

The Portland Observer 25¢

Lewellen Named To Head Nike's Urban And Minority Affairs

NIKE Inc., the world's leading athletic shoe and apparel manufacturer, has named Michael Lewellen as its Manager of Urban and Minority Affairs. Lewellen had been public relation manager at Southwestern Bell Telephone's St. Louis headquarters for the past six years.

In his new position, Lewellen will be responsible for national philanthropic programs which target education for inner city youth. He will also oversee corporate contributions from NIKE's "Just Do It" fund to minority organizations, along with corporate visibility within minority markets.

In 1990, Lewellen served as president of the St. Louis Chapter of the International Association of Business communicators (IABC/St. Louis). He also served on the board of directors for two St. Louis charities -- Grace Hill Neighborhood Services and the University City Children's Center.

A former sports reporter for the Pine Bluff (Arkansas) commercial newspaper, Lewellen holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Arkansas State University. In 1989, he earned the international distinction of "Accredited Business communicator (ABC)" from the International Association of Business Communicators.



Nationally, he is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America; National Association of black Journalists; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; and the United States Profes-

sional Tennis Association. Lewellen also serves on the advisory board for the National Association of Partners in Education in Washington, D.C.

Gordly To Announce Campaign With Food Drive

State Representative Avel Gordly will announce her candidacy for House District 19 Thursday, January 16 at 12:15 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock Street.

Representative Gordly -- appointed to fill the seat vacated when Ron Cease was appointed to the Oregon State Senate -- has asked her supporters to bring a can of food to the event which will be donated to the North East Emergency Food Program.

"Politics means more to me than campaigning for votes," said Rep. Gordly. "It means actively using the political pulpit to make a difference in the lives of people. That's what I'm about and that's what my campaign will be about."

Appointed to the Legislature in September, Rep. Gordly serves on the

Governor's Commission for Women, The Hanford Nuclear Waste Board, and The Youth Conservation Corps Advisory Committee.

Representative Gordly is the former program director of the House of Umoja, a Portland gang intervention facility. She was also the associate director of the Pacific Northwest Region American Friends Service Committee.

Currently the Citizens Chair of the Chief's Forum, Gordly is a former Parole and Probation Officer for the State of Oregon.

"I've been able to work in this district with a great diversity of people on the things we care about most -- kids, public safety, human rights, and neighborhood stability," said Gordly. "Helping people who feel left out by the system re-gain a personal sense of empow-



erment is one of my primary sources of fulfillment. Consequently, I feel very well prepared to tackle these issues in the Legislature."

Kay Toran To Head Children's Services Division Metro Region

Bill Carey, administrator of Children's Services Division has named Kay Toran Metro Region administrator for CSD. The Metro Region includes five branch offices in Portland with about 350 employees.

Toran, 48 years old, was the assistant administrator for Metro Region for the past year. Her professional experience included Clackamas CSD branch manager, administrator of Purchasing Division at the Department of General Services, director of affirmative action for then-Governor Vic Atiyeh and Assistant Professor for the Graduate

School of Social Work at Portland State University.

"I am excited about the challenges of this job," says Toran. "Because of measure five we need to have a child welfare system that is responsive and responsible. I want to insure an effective system that serves the needs of clients as well as responds to the ideas and issues of the community."

Toran replaces Betty Uchytel who was interim administrator for Metro Region. Uchytel will be returning to her position as the head of the child welfare program office in Salem.



Inner-City Kid Makes Good: Spears Receives UNCF Scholarship



BY TEAL N. THOMPSON

Two years ago Velma Maria Spears was investing long arduous hours at her job at Bonneville Power Administration, where she has been employed for the past four years, and taking courses at Portland State University and PCC Sylvania Campus. Her intent was to amass more hours to go towards her degree in Electrical Engineering.

She graduated from ITT Technical Institute, in April of 1987, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. Velma carried a full academic schedule and worked two part-time jobs because she knew full-well that her Mom, who was the sole support of the family, could not pay for her schooling. She worked hard and studied hard. Velma discovered, to her disappointment, that none of her credits from ITT would transfer. But this did not hinder her drive to move forward. She had a goal and she was not about to let anyone or anything get in her way. Her hard work and long hours of study

would finally pay off.

Ms. Spears' drive for excellence began at an early age. Her mother, Mattie Ann Callier-Spears, recalls a time when she was in elementary school; "Maria's teacher, at Irvington Elementary School's Follow-Through Program, Mrs. Bridges, said that she had never had a student like Velma. She had an uncanny ability to solve math problems in an unorthodox fashion. She got all of the answers right but she, Mrs. Bridges, couldn't find the method of Maria's computation nowhere and in no one's textbook. She would work it out the same way each time. She would figure it out in her head; and these were very difficult mathematical equations. But how she arrived at the answers was a mystery to her instructors." Mrs. Spears recalls a problem her daughter had at Binnmead Middle School. "One day I received a call from the principal, Mr. Tom Parr. He asked that I come into the office because there was a problem between Velma and one of her teachers, Mrs. Roake. Mrs. Roake had given Velma a failing grade because she said that Velma had cheated on her test. Maria was very adamant that she had not cheated. Mrs. Roake said that she must have cheated because everyone in the class got the wrong answers except Velma. And furthermore, the problems were not worked out properly--according to Mrs. Roake's textbook theory. Up until that time Maria had never received an 'F' in anything...especially Math," recalls her mother.

