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 SAFE RETURN
 OF OUR
 TROOPS**

PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

March 20, 1991

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Next Week

In the Locker Room: Robert Parish: A Second Wind, by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Center Closure Eminent Without Funds...Now



Grace Collins with her kids

The Grace Collins Memorial Community Center which was founded by Grace and Evelyn Collins over 40 years ago is facing yet another threat of shut down.

The Center has been plagued with numerous problems recently including threat of closure by Children's Service Division in October, 1991 for violations that had gone uncorrected for some time. With support from a few of the parents whose children are cared for at the Center, some concerned citizens from the community and some public officials, the board of Directors chaired by Ralph L. Davis of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, won a ninth hour appeal and was granted a temporary license.

The Center, under the direction of Stan Peterson has been operating according to plan and is up for a final CSD review in May of 1991 at which time CSD will determine if sufficient progress had been made in the areas of staffing, sanitation and curriculum. At this time CSD expresses optimism about the future of the Center. The regulatory agency has taken an unprecedented and exceptional roll of resource and support of the Center to assist during this period.

The Center has operated as an intentionally subsidized program since it was founded. Miss Collins and her mother Grace Collins wanted to provide low cost day care for mothers who wanted to work rather than remain on welfare and other assistance programs.

In keeping with that mission the Center has continued this practice and until recently had been able to operate at a loss because of contributions from friends and support for the work Miss Collins was doing in the community. The Center was also able in past years to obtain grants from such organizations like the Collins Foundation, Fred Meyer and the Templeton Foundation. Several churches, primarily outside the Community have been ongoing supporters of the work of Miss Collins.

Today many of the past supporters have passed on and their contributions have not been replaced. Rates at the Center have gone virtually unchanged yet the cost of all aspects of running the Center have increased. The Center runs deeper in the red with each passing day. Miss Collins and the Board have written nearly 1000 letters during the past three months to local churches, organizations, private individuals in the city and around the state and public officials, local, state and federal, many of whom know Miss Collins and her work in the community.

With all their combined efforts the Center is barely able to make payroll from week to week for its 18 members who are paid only minimum wage and have no benefits.

The Center's worst financial woes are now facing it in the form of unpaid payroll taxes in collection with the IRS. In order to pay staff the Center has calculated wages and made all deductions, but has not paid payroll taxes assessed on a quarterly basis.
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A Lion At Bay?

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

There is a common saying when a person is caught in a deep, pensive pose, "You're a study in blue...what on earth is on your mind?"

That was the immediate reaction when we saw school superintendent Matthew Prophet's full-page portrait on the cover of the Sunday Oregonian Northwest Magazine. The feature article, "The Perils of Prophet: The Head Of Portland's Schools Feels The Heat", undoubtedly brought the same pensive



Matthew Prophet

look to our own features. Hardly into the article, another familiar standard was recalled as writer Bill Graves set the tone, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray."

But, here, we are not reflecting upon the characters of a play ("Of Mice And Men"), but upon the frustrated hopes, plans and aspirations of a community and a school district-all now at loggerheads over the most divisive (and confusing) issues ever to confront Portland's education system. And as reported, this is occurring in one of the state's wealthiest school districts, led by the highest paid public executive in

Oregon-who at the beginning of his tenure received a carte blanche acceptance from taxpayer, staff and community alike. Today, however, the climate is remarkably different. And the man is "defensive, indignant" it is said. The Black United Front is "angered."

It is the school board, of course, which has earned the same critical appraisal as the "lion at bay". This is not a situation where comprehension yields simply to being made aware of such transgressions as when "Prophet and board member Joe Rieke took steps to keep a labor agreement with classified school workers quiet until after the election-chief Deputy Donald McElroy in agreement." School board member Joe Rieke is directly quoted, "We are attacked for behavior in the political arena, and attacks like that divide people." Wasn't something once said about "Caesar's wife"?

Reader may recall that last July I did a two-page spread which highlighted, among other gross and arrogant failures of this district, a description of a black parent's frustrating exchange with the implacable mindset of Portland's school board. Briefly, this particular piece focused upon a board member's diffident (contemptuous) reply to citations of the district's failure to acquaint their child with any vestige of her African American heritage-this, after millions in monies and man hours were spent to import noted historians in the field, and to develop a number of related Baseline Essays along with curriculum aligned materials. Earlier, I had frequently cited "a consistent failure to deliver the 'product' to the consumer. Something that would not be tolerated in industry."

I do not believe this community is
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Unified School District Fund Raising Event For The Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund of Oregon is having a fund raising banquet to commemorate the life of Dr. King on Saturday, April 6, 1991, 6:30 pm, at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach Hotel, Portland, Oregon.

Dr. George J. McKenna III, superintendent of the Inglewood Unified School District will give the keynote



Dr. George J. McKenna III
 Superintendent of the Inglewood

address on "Recommitment To The Dream...Educating Youth For The Workforce In The 90's And Beyond."

