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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## Medical Foundation Awards \$45,700 in Grants

Grants totaling \$45,700 were awarded in December by the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation (NOMF), according to its Executive Director, David Rianda.

The North Portland Nurse Practitioner community Health Clinic, under the direction of Mariah A. Taylor, R.N., received a grant of \$2,000 for its medically needy children's fund.

Also included in the awards were grants earmarked for 23 organizations in Oregon and Washington, serving special health care needs of those with disabilities. They totaled \$12,000.

Gifts were of \$500 to each organization, with the exception of one at \$1,000.

Annually since 1986, the NOMF Board of Directors has identified special interest organizations to receive these end-of-year grants (unsolicited).

These grants are made in addition to the Foundation's regular grant making program. In past years, organizations serving senior citizens, the homeless, children, health research, and minority health services have been recipients.

Rianda also stated that eight Northwest osteopathic medical students were selected for financial assistance in December, totaling \$13,000. This brings to a total 72 students in a six-year period who have received



loans and scholarships to attend one of 15 osteopathic medical schools across the country. Students are from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

According to Rianda, the balance of the grants were awarded to civic organizations and for medical education. They included Catholic Charities of Oregon, Eastmoreland Hospital Medi-

cal Education program, Mapleton Community Response Team, Neighborhood Health Clinics, and the YWCA of Salem.

The Northwest Osteopathic Medical foundation was established in 1984. A public charity, it represents the concerns of the osteopathic (D.O.) medical community and provides support to pro-

grams for families and children, as well as to non-profit organizations in the areas of health care-- prevention, research, equipment, and public education.

Rianda said the Foundation is administered by a volunteer 11-person Board of directors, including six Doctors of Osteopathy.

## Health Care costs For Oregon Families Up 280% Since 1980; National Health Care Is Answer, AuCoin Says

At a Portland news conference releasing a new report on spiraling health care costs for Oregon families, Rep. Les AuCoin (D-OR) called for a bold overhaul of America's health care system.

AuCoin said the growing burden of health care costs is forcing many families to make impossible choices. "Oregon families are going into debt-- or going without -- to pay for the care they get. Choosing between monthly health care premiums or their mortgage payments is a horrible choice. It's not right, it's not fair, and it can't go on this way."

According to "Health Spending: The Growing Threat to the Family Budget," a report prepared by the Washington, DC-based advocacy group Families USA, health care costs for Oregon families have increased a whopping 280 percent since 1980.

The average Oregon family spent more than \$3900 this year on health care, as compared to about \$1400 a decade ago. By the year 2000, Families USA predicts that the health care burden on Oregon families will soar to more than \$8700 per year.

AuCoin said exploding health care costs are also having a devastating impact on state budgets, noting that

Oregon's Medicaid spending has increased by \$34 million in the last two years.

"That's why it's doubly wrong for anyone to say that the answer to the national health care crisis is to push more health care responsibilities onto the states. That would just mean cutting other vital services like police and public safety, environmental protection and aid to the elderly. That's simply robbing Peter to pay Paul."

AuCoin, a long-time supporter of measures to curb rising health care costs, said that a national health insurance system was the best solution to the health care crisis.

"Only a national health care financing system can really bring down costs," he said. "It puts health care on a budget and contains these raising costs. Just cutting out the administrative waste could save \$67 million a year. A national health care system is the only approach that can get everyone the care they need at prices they can afford."

AuCoin was joined at the press conference at the Multnomah County Southeast Health Center by representatives of Oregon Health Action Campaign, Physicians for a National Health Plan, and area health clinics.

## Seasons Greetings from the staff of The Portland Observer

## Black Leadership: Then And Now, Part 2

BY PROF. McKinley Burt

That opinion poll of African Americans around the country (in respect to "leadership") has produced both the expected and the unexpected. The review of articles and editorials in the black press showed the same dichotomy in the assessment of current leaders or their organizations. That "beauty lies in the eye of the beholder" seems never truer as some op for tradition ("return to basics"), and many others call for a new type black revolution that can effectively function in a technological world.

There is increased criticism of the style of leadership with younger university and industry trained blacks deploring the podium or pulpit performances of conventional prime movers in their communities; "Those sing-song chants, the eye-rolling and screaming and post-slavery metaphors about mountain tops -- none of this is going to attract the kind of brains and bodies we'll need to staff our organizations for the 21st Century." There was other comment about a *media-manipulated* image of a long-suffering, ultra patient black who, after billions in federal programs, still can't quite catch on to the American way -- "Money will shift to other minorities."

Most impressive was a growing shift from the purely political to the economic and fiscal management -- "we need *financial Stewards*, career money managers in our organizations and communities, AVAILABLE TO ALL

and not just the insiders" -- "Our congregation has collected every article Tony Brown has written on *Green Power* and forming black businesses. We started classes last year and now have a grocery and a dry cleaners." Many correspondents who addressed the economic theme asked, "Why didn't we followup on the Reverend Leon Sullivan theme (P.O.I.C.) and carry it on to the next step of nationwide black-owned manufacturing firms -- why just train black youth to work for others?"

