

The Portland Observer 25¢

News In Brief

United Way Installs New Board Members

Two members of the African-American community have been elected to serve three-year terms on United Way of the Columbia-Willamette's board of directors.

The Rev. Alcena Boozer, principal, Jefferson High School; and John Collins, US Marines Corps, retired, are among 10 members elected to United Way's board during its 72nd Annual Meeting, February 10.

In addition to her position at Jefferson High School, Boozer serves as assistant director of Alternate Education/Summer Schools for the Portland Public School District. She has held numerous positions in the district, including Student Discipline Programs coordinator and Grant High School administrative vice-principal. She is an ordained Episcopal priest and is a member of the Urban League and the Portland Leaders Roundtable.

Collins is a long-time volunteer with United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, currently serving as chairman of the Community Organization Fund Distribution Committee, which coordinates community wide human services and distributes United Way resources.

Board members are responsible for determining the strategic goals of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, formulating organizational policy and authorizing and approving all major financial decisions.

Urban League President Reports on Act III Cinemas

Statement by Dr. Darryl Tukufu

For several years members of Portland's African American community have expressed concern about the failure of Lloyd Cinemas to show movies with predominantly African American casts or movies directed by African Americans.

In the fall of 1991 three members of the African American community -- Darryl Tukufu, Art Alexander and Richard Brown -- met with staff from Act III Cinemas (owners of Lloyd Cinemas) to inform them how this situation was perceived in the community.

Act III staff were asked to inform their booking agents about how their booking decisions were viewed in the community. The three community representatives said they would wait three months to see what booking changes were made.

The week Dr. Tukufu spoke with Act III Cinemas' Tim Wood and informed Brown and Alexander of the discussion. Based on the conversation with Wood, the community representatives are confident that:

1. The black-oriented film "Mississippi Masala" will play at Lloyd Cinemas after the Portland Film Festival (beginning on or about March 7).

2. Movies by African American directors and with large African American casts will begin to be seen at either of Act III's multi-screen Theatres at Lloyd Center. (However, this will not include every movie that comes out).

S. I. Communications' "Just Go!" Travel Radio Program to Premiere in April

S. I. Communication's "Just Go!", a daily program that serves as a unique travel guide for the African-American consumer, will air nationally beginning the first week of April.

Hosted by Arthel Neville from The Entertainment Channel, "Just Go!" is comprised for five 60 second vignettes describing places of interest to the African-American traveler as well as providing tips on getting the most economical airfares and hotel rates.

These original vignettes will air twice daily Monday through Friday. A five-minute weekly Saturday program on destinations in the United States and around the world will inform listeners about great ethnic restaurants, museums, art galleries and more.

Another five minute program giving listeners the inside scoop on getting the best cruise values will air each Sunday.

For more information regarding "Just Go!", please contact Pat Tobin or Paulette Johnson at Tobin & Associates, (213)856-0827.

Federal Dollars Coming to Oregon Seniors

Oregon Senator Bob Packwood announced this afternoon that Oregon seniors will be the beneficiaries of almost \$6 million in federal funds aimed at providing housing for the frail elderly. The funds will be paid from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 monies. Packwood has been working with HUD Secretary Jack Kemp to bring the grants to Oregon.

"Oregon's frail elderly deserve the best we can give them," commented Senator Packwood. "The housing units these federal dollars will provide are critical to maintaining the dignity of our seniors citizens. I am very pleased that Secretary Kemp has authorized these worthy projects."

Packwood has long been an advocate of measures designed to allow Oregon seniors to remain in non-institutional settings.

Older Women's League Meetings

Mid-life and older women are invited to the Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) at 2145 NW Overton. Topic: "V.I.E.W.s: A volunteer Counselling Program To Help Elders with Aging Problems. How to be a Peer Counselor of How To Refer An Elder." Speaker: Mary Reardon, Volunteer Recruiter, Good Samaritan Hospital. Meeting is open to the public, no admission charge. No-host coffee available. Ample street parking, wheelchair accessible. Tri-Met available on NW 21st or NW 23rd. Call 228-5701 for directions or information about OWL.

