



Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403



PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

Volume XX, Number 42

"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

October 31, 1990

First Interstate Bank Announces Community Lending Center and Home Ownership Program

First Interstate Bank has announced plans to open a Community Lending Center at its Walnut Park branch on Martin Luther King Blvd. In addition to offering the Bank's standard loan programs, this lending center will focus on lending to first time home buyers in inner-city neighborhoods.

Robert Ames, president of First Interstate Bank, announced the creation of the lending center and, at the same time, unveiled a new bank program designed to help low- and moderate-income people buy homes.

"First Interstate has an ongoing commitment to assist home buyers in all areas of the state and across the economic spectrum" Ames said. "The Community Lending Center and the new mortgage program are sound, progressive efforts to continue to meet that commitment."

The idea for the Community Lending Center grew out of joint efforts commenced last April by Janice Wilson, senior vice president of the bank's Metro

East Region, and Dick Anderson, senior vice president of Residential Loan Services, to develop ways to increase the bank's lending in inner-city neighborhoods.

According to Wilson, "One of the goals of the Community Lending Center will be to meet the needs of as many neighborhood home buyers as possible."

The Community Lending Center will open in December with a staff of three including manager Ralph Nickerson. Nickerson comes to First Interstate Bank with fifteen years experience in real estate lending in the Portland area.

In addition to providing information and counseling to individuals looking to buy homes, the new lending center will offer homeowner-



address topics such as:

* how to budget the money needed for closing a home purchase;

* how to be prepared for the increased cash requirements of the total housing expense;

* how to evaluate home financing programs that are available; and

* how to anticipate and prepare for home maintenance.

The concept of First Interstate's center is similar to one of the proposals in a report recently issued by Gretchen Kafoury, Portland city commissioner-elect.

The new lending program will commence with the December opening of the center. Major features of this program designed for purchasers who will occupy the home include:

* First Interstate Bank will donate funds to a non-profit organization to provide a grant of 1% to be applied toward down payment on both conventional and FHA loan requests.

* A flexible housing expense to gross income ratio.

* Recurring monthly obligations can be used for credit verification.

* Minimum down payment.

* No extra fees for lower loan amounts.

* Mortgage Credit Certificate program availability.

The program is similar to a plan announced earlier by U.S. Bank. "As one of the state's real estate lenders, we are eager to offer viable programs that will increase the availability of residential loans," said Dick Anderson. "In combination with programs offered by other banks, this will serve to strengthen the inner-city and community as a whole. We know one program will not fit everyone. We will continue to look for lending programs that we can tailor to fit the individual needs of home buyers."

THIS WEEK INSIDE

What ever happened to minority business Part 3

PAGE 5

Topic for His/Hers Older Men and Younger Women, Older Women and Younger Men

PAGE 6



3,000,000 and no accidents

PAGE 7

Observer Endorsements of Ballot Measures and Candidates

PAGE 8



Adoption is Kid Stuff

PAGE 11

INDEX

News	2
Religion	3
Locker Room	4
Business	5
Opinion	6
Election	8
Classifieds	12
Bids/Sub Bids	13

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday November 6.

Grace Collins Receives "Champion For Children" Award

Evelyn Collins, long-time operator of the Grace Collins Day Care Center on N.E. Russell St. in Northeast Portland, was honored recently as the 1990 recipient of the "Champion for Children" award.

The award is given annually by the Edgefield Children's Center, Inc. of Troutdale, Oregon, and is presented to an individual whose accomplishments have benefitted children and/or highlighted the needs of children and families in the community.

Ms. Collins, one of five nomi-



Grace Collins

nees, was nominated by Edgefield board member Tom Stearns and was presented the award at a special dinner/dance at the Marriott Hotel on October 25.

The Grace Collins Center, named after Ms. Collins' mother, has operated for over 35 years, serving more than 10,000 children, mostly low-income.

Ms. Collins is known in Northeast as the "foster godmother" of many former recipients of daycare at the Collins Center and in conversations with some, they state that they can think of "no individual more deserving".

Roberts Centers Campaign Around Social Programs

BY ANGELIQUE SANDERS

Governor candidate Barbara Roberts, in an attempt to bring up living standards for lower-income Oregonians, is focusing her campaign on social programs.

Her first priority, should she take office as Governor, is to re-vamp financing of education, as the burden of education in Oregon falls to property taxes, causing disproportionately high state taxes and an inability to expand or improve education with limited revenue. Her proposal is to lift the burden of education from homeowners, and enact a 5% sales tax (which would not be included in necessities such as food, housing, utilities, and medical expenses). Roberts expects that, while the sales tax would barely affect lower-income citizens monetarily, it would give them "a better chance for prosperity through quality education."

