

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
is on the way

Our Prayers Are With Those in the Gulf

PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

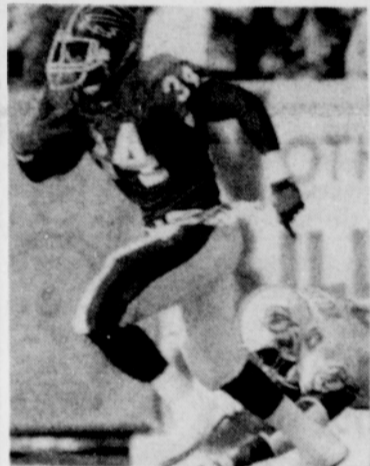
January 23, 1991

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Next Week
Rainbow Coalition, Black United Front, & PPS Boycott

From the Community, to the Persian Gulf...

Sgt Desiree K. Freeman
13th Sig Bn Cav Div
Task Force APO NY 09306



Sgt. Desiree K. Freeman works in the administration office. She is a graduate of Grant High School, after which she entered the Army. She is the daughter of Roy and Winnfred Freeman. Desiree resides in Portland, Oregon.

If you have family in the Gulf...

please contact the Portland Observer. Through the duration of the war, we will be presenting personal profiles of local individuals involved in it. Please send a picture (if available) and a short biography, as well as contact address (if you would like us to publish it) to:

Portland Observer
4747 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

LCPL John Valentino Harold
Echo Co. PLT #22nd BN.
FPO San Francisco CA



LCPL Valentino Harold, a graduate of Grant High School, joined the Marine Corps October 17, 1989. Less than a year after boot camp in San Diego, he was assigned to the Persian Gulf (on August 18, 1990).

KATU would also like to hear about your family members in the Persian Gulf.
Send self-addressed envelope (for return) with full face picture and short bio to:
KATU-TV, c/o salute, P.O. Box 2 KATU-TV, Portland, OR 97207

Murder in N.E. Portland Results in Two Deaths

On Thursday, January 17, 1991, at approximately 7:17 p.m., Portland Police responded to the intersection of N.E. Garfield Avenue and Failing Street regarding two persons believed to be injured lying in the street.

Upon officers' arrival, they found one person lying on the sidewalk

determined the cause of death for both Mitchell and Penny to be the result of stab wounds.

On Tuesday, January 22, 1991, at approximately 3:45 p.m., Portland Police Detectives Kent Perry and Joe Goodale arrested Antoine Ramon Kennedy, 16 years, at a location in North

The victims/ deceased have been identified as Curtis Lee Penny, 24 and Dale Mitchell, 29.

and a second subject lying in the middle of the street. Medical personnel were summoned and pronounced both subjects dead at the scene.

The victims/deceased have been identified as Curtis Lee Penny, 24 years, and Dale Mitchell, 29 years.

The Medical Examiner has

Portland, in connection with this homicide investigation. Kennedy has been lodged at the Donald E. Long home. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 23, 1991, at 1:30 p.m. at the Juvenile Court (248-3460).

A weapon has been recovered.

