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# The Portland Observer

## Through It All, Center Survives 40 Years

Evelyn Collins, "Miss Collins, as she has been known first to hundreds of youth and now thousands, continues her ministry of love to the N.E. Portland Community. She teaches, challenges and loves the fourth and fifth generations of those first children going back to the 1950's. She still insists on helping low income, single parent households and "at risk" youth and families.

Last December the Board of Directors held the Center's first annual fund raising banquet. Head of Portland Parks & Recreation and long time "Center Friend", Charles Jordan was the key note speaker. Last year's event also recognized and awarded several individuals, organizations and businesses that had been instrumental in helping the Center through one of the most difficult periods in its history. A period which almost saw the doors locked up by CSD, Multnomah County Health Department and others because of code and safety violations. The Board claims success last year and the event did bring in enough money to bring some back bills and payroll current.

On Saturday December 5, 1992 the Grace Collins Center will hold its second annual fund raising banquet. Jessie Brazzel, this year's Banquet Chair has decided to keep the event at the Center and the board is looking to

stage a week of events at the Center just prior to the banquet. The events will be aimed at inviting the public into the Center not only to visit but for people to see what they can do to help this Community Treasure. With the number of youth and families that have been touched by Miss Collins, the board figures that even a modest donation from them would be a new source of assistance.

The Center is certified for 59 children based on CSD regulations. This is a far cry from the days when over a few hundred youth per day would come into the Center from 6AM to 12 Midnight. In addition to day care, Miss Collins, her mother, Grace, and staff provided before and after school programs, evening and week-end recreation and outreach activities in the community. That staff, like many of the current board members consists of youth who had been, in a sense, raised in the Center, taught and inspired by the loving woman with the stories, the Bible verse and the "treats". At one time there were even Sunday Services at the Center.

The Center has seldom operated totally in the black and even today, meeting weekly payroll, taxes and other operating expenses remains a challenge. Parents served by the Center do not pay the full cost of day care. Miss Collins still insists the parent pay depending on income and the ability to pay. USDA food subsidies and the steady but dwindling stream of



Evelyn Collins

donations from individuals, churches and organizations have made it possible for the Center and Miss Collins to continue this work. Board members are working to secure the future of the Center so that many future generations of Portland's youth and families will know the special something started by Miss Collins when there were few resources available. There is still so much work to be done.

More information on the Center and the banquet will come. Tickets, priced at \$25.00, are now on sale at the Center. The Board is soliciting the support of families, churches, organizations and businesses to buy tables of 10 seats for the event. For more information and early ticket purchase call the Center at 281-6930 and speak with Joyce Douglas, Administrator or Miss Collins. You may also speak with any of the board members: Ralph & LaVerne Davis, Danny Bell, Jessie Brazzel, Mother & Stanley Peterson, Willie & Charles Stoudamire. Advisors include: Charles Jordan, Tim Sidel, Carl Parker, Margaret Carter and Ernest Reams.

All "Center Children", the term used to identify Center alumni, are urged to call and come into the Center, visit Miss Collins and bring a special effort gift or even repay money that Miss Collins may have loaned them. This is our Center too.

## Packwood Thanks Oregonians

Oregon Senator Bob Packwood today thanked Oregonians for returning him to the U.S. Senate and pledged his strong support for Oregon's interests. "I want to thank Oregonians for their support in this victory, and I want them to know that I will continue to work hard for them on the issues that are so important to our state," said Packwood.

"My top priority is finding a permanent solution to the forest management problem in Oregon. I am committed to working for a solution to our health care crisis that includes universal coverage and cost containment. I will work to see the North American free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) implemented because it will be good for Oregon's economy and for the nation's. And finally, I will redouble my efforts on deficit reduction. We need a balanced budget amendment and we need to begin the difficult task of reducing the federal deficit which is strangling economic growth in this country," said Packwood.

"Additionally, I will prevail on President Bush, one more time, to grant Oregon a waiver so that we can implement our innovative health care program. Failing that, I'll work with President-elect Clinton to get our waiver granted," he continued.

Packwood spoke with reporters at a news conference during which he praised Congressman AuCoin for waging a tough campaign on the issues.