"Ballot five [the property tax measure] would be the worst decision we could make for Oregon," Roberts said in an interview Saturday. "It affects programs of police protection, low income families, and human services...any time we cut back, social programs pay first!"

Roberts also has proposed a seven-point battle plan against crime and drugs, including:

- longer, tougher mandatory sentences
- mandatory inmate work programs
- prison drug treatment
- intensive supervision of parolees
- registration of sex offenders
- community policing and crime prevention

Part of the focus for community "clean-up" using this seven-point plan is the problem that, currently, 61% of Oregon's inmates end up back in jail. At a cost of \$2,000 per year for intense supervision—not just parole, but to ensure that ex-inmates are adhering to drug reform programs, attending work, and "succeeding" outside of prison—it is a much cheaper plan than paying the tens of thousands it costs to return crime-committers to jail for a year or more.

In a statement issued by Roberts' campaign, she stated that "Oregonians should not accept a tragic loss of their personal safety and security. We absolutely cannot tolerate that some of our

kids will inevitably get involved in gangs and drugs—throwing their lives down a rat hole—and destroying grieving families in the process...Frohnmayer has a record he can't defend. He's been Oregon's Attorney General for a decade...a

comprehensive program for Oregonians, that will:

- help small businesses afford quality health care for employees
- reduce health care costs by cutting administrative overhead and reducing duplication of expensive medical technologies
- improve medical care in rural communities
- combine employees' health insurance with workers' compensation

decade during which we've suffered the greatest epidemic of crime in our state's history." And in fact, in those ten years, crime has taken staggering leaps: Linn County reflects a 36% rise; Josephine County, 35%; and Lincoln County, 40%. Drug offenses have climbed 275% in Marion County, and 405% in Multnomah County. Oregon's sex crimes have jumped 24%, and 13% for rape.

Health care is another issue Roberts is faced with, and she proposes

Building a New Urban League

In 1987, the Urban League of Portland received monies toward a capital fund project to remodel and renovate the Mentzer Building which was across from the League's present headquarters on North Williams and Russell. The League received \$150,000 from the Collins Foundation, \$5,000 each from KATU Channel 2 and Vanexco, a subsidiary of Alcoa Aluminum. Because of the various financial problems that the League became entangled after that time, the Mentzer Building and other properties were sold. One of the priorities of the present League President, Dr. Darryl Tukufu, was to clear up some loose ends. This meant going to these past funders and paying back monies that were held in reserve.

The League was granted permission by Vanexco and KATU to use their donate funds for capital improvements or add to the general fund respectively.

The League recently approached and returned \$150,000 to the Collins Foundation with a proposal in hand seeking \$120,000 for capital funds to include the renovations for the relocation and expansion of the League's Whitney M. Young Learning Center, miscellaneous renovation at the Urban Plaza, the purchase of telecommunication equipment, computers, and a van to be used for all League programs and a challenge grant of \$30,000 toward the establishment of a program stabilization fund. This grant must be matched by an additional \$30,000 grant and will provide money for the development and start up of programs at the League with a requirement that the program be able to pay the money back to the stabilization fund within one fiscal year. The stabilization fund will provide an expanded base for the development of programs at the League.



CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR: Secretary of State Barbara Roberts (Democrat) and Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer (Republican) face off in November sixth's election. The Observer did not have the opportunity to interview Mr. Frohnmayer.



-create a comprehensive plan for Oregon communities

-facilitate senior citizens' coverage

-keep the Office of Health Policy under her strict jurisdictions.

establish "vitality zones", in which poorer neighborhoods would be lifted (through special tax credits to developers who invest in rehabilitating those areas) thus also employing residents of those neighborhoods. She expects to pull \$80 million from the legislature's general fund and form a new Oregon Housing Trust Fund to finance housing projects and assist emergency shelters.

To build up Portland's North/Northeast communities, Barbara Roberts wants to build up community service programs, and steer youth away from drugs, "because, let's face it," she said, "poverty is linked to crime. Prevention at youth is the key. We should give youth a sense of belonging, without belonging to a gang...the black community's support to such programs is the key." When asked if there's anything she'd like citizens of Northeast Portland to know about her, she said, "I think the unique thing I have [as a governmental candidate] is I've been there; I've been poor. When you're there, you feel cornered, like there's no way out...we need a governor who respects diversity, who works against racial hatred. I think my record is very clear."

Roberts is endorsed by Portland's Rainbow Coalition, the Oregon Black Political Convention, and Oregon's Black Leadership Conference.