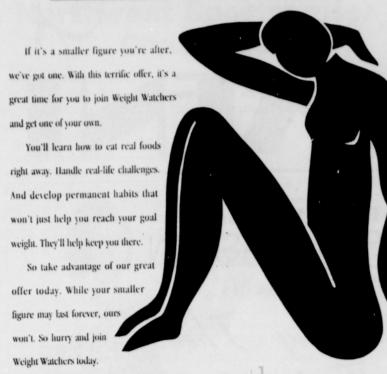
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A Study In Black Leadership: Portland Loses "the Real McCoy"

Continued from front page

to gain equality in American society. She soon began to realize that the many problems facing Black people could be solved if they just earned money comparable to white people. It's just that simple.

I don't know what she was thinking and never got a chance to ask her, but it was too bad she chose a situation involving her son to really push this issue. However, that doesn't diminish the fact that she was willing to take the risk to make a significant change in the system. It's a shame she didn't have the benefit counsel of a Black economic brain trust to rely on, like some Black politicians in other

Finally, her efforts and accomplishments become even more remarkable when you consider the obstacles Black people in positions of authority encounter. As any Black person who has ever been in such a role, invariably there is a contingency of white subordinates who can't stand the notion of working or reporting to a person of color. They

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ing about what Black people must do clandestinely set about trying to undermine every aspect of a person's authority, using such tactics as preventing timely access to information (sand bagging), and creating dissension and mistrust among other staff, especially among Blacks and other minorities. We only have to look at what happened a few years ago to Freddye Petett, former state welfare director, and Bill Hunter, former employment security director. And while these examples were high profile, it happens at every level in the organirational hierarchy.

It's a miracle that any Black person in authority, operating in a predominately white environment, is able to survive - short of selling their soul. Gladys not only survived but has to be considered a warrior with a remarkable capacity to make peace. Although she was not invincible, the ideals she fought for are. The great concern now is will another warrior step forward to take her place!

James Posey is a local, small business owner with a background in social work and community activism.

cates to help neglected and abused children, pregnant and parenting teens and other youth and families one at a free orientation session held the first Monday of every month from 6 to 9pm at 018 SW Boundary Court in Portland. Upcoming sessions are May 3rd or June 7th. Information and registration are avail-

222-9661. Boys and Girls Aid's complete volun- Society is still pioneering more than teer training program. Following the 100 years later with programs involvorientation, potential volunteers may ing adoption, juvenile justice, teen choose to continue with program-spe- pregnancy, young parents and on-site cific training in a variety of service alternative school.

able by calling Cathy Harrington at

The Boys and Girls Aid Society of areas such as Young Parents Pro-Oregon needs more Volunteer Advo- gram, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Shelter Care, History Committee, and more.

All sessions are free and there is in crisis. Learn how you can become no obligation to volunteer with us afterwards. Call Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon at 222-9661 and begin a rewarding partnership with Oregon's kids!

The Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon was founded in 1885 by compassionate pioneers who wished to provide homes for Oregon orphans The orientations are a part of and reclaim juvenile delinquents. The

Oregon's Worker Fatality Rate Lowest On Record

"Our Kids Want You!"

Work related fatalities dropped reducing accidents and illnesses, as to a record low in Oregon in 1992. The Department of Insurance Finance recorded 63 fatalities for last year, the smallest number since the state started record keeping in 1943. The fatality rate of 4.9 (accepted fatalities per 100,000 workers) is down from 5.1 in

"Oregon has experienced a steady decline in injuries, illnesses and fatalities for the past few years," said Jack Pompel, administrator of the Oregon Occupational Safety and the number of workers employed in this state. Labor and management should be proud that their efforts are making Oregon a safer and healthier place to work."

In addition to labor and management's prevention efforts, Oregon OSHA increased enforcement and consultation staffs to assist in down."

part of the Workers' Compensation Reform.

Although logging employment was down last year, several high hazard industries, such as construction, experienced a growth in employment. Even with the growth, the construction industry had five fewer fatalities in 1992 than 1991. Fatality records were first developed in 1943. In that year there were 162 work-related deaths. The number fluctuated over subsequent years, but stayed above or Health Division (OR-OSHA). "This near 100 until 1980. Prior to 1992, the decline occurred despite a growth in lowest number of fatalities recorded was 64 in 1990.

"Though we are encouraged by the reduction in deaths, any job related fatality is unacceptable," said Department Director Gary Weeks. "the department will continue to use its enforcement, consultation and education resources to push the rate

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Say you saw it in the Observer

Basic "Write-On" **Winners**

The Portland Trail Blazers, AVIA Group International, Bank of American and The Oregonian believe it is important to encourage good writing skills among today's youth. They also know providing youth an incentive to be their best can have a lot of impact. That's why they developed the "Write-On" essay competition as part of the Blazers/AVIA Scholastic Improvement Concepts (BASIC) program.

Announced

This year's essay theme was "The Year 2000..." More than 41,000 students, first grade through 12th grade, accepted the challenge to enter the "Write-On" competition. The incentive offered, according to Wally Scales, Blazers vice-president of special events who oversees the BASIC program, was the chance to earn a trip to Portland plus four tickets to watch the Trail Blazers host the San Antonio spurs at Memorial Coliseum

April 18, 1993. Grand prize winners will also receive AVIA athletic shoes; an autographed Trail Blazers basket ball ball and a pre-game reception with Blazers all-star guard and BASIC chairman Clyde Drexler.

Participating schools selected the best entries at each grade level for their facility and forwarded those entries to the appropriate Education Service District. (ESD). Regional winners, one per grade level, were determined by each ESD. Winning regional essays were then evaluated by the Portland Council International Reading Association, who selected the top overall entries for each grade level.

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