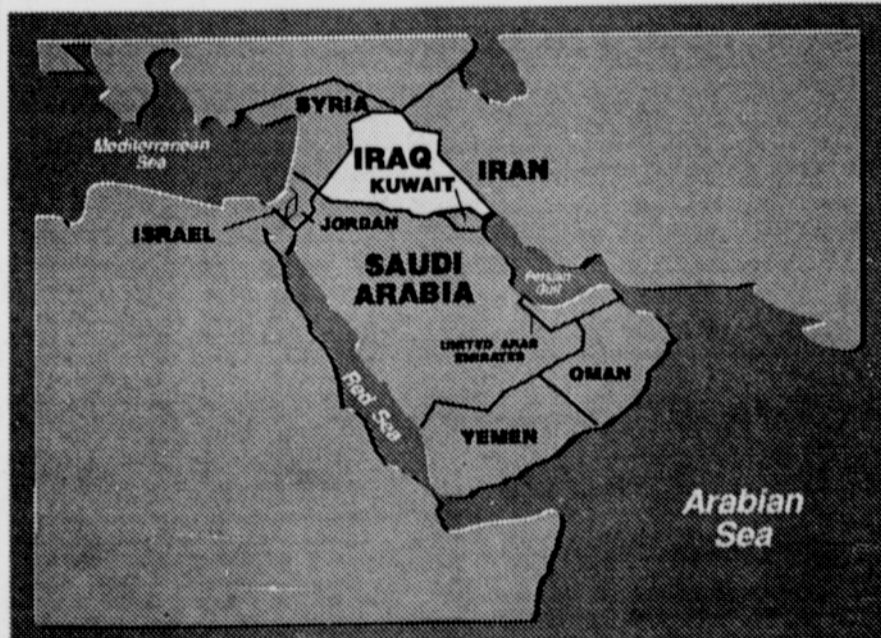
Crisis Line Seeks Volunteers

The Portland Women's Crisis Line is pleased to announce openings for its March Volunteer Training. The Portland Women's Crisis Line is a non-profit organization which provides 24-hours-a-day crisis intervention counseling on its crisis line for women and children (and their families and friends) who have or are experiencing domestic or sexual violence in their lives.

The volunteer training lasts 40 hours, spread out over a three-week period. Interested women should contact the business office of the crisis line at 232-9751, during normal business hours. Practicum students are urged to apply: credit is available. Final date for the sign-up for the March training is Wednesday, February 27.

Portland Women's Crisis Line is an equal opportunity employer, funded in part by the United Way.

Blood for Oil: Behind the Gulf Crisis



BY DR. MANNING MARABLE

Years from now people will wonder with amazement how and why the United States became embroiled in the Persian Gulf Crisis. Because despite the rhetoric in the Congressional debate over granting President Bush the power to initiate warfare, and despite the media's constant coverage of Iraqi leader Saddam

Hussein, the American people are more poorly informed about the reasons for this crisis than any other ear in our history.

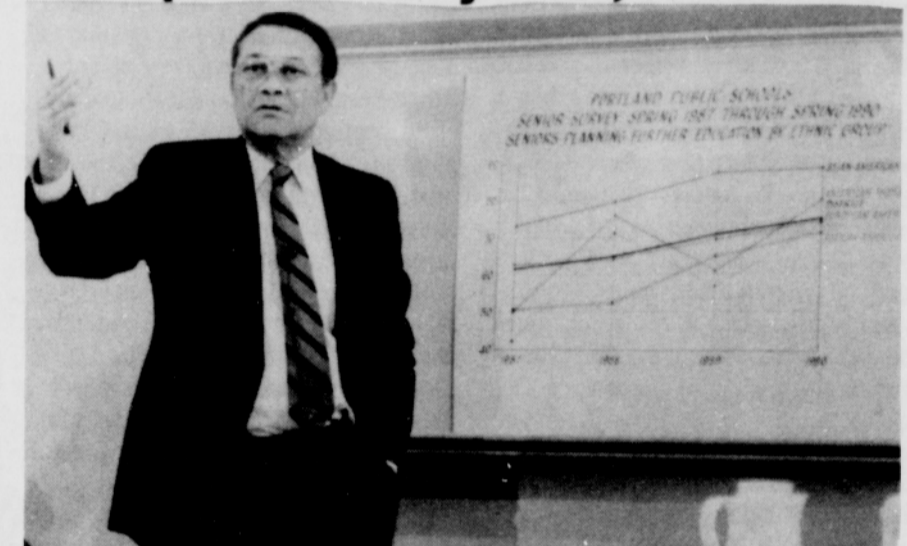
Let's begin with the essentials. The United States did not send American troops into the Gulf to "oppose aggression" or to defend "democracy" or support the right of Kuwait to resist Iraq's aggression. For decades, "aggression" has been a cornerstone of

U.S. foreign policy. Eight years ago, the U.S. launched a massive, illegal invasion of Grenada, on the false pretext that American lives were endangered. Much of the world opposed U.S. aggression in Panama and the imposition of a puppet regime loyal to American interests. The American response was to veto several United Nations Security Council resolutions critical of the invasion.

Nor does the United States oppose "aggression" when it's committed by its allies. When Israel invaded neighboring Lebanon, bombing Beirut and killing about twenty thousand people, the United States vetoed U.N. security council moves denouncing this aggression. When racist South Africa institutionalized apartheid, murdered and imprisoned thousands of the regime's critics, and launched murderous invasions against Namibia, Angola and Mozambique, the U.S. said virtually nothing. When Iran was our enemy a few years ago, the U.S. did nothing when Saddam Hussein gassed Kurdish rebels in his country. The Reagan administration indirectly helped Iraq obtain sophisticated weapons to use against the Iranians.

