



Even Bernie Foster's daily jogging routine did not interfere with his presenting a sizeable donation to the Hiram Walker Foundation on behalf of the West Coast Black Publishers, of which he is President. Accepting the check is Bob Thomas, Vice President Cultural Markets, Hiram Walker & Sons, Inc. (center) and Walter Wheat, Canadian club Whisky Business manager in Northern California, (left). The Hiram Walker Foundation was established to support minority education in the food service management and retail industries. It is designed to recognize and ensure the continuation of culinary excellence by investing in the future talent of the hospitality industry by encouraging and supporting minorities to enter and develop professional careers in the culinary field.

## Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

Black women and black children, are being enslaved by C.S.D. Children Services Division. The present system is autonomous, this establishment has the authority to take custody of your children, when ever they see fit to do so.

Most poor people who sign up for welfare do not know the full ramification or power that they are giving to this system when they sign those hundreds of papers. They do not know that they are selling themselves and children in to slavery for a few dollars. Most are pregnant are left with small children to take care of without any financial support. Most of the young women have a limited amount of education; they are not aware that the system is like drugs you can become dependent on it; you can lose your will power to want a better life. Most do not realize how much of them selves they have given away until some thing happens. Then your children are snatched away from you and you have nothing to say about it. They are placing children in homes of sex offenders, abusive child care providers whose only concern is the money they get for foster care.

Over the years I have talked with many children who grew up in foster homes who were abused in many ways, mostly mentally, which most time is a lasting factor for trouble in later life.

A welfare mother's performance is measured on a different scale than married or single mothers who have their own jobs.

If a child's whose parents are only welfare the child has any kind of abuse, they must give an account of how it happen and most times they are not believed. Then C.S.D. is called in and will sometimes take your child or chil-

dren away from you if they don't like your explanation. The working mother's story of what happen is more easily accepted. I feel as a parent this kind of treatment is slavery in it worst form.

I feel the state system allows untrained, or even those who are trained, counselors or social workers who have not proven to make sound and valid decision some time. I am not for any form of abuse of children and older people; nothing makes me angrier than this.

I think the system accepts the opinion of one person based only on their judgement, which it should be deterred by more people.

There are too many black children being taken from their families and put in foster care or given up for adoption. I feel these matters should be thoroughly investigated on behalf of poor mothers and children, especially black parents. This system is saying to us that they know better how to raise our children than we do.

I am also appalled at the attitude of some of these social workers who feel they can play God with peoples lives.

As one social worker said to me, as long as we have the carrot dangling in front of the mother's eyes, which is the legal custody of her child, she will have to dance to her music if she wants her children back. What an attitude.

Another one, a Mr. Martin McMahon who I talked to said the judges do not make the decision, that he makes the decision, and his opinion is what counts. I think he was pretty brass and brazen with this kind of attitude after all my tax dollars help pay his salary. I can see how these young women are afraid because of domination and fear which make them sink into despair.

I know a lot of the young women have made poor choices which the welfare system helps to perpetrate by sitting on their stools instead of evaluating the recipient with goal to their performance as a parent which could be enhanced by mandatory parenting classes, goals and time frame to help them get off welfare and get employment.

I am not condoning the conduct of young men and women who apt to have children without the means to take care of them.

My motto is don't plant a crop unless you are able to harvest it, which means sex out side of marriage is out, but if you do make a mistake, take responsibility for your action and take care of your own children; other than this, you will never be able to control your destiny. When you are told what to eat because there is a limited amount of food stamps, where to live because of the small check you get each month, harassed and talked down to, it makes you feel worthless. I hope the community can come together on this and ask for an investigation and boards to study some of the problems.

I am asking Governor Roberts to look into this along with our district representative.

After working five years to help make changes in the school system and the police department and other things, I had planed to address this issue.

I had decided to hang up my commitment to my community, but I have decided there are to many problems left unsolved for me to rest and be contented. I am looking forward to 1993 to start my changes. In other words, Vesia is back!

Sincerely  
Vesia Loving

The problem with the Act III theaters is a small part of a much larger issue, equality and opportunities for all African-Americans.

It is time that we educate our people in their rights and powers. It is time that we unit and fight for changes in our education and welfare system. It is time to raise up our young people to be future leaders.

