

The Portland Observer honors  
Martin Luther King, Jr. with this  
special annual edition...  
don't miss it!

# PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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Anyhow?" Kuwait,  
Saudi Arabia, Iraq or  
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**Next Week**  
More on the Persian  
Gulf Crisis

## If Diplomacy Fails

Nearly a million Iraqi and allied troops are poised for battle, and if war comes to the Arabian desert it will be far swifter and deadlier than anything either side has ever seen



SHOWDOWN IN THE GULF  
(U.S. News, January 14, 1991)

Before finally arranging to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva on January 9, Secretary of State James Baker had found himself almost trampled by a stampede of Western and Arab dip-

lomats eager to negotiate a last-minute compromise with Iraq. As the United Nations' January 15 deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait draws near, the spotlight is clearly on diplomacy - for now.

The Europeans' enthusiasm for a diplomatic way out was summed up by Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's foreign

minister and the current president of the European Community's Council of Ministers, which also has sought a meeting with Iraqi officials this week. "We are not heading for a war," said Poos, "because I have a feeling Saddam Hussein will pull out of Kuwait at the last minute.

Whether the Iraqi leader stands

pat or plays one of the many cards in his hand - trying to prolong a diplomatic dialogue, for example, or announcing a partial withdrawal from Kuwait - will depend less on the flurry of 11th-hour diplomacy than on his appraisal of the military threat he faces.

That, in turn, will be determined not simply by the tanks, planes and artillery pieces arrayed against him, or by their state of readiness, but by his calculation of whether the United States is ready to ask its sons and daughters to die to liberate Kuwait and teach a lesson to any other would-be disturbers of the post-cold-war peace. Bush's decision to offer a "last chance" for peace, and NATO's decision to send three squadrons of obsolete fighters to Turkey, supposedly to demonstrate Western resolve, may only have reinforced Hussein's conviction that the allied military buildup is nothing but a cold-war-style bluff. Moreover, Mideast intelligence sources believe the Iraqi leader thinks that even if the United States does attack he can inflict enough casualties in the first few days to turn the American public against the war and force a negotiated settlement.

Some American strategists, also mindful of public opinion, hope the furious aerial bombardment that would precede a ground attack might be enough to break Iraq's will. The top American commanders-most of whom happen to be Army generals-are prepared, however, to use both air and ground forces to ensure a swift victory. But the unique challenges and uncertainties of desert war-challenges the U.S. Army has not faced since 1942 in North Africa-complicate any simple calculations of when America will be ready to fight, the chances of success or the price of victory.

## On Duty in the Persian Gulf



USAF Seargent Andrew Evans

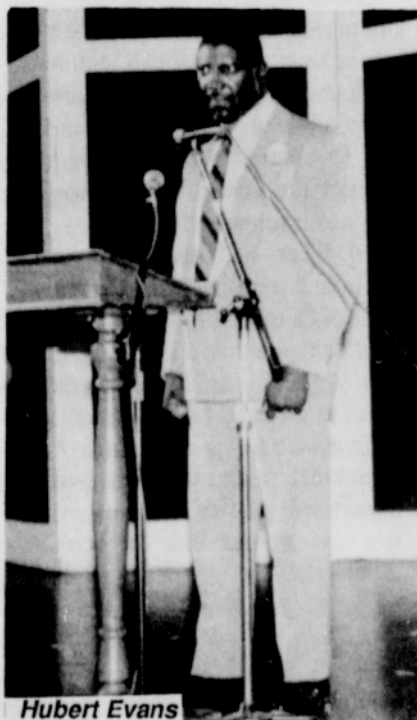
We salute you and your squadron. Our prayers will be with you for a safe return home.

The Portland Observer  
Staff and Management

Do you have loved ones in the Persian Gulf?

The Portland Observer will be highlighting events as they occur in the Middle East. If you have loved ones who are stationed in the Gulf please let us know, and send photo if available.

## No war In The Middle East



Hubert Evans

BY: BETTE LEE

"No War in the Middle East," "Bring the Troops Home," and "Support GI Resistance" were the loud and clear messages repeated over and over again by the speakers at a forum sponsored by the Coalition against U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East last Tuesday evening on the present crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Hubert Evans, an Afro-American and spokesperson for the Coalition, told a crowd of over 200 at the Northwest Service Center that over 32% of the

armed forces are black men and women. "They are over there in the desert of Saudi Arabia, and they need to know that there are Afro-Americans here who want to support them and bring them home," he said.

Evans, a 10-year veteran in the army, has a brother who was in Vietnam for 4 years, and another stationed in the air force in Japan who may be transferred to Saudi Arabia in the future.

Asked why he opposes war in the Middle East, Evans observed that while black soldiers will be called to fight and die if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, black people in American cities are being destroyed by poverty, crime, drugs, poor quality of education, and a high death rate for black babies. "The mainstream society in this country doesn't care about what happens to us, so what are we fighting and dying for over there? We are being destroyed at both ends," he said. He called on the pre-dominantly white audience to work together with the black community to improve the social and economic conditions for Afro-Americans even after the crisis in the Middle East is over.

Evans is presently a student majoring in criminal justice at Cascade Community College. He hopes to organize Afro-Americans who want to get involved in opposition to war in the Middle East. He announced that the Coalition is organizing a rally for Peace in the Middle East on Saturday, January 12, at the Pioneer Courthouse Square

at 12 noon, and urged people to participate.

Other speakers at the forum included Michael Job, a Vietnam Veteran who visited Iraq and Jordan in late October, Masoud Kheirabadi, Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies at Lewis and Clark College, Gretchen Kafoury, City Commissioner, and Mary Siebertson, a mother whose son is stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Michael Job, who was the key speaker at the forum, was in Vietnam in 1960-70, and is presently a member of the Veterans Peace Action Teams. He presented the audience with an eye-witness report of his trip to Jordan and Iraq in October, including a slide show of his visits to a refugee camp in Jordan, hospitals, schools, government offices, homes, mosques, and holy shrines. As a slide of Bagdad flashed across the screen, Job commented on its beauty and history. "Imagine if a bomb were dropped on Bagdad, millions of people would get killed. The whole city with its beautiful mosques and holy shrines hundreds of years old would be completely destroyed. That's like dropping a bomb on a major city in the U.S. like Portland, or San Francisco, or New York."

"Peter Jennings of ABC reported that there were no war preparations going on amongst the people of Bagdad; that was my observation too. The Iraqis are people like us. They want a good education for their children, decent jobs,

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## Young Supporter Attends New Governor's Reception



Teri Bowles with Oregon's new Governor, Barbara Roberts

Oregon's first woman Governor, Barbara Roberts, is congratulated by Teri Bowles, a Portland teenager, at the People's Inauguration on January 14 at the State Capitol Building in Salem.

"Governor Roberts is an excellent role model for all Oregonians, and particularly for women," Teri said. "I am especially impressed by the fact that she earned her college degree while working, and being a single parent of a handicapped child. These are circum-

stances that common people can relate to in their everyday lives." Bowles said. "I think Barbara Roberts will be a great Governor because of her background. She will be concerned about the welfare of all of us, not just the rich and privileged."

Teri, 15, a sophomore at St. Mary's Academy in downtown Portland, was escorted to the Governor's inaugural reception by her uncle, Jimmy Bang-Bang Walker.