

OACWC Holds Annual Black History Celebration



Dr. Dolores Harris, President, Mrs. Carrie L. Holliday, State President

The Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs held their Annual Salad Luncheon, Black History Program and Exhibit, Saturday, February 22, 1992 at the Bethel A.M.E. Church. "Viewing Our Past As a Guide to the Future" was the program theme.

Mrs. Carrie Cannon was Program Chairman; Mrs. Pauline Bradford, Program Co-Chair was Mistress of Ceremony. Mrs. Carrie L. Holliday, State President, welcomed the 200 guests. President Holliday presented corsages to the National visitors. Devotions were led by Mrs. Natalie Carter, Chaplain. The Negro National Anthem was led by Mrs. Mattye Iles. A special Gospel Song Medley was presented by Mrs. Gladys Young, soloist. The special youth program, presented by the Soldiers of Light Girls Club and guest youth, was outstanding. The variety program featured poetry readings, rap, group singing and presentations on

Black Inventors. Youth participants were Kimberly Barney, Cassandra Calvin, Tiffany Goundy, Ricky Harrison, Shelton Harrison, Chaunte' Johnson, Natasha Love, Marqui Jackson, Christopher McCoy and Wendy Murray. Mrs. Queen Ann Deloney was presented at State Supervisor of Youth, together with assisting Club Supervisors, Ms. Sally Hurst, Mrs. Lillian Bell and Mrs. Harriet Boyd. Miss Kimberly Barney, N. W. Region Penny Queen, who will compete for the National Title at the Youth Convention in Portland, was introduced. Special guests in attendance were Dr. Dolores M. Harris, President, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Margaret Cooper, National Third Vice President and Mrs. Carole A. Early, National Executive Secretary and President of the Washington and Vicinity Federated Clubs. Dr. Harris, selected by Ebony Magazine as one of the "100 Most



Pauline Bradford, Coordinator



Betty Thompson, Co-Coordinator

Influential Black Americans," made a brief presentation. Response to her address was given by Mrs. Harrie Belle Paris, Executive Board Chairman. The Rev. Dorsey McCollough, host church pastor, welcomed the group. Mrs. Lillian Whitlow, Music Chairman, closed the program with a circle formation and singing of "We Shall Overcome" led by Rev. and Mrs. Mary Harrison, Ways and Means Chair for the event, extended special thanks to all Committee and club women working towards the annual benefits success.

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.

Dennis Cole Elected as President of U.S. Conference of Mayors' Employment and Training Council.

Dennis Cole, president of The Private Industry Council in Portland, Oregon, has been elected as the president of the Board of Trustees for the Employment and Training Council of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The group serves as an advocacy group for employment and training issues within the U.S. Council of Mayors, as well as with congress and the administration.

Cole has participated on the Employment and Training Council for four years. During the last two years, he has served as second vice president and first vice president of this organization. All Employment and Training Council positions are voluntary.

"The need for investing in our workforce is greater than ever, especially in those traditionally outside of the mainstream in schools and those lacking the skills required in the workplace of the 1990s. The U.S. Confer-

ence of Mayors is a strong voice for such an investment," stated Cole.

Cole also serves as the president of the Oregon Private Industry Council Association (OPICA). OPICA brings together representatives from all six of Oregon's private industry councils, who work together to advocate for employment and training issues at the state legislative level. This is also a volunteer position.

The Private Industry Council is a private, nonprofit organization that provides a wide variety of job training and stay-in-school services for low-income youth and adult residents of Multnomah and Washington counties, as well as those out of work due to plant closures and layoffs. Cole has been the president of The Private Industry Council since 1987. Previous to that, he was the president of the Portland Private Industry Council for three years.

Warning: Children Are Breakable So Handle With Care

Millions of fragile items are carefully packaged and transported across the country everyday. If the item is damaged in any way when it arrives, the recipients get upset because it was not shipped carefully. These may be the same people who transport children in a car without proper use of restraints.

A child is breakable, like a fragile package, and must be handled with extra care when in an automobile.

Children may hold up to roughhousing in everyday play, but in a car crash, they don't do so well. "In an accident, a 10-pound infant riding in a car traveling 30 mph is thrown forward with a force of 300 pounds. This is equivalent to dropping a child from a third story window," says Jim Williams, a safety expert for the Country Companies insurance group.

Car accidents are the number one cause of death of young children, especially those under age five. The most common causes of death and injury in a car crash are: being thrown into the windshield or dashboard, being crushed by adults who are not wearing safety belts, and being thrown from the car.

In 1990, 670 children under the age of five died in car accidents. These deaths could be prevented with the proper use of child safety seats and seat belts. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that, when correctly used, restraints cut the

risk of a child's death by 71 percent and from being seriously injured by 67 percent.

While some parents don't know the importance of car restraints and choose not to use them, others are improperly using the device they already own.

"The impact of misused restraints is enormous. If all cars had restraints and they were used correctly, the lives of more than 300 children would be saved every year," said Williams.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring infants and children to be restrained while traveling in vehicles.

