

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newsbaper R
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

The Portland Observer 25¢

"I HAVE A DREAM" FOUNDATION-OREGON



Durial Harris, Jett Mobbs, Noelle Taylor, Taleaha Hatfield, Delisha Jackson



Michael Hill, Ruben Conde, Jr., Troy Tomin, Kim Jensen, Gloria Anderson Dana Summerfield, Ebony T. Nash, Lynnique Vasser

At Woodlawn Elementary School 85 New "Dreamers" Meet Sponsors And Begin 4th Grade With Guarantee Of College Scholarships Made Possible By Pacific Power



Sharlietta Collins, Antinette Lathan, Chateau D Larradine, Jr, Lesley Clark, Latoya Martin, E'Trece Brazzle, Latoya Sanders, April Taylor

At Woodlawn Elementary School 85 fourth graders have become Oregon's third group of students selected to participate in the "I Have A Dream" Program. Tuesday, October 20, the students, sponsors and school officials announced the participating class and introduced the project sponsors: Betsy Russell, a stock and bond broker; Neal Arntson, a Portland businessman; and Joyce Arntson, a volunteer counselor for children (grief biographies are attached.)

When the "Dreamer" successfully complete their high school educations, they are promised \$4,000 in college and post secondary school scholarships made possible by a \$1.3 million gift made to the Dreamers by Pacific Power in May 1991. The gift was intended to pre-endow at least two classes of Dreamers. The Woodlawn class of '94 is the second of the pre-endowed classes to be established and the third Dreamer class in Oregon to be established.

The Woodlawn Dreamers are the first fourth graders in Oregon to become Dreamers. Sponsors Betsy Russell, Neal Arntson and Joyce Arntson came forward as volunteers and were selected by the founding Sponsors and board of the "I Have A Dream" Foundation-Oregon and then certified by the IHAD-National office and its founder, Eugene Lang. The Woodlawn

School Dreamer sponsors are also individual donors pledging \$5,000 a year for at 10 years--a total of \$150,000 to the "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Oregon

In addition to donations of cash, many individuals, institutions and corporations have donated in kind services to the Dreamers. Today, we are proud to announce that a leading arts organization, The Oregon Symphony, has pledged concert tickets for each of Oregon's more than 300 Dreamers. Beginning with the June 1993 performance of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, the Dreamers will be guaranteed at least one symphony concert experience each year through high school. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in such an important community project," said Don Roth, President of the Oregon Symphony. "It is one more way we can demonstrate our commitment to enhancing music education opportunities for area youths."

The "I Have a Dream" program was founded by New York businessmen Eugene Lang in 1981 when he "adopted" an entire graduating class at a Harlem elementary school and promised he would finance their college educations. Now more than 40 cities and 8,000 students from schools serving low income and predominantly minority communities participate as

"Dreamers. The program provides up to nine years of educational enhancement and cultural activities during the students elementary, middle school and high school years in addition to scholarships for post secondary education. The program is distinguished by the fact that individuals assume sponsorship and pledge their time and resources to students over an extended period of time: 8-12 years.

The Dreamer scholarship promise to each student upon admission to trade school, community college or college is \$1000 per year for up to four years at any accredited post-secondary school--public or private. In addition, students who are admitted to participating private schools with special tuition agreements with the Foundation receive additional scholarships based on financial need. Funds donated to the Dreamers are managed by The Oregon community foundation.

Sponsors and Board of "I Have a Dream" foundation-Oregon for 1992-93 are: Joyce Arntson, sponsor; Neal Arntson, Sponsor; Paul Coakley, Board; LaVerne Davis, Board; Leonard Girard, Sponsor/Board; Pamela Jacklin, Sponsor/Board; Dan Kinney, Sponsor/Board; Kenneth Lewis, Sponsor/Board; Betsy Russell, Sponsor; Susan Sandor, Board; and Ulysses Tucker, Sponsor.



TRICK OR TREAT!

Schedule of Events on Page 7

African-Americans Voting No 9, A New Political Action Committee

"I knew a lot of people were talking about it. A variety of folks I knew were expressing concern that many African-Americans were not getting good information about the dangers of Measure 9. In the end someone called a meeting and over 20 of us wound up creating a political action committee (PAC) called African-Americans Voting No On Nine." said Kathleen Saadat, volunteer with the PAC.