As the principal of George Washington Preparatory High School, located in south central Los Angeles, Dr. McKenna developed and implemented the preparatory school model, a program stressing academic excellence at all levels. In four years, he successfully

changed an inner-city high school that had been torn by violence, low achievement and lack of community confidence into a school which now has an attendance waiting list, and where nearly 80% of the graduates enroll in college. Because of his success, Dr. McKenna's programs are being widely modeled throughout the nation.

The scholarship fund incorporated in 1971, and located on the Portland State University campus offices donated by the University, has provided about 1,700 scholarships to students: totalling more than \$400,000 in educational assistance. Better than 95% of the contributions are utilized in direct scholarship assistance, with the small remainder going to defray the operating expenses as a non-profit charitable corporation. These contributions have been made available to the fund over the years through the generosity of corporations, organizations, and members of the Oregon community, who are concerned about the future of our youth.

Proceeds from this event will provide scholarship assistance to minority students who might not otherwise be able to get a college education.

Make a commitment to join us for this celebration. Tickets may be purchased for \$30.00 per person at the following locations:

Ms. C's Wigs: 707 N.E. Fremont, G.I. Joe's: All Locations, House of Sound Record Shop: 3634 N. Williams.

Congressman Wyden Hosts Town Meetings



Saturday March 23,

1:30 to 3:00 PM
 Lake Oswego Community Center
 505 SW G Street
 Lake Oswego

Monday, March 25

7:00 to 8:30 PM
 Cherry Park United Methodist Church
 1736 SE 106th
 Portland

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 to 8:30 PM
 Troutdale City Hall
 104 SE Kibling
 Troutdale

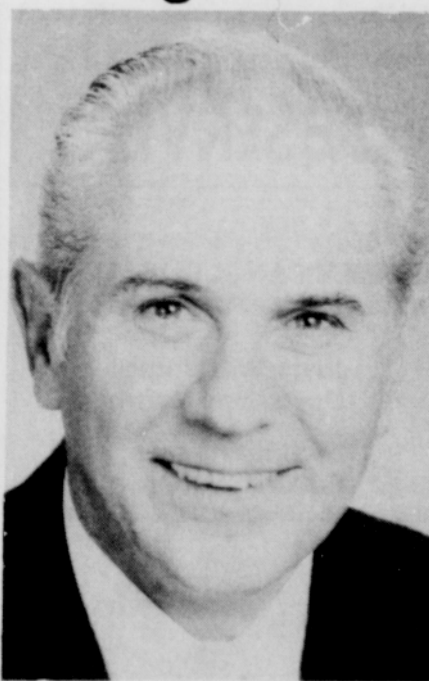
SPECIAL FORUM ON VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Saturday, March 23

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 1624 NE Hancock
 Portland

The latest crime figures for our community show violent crimes against women are up significantly. Please join law enforcement officials, social service agencies, leading women's organizations, and Ron to discuss new strategies to protect women-and federal legislation that can help.

Anti-Hate Crime Legislation Introduced



Rep. Bill Dwyer (D-Springfield)

Calling his anti-hate violence proposed legislation a "fitting response to utter cruelty and inhumanity," Rep. Bill Dwyer (D-Springfield) pressed his House colleagues to pass HB 2488, which calls for adding racially motivated murder to Oregon's death penalty statute.

Referring to the November 13, 1988 murder of Ethiopian national Mulugeta Seraw and to the earlier murder of Portland resident Stanely Reed, Dwyer called for the Legislature to "send an undiluted crystal clear message that we mean business on this issue."

"Hate crimes were reported in 20 different counties in Oregon," Dwyer said, "This isn't just a Portland problem. Crimes of prejudice are increas-

ing in Oregon." He cited a 40% increase in reported crimes of prejudice between 1989 and 1990 in Oregon.

"Just in 1990 there were 343 reported hate crimes in our state," Dwyer said, citing a recent report by the Oregon law Enforcement Data System. "I am appalled at the extent of racially-motivated crimes in this state-the threats and the violent acts."

Citing National Council of Churches data of 121 hate inspired murders between 1980 and 1986, Dwyer said, "we must send the message to Skinheads, Neo-Nazis and any other hate apostles of any race that if you kill in Oregon, you face a harsh penalty."

"Neo-Nazis organizers have apparently targeted Oregon as a haven for hatred," Dwyer said, "But the judgement against Tom Metzger and the increased discussion, within your colleges and political forums, shows that people are ready to unite against this monstrous brutality."

Dwyer's bill would add murder "because of the victim's race or color" to the existing aggravated murder statute (ORS 163.095). If adopted, racially motivated killings would join murder for hire, the killing of a police officer and other heinous homicides among those eligible for the death penalty.

Urging House Judiciary members to "elevate into the fraternity of heinous homicide those who kill with racial hatred as their cause," the Springfield legislator said that the current legislative session needs to "send a message that we won't tolerate this type of garbage in our state!"