*Thanks!*

## New Veterans Benefits Handbook Available

One of the Government's most widely distributed publications entitled Federal Benefits For Veterans And Dependents has been updated for 1992. This best selling handbook describes the wide range of benefits available to all Veterans and their Dependents, including recent DESERT STORM Veterans. Eligibility requirements for entitlement to benefits, the important timetable for benefits, and where to apply are described in detail.

Education and training benefits for Veterans including the GI Bill, job training, vocational rehabilitation, and employment assistance are covered extensively. Other major sections describe VA loans for home-buying Vets, life insurance, disability benefits, health care, what to do about Agent Orange exposure, death benefits, and benefits for survivors. All VA facilities where Veterans should go for assistance including VA hospitals, nursing homes,

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## Local Franchises To Serve Pizza To 1,400 Homeless In Oregon's Two Largest Cities

The annual "Domino's Pizza Delivers Lunch to the Homeless" has become a two-city event in its fourth year.

Michael Kauth, Portland area Domino's Pizza franchisee, along with his downtown Portland team members, is busy preparing to serve 1,000 homeless men, women, and children at Union Gospel Mission Men's Shelter, 15 NW 3rd Ave. "We know that for some, this may be the only hot meal they'll receive in a week," explained Kauth, "We try to make it a happy occasion." Union Gospel Mission has arranged for a wide variety of lunch entertainment from honky-tonk music to mime.

Volunteers from Union Gospel Mission and local Domino's Pizza team members along with local celebrity volunteers, including Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, KOIN's Ed Whelan, and KATU's Julie Emry and Paul Linnman will be serving the 2,400 slices of pizza donated by Domino's Pizza

Team Portland, and over 100 gallons of Coca-Cola product contributed by the local bottler.

Meanwhile, down south, Daniel Kauth, Domino's Pizza franchisee in Eugene, prepares to serve an expected 400 homeless at the Eugene Mission. "We thought it would be a great idea to join my brother in Portland this year and help those folks who are in need right here in Eugene," commented Daniel. The Eugene Mission is located at 1542 W 1st Ave.

Union Gospel Mission and Eugene Mission are both private non-profit agencies providing shelter and food for homeless men, women, and children.

Both events will be held November 17th 1992. Portland's lunch will start at 10:30am and Eugene's at 11:00. Both events will end at 1:30pm. Portland's pizzas will be made at the 2280 NW Glisan Domino's Pizza store location and Eugene's at 2260 W 18th.

## Court Says Fair Housing Law Applies To Insurance

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit recently agreed on Tuesday, October 2nd, with the NAACP's position that redlining is a form of racial discrimination which in the insuring of homes violates the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and ordered a lower court to reconsider a case the Association had brought against an insurance company in Madison, Wisconsin.

The lower court had said earlier that the property and insurance casualty business was not covered by the Fair Housing Act. It must now rehear the case.

"This is an extremely important decision since it plainly states it is illegal for insurance firms to deny African-Americans insurance on their homes, or to charge them higher premiums, or to practice any type of discrimination," Dr. Benjamin L.

Hooks, Executive Director/CEO of the NAACP said.

Specifically, the NAACP had charged that by discouraging African-Americans from obtaining home insurance from the American Family Mutual Insurance Co., the firm had in effect discriminated against them by making it more difficult to obtain mortgages -- which require the homeowner be insured.

The suit further accused the firm of engaging in unlawful practices including: instructing its agents not to sell policies to African-Americans; failing and refusing to market their insurance to African-American property owners; failing to locate agents and agencies in, and in close proximity to, predominantly African-American neighborhoods, and charging lower rates in predominantly white neighborhoods than it charges in predomi-

nantly African-American neighborhoods for properties of comparable value and risk.

In rejecting American Family's challenge to the NAACP's involvement in the case the court said: "Congress amended the statute of 1988 to authorize suit by anyone who 'believes that he will be injured by a discriminatory housing practice that is about to occur' and unless this statute is unconstitutional several of the plaintiffs, and the NAACP itself as an organization whose members include many black persons in the housing market, have standing."

Cooperating attorneys in the case were William H. Lynch and James Hall of Milwaukee.

Representing the NAACP's National Office were NAACP General Counsel Dennis C. Hayes and Willie Abrams, Assistant General Counsel.

## Did The Election Mandate Change For Oregon/Portland?

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

This is certain to be a cause for discussion her in the land of big trees, logger, Spotted Owls, skinheads, the Religious Right and a relatively small number of African Americans. The latter have been said to live in a "Peculiar Paradise", nothing has changed.

