

# The Portland Observer 25¢

## Sentry Supermarket 60th ANNIVERSARY

Lombard Sentry Supermarket owner Jon Okazaki, middle, and his parents Lillian and Mino Okazaki, will celebrate the store's 60th anniversary Saturday, May 16. The Okazaki family has operated the store, located at 1952 North Lombard, since it was first opened in 1932 as a small fruit stand. Friends are invited to join the Okazaki family for the anniversary celebration between 11 and 2 p.m. Saturday.



The Lombard Sentry Supermarket will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, May 16.

The store is one of the oldest operating businesses in the north Portland area known historically as the Kenton neighborhood. The first Lombard fruit stand was built in 1932 by Hidekichi Okazaki, a Japanese immigrant. Hidekichi won customers with his fresh produce, which he hand-picked from the Yamhill farmer's market offerings every morning at 3 a.m. Son Mino sometimes accompanied Hidekichi on those early morning trips, and was a frequent neighborhood sight as he delivered customer purchases in his hand-pulled red wagon.

In 1941, the Okazaki family decided to expand the store despite the onset of World War II. They were able to purchase the property after selling all the merchandise at a loss and submitting to interrogations by the FBI and the Federal Reserve Bank.

A few months later in May of 1942, the family was forced to relocate to the Portland Assembly Center. They were later transferred to the Minidoka Relocation Center for Japanese-American citizens, located in Hunt, Idaho.

In 1945 the family was released, and sons Sam and Mino returned home from duty with the U.S. Army's decorated infantry regiment of the 442nd Division. The family battled the prejudice of neighbors and suppliers with their courteous

attitude and service. By 1958, business was again booming and the Okazaki family embarked on an ambitious plan to build a full-service grocery store.

Although Mino took over daily operations in the early 1960's Hidekichi continued to visit the store daily until he died at age 93. Mino's four sons all took turns working at the store in their college years, but son Jon decided to make it a career. He helped the family build the current Lombard Sentry after a devastating fire in 1985.

Now Jon is the chairman of the Sentry Supermarkets Board of Directors, which sets policy for the 69 independently owned Sentry Supermarket stores.

After 60 years in business, the Okazakis know many of their customers by name. On a recent tour of Lombard Sentry aisles, Mino was greeted by 72-year-old customer Gene Fenter, who recalled shopping at the Lombard Sentry from the time he bought his first gumball in grade school. "They're top rate -- just good friends," Fenter remarked.

Many long-time customers of Lombard Sentry will be gathering for the 60th anniversary part and cake-cutting ceremony Saturday, May 16, between 11 and 2 p.m. To celebrate the store's early beginnings, Lombard Sentry will be giving away a red wagon filled with groceries -- much like the one Mino used to wheel around the Kenton neighborhood on his deliveries.

## First N. W. Area Charter Application Drawn Up By The Coalition Of Black Trade Unionists

Submitted by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

On April 18 in Tacoma, Washington, the first N. W. Area Charter Application was drawn up by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. There has been a consistently strong presence of C.B.T.U. in the United States, ranging from the East and South to the Midwest and California, but nothing in the Northwest area until now -- which covers the area from Colorado to California.

This was a very historical moment for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists because now it covers the entire United States from East to West, North to South.

The new Charter came out of Region X, which consists of California, Oregon and Washington. Congratulations are in order for the new Northwest Charter Board Members:

President: Duke Moten, Communications Workers of America, Local 7901 (503) 238-6666.

Exec. V.P.: Mary Ann Isles, AFSCME, Local 1488 - Seattle, WA (206) 525-5363.

Secretary: Mari Wyatt, AFSCME, Local 843 - Seattle, WA (206) 281-8302.

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnson, IF - P-T-E, Local 17 - Seattle, WA.

This new Northwest Team says to be on the lookout for them because they plan on helping to organize Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Chapters everywhere, and your town might be next. This is the time for uniting as brothers and sisters in our struggle to

have a voice that is independent and strong in supporting every aspect of our livelihood as people that definitely have special concerns and as workers that don't always reap the benefits of our toil. With the recent court decision in the Rodney King Case, this only reinforces the need for CBTU. We are a part of the economic force that pays for this kind of injustice.

