

Are Our Government(s) Out of Control?

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

It certainly looks that way. But it also appears that a number of voters and taxpayers are finally awakening. We would ask, though, "will just retiring incumbent and incompetent politicians be enough--given it may occur at all levels of government?" One percent or 500 million checks bounce each year in the U.S.--Congress bounces at ten times this rate!

As one news service said, "The three R's--retirements, redistricting and revenge by the voters--could lead to the highest turnover in Congress in almost 20 years. Reinforcing this opinion, we have an African-American female winning the Illinois Democratic nomination for the Senate, Carol Moseley Braun, previously the Recorder of Deeds. The most exciting development here is that Braun's successful campaign was well financed through its inclusion the "EMILY LIST."

The "Emily List" is the name given to the roster of female congressional candidates who are financially supported by a new national women's organization that solicits \$100 checks in the millions to aid their choices. It is surely working for "sack-of-checks" support enabled the black female to handily defeat the well-entrenched incumbent, Democratic Senator Charles Hayes (43 years in public life--never lost an election).

The ladies mean business, and they are "taking no prisoners." The republic may yet be reserved from the inept, the corrupt and those who "do nothing" as

the president so well described his own mission. The women are reading the script and they are reacting. "No improvement in high school graduation rate--one in five children in America lives in poverty--infant mortality rate is growing--juvenile violent offenses, deaths and suicides are increasing each year. The NRA has gone wild with power in its struggle against gun control--and the nation's females are still angry over that senate committee's treatment of Anita Hill in her sexual harassment confrontation with Clarence Thomas."

At home here in the state of Oregon, some of our duly elected (and their duly appointed) would seem to be just as much "out of control." I get personally terrified when rascals get to playing around with the Public Employees Retirement System money--that's my little pension. A principal culprit has pleaded guilty to racketeering in some multimillion dollar she-nanigans and faces "three years probation and up to 90 days in jail!" Of course, his attorney says that "he has suffered terribly." Well, la-te-da-da, so have we pensioners. They give you more time for snatching purses.

And aside from this unsupervised miscreant who for five years oversaw a \$600 million program that invested our money in commercial mortgages, how about our same free-wheeling treasury/fund investment outfit investing millions in London real estate that had already been declared shaky by London bankers (who have since foreclosed,

leaving Oregonians holding a \$30 million dollar bag. A former student at our daily here says this is just the "tip of the iceberg."

Others are suggesting that we need to take a detailed look at those departments dealing with lands-in-general; the Economic Development and the Lottery Commissions, perhaps even that slow-moving Department of Justice and the Attorney General's office (why did it take so long for that "Dominion" real estate outfit to be brought to justice?) Well, millions upon millions have vanished and more are in jeopardy and no one has gone to jail yet, and probably never will. Whatever happened to our State Legislature? Have they no oversight role--no commitment to structuring our administrative functions such that have fiduciary responsibility?

Returning to the national scene we see that, in truth, congressmen were not only failing to balance their own check-books, but were equally delinquent in guarding the nation's purse. The Senator from West Virginia proceeds to move entire government bureaus out of Washington to new hundred-million dollar enclaves that will be built in his state; the Pentagon is bailing out McDonnell Douglas Corporation to the tune of hundreds of millions (they are also asking for tens of millions to expand their own quarters, while a million or more servicemen will be deactivated and thrown on the job market).

RISE UP FOLKS--STOP THE WELFARE AND FOOD STAMP CHISELERS!

Ask the Doctor--Why The Fat Comes Back

Those individuals interested in discovering why diets fail can get up to date information on why the fat comes back and how to make weight loss permanent at a free seminar.

The seminars, entitled "Ask the Doctor-Why The Fat Comes Back" address topics such as exercise as a weight management tool, heredity and obesity, and the effects of yo-yo dieting.

The seminar will be on Thursday, April 4th, at Eastmoreland Hospital at 7:30 P.M. in the lower board room. There will be time for questions and answers.

Dr. Nelson is Medical Director of the Medical Weight Management Centers in Portland, Raleigh Hills, McMinnville, and the North Coast.