It seems that this kind-of quandary followed Velma even into high school where she became one of the pioneer

females to first walk the halls and attend classes in the once all-male technical institution -- Benson Polytechnical High School. During those years and earlier, Benson's program was for the academic elite. It was the school that gave students an incentive to study. If you couldn't pass Benson's entrance exam or your GPA was below a "B," you could not enter.

Twenty-five years old, standing a mere five feet two and a half, Velma is as cute as a button with a voice as sweet as honey dripping from the honey comb. But she is as tough as nails. She grew up with her three brothers, played with her brothers' friends, ran track, played basketball, played tennis, participated in gymnastics, was on the varsity basketball rally squad and could knock the tar out of any boy. "For a very long time," recalls her mother, "I don't think that Velma realized that she was a girl."

Velma was also recognized as a petite model. She enjoyed runway modeling. She wanted to prove to everyone that petite models were just as effective as tall models on the runway...after being told that she couldn't do runway modeling. "You have a pretty face, beautiful eyes--BUT--you're too short." She appeared on national TV on the Golden Graham commercial.

She was perfectly named. Her name Velma means, "strong or strength" and her middle name Maria means, "blessed." Put them together and she is "Blessed Strength." She is the epitome of any definition of strong.

In times like these, the young Af-

continued on page 2

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Special Edition starts on page 11

After AIDS, What?

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

As expected, there was quite a response to last week's feature article, "The Origin And Spread Of AIDS Is Finally Revealed." One reader even paraphrased that old adage I'm always citing about liberty: "Eternal vigilance is the price of HEALTH!" (I hesitated to get my flu shot.)

Another noted that where we are dealing with certain "aborigines" who have invaded the medical profession it is interesting to note the etymology of "malaria"; *mal* is French for "bad, ill, evil" and *aria*, here, is for "air." This is derived from the idea of the colonialists and slave traders that this disease which could cure their syphilis was the result of "breathing bad air." For this reader it was not much of a jump to recall the words *MA*factor (criminal) and *MA*volent (viciously evil), or *MA*lfeasance (wrong doing). And, of course, there is *MA*lpractice of medicine. Can there be an insidious reason that the Bush administration is so gung ho on limiting the amount that can be recovered in a malpractice suit? What do they know that has not yet been "revealed" to the rest of us?

Well for one thing, we now know that, worldwide, hemophiliacs have been put at risk by injection of blood proteins contaminated by HIV viruses originated in the experiments of injecting humans with monkey blood (no need to sleep with monkeys with European Universities and the US Department of Health around). As early as 1983, Cutter Biologicals warned that AIDS had been reported among people with hemophilia. Hundreds of devastated families are suing the makers of clotting factors. "Head 'em off at the pass" Mr. Bush.

Now, the New York Times News Service informs us that yet another major medical "malfeasance" is upon us though we have not so far been told that this invasion of our bodies could have HIV or AIDS consequences (so far). Scientists within Dow Corning Co. urged company officials for years to conduct critical safety studies of the SILICONE GEL BRAEST IMPLANTS, but the tests were put off for years, a review of hundreds of company documents show. While many of the medical and administrative employees of the company quit in disgust early on,

the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is just now getting around to issuing a moratorium on the breast implants.

All in all it is rather an obscene comedy, this "malevolent" performance we have been *compelled* to attend. As early as 1975, the company set up a division called the "Mammary Task Force" to oversee the development and marketing of the *hot new product*. And this early on an official of Dow Corning had noted the "the gel had migrated through the bodies of animals" and that "rabbit tests showed persistent, disturbing inflammation of tissue." The technical director told the FDA that the formation of lumps called granulomas might be benign --but they might also "SIGNAL A SERIOUS REACTION IN THE BODY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM." Can AIDS be far behind?

Do you get the impression that none of these people know what they are doing? And, further, that few of them care? We do indeed need a health care revolution. But more than that, we need a SPECIAL PROSECUTOR to put all of these criminals away for a long, long time.

Perspectives

Peer Group Dynamics
by McKinley Burt

Page 2

Editorial

Business Employment Line
by James Posey

Page 2

Sports

Everybody Has A Blazer Story
by Bill Barber

Page 6

Special

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Special Edition Section

Page 11

EDITORIAL

2

NEWS

2

ENTERTAINMENT

4

SPORTS

6

RELIGION

7

CLASSIFIEDS

8