

# PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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## THIS WEEK INSIDE

**Bills Kwik Mart**  
PAGE 2

**Girls and Boys  
Equally Affected By  
Reading Disability**  
PAGE 2

**The Life Stream Full  
Gospel Church**  
PAGE 3

**Earl "The Pearl"  
Monroe:  
Giving Back**  
PAGE 4



**His/Hers Opinion  
Letting Go of Guilt  
and Blame**  
PAGE 5

**Business Profile  
Cason's Fine Meats**  
PAGE 6



**Christmas Services  
At Jantzen Beach  
Shopping Center**  
PAGE 8

## INDEX

News	2
Religion	3
Locker Room	4
His/Hers Opinion	5
Business	6
News	7
Classifieds	9
Bids/Sub Bids	10

**Seasons  
Greetings  
From the Portland  
Observer**

### Rainbow Coalition to Support School Boycott City-Wide Effort Planned

The Portland Rainbow Coalition will announce its plans to organize city-wide support for the Black United Front's boycott of the Portland Public Schools, at a press conference this Thursday.

A multi-racial group of parents, educators, and community activists from across the city will discuss their reasons for supporting the planned series of one-day boycotts in February.

This boycott to win quality education has been widely seen as a Black-only struggle. The Rainbow Coalition will discuss how the Portland Public Schools are under-educating nearly all Portland's racial minority and low-income children.

The Rainbow Coalition believes that all disadvantaged children would benefit from the adoption of the "Education Improvement Action Plan", which was developed by N/NE community organizations over a year ago.

Boycott organizers are demanding that the PPS School Board adopt the "Action Plan" to rapidly improve student academic success and eliminate the disparity in achievement between minority and white and between low-income and middle-income students.

### Woman Overcomes Adversity to Succeed

When Lynn Gibson decided to launch Career Network Inc. Agency, she knew she was entering a field already saturated with similar-type operations. As owner of a private employment and career advertising agency focusing on jobs and career opportunities, Lynn believes she has made a wise investment, seeking to tap the unlimited and resourceful pool of Oregon's talent in addition to seeking out opportunities for minorities.

After graduating from Lincoln High School, Lynn attended the University of Oregon, majoring in business administration. She had previously worked as a personal consultant and manager for an international placement agency and in advertising sales for the Skanner newspaper. It was at the latter two that she developed the advertising and placement skills that convinced her to venture out on her own. With savings and capital resources she established her office in the 700 Lloyd Building near Lloyd's Center.

Operating out of her one-room quarters as the only staff person, Lynn combines smart business tactics and a well-developed marketing plan with good public relations to give Career

Network Inc. the appearance of imminent success. How successful has this new company been? After 15 months, Career Network is developing growing

listening to other business people is that if you hire expertise, USE IT."

Lynn also gives credit to the church for strength and wisdom. "I believe that Career Network is a ministry within itself. Assisting applicants to find a job or choosing a career. Advertising to alert applicants of employment opportunities is a fulfillment of my commitment to the community. There are various positions we search for from the office secretarial person, sales, to the personnel director and other executive staff."



Lynn Gibson

pains, much to the delight of its owner.

Lynn has added seven additional staff members and moved to larger quarters in the building in order to accommodate the increased workload brought about by her expanding list of clients and candidates. But she is quick to credit any success to heeding the advice of her accountants, whom thus far have provided her with sound business practices.

"Before I went into the business I did a lot of reading: books like 'Succeeding Against the Odds' by John H. Johnson with Lerone Bennett and Harvard Women Graduates of 1979. The one thing I learned from reading and

relationship with two of Portland's minority publications, that immediately opened their doors to establish a business relationship: the Portland Observer and the Hispanic News. Lynn states that "it is refreshing to be affiliated with minority businesses that assist one another. We complement each other," she proudly states, and the results are rewarding for all.

As a regular attendee of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, she often quotes the church's pastor, Dr. James Martin, who reminds her that "church worship service is lunch time and the real ministry is your everyday activities."

### Nutrition Linked to Leading Causes of Death For Older African- Americans

AARP and the American Heart Association Promote Healthy Eating

Better nutrition can help fight the diseases that cause most of the deaths of the nation's older African-Americans, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the American Heart Association (AHA).

AARP and AHA have developed a national nutrition education pilot program for older African-Americans.

"The goal of this pilot program is to increase awareness of the importance of nutrition," said AARP Executive Director Horace Deets. "Improved eating habits can help prevent heart attacks, strokes and other life-threatening diseases."

Life expectancy for African-Americans is 69.7 years compared to 75.9 years for non-minorities. Nutrition has been linked with heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and cirrhosis of the liver, which are the major causes of death for older African-Americans.