Poet/Author Nikki Giovanni Comes to Portland April 6



In February, Nikki Giovanni was sidelined by illness and forced to cancel her appearance at Portland State University. Many people were disappointed. Therefore, PSU's Black Cultural Affairs Board is pleased to announce that Nikki Giovanni has rescheduled and will present a public lecture Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Smith Center Ballroom (Room 355, 1825 S.W. Broadway). She will punctuate her lecture with readings of selected poems and short stories. Tickets are available at the door the night of the presentation. They also can be purchased in advance through the PSU Ticket Office, corner of S.W. 5th & Mill, 725-3307. Cost is \$7 general; \$5 Sr. adults, students; \$3 PSU students. (Following Ms. Giovanni's lecture a reception and book signing will take place in the Vanport Room, Room 338 Smith Center.)

Since 1968 Nikki Giovanni has published nearly 20 books, made half a dozen records, had a movie made about her work, and performed with an orchestra. She holds many honorary degrees and keys to cities all over the nation; she has been awarded woman of the year many times and in many capacities.

In 1968, after the publication of her

first book of poetry, **Black Feeling Black Talk**, Giovanni was nicknamed "The Princess of Black Poetry," a title she proudly retains today. She has been called a "revolutionary poet," for her outspoken advocacy of civil rights and equality in education. An important and extremely popular literary figure, her recent focus is on the power and creativity of the individual--to make a difference in one's own life and the lives of others.

Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1943. She was educated at Fish University in Nashville. Her books include: **Black Feeling Black Talk** (1968); **Black Judgement** (1969); **Re: Creation** (1970); **Night Comes Softly** (1970); **Poem of Angela Yvonne Davis** (1970); **Gemini** (1971); **Spin a Soft Black Song** (1971); **My House** (1972); **A Dialogue: James Baldwin and Nikki Giovanni** (1972); **Ego Tripping and Other Poems for Young Readers** (1973); **A Poetic Equation: Conversations Between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker** (1974); **The Women and the Men** (1975); **Cotton Candy On A Rainy Day** (1978); **Vacation Time** (1979); **Those Who Ride the Night Winds** (1983); **Sacred Cows...And Other Edibles** (1988).

Dad's Oil Service heating oils



Best Cash Prices
104 NE Russell
Portland, OR 97212
282-5111

Speedy Service Friendly
Call for Quote!

For Best Results Advertise in the Observer

AFS Efforts to Combat Fraud Expand

The reorganization of the Investigations Unit of Adult and Family Services (AFS) is paying off in increased actions taken against people committing welfare and food stamp fraud.

In July 1991, the 20 AFS fraud investigators, who previously reported to the agency's four region managers, were centralized under newly appointed Chief Investigator Art Kapteyn. Figures just released by the division show that during the six months following the move, enforcement actions against fraud increased significantly.

"The centralization teamed the investigators up under a supervisor who has a background in such things as criminal investigation and rules of evidence, whereas our region managers have a wide range of responsibilities in field operations and cannot be expected to know about these topics," AFS Administrator Stephen Minnich pointed out. "We are now benefiting from the specialized guidance our investigators are receiving."

Between July and December of 1991, 243 cases of welfare and food stamp fraud were submitted to local district attorneys for legal action. That was an increase of 99 from the first six months of the year, when 144 cases were submitted. Conviction for welfare or food stamp fraud carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine

of up to \$1,000.

In less serious cases of food stamp fraud, the agency can choose to take administrative action rather than turn cases over to a district attorney. These administrative actions, known as Intentional Program Violations, mean the recipient loses food stamp benefits for a certain length of time. In the six months before centralization, 879 such violations were imposed; in the last six months of the year the numbers grew to 1018.

(Intentional Program Violations for welfare fraud have not been an option in the past; however, recent changes in federal regulations now allow such actions, and the agency will begin imposing the penalties in April.)

In addition to enforcement actions against those who have committed fraud, the agency is taking steps to prevent its occurrence. A new "fraud profile," developed by investigator David Grenbemer of Grants Pass, will soon be used by AFS staff members to help spot possible fraudulent applications.

"The profile is a checklist for the intake worker that points out signs that can mean a problem," Kapteyn stated. "These applications then can be turned over to the Investigations Unit for further scrutiny before benefits are approved."

