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# PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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## THIS WEEK INSIDE

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The mother of an adopted little girl explains the traumas and triumphs of raising a child.

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Founder of the "Reading Tree" and advocate of adult literacy died on Sept. 7.

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### Learning to Love Without Conditions

Ulysses Tucker examines unconditional love and intimate relationships

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### Elected Officials To Tour New Multnomah County Gang Programs

Following a May, 1990 Legislative Emergency Board discussion of Multnomah County's needs, state legislative leaders gave Multnomah County a green light to begin hiring staff and setting up programs to stay abreast of expected summer gang violence. Six weeks later at the July Emergency Board meeting, \$1.1 million was appropriated for gang programs. This appropriation triggered an additional \$800,000 from the Governor's office and Children's Services Division, making a total of \$1.9 million available for a comprehensive package of services to reduce youth gang crime in Multnomah County. Forty new staff were hired in July, trained in August, and new programs opened for business on September 1.

The \$1.9 million is being used to fund:

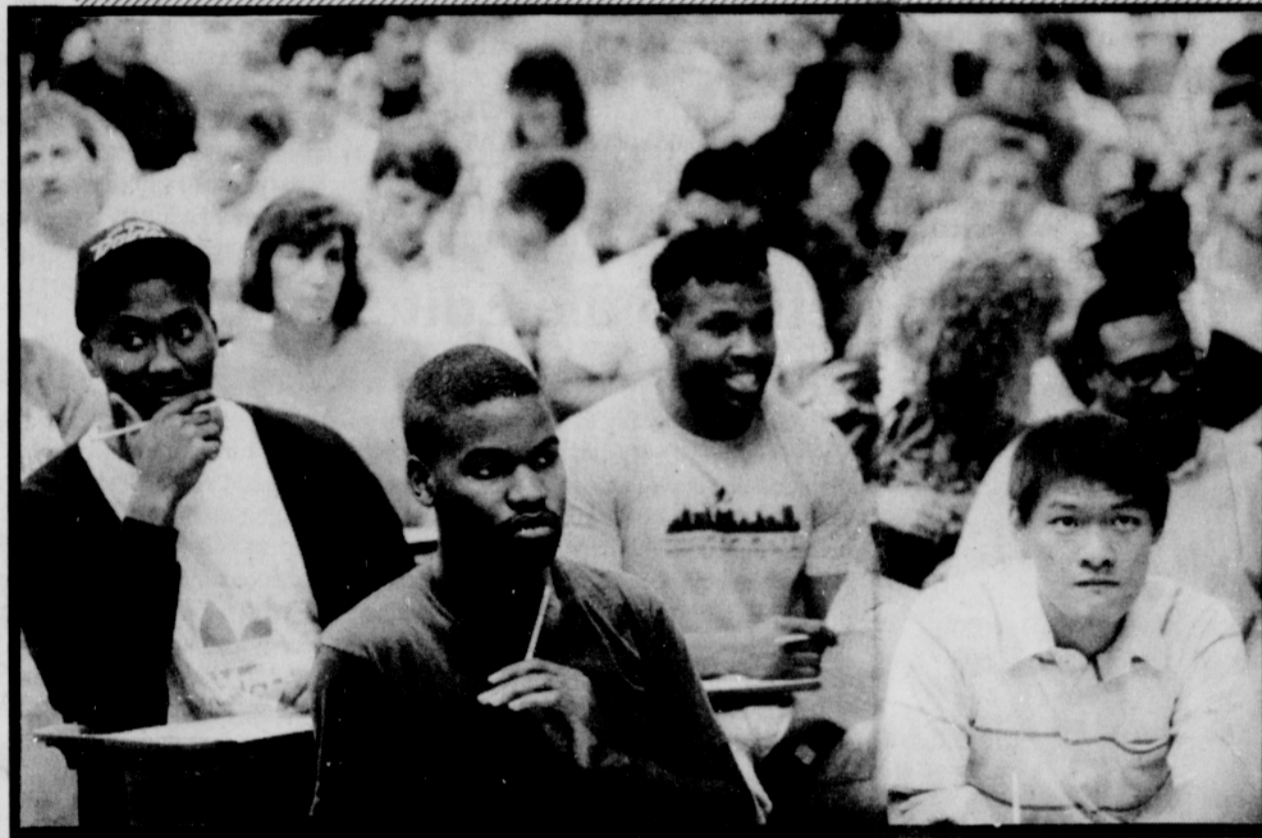
\* A 20 bed, 30-day detention program that will be used to house gang involved youth. Education, counseling, alcohol and drug treatment, and mental health assessments will be available on site.

\* The Gang Resources Intervention-Team. This team is a specialized probation unit operating with significantly reduced caseloads. The new funding allowed probation counselors caseloads to be reduced from 40 to 20.

\* A wide range of services for gang youth on probation. These services include education, mental health, alcohol and drug and employment training.

\* 5 beds at the House of Umoja.

Over the course of the year, this package of services is expected to improve public safety, divert youth from involvement in gang activity, and reduce the number of delinquents committed to the McClaren School for Boys. Approximately 300 youth a year will be served by this program.



MINORITY AND FEMALE applicants in record numbers showed up at Portland State University on Friday to take the Portland Fire Bureau's first firefighter examination in three years. Among the 190 minority applicants were 72 African Americans—67 men and five women. Commissioner Dick Bogle, who oversees the Fire Bureau, said he "expects to see improved minority and female representation in the very near future."

## Alright, Parents-Community: Let's "Do the Right Thing"

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

Forty years of interaction with this community—businesses and profession, teaching, community organizations, designing and implementing programs—has given me an uncommon insight into its people, structure and culture. Like others here, I have a personal and often intimate acquaintance with "three generations" of many families, translating into many hundreds of families and individuals in this sector of the Pacific Northwest.