We need to make sure that since we pay for the services of this so-called "justice" system, at least we need to be able to be served fairly by it. I would say we're like restaurant customers sitting at the cafe counter not being served but still leaving a hefty tip. It's time we get served! We need to become politically, educationally, socially, and, most of all, justifiably united and strong, so that we not only hope for change and improvement, but be a driving force that will be leading the way and demanding it.

As a people we have earned the right to expect human dignity, to go hand-in-hand with human rights in all facets of our lives; and, through the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists we can make sure our reason for being is not lost in someone else's shuffle.

Join us, and feel free to inquire about CBTU.

Portland contact: Duke Moten, CWA Local 7901, 2950 S E. Stark - Suite 130, Portland, OR 97214. (503) 238-6666.

Seattle Contact: Mary Ann Isles, AFSCME Local 1488. (206) 525-5363.

## Self Enhancement's Fourth Annual Spring Rally

A life without positive options steers many inner-city youth into a downward spiral of drugs, gangs, violence and even death. That's why celebrating their academic achievement is more important than ever before.

The fourth annual spring rally celebrating the academic achievements of SEI youth was held May 12 at the Whitaker Middle School Auditorium. The evening included a student awards ceremony and announcement of the capital campaign to build the new Center for Self Enhancement in inner north/north-

east Portland.

SEI is a nationally recognized local program dedicated to helping inner-city youth realize that "life has options." A source of hope for over 700 inner-city Portland youth and their families, SEI was cited by President Bush for its outstanding effort in initiating projects which help divert youth from drugs, gangs and violence. The spring rally brings the community together to reinforce the principles of SEI and celebrate the academic achievements of students who have selected positive options for their lives.

## Don't Forget To Vote

### Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs!



Kindergarten students at King Elementary School recently put the finishing touches on a dinosaur mural. Approximately 150 students drew the dinosaurs, their art teacher transferred and enlarged the drawings and then the students took over again with paint brushes in hand. Two fifth grade students volunteered their time after school to paint the background scenes. Shown are Anthony Atherton and Memory Ann Garnett.

## Founder of "I Have A Dream" To Visit King Elementary Friday



New York businessman Eugene Lang, founder of the national I Have A Dream foundation that provides college tuition to deserving inner city students, Friday at 10 a.m. will visit a group of Portland "Dreamers" at King Elementary School, 4906 N. E. 6th Avenue.

Fifth-grade students, members of the second King class to participate in the program, will visit with Lang and Portland School District Superintendent Matthew Prophet in the school media center. Local program sponsors also will join in the visit.

Lang and Prophet, who will serve as honorary chairman of Oregon's I Have A Dream Foundation following his retirement June 30, will answer questions about the program at 10:45 a.m., following the student visit.

## Portland Girl Selected As 1992-93 National Asthma, Allergy Poster Child

Amanda Rachel Johnston, a 12-year old Portland girl who has battled asthma and other respiratory complications since infancy, has been selected as the 1992-93 National Asthma and Allergy Poster Child.

A sixth grader at the Ockley Green Middle School, A-level student, athlete and dancer, Amanda's medical history has included several bouts with the chronic disease, hospitalizations and ongoing, severe sinus infections. Within the past few years, however, a combination of sound medical management and health education has enabled Amanda to better control her illness and participate in most activities.

Her parents, Scott and Tammi Johnston, both suffer from asthma also.

Asthma is an incurable but controllable chronic reversible respiratory illness. It is marked by constriction and inflammation of the upper airways and is a major health problem for an estimated 10 to 12 million Americans, including three million children and teenagers. It is a frequent cause of lost school and work days.

Amanda is the ninth National Asthma and Allergy Poster Child. She succeeds Christopher Mark Dulman of Lincoln Park, Michigan. In May, National Asthma



Amanda Rachel Johnston, National Asthma Allergy Poster Child

and Allergy Awareness Month, she and her parents will travel to Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings with government leaders and public health officials.

The National Asthma and Allergy Poster Child contest, conducted annu-

ally since 1983, is sponsored by the Asthma and Allergy foundation of America, a national voluntary health agency dedicated to finding a cure for and controlling these widespread chronic diseases.