National Council of Negro Women Concludes Black History Month With Third Annual Walk



The National Council of Negro Women (Tri-County Section) held their Third Annual Walk this past Saturday. The Walk began at the O. B. Williams Convention Center and proceeded down Martin Luther King Blvd. Following the March was a program featuring several choirs and gospel groups and concluded with a continental breakfast.

The national Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, (1875-1955). This daughter of former slaves was an Educator and devoted much of her life to the improvement of educational opportunities for Blacks. In 1904, she opened a school for Black girls in Daytona Beach, Florida. This school merged with a boy's school in 1923 to form a college, now called Bethune-Cookman College. From 1935 to 1944, she served as President Roosevelt's Special Advisor on Minority Affairs and became the first Black woman to head a Federal Agency. The organization was conceived to unite women's organizations on a national level for the purpose of empowering women of color culturally, socially and spiritually.

The National Council of Negro

Women, Inc. Tri-County Section, began in 1977 as a split off of the Portland Section. In March of 1984, they received their charter. Locally, their mission is to promote unity among women of color in the areas of Education, Culture, Economics as well as the Social and Spiritual life of our community.

Recognizing the magnitude of the mission, they have focused primarily on youth and issues of importance to them. They organized and implemented youth awareness seminars and workshops with a wide variety of topics including teen pregnancy, gangs, drugs, and AIDS. They also focused on self-enhancement and goal setting bringing in motivational speakers from the community. All of this is at not cost to the community and funded totally by two

major fundraisers. The Cotton Caper Beach Trip which is scheduled for April 25th, 1992, in Newport Oregon and a Spring Boat Ride aboard the Columbia River Sternwheeler.

N.C.N.W. participated in job fairs and have given scholarships to college bound students. This year, there has been enhanced services to youth by targeting IRIS Court, adopting the center for Christmas.

Their commitment also includes services to Senior Citizens, by visiting nursing homes at Mother and Fathers Day; services to the needy by delivering Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

These are just a few of the many things National Council of Negro Women Tri-County Section do in the community.

Black Leadership Conference: Candidates Forum '92

Concerned about the future of your community? Interested in sharing your ideas with the candidates running for public office? Do you know their position on your issues? The Black Leadership conference is sponsoring a candidates Forum '92 and invites you to participate in discussing these questions with local candidates.

Candidates Forum '92 will provide an opportunity for community members to hear comments from local candidates and ask questions about issues of concern. The Forum will be facilitated by Ron Herndon, Chair of the Black Leadership Conference and is

scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 6:00 p.m., at Harriet Tubman Middle School located at 2214 N. Flint.

The Black Leadership conference serves as a catalyst to identify and support national, state and local candidates and initiatives that are sensitive to issues that impact the black community. Over 100 community organizations are represented by the Black Leadership Conference in hosting this Forum.

Individuals invited to participate in the Candidates Forum '92 include State Representative Margaret L. Carter, the incumbent for House District 18 and her challenger Fred Stewart; several may-

oral candidates including Commissioner Earl Blumenauer and State Representative Vera Katz; and City Commissioners Mike Lindberg and Dick Bogle along with their challengers for City Council seats.

The general public and press are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to meet one on one with the candidates. Voter registration material will be made available at the Forum for individuals who need to register or change their address. For additional information or questions regarding Candidates Forum '92, please call 229-9031.

New Program Provides Young Women Alternatives to Gangs

Saturday, February 29, the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Division and community agencies recognized the accomplishments of young women who have participated in a program designed to provide alternatives to gang activity. The awards ceremony and open house for GIFT, the Gang Influenced Female Team, was held at the Grace Collins Memorial Center gymnasium (128 NE Russell), from 2:00-4:00 P.M..