It's also difficult to characterize

School Board Responds to Proposed Boycott, Reform



Matthew Prophett of school board photo by Veronica Green

BY ANGELIQUE SANDERS

After over a year of silence, BUF leader Ron Herndon's proposed school reform, the PPS school board responded Tuesday by stating they'd like to meet with various community leaders to discuss a compromise.

Stephen Griffith, of the school board, says that he foresees fusion or fission between PPS and BUF as the outcome, adding, "What I'm hoping is that we can combine those energies."

The community has expressed dissatisfaction with the school board through various motions and boycotts in the past. Herndon became spokesperson of this dissatisfaction when he united the discontented forces by submitting a reform plan to Portland Public Schools in October 1989. The school board shrugged it off until the Black United Front joined forces with 13 other local black organizations and, enlisting the community's support, decided to institute one-day boycotts of PPS (slated to commence in February).

This prompted action from the school board. While they claim to be satisfied with their progress, school board members agreed to meet with several community leaders-including Herndon-to discuss potential improvements. This meeting is scheduled for January 24, its purpose being to examine and evaluate the education quality provided to minorities, and to suggest possible improvements of curriculum.

A statement issued by the school board says that "The board of education suggests that the process decided on should include the creation of an advisory committee widely representative of community interests." Matthew

Prophett (of the school board) feels that there is already an academic excellence committee--in fact, there are 106 of them, he claims.

Marty Howard, chairman of the board, claims the extensive 16 month period of inaction on PPS' part is because "We've been waiting/hoping for people from the community with ideas of their own."

Charged with inequal educational opportunities for minority/disadvantaged students, Prophett shrugs off the allegation with his sentiment that the fault lies as much with parents and other influences (such as instability at a household level). He cited a 1988 figure of the dropout rates, of blacks, which he says is lower than the figure for whites. Additionally, he presented a chart of the local schools with the lowest attendance for the 1989-90 school year.

Another chart Prophett proudly displayed illustrated the incline of black test scores, rising disproportionately faster than their white counterparts. The end result, however, was still inferior for blacks, more than any other race: regardless of the rate of incline, this still illustrates a problem.

The school board's Ross Dey claims that the largest problem with PPS is not its performance, but its reputation.

Prophett is adamantly against the boycott, defending PPS by claiming those hurt by it are actually the teachers. "The threat of a boycott has done grievous and irreparable damage...to the 4,000 teachers."

The Rainbow Coalition meets Wed. at 6:30 p.m. at Multnomah County Library to discuss boycott dates/sights. The Portland Observer will be continuing its coverage of boycott events.

the former regime in Kuwait as a bastion of democracy, or to applaud the current, corrupt monarchy of Saudi Arabia as a fortress for liberal values and beliefs. No one doubts that Saddam Hussein is a despotic dictator. But the same is also true for the Emir of Kuwait and the ruling class of Saudi Arabia. In Kuwait, the vast majority of the population were noncitizens, politically disfranchised. Censorship in the press was pervasive, and Kuwaiti dissidents claim that if the Emir ever reclaims power in his country again, that the level of political repression will be intensified. The Saudis have a long history of torture, executions, suppression of women's rights, and an absence of democracy.

Why is the United States fighting on the side of these despots? The crocodile tears shed for the Kuwaitis who were murdered and raped by Saddam's troops explain nothing about George Bush's decision to send 400,000 troops into the Gulf, a force larger than the number of Americans who invaded Europe in World War II. The basic reason is the political economy of oil, and the singular fact that Americans, who represent five percent of the world's population, consume conservatively 26

percent of all petroleum. The Saudis, the Kuwaitis, and the other oil rich sheiks are actually junior partners in a corporate conglomerate system involving Wall Street, the multinational corporations and capitalist elites in the United States and Western Europe. Dependable control over cheap and reliable sources of energy is essential to the corporate and military hierarchies in this country. That's part of the reason why George Bush things it is cheaper to spill American blood in the sands of Kuwait than to give up domination and control over international oil sources.

Perhaps the biggest tragedy of the Gulf crisis was the manipulation of the nation by President Bush into a confrontational situation with Saddam's regime. A token American force, preferably under United Nations command, would have been sufficient to halt Saddam from attacking Saudi Arabia. Bush's secret decision to double the number of American troops in the region, made before the 1990 Congressional elections but announced afterward, made a negotiated settlement almost impossible. Bush, not Saddam Hussein, made the confrontation inevitable.