In this vein there is a lot of reference to black leadership in the past with very pointed comments that "something very precious has been lost." There were five citations of the famous black entrepreneur, Madame C.J. Walker, who built a national network of successful urban business centers in the 1920's; real estate, beauty schools, stores, movies. Equally accepted as a role model for today was "Marcus Garvey," the flamboyant organizer of both a domestic African American business enclave, but also an African component that saw ships purchased for both *inverse colonization* and *export/import*.

I think the most important point made by the writers was that these dedicated and energetic people accomplished all of the necessary organization and interaction WITHOUT THE AID OF TELEVISION: "What possible excuse could we [blacks] have today for failing to at least equal the

contributions of those who have gone before -- what good are all these electronics; or even these college educations?" This was from a female member of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators. A college prexy reminded me of the innovative drive possessed by the typical black college over a HUNDRED YEARS AGO. "Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, was founded in 1865. Within six years that glorious ensemble, *The Fisk Jubilee Singers*, was on the road at home and abroad raising many millions for building and equipment -- Mr. Burt, put that in terms of today's money; mind blower."

I think the most reassuring and consistent element of all these dialogues was the frequent association with the past; "he who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it." A related theme that is coming through is about *economic vigilance*; "we need to sponsor and educate cadres of hard-hitting black business and patent lawyers beginning with high school, and we need to support them financially." "Otherwise," the students of this southern college class said, "we will have a continuation of the classic ripoffs from the Carpetbaggers following the Civil War right down to today's *Urban Removal*. I had sent the class a copy of my book *Black Inventors of America* and they quickly noted that today there no longer exists any black-owned businesses in consequence of these hundreds of innovation.

It will be interesting to see if traditional black social and economic organizations like the National Urban League and NAACP will ride out the waves of challenge, flexible enough to accept new thinking and *focus* and with leadership not so insecure or frightened that they cannot accept either new technology or politics. A North Carolina group I've just been made aware of has informed me that they have revived and are implementing with modern administration the 1898 black enterprise, "Coleman Manufacturing Company." This was a three-story brick plant built on the main line of the Southern Railway, the brainchild of a Warren C. Coleman, a wealthy ex-slave and businessman.

I wrote about the cotton mill several years ago and its manufacturing of cotton and wool fabrics, overalls and other clothing. Having discovered existence, I proceeded to research fate with the help of a stock brokerage firm that drew upon its archives, I tracked a series of spinoffs, mergers and reorganizations. We came up with today's corporate entity; CANNON LINEN MILLS. Coleman's fortunes and ethnic makeup began to change soon after an early success--beginning with a financial shot-in-the arm from a new member of the board from *America's most prominent tobacco family*.

Next week, new wars over ownership of urban property. Who are the leaders?

## Portland Schools Offer Free Lunches At Seven Schools During Vacation Period

Free lunches will be served to school-age children during holiday vacation at selected Portland School District sites.

For the first time, children in seven low-income Portland neighborhoods will be offered a free meal to supplement their diets during the holiday vacation period -- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3.

Suggested by Portland School Board member Basil (Bill) Panaretos, the school district's Nutrition Services Dept. will prepare a noon-meal each vacation day except Christmas, New Year's Day and weekends.

Schools serving the meals on Dec. 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 and 3 are: Boise-Eliot, 620 N Fremont St.

Portsmouth, 5103 N. Willis Blvd. Roosevelt, 6941 N. Central King, 4906 NE 6th Ave. Vernon, 2044 NE Killingsworth Woodlawn, 7200 NE 11th Ave. Woodmere, 6540 SE 78th Ave. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. Lunches -- consisting of soup, sandwich, fruit and milk -- will be served each day at the schools.

The school district is accepting corporate, civic and individual donations to help defray the project's costs. Adults who wish to participate will be charged \$2.

For more information, please contact: Bill Garbett, director of public information and communication, Portland Public Schools, 249-3304.

## North Portlanders Sought For Enhancement Committee


The Metropolitan Service District is looking for residents of North Portland to fill vacancy on the North Portland Enhancement Committee. The appointee will fill the unexpired term of Michael Vernon, who resigned in November. The term runs through December 1992.

The seven-member committee, established in 1987, makes recommendations how to spend the money generated from a 50-cent-per-ton surcharge on disposal of garbage at the St. Johns Landfill. The next round of fundings begins in the spring.

committee members must live in the North Portland enhancement area between the Willamette and Columbia rivers and between Interstate 5 and Interstate 405. Neighborhoods include St. Johns, Cathedral Park, Portsmouth, University Park, Kenton, Arbor Lodge and Overlook.

The deadline is Jan. 10. Applications are available at the Peninsula Neighbors Office, 2410 N. Lombard, or at Metro Center, 200 SW First Ave. Questions should be directed to Katie Dowdall, Metro's community enhancement coordinator.

**News**



**Nostalgia: Don't Leave Home Without It, Part III**  
by McKinley Burt

Page 2

**Entertainment**

**1991 Lou Rawls Parade of Stars**

Page 3

**Perspectives**

**Christmas Activities**

Page 4

**News**

**Hammer to Host 19th Annual "American Music Awards"**

Page 5

EDITORIAL

NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGION

CLASSIFIEDS

BIDS/SUB-BIDS

2

2

5

7

8

9