The afternoon's program included dramatic and musical presentations by program participants. Multnomah County legislators, local government officials, representatives from congressional offices and community leaders attended.

In September of 1991, the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention awarded the Multnomah

County Juvenile Justice Division \$500,000 in grant funds to provide services to gang affected and gang involved young women. This funding was made available following legislative action initiated by Congressman Les AuCoin that formally recognized the county's success in establishing innovative services for gang youth, and submission of a competitive grant proposal by county staff.

The GIFT program is a collaborative effort between the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Division and three community-based nonprofit agencies: Portland Youth Redirections, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, and the Tri-County Youth Services Consortium.

The program has established a full array of service for gang involved and gang affected gang women and their

children towards the goal of providing immediate and long range alternatives to gang activity. Specific elements include a Women's Collective, which seeks to establish positive relationships, role models, and support systems as a replacement for the unhealthy and abusive relationships that result from gang involvement. A Family Services component provides health care, substance abuse counseling, and parenting education for young mothers. Collaborative Crisis Interventions provides a 24-hour crisis line, crisis transportation, and temporary shelter for clients and their children.

Current estimates indicate that there are 400 gang involved women between the ages of 13-19 in Multnomah County. This program anticipates serving 150 clients a year at an annual cost of \$500,000.

City Council Approves Blumenauer Plan to Jail Drug Dealers

More drug dealers convicted in Portland would go to jail and serve longer sentences under a plan proposed by City Commissioner Earl Blumenauer and approved unanimously this afternoon by the City Council.

"Drug traffickers, kingpins and small fry alike, have figured out how to beat the system," says Blumenauer. "Since the Oregon sentencing guidelines went into effect, more and more convicted drug dealers have received shorter and shorter prison terms or none at all." According to local law enforcement officials, many drug dealers are sentenced to as little as 30 to 60 days and sometimes, avoid jail time altogether under guidelines developed by the state legislature.

Blumenauer wants the Multnomah County District Attorney to ask Portland judges to consider to negative impact of drug dealing on a community when sentencing drug dealers. "This would allow judges to go outside the state guidelines and hand down tough sentences that make sure drug dealers do hard time," Says Blumenauer. "I have been advised by the State Sentencing Guidelines Board that it is possible to do this now."

"Today's Council resolution lets the District Attorney and local judges know they have our support to take this step," days Blumenauer. "It gives them another tool to use everywhere in Portland and sends a strong message to narcotics traffickers that there is no place for them in our city."

Blumenauer's resolution also calls on the state legislature to change the sentencing guidelines themselves. "In the long run, we need longer jail terms for all drug dealers," says Blumenauer. "But Portland cannot afford to wait until the legislature meets in 1993. We must act now."

"Without the kinds of sticks this resolution provides, all of our other efforts to shut down the drug trade in Portland could prove fruitless," says Blumenauer. "Let's move these hard cases off our streets and into our jails."

Tri-Met Applying for Grant

Tri-Met is applying for a \$150,000 federal grant to make it easier for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in the Westside MAX project.

The Tri-Met Board of Directors yesterday authorized the grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant would fund local and regional training workshops and an informational videotape to show nationwide. Tri-Met would provide \$37,500 for the project.

"We plan to provide information to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises on overcoming barriers to participating in public construction contracts," explained Julius Evans, Tri-Met Civil Rights Program Manager. Some of those issues including financing, bonding and insurance, marketing, cost estimating, accounting, general management evaluation of bids or proposals, and patronage by prime contractors.

"Tri-Met's goal is to use Disadvantaged Business Enterprises to the fullest extent in the Westside MAX project," Evans said.

The \$944 million Westside MAX project is the largest public works project in the state's history. Construction of the 12-mile light rail line from downtown Portland into Washington County will begin early next year. Tri-Met expects to open Westside MAX in fall 1997.

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