Jim Hill has become State Treasurer, Elizabeth Furse has gone to Congress, Avel Gordly has joined Margaret Carter and Bill McCoy in the state legislature, and Vera Katz is Mayor-elect of Portland, Bob Packwood kept his seat in the senate, while we lost a senior position in the House when AuCoin resigned to contest that incumbency. The "party" alignment in the State House did not change that much, but the Republicans have got to gird against a determined effort by the Religious Right to "take over".

All of the special initiatives failed in terms of the results sought by their sponsors—including the infamous "Measure 9" (correct me if I'm wrong). Presidential candidate Bill Clinton took

Oregon's electoral votes, but the popular vote could hardly be termed a "landslide". All in all I would say that there was no evidence anywhere of any groundswell of support for any particular social or economic philosophy. There were no mandates!

Given that profound observation, I return you now to our regular programming. That, of course, has to do with a community's growing concern with several areas of African American leadership. I have been articulating concerns of the community-in-general and my own particular fears and frustrations. Like others, I continue to encounter many unforgivable expressions of contempt and disregard for the social and economic welfare of the Northeast sector of city--while, like the congress, self-appointed leaders deny any responsibility and loudly blame the "white folks downtown" for failures usually occasioned by lack of ability and, often, just plain greed.

I suggest that you read my article on page 2 of this issue of the *Portland*

*Observer*; "Perspectives: The Thrill Is Gone". This is the conclusion of a series of four articles that severely take to task some of the directions and priorities of Portland leadership. This piece was the fourth of a series and it would be good if you could secure the earlier articles. Before that, I wrote another series, "Nonminority Business" which also provided useful and structured analysis as well as "realistic" goals that could be immediately implemented.

Speaking in reference to previous material in this newspaper, be sure to see that relevant and significant "Letter-To-The Editor" on page of last week's edition (11/4/92). Ms. Harris of North Portland, an African American woman with some serious reservations about our community, vigorously and rightfully attacks some major and disheartening trends in this community. Taking her cue from Mr. Posey, another writer for this newspaper ("courage to bring issues to the forefront"), Ms. Harris proceeds to spell out a number of the

ugly and destructive activities that have kept this community operating at one-half of its true potential; that sees our youth deprived of much of the guidance and role-model structure that normally would have been provided. Some excerpts follow. (The term "oppressor" may offend you, but she is right, you know. I have suffered from some of the same crap. They smile in your face!)

"Black oppressors are considered by the white-powers-that-be' as a good personal reference for black job applicants (whether you list them or not). state and local government will not hire you unless you have been okayed by the black oppressors... you are not a part of their clique. They are gate-keepers...they've sold out in order to further their own selfish needs...if you're bright you can't be used... Where is the millions that have been earmarked for economic development in this community?"

Lady, you are so right about a number of pitiful but dangerous individuals who not only hold "us" back,

but end up projecting the rest of us to the city and state as equally inept and greedy. But don't leave town--give me a call. I, too, have had your problems, but had enough footwork and experience to get around them. And I, too, have had grinning hypocrites in my home or office on "information expeditions", people who after peeking at your papers, return to their "cliques" as you say and proceed in their operations which are carefully designed to shoot you out of the process.

Be careful lady, for if you haven't noticed, these clowns never invite you to "their homes"--and if you are sucked into their organizations, you still will not know what is going on because the "real business" is always transacted at the homes of the lead people in the incestuous grouping. Fortunately, their white masters just love to inform and snitch on them, probably from a perverse desire to let "all" the slaves know who is really running the plantation. Rest assured that our descriptions do not fit the majority of the

northeast population, but enough to keep the community depressed and "oppressed". Don't leave, we gonna win sister. They don't have brains enough to last much longer.

I have more time and resources now. I get out and make my own presentations to the establishment--industry, educators, officials and grassroots people--white and black. Unfortunately, sister, for a little while longer you are going to have to sell your skills and gifts on your own--even protect your rear. I've had to engage a sharp attorney to go after several individuals who have typed in my name to charters and documents of community corporations and grant proposals of which I've never heard. The only language these greedy lovers-of-the-community will understand is "pay me for those checks cashed or go to Uncle Sam's housing program--don't call me, mail my money, now!"

It's going to get better lady, but a number of us need to start reclaiming our community--as well as country.