Now, in all but six states, a person can be charged with neglect due to child restraint laws even if they are not the child's parent. Ideally, these laws should save the lives of hundreds of children who are placed in the care of those other than their parents.

Police across the country are becoming strict in the area of child restraint. In Gulfport, Miss., citations went up 200 percent when officers were placed outside of schools and day-care centers looking for violators.

Williams feels that even with all the laws and increased enforcement, young lives will still be needlessly taken if adults don't bother placing children in restraints.

Williams says, "Fragile, handle with care applies to children too."

Nissan Donates Cab-Over Truck to Benson High Auto Program

Nissan Diesel American donated a cabover truck to Benson High School automotive training program Thursday Feb. 27 at the Benson Diesel Technology shops (between Irving and Glisan streets on Northeast 15th St.)

Thursday morning's ceremonial delivery of a 1989 UD Nissan Diesel American truck transferred the truck's title to Benson High School from Larry Shultz, regional service manager for Nissan Diesel American of Irving, Texas; John Cravens, district service manager UD trucks of Fontana, CA; and Rudy Busch, service manager for DSU (diesel service unit) Peterbilt/GMC of Portland.

"For the first time at Benson, students will be able to learn the differences in how engine and other components are arranged in a cabover truck versus those in a traditional car or pickup," said Bruce Higbee, Benson High School auto instructor.

Agency Sets Sights On Volunteer Recruitment

The Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon is continuing 1992's major recruiting drive for volunteers. Orientation sessions are held the first Monday of every month from 6 to 9 p.m. at 18 S.W. Boundary Court in Portland. Upcoming sessions are March 3rd and April 6. Information and registration are available by calling Ralph Coulson at 222-9661.

The 106-year-old Oregon child welfare agency seeks people to work with pregnant and parenting teens, abused and neglected children, and other youth and families facing crises. Last year, Boys and Girls Aid Society assisted nearly 15,000 Oregonians dealing with these issues.

The orientations are part of **Breaking The Cycle**, Boys and Girls Aid's innovative volunteer training program which provides a solid foundation for volunteers. The trainings include orientation to the agency's mission, methods and clients as well as lively and practical instruction in basic tools that help heal young lives.

Following the **Breaking The Cycle** training, placement options are discussed with staff. Additional program-specific training is available. There is no charge for attending the sessions, and no obligation to volunteer afterwards. Call Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon at 222-9661 and challenge yourself to make a difference in someone's life!



The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon Expresses Sincere Thanks to State Employees For Their Participation in 1991 Combined Fund Drive

The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon would like to thank all state employees who generously participated in the 1991 Combined Fund Drive. Their support is truly commendable.

This year's fund drive earned \$150,996, an increase of \$13,761 over last year's \$137,235. This is an accomplishment that we can all be proud of.

The Children's Trust Fund was established in 1985 by the Oregon Legislature to support local programs throughout Oregon which show the most promise for preventing child abuse, using available revenue to award grants to those programs. The Trust Fund currently funds twenty-two programs who share the goal of lowering the incidence of child abuse. Gratefully, the state employees have helped make this goal a reality.

Your ad could be here!

Call for rates and information:

288-0033

Employment in Oregon January 1992

Oregon unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)
7.2% up 0.6 from December
National unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)
7.1% unchanged from December.

The two major surveys of employment activity in Oregon gave different signals today, according to the Oregon Employment Division. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, based in part on data from the federal Current Population Survey, rose sharply from 6.6% in December to 7.2% in January. Early analysis of these unemployment data indicates that the rise was largely due to a substantial increase in the number of Oregonians claiming regular unemployment benefits.

On the other hand, data from the Employment Division's monthly survey of Oregon employers suggested that most industries performed well, for this time of year. While layoffs were widespread, most industries lost fewer workers than would be typical for January.

"Normally, data from the two surveys give a similar picture of Oregon's employment outlook," said Pamela A. Mattson, Employment Division Administrator. "However, we do occasionally see the two surveys going in different directions. Our analysts will be looking closely at the January data to determine where the differences occurred."

Turning again to the monthly employer survey, more than half of last month's layoffs came in the retail trade sector. Despite early fears that the holiday season would prove to be extremely weak, employment levels were actually higher in December 1991 (244,500) than the year before (241,400). Even

with the loss of 11,000 jobs in January, the 233,500 retail workers last month represent the highest January level ever.

Oregon's construction industry continues to provide surprising strength to the state's economy. Mild winter weather has certainly helped this industry to maintain employment levels during the past few months, but cooperative weather would be worthless without a substantial amount of work for the industry.

Job losses continued in the lumber industry, particularly in veneer and plywood. Several mills recorded major layoffs, bringing veneer and plywood employment down to 11,000—the lowest January employment level since 1953. However, overall industry employment was somewhat helped by the same mild weather which has been so beneficial to construction—log supplies might be tight, but at last loggers have decent access to the worksite.

