the Commission on:

May 16, 1990 - 5:00 to 7:30 pm
Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Center
847 NE 19th, Suite 245, Portland



Pictured are Henry Groepper from the Crime Prevention Association; Mc Gruff, Crime Prevention mascot and News 8 Meteorologist Jim Little. Over 3,500 bears were collected during KGW-TV's Third Annual "Officer Buddy Bear" campaign in conjunction with The Benj. Franklin Federal Savings & Loan Association.

American Legion to Bring 18,000 to Portland For September 1995 Meet at Oregon Convention Center

For the fourth time in 63 years Portland will be the site of the annual convention of the American Legion, the legion's board of directors announced Monday from its headquarters in Indianapolis.

An estimated 18,000 legionnaires will come to Portland September 1-7, 1995. The most recent American Legion convention in Portland occurred in 1970 and, with 20,000 attending is the largest convention in Portland history. The projected hotel use for 1995, a total of 33,000 room nights, make the 1995 even Portland's largest in terms of hotel occupancy. In numbers of attendees, this June's Rotary Convention and the 1995 legion event will tie for Oregon's second largest convention.

The legionnaires will create an \$11.3 million economic impact during their five days in Portland.

The legion's directors passed over San Diego, Denver, Anaheim, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and San Francisco in granting Portland the convention. Portland's visitor association had been working on the bid since spring of 1986. Had Portland been turned down, its next opportunity would have been the year 2000, when the legion convention next returns to a western city.

In addition to 1970, the American Legion met in Portland in 1965 and

1932.

The visitor association's Cara Lee Tobias accompanied Oregon American Legion Adjutant Barry Snyder and Maury Druhl, an Oregonian on the national committee, to make the final presentation April 30 in Indianapolis. "The presentation went smoothly," said Tobias. In assessing the reasons for Portland's victory over its stiff competition, Tobias observed that "we followed all their formal procedures" -- including mini-presentations at legion board meetings during each of the past four years.

"The legionnaires have wonderful memories of their past meetings in Portland," Tobias said. She also observed that the legion had a successful convention in Louisville in 1988, where their hosts included Jeff Blosser and Deborah Jeffrey. At the time Blosser and Jeffrey were with the Louisville convention center but now are general manager and marketing/sales manager, respectively, of the Oregon Convention Center.

The Portland/Oregon Visitors Association is responsible for marketing the Oregon Convention Center to potential users nationally. Their services are provided under contract to the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Black United Fund of Oregon, Inc.

is now accepting grant applications from non-profit organizations operating in or serving N/NE Portland or other minority communities throughout the state in the programmatic areas of: Arts & Culture; Economic Development; Education; Emergency Needs; Health & Social Services; Social Justice & Legal Services. All grant applications are to be submitted to the Black United Fund of Oregon's business office by 5:00 p.m. by June 15, 1990. For applications or further info., call Winthola Hodges, 282-7973, or at BUF of Oregon, 3802 NE Martin Luther King, Room 301.

Baby Bundler Baby Faire

Celebrate Mother's day weekend, May 11-13 at the second Baby Bundler Baby Faire to benefit Morrison Center's Early Intervention program. The baby Faire will be located in

the Beaverton Mall, 3205 SW Cedar Hill Blvd. It will feature over 40 booths of hand-crafted and specialty items (clothes, toys, accessories) and resources for moms and babies, as well as live entertainment.

It's auction time again for the Mt. Hood Preschool.

The 12th annual benefit auction for the preschool will be held Saturday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Welches Mt. Hood Lion's Club. The Lion's Club is located approximately 15 miles east of Sandy on Highway 26, next to the Clackamas County Bank.

Parents Without Partners Family Memorial Day Picnic

All Portland area single families, and especially PWP Alumni, are invited to a family Memorial Day picnic on Monday, May 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lauerhurst Park, SE 39th and Ankeny, in Portland. PWP will provide

hotdogs, hamburgers, tablewear and beverages. Participants are requested to bring side dishes and desserts. There will be games, camaraderie, and fun for everyone. This event is open to the public.

Infant/Child CPR Course Scheduled

Babies don't come with instructions, but parents and caregivers of young children can learn to become prepared to handle sudden emergencies by taking a Red Cross Infant/Child CPR course. Infant/Child CPR training will be given in two parts at the Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver Avenue, on Thursday, May 24, and Saturday, May 31, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Music By Blue Lake Summer Concert Series

Summer picnics with family and friends are just around the corner and so is the "Music By Blue Lake" Summer Concert Series! This eight-week entertainment program will have a diverse range of popular local musicians from

jazz, to country to reggae. The musicians will be playing every Thursday evening from June 21 to August 9, 1990. Each of the "Music By Blue Lake" performances will start at 6:30 p.m. and will perform for two hours. Talent will be finalized by April 30th. Whatever the weather conditions, the concert will continue on schedule.

PCC Announces Volunteer Management Program

Starting in the fall, Portland Community College will offer an 18-credit curriculum leading to a certificate in volunteer management. The course, designed for experienced managers and for those just entering the field, will be offered by the PCC Management and Commerce Department in a series of four workshops through the 1990-91 school year. Course work will include basic management studies, specific volunteer management classes and an elective course.