Joanne Allen had similar motivations. "The basic motivation for the creation on Measure 9 seemed hateful. After I read it I was convinced that this was dangerous assault on civil rights in Oregon. Measure 9 discriminates. It is about creating Jim Crow laws for gay men and lesbians. I was glad to see that folks in the African-American community were getting together to respond."

Ballot Measure 9, sponsored by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, would compel government identify those who are gay or lesbian as "perverse" and "abnormal". It also prevents any government dollars from being used to recog-

nize gays and lesbians as acceptable members of society. Measure 9 identifies homosexuality as a "behavior" rather than something determined by a person's physiology. Measure 9 would also prevent local governments from passing laws which protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in housing, employment, or public accommodations.

An anchor phrase for Measure 9 supporters has been "no special rights". Opponents of Measure 9 point out that no one has a produced evidence of a single "special right" which has been given to lesbians and gays. "I think the Oregon citizen's Alliance is preying on people's fears. This culture has traditionally said it's O.K. to hate and abuse lesbians and gays. Now gays and lesbians are saying they want the right to work, have families, pay taxes, rent an apartment, and walk down the street just like everyone else without fear of persecution. Measure 9 supporters are sadly twisted. They are fighting to keep part of our community living in terror."

said Art Alexander member of African-Americans Voting No on 9.

The wording of ballot Measure 9 has been the source of great debate. The measure links homosexuality to pedophilia, sadism, and masochism. Measure 9 supporters claim that all four are the same kind of presumably learned behavior. Opponents of Measure 9 argue that gays and lesbians are just as opposed to child molestation as heterosexuals and that the overwhelming majority of child molestation is against girls by heterosexual men and against boys by men who lead otherwise heterosexual lives. Opponents of Measure 9 also assert that the terms "sadism" and "masochism" have nothing to do with sexual orientation and were just thrown into the measure to scare people into voting yes.

Another feature of the debate concerns videotapes being circulated by the Oregon Citizens Alliance. The videotape contains footage from a gay rights parade. The footage contains pictures of outrageously dressed individu-

als and footage of people who are endorsing some peculiar sexual fringe perspectives. Opponents of Measure 9 point out that the footage is an example of finding the most bizarre 1% of the parade and using to suggest that all gays and lesbians are like that. "I could have made a video from that parade which would have shown lesbians and gays looking like indistinguishable average Americans. The tape that's being shown at churches around town is just the OCA's anti-gay version of that racist Willie Horton ad the Republicans used 4 years ago." said Art Alexander.

African-Americans Voting No On 9 member Joanne Allen went on to say, "frankly, I and many others believe what the psychiatric community says, homosexuality is not a matter of choice. People are born that way or they are not. And I suppose like with everything else about human beings there are those who fall squarely into both categories. All that stuff about recruiting children is garbage just like when

anti-semites used to preach that Jews sacrificed Christian babies. I believe that gays and lesbians have the same proportion of good and bad people within their ranks as the heterosexual population. Measure 9 would amend the Constitution of the State Of Oregon to brand every gay and lesbian person as "abnormal" or "perverse". That is sick. Gays and lesbians already suffer untold numbers of beatings, murders, and incidents of job and housing discrimination. Measure 9 would declare a government sanctioned open season. It would unleash the kind of people who would just as soon assault and murder African-Americans. I don't care what the Oregon Citizens Alliance claims, Black folks would be next."

Christian activist Cecil Prescod joined African-Americans Voting No On 9 because of a sense of religious outrage. "It pained me to see people who claimed to be followers of the Prince of Peace, go out of their way to find a way to persecute an entire com-

munity. With all of the positive constructive things that Christ explicitly asked us to do like love our neighbors, it is sad and embarrassing to see the Bible twisted to malicious ends. If the Lord were to return with a list a thousand things we need to do in keeping with his teachings, creating something as hateful and paranoid as Measure 9 would certainly not be on that list. I am working against Measure 9 to see that Christ's message of love and inclusion drowns out the voices of hatred and persecution."

African-Americans Voting No On 9 will be distributing materials during neighborhood candidate fairs and walks through neighborhoods. Volunteer Saadat expressed additional concerns "Regardless of how this turns out there's going to be a greater climate of hatred.

Measure 9 seems to be doing things which fall in line with what preachers of hate like the skinheads want for Oregon and the Northwest. I am extremely worried."