It has been a view which at times has been encouraging and at other times depressing—as when I returned from a sojourn in California to find that the key Black business area, schools, churches and adjoining real estate owned by African Americans had been wiped out by freeways and the Coliseum Complex. This "Urban Renewal" process "Urban "Removal" had happened of course all over the nation, but it is not this Particular Trauma as such that I wish to examine here. Rather, as I stated last week, I wish to suggest and outline

to PARENTS and community a number of survival and remedial steps to staunch the flow of vital forces from the very arteries of our existence here.

Many cultural and learning disabilities proceed directly from such dislocations of the urban environment as described above. A people perform best when possessed of a CULTURAL CONTINUITY that encompasses traditions and institutions transmitted from generation to generation. I can well re-

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## Marion Barry: Can We Talk Now That the Smoke Has Cleared?

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.

"...Well, it is argued, Mayor Barry is a person of celebrity, a role model. So are many rock singers, film actors, and athletes who in recent years have confessed to drug use. Few if any such persons have pursued and prosecuted as has Barry..."

Benjamin L. Hooks  
Executive Director  
NAACP  
Washington Post, 1990

Now that the primary smoke has cleared from the recent drug trial of Washington, D.C. Mayor, Marion Barry, I will attempt to share my perspective as a nation's capital political insider (in the ghetto) and journalist. As stated countless times to colleagues in the media industry, there was no way in the world that Marion Barry could be rode out of town and to a Federal Pen as many expected. In culturally polarized towns like Boston, Chicago, Birmingham, Cleveland, or possibly even St. Louis, Barry would not have stood a chance because the jury would not have been majority black. Washington D.C. is full

of black people, black churches, black businesses, black radio stations, black newspapers, and black people...it's full of black power. When you get only two whites on a jury, in a city where Marion Barry has touched and helped so many families with services/jobs, there was no way the charges would/could stick. I won money on the outcome, believe it or not. People did not believe that it would happen, the outcome, like it did. I know D.C. general attitude on the streets and in the ghetto. Regardless of how much is wrong in your life, the white man or federal government is perceived to be the problem. Marion Barry got caught, in their minds (the great majority) because they set him up—not because he was irresponsible, used drugs for years, or lacks regard for the law. The white man did not make him take drugs. Barry took drugs on his own free will. Had he not been a drug abuser, he would have never found himself in a position to be "stung" in a STING OPERATION.

Where does right and wrong come into play here? I know the speed limits established by the state of Oregon, its DUI laws, the penalties for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, and what will happen if I decided to sell

drugs and got caught. We all know right from wrong. So does Marion Barry, who knows he dodged a bullet in this case. I used to say that Marion Barry had to either be the smartest man in the world D.C. had the dumbest law enforcement people in the world, because he never got caught. Now, I conclude that it's the latter. Barry is a dumb human being and the law enforcement of the city, who allowed him to walk in several other attempts to "bust" him, is just as shallow. Ever amazing, I talked to my grandmother shortly after the trial and she said that Barry was still her mayor. I asked why. "Because he begged his pardon and admitted his mistake." There are a great many "oldtimers", especially in the black church, who feel the same way as my grandmother. Besides, Barry helped her to cut through miles of "red tape" when she had problems obtaining checks from the Social Security Administration after retirement. He has been God to her ever since.

Barry had always been a "grass-root street hustler" or "activist" to put it in the language acceptable to a Western society. My first encounter with him came as a thirteen year old, who worked for a group called OPERATION PRIDE,

a grassroots organization that employed young people/ex-offenders to spread rat poison, clean up allies, neighborhoods, and areas plagued by slumlords or damaged during the 1968 riots. He promoted pride in the community and provided thousands of black people with jobs. We took pride in moving old cxsars and being called the RAT PATROL. One dollar and sixty cents per hour was a lot in those days. Barry had so much power on the streets during the riots that he literally told people to get off the streets and go home. Mayor Walter E. Washington, the Mayor at the time, stood aside help-



Photo by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

lessly. Barry rode the credibility straight

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## BUSINESS

### Gregory Gudger Attorney At Law



BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Gregory Gudger's dream to be a lawyer started as a youngster growing up in Washington, D.C. He always wanted to advocate for the underdog or people less fortunate. Why the less fortunate? Because Gudger himself grew up amidst crime, violence, poverty, and racism. When his friends chose the criminal lifestyle, Gudger opted for the books and worked hard for a better life. After graduating from McKinley Technical High School in 1969, Gudger enrolled in college three-thousand miles away at the University of Oregon's School of Journalism. The riots of 1968 left him with some painful memories and he wanted to get away. He has been an Oregonian ever since. In the Pacific Northwest, Gudger found inner peace and space to grow as a professional.

Since his graduation from the U of O (Spring, 1975), Gudger has spent the bulk of his career working as a journalist and with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. At the Commission, he started as a Human Relations Special-

ist and Program Coordinator before enrolling at Willamette University to complete his dream. He later came back to MHRC after graduation from Law School in 1968. Gudger has received countless awards for his community involvement, professional endeavors, and volunteer efforts. He was also voted by the Downtowner Magazine as one of the "Oregonians To Shape Portland In The 90's".

A divorced father of three beautiful daughters (Imani Sertha, 14; Eboni Sagirah, 5; and Neysa Andrea, 4), Gudger glows when he talks about achieving his lifelong dream and the challenges he faces daily as a lawyer. How does a person go from being a journalist to leading a human rights organization to being an attorney?

Gudger—"One does that by following a common thread or by dedicating your life to a certain area. I view myself as a communicator. I view myself as an activist and advocate. I also view myself as a person, who is dedicated to helping

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