Proceeds go towards youth attending regional youth conference

youth groups of
Mallory and Piedmont Church of Christ
presents
1st Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser "Fashion Safari"
An Ethnic Experience
A Visual Trip Through The World of

Saturday, April 25th 8PM
Whittaker Middle School
42nd & Killingsworth

Donation: \$10.00
Contact: Wanda at 288-1092 or Dwayne at 249-0193

African American Fashions

Performance by:
The African American Ballet

Reception to Follow

Door Prizes

MYTHMAKER

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center
March 20-29, 1992
Fri/Sat 8:00 pm
Sun 2:00 pm

A tour de force solo performance by African-American actor/singer Jacqui Sutton.
IFCC, 5340 N. Interstate.
Tickets \$10/8/5. Call 823-2000.
Presented by ODC. Funded in part by MAC and OAC.

Jefferson Dancers in Concert! Eugene and Portland Shows

For nearly 300 students, Jefferson High School's Dance Program provides an opportunity to learn, to achieve, to explore, to perform. Established as a city-wide magnet program in 1974, the dance program's growth and development have established it as one of the nation's most distinguished.

Diversity and sophistication are the hallmarks of Jefferson's remarkable program. Students are enrolled in beginning through advanced classes in tap, jazz, modern, ballet, pointe and African dance and study in four fully-equipped studios with professionally trained teachers, many of whom are working choreographers and performers. Joe Wyatt and Elena Carter, both former principals with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and Pacific Ballet Theatre, teach at Jefferson. Other well-known staff members include Mary Oslund, founder and director of Oslund and Company/Dance, Bruce Smith, founder and director of Northwest Afrikan-American Ballet, Julane Stites, co-director of the Stites Center, and Terry Brock, formerly with the JazzTap Ensemble, among others. A full comple-

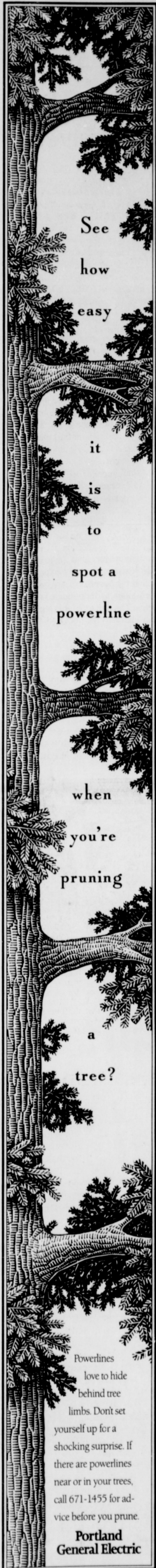
ment of musical accompanists and technicians round out the quality staff.

The Jefferson Dancers, established in 1976 under the direction of Mary Vinton Folberg, and comprising the Jefferson dance program's most polished and experienced dancers, perform annually in a number of venues throughout the Northwest, including shows in Portland, Eugene and Newport, in addition to an ambitious list of lecture demonstrations at schools in Eugene and Newport. The versatility and quality of their training is evident in the varied styles in which they perform so competently.

Nationally and internationally acclaimed choreographers who have come to the Portland high school to work with dance students include Donald McKayle, Brenda Bufalino, Lowell Smith, Royston Maldoom, Honi Coles, Alwin Nikolais, Dennis Spaight, and Paul Russell, to name a few. Alumni of the Jefferson Dancers who have studied under these masters are currently performing professionally in many U.S. and foreign cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, Denver, Kyoto, Japan and Milan, Italy.

Directed this year by well-known Portland choreographer and dance instructor Julane Stites, this nationally-recognized student company will perform two different programs for audiences in Eugene's Hult Center/Soreng Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on April 16 and 17, and at Portland Center for the Performing Arts/Intermediate Theatre April 28-May 3 at 8:00 pm.

This year's repertoire is a multicultural blend of choreographic gems including another powerful, lively African number by Portland's own Bruce Smith and exciting Brazilian martial arts/modern dance piece, **Roda Da Noite** by Gretchen Kneir. Other pieces include **Crayola**, a colorful ballet by Dennis Spaight; **Take 8-7-6-Five**, a tap-jazz collaboration by Terry Brock and Julane Stites; and two pieces, **Rainbow Round My Shoulder** and **Games**, by the infamous Donald McKayle. In addition, another modern piece, **Beneath the Gathering Cloud**, by Gretchen Kneir, and a perennial favorite, Julane Stites' **Looking Glass**, are sure to please. You won't want to miss them!



Powerlines love to hide behind tree limbs. Don't set yourself up for a shocking surprise. If there are powerlines near or in your trees, call 671-1455 for advice before you prune.

Portland General Electric