"Nutrition education should be a priority for all groups that are interested in the health of older minorities," said AHA President Francois Abboud, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

The "Eating for Health Tomorrows" pilot program consists of a four-hour session offered through churches and other community groups. The program, taught by AARP and AHA volunteers, includes an overview of nutrition, exercise, group discussions on cholesterol and sodium, educational games, and a cooking demonstration of a healthy recipe.

"Eating for Health Tomorrows" is being piloted this year in Los Angeles, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Wilmington, Del.; Shreveport, La.; Davidson, N.C.; and Dallas, Texas.

The Staff of the Portland Observer  
would like to wish you and  
your family  
Merry Christmas

### Ray Charles Could Have Seen This Coming!

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

"New Immigration Law Welcomes Skill"

"Increases...the number of visas available each year to people and their family members who come here for a guaranteed job" (Recent headlines)

But the Washington Post recently described a major conference held in the nation's capitol where the theme was training, Education and the Economy: "In the corridor conversations, minorities and women remarked that even the term apprenticeship has had connotations for them, because of the long history of apprenticeship being used to restrict access to high-paying trades."

We know that! And we know that just before the turn of this century the skilled trade unions--plumbers, operating engineers, carpenters, iron workers, metal trades--revised their constitutions to read "FOR WHITE MALES ONLY" as the giant "American Federation of Labor (AF of L) was welded from the independent crafts. The hordes of new IMMIGRANTS from Europe voted the blacks out--shot them out--beat them out. See these topics in Henry Steel Commager's "Documents of American History"; see 1966 issue on Immigration in the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science"; see my Perspectives article in the Portland Observer, Feb. 17, 1988, "Immigration: Does History

Repeat" (all at your public library).

And speaking of "history repeating", when we contemplate these latest efforts to destroy African Americans by driving them out of the workforce, I am reminded of what happened in 1971 here when I was chief accountant for the large minority-owned (?) Albina Corporation. Part of my job was to supervise the hundreds of thousands of dollars in Department of Labor craft training contracts. There were tons of publicity and boasts that these arrangements with the participation of the union would lead to a major integration of blacks into the skilled trades. It never happened of course; Portland blacks are still fighting the same battle.

But what did happen, was that years later when I read that very same issue of the "Annals", I discovered that coincident with the "Albina" program described above, the same Department of Labor was working with the "Immigration Bureau" to IMPORT SKILLED EUROPEAN CRAFTSMEN AND APPRENTICES to fill a "critical shortage in the American workplace." Have any of our major organizations or leaders ever addressed this sly gambit? Our condition is precarious--again!

In the November 20 issue of the Oregonian, the assistant to the publisher, Donald J. Sterling Jr. pens a brief: "New Immigration Law Welcomes Skill". Quite understandably he generally finds favor with the legislation. But we minorities need to pay close attention to his closing line for the concept is endemic in America: "The increase in immigration slots

for skilled foreigners...is an act of national self-interest." Pay attention Charlie Brown, close attention!

In case any of our tired (or inept) leaders should want to get down to cases, I suggest that they should get a copy of the "Congressional Record-Senate, ppS8639 to 8652; S. 358-Immigration Reform Act, passes July 13, 1989". Especially they should read Section 203 as amended (p. 8642), "Allocation of Immigrant Visas". Somebody please persuade them to scrutinize subsection (4) skilled workers, Paragraph I; "Qualified immigrants who are capable at the time of petitioning, of performing SKILLED LABOR (requiring at least 2 years training or experience) not of a temporary or seasonal nature, FOR WHICH QUALIFIED WORKERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES." I qualify, don't you?

I suggest that all of us poor blacks and whites in northeast should rush right down to the immigration office for we are indeed strangers in our own land! And do you see now why I said "Ray Charles should have seen this coming; the hysterical reactions to black history in education (Baseline Essays), the nationwide surge in Nazi-type race-hatred organizations, the attacks upon Affirmative Action, from jobs to college scholarships! It has all been there for even a fool to see. "Mene, Tekel", whatever that fellow wrote on that Babylonian Wall, we will see the handwriting on THIS WALL or will surely perish--if we don't take action.

### Robert Davie Named Station Manager For Tri-Mets Merlo Garage

Robert Davie will manage the operations base for more than 200 bus operators who provide Portland's westside transit service. Before coming to Tri-Met, Davie was the state program coordinator for defensive driving for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Prior to that, he worked 24 years for the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, most recently as director of transportation. Davie is a defensive driving instructor certified by the national Safety Council.



Davie has served as president of the safety committee for the Indiana Transit Association; as a member of the security committee for the American Transportation Association; and as a member of the Safety Institute Advisory Board for the U.S. Department of Transportation.