The key to bringing about change is UNITY. Not only among the citizens but also among the organizations. We can no longer look at it as "Urban League, Self-Enhancement or Black United Front." We must look at it as the African-American community fighting for change. It must be done for the good of the community not for the gaining of recognition.

I write this letter in the hope that giant steps may be taken to make changes. I am willing, ready and determined to fight but, as I said, it cannot be done by one person alone. There must be Unity.

Sincerely,  
Tracy A. Cunningham

dollar. living their lives with no purpose (and we know life without a purpose is a life without a cause). Why? Because they have brought into society's stereo-types that they can never live that "American Dream" because no one has fought for their right to the best education available; because they are lacking in self-esteem and self-worth; because the only aspect of their life that is addressed is the negative.

Where are the black history classes in our schools that would help bring out pride in our youth? Why do Portland Public Schools have the lowest standards in education? Why has it become more of a daycare facility rather than a learning facility?

It disturbs me that an issue of unfair hiring practices within Nike was fought for by the Chicago-based PUSH. Where were the African-Americans of Portland? Where was the Urban League or Black United Front? Why did they not raise the issues and push for a change? Once again, Portland was caught sitting on her hands.

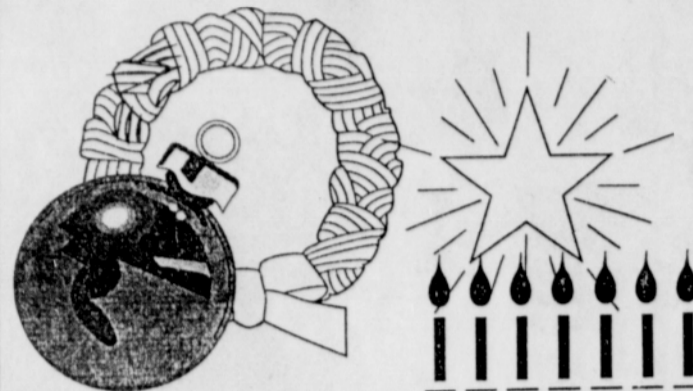
### Santa and Helpers to Visit Walnut Park Branch of First Interstate

First Interstate Bank again highlights the Christmas season with a special appearance from Santa and his helpers. To celebrate the happy occasion, we are inviting children to come meet Santa and have a picture taken with him. Peppermint candy canes will be given to all children, and he's sure to listen to their Christmas list.

Date: December 17, 1992  
Time: 10:00 -- 2:00  
Place: First Interstate Bank of Oregon  
Walnut Park Branch  
5730 NE Union Avenue  
225-3543

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GIFT SALE

5315 DE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.  
NOV. 28, 1992  
10-6 PM



Vendors • Entertainment • Food

## Stork Report

### Baby Boy

ROLAND ANDREW HEMBRY  
October 12, 1992

Parents

FREDDY ANDREW HEMBRY



ALICIA EILEEN HEMBRY

Weighing 9 lbs 6 oz, Height 21 1/4".  
Grandparents Leon Marietta Hembry and Kathleen Baker and George Baker, Sister Damaris Hembry.

## Just James Fashions

### LOST MY LEASE

### INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

30%-50% OFF EVERYTHING

Effective IMMEDIATELY

STORE CLOSING, NOVEMBER 30, 1992

#### LADIES

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DRESSES	\$30-\$45
PURSES	40% off
JEWELRY	30% To 50% off
X-CAPS	\$8.00
AFRICAN PRINT HATS	\$8.00
AFRICAN FIGURINES	20% off
SEQUINS AND PARTY DRESSES (REGULAR AND FULL SIZE)	30% off

#### MEN'S

RAYON PRINT SHIRTS	\$32.00
ENNESI SHOES	40% off
SNAKE SKIN	\$75.00 AND up
LIZARD	\$275.00 AND up
SILK SHIRTS, PANTS	\$41.00
TIES/SCARVES	40%

#### LOCATED AT:

1512 N.E. BROADWAY  
PHONE: 287-7230

#### STORE FURNISHINGS AVAILABLE

EAR RING STANDS, CLOTHES RACK, SLAT WALL  
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HOURS: SUNDAY: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY: 12 NOON - 7:00 PM  
SATURDAYS: 11 AM - 6:00 PM

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.