Elsewhere in manufacturing, January appeared to be a very stable month. A seasonal decline (down 800) in food processing and a 300 increase in machinery were the only significant changes in employment. The machinery increase was of particular interest because, while most manufacturing industries have remained very stable in spite of the national recession, machinery is one of a handful, which have lost fairly substantial numbers of workers in the past year. Given that widespread job gains in the lumber industry appear unlikely at this time, it will be up to other manufacturing industries to lead Oregon out of recession.

Portland Saturday Market Opens 19th Season

The grand opening of Portland Saturday Market's 19th season is Saturday and Sunday, February 29 and March 1, 1992. The Market, in historic Downtown Portland, offers a festive family outing filled with food, fun and fantastic finds. And throughout the month of March, customers will be given a ticket for a free ride on Portland's Vintage Trolley System with any purchase.

Craftspeople from all over Oregon and Washington will greet those who stroll down the aisles of the Market's 308 booths between S.W. First and Front, from under the shelter of the Burnside Bridge over to Ankeny Park. There is a myriad of original arts, crafts and foods on display every Saturday and Sunday, making Portland Saturday Market the largest open-air crafts market in continuous operation in the United States.

Portland Saturday Market is open every Saturday and Sunday, March through Christmas. Admission is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Ride MAX free from Downtown's Fareless Square to the Skidmore Fountain Station. Parking validation in the Old Town Garage (S.W. Front and Davis) with minimum \$15 purchase.

Benefit Auction

for the

Lee Owen Stone
Cooperative Preschool



Saturday
March 7
7:00 p.m.

Northwest Service Center

downstairs

1819 N.W. Everett

admission: \$3.00

for further information, call 282-6574

My Conscience And The Haitians

BY MIGNON PIKE

My Conscience has been giving me a bad time about the Haitians. I don't know whether consciences in general are male or female, but I am positive that mine is a lady, an outsized creature with a strong voice who won't take "No" for an answer. But then she is no real lady because she is not above giving me some pretty painful punches and kicks at times.

For instance, take that letter from Haiti which she held before me menacingly. It recently came from Pastor Emmanuel Eugene, a young Haitian pastor we know in Cap Haitien, northern Haiti. He wrote that he is letting some of the orphan children from the streets sleep at night on the cement floor of his little church. They have nowhere else to go since they have been turned loose to forage for themselves.

My Conscience pointed an accusing finger at the letter's punch line: "I would like to feed them but I don't have the money to buy the beans and rice. It might cost \$350 a month."

After that my conscience woke me up in the night with a painful prod where it hurts the most: in the heart region. "Can't you just see those little kids with pipistem arms and legs curling up on that hard cement floor trying to sleep? Do they cry in the night? Then they wake up in the morning with that aching hurt in their empty stomachs and go out in the streets again without any

breakfast!"

"Now stir your stumps!" she barked. "You know how plump and well fed your own grandchildren are. Quite a contrast, wouldn't you say? They know where their three square meals a day are coming from!"

I replied feebly, "You know I have to have dental work done and how much it costs. Besides, the pastor said it would cost \$350 a month because over 100 hungry children would come to eat. That's a lot of money!" She didn't even hear me.

As usual, after these sharp exchanges I submitted to her bullying. When she rode me hard after World War II about the starving Greek children, our efforts sent a shipload of food and clothing over. She still harps at me on what one person can do if they care enough.

My conscience has had a lot of practice since bustling around our Big Sky Youth Ranch for twelve years as we brought out inner-city kids to the country. She bossed the kitchen with a high hand, making great platters of hot biscuits and huge kettles of chili, beaming happily on the hungry kids as they dove in.

So she rudely pushed me down to the post office where I started to write out a \$100 check to send to Pastor Eugene for beans. But she grabbed my hand and wrote out \$200 instead. She can be a very forceful lady at times.

She snatched the check.

"Now, quick," she rasped. "There's no time to lose. Make it out to Pastor Eugene, in care of Portland City Temple, Inc., P.O. Box 203, Oregon City, OR 97045. That will get you tax exemption. Pastor Eugene will get the money in a week and start feeding those kids."

She added, "You're mighty lucky to have such an honest person to do your duty for you over there." She loves that square word "duty" and hits me with it often.

So I dropped the check in the mail and breathed a sigh of relief. This was fun.

But then I heard her grating voice over my shoulder. "Those kids should have some bread to go with the beans, don't you think? The pastor's cousin has a bakery in Cap Haitien. Flour is only \$40 for a 50 lb. sack. You're not off the hook yet."

I sighed, clasping my thin purse, "Here we go again."

Pastor Eugene has now written. His feeding program is off the ground, starting with 38 children. My Conscience whooped with glee: "We're feeding 38 hungry Haitian kids! How about that!" Then she added "Of course it is only a drop in the bucket. Think of all those other starving kids who'll want to come."

Like I said, she's a natural bully.