

OBSERVING

Living Greater

The Portland Observer

Local Editor Leading Local Newspaper Conference

Diane Wagner, editor of the Vancouver-based Senior Messenger newspaper, will lead a group discussion on technology issues at the Northwest Senior Citizen Newspaper Editors Conference in Portland Sept. 13 and 14. The session will focus on technol-



ogy issues (computers, printing, postal matters, photography) involved in the production of senior-oriented publi-

cations. The September Editors Conference is co-sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Portland State University's Institute on Aging. The two-day gathering is set for PSU's Smith Memorial Center. Wagner has served as editor and associate editor of the Senior Messenger since 1990.

The paper is produced monthly by the City of Vancouver and distributed free to over 14,000 older adult readers in the region. In June, it celebrated its 20th year of publication.

The 16-to 24-page tabloid specializes in news, information, special features and event calendars of help and interest to local seniors, recently placed 25th on the Portland Business Journal's list of top area magazines.

Jantzen Beach Center's Back-To-School Fashion Show

On Saturday, August 14 At 2:00 P.M.

Jantzen Beach Center hosts the hottest looks for fall at Jantzen Beach Center's Back-to-School Fashion Show on Saturday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jantzen Beach Clock Tower Stage. Merchandise from Jantzen Beach Center's retailers will be modeled by local modeling students featuring the hottest in back-to-school wear for this fall.

Shawna Schuh, owner of SchuBiz Production states, "The hottest in fashion for back-to-school this year is loose, easy to wear clothing and we'll be showing it all off Saturday at Jantzen Beach Center." SchuBiz Productions promises a stimulating runway fashion show that will give great ideas for fashion essentials for back-to-school.

For more details and information about Jantzen Beach Center's Back-to-School Fashion Show contact Customer Service at (206) 699-4644 in Washington or (503) 289-5555 in Oregon. Jantzen Beach Center is located on Hayden Island, I-5, Exit 308, on the Columbia River.

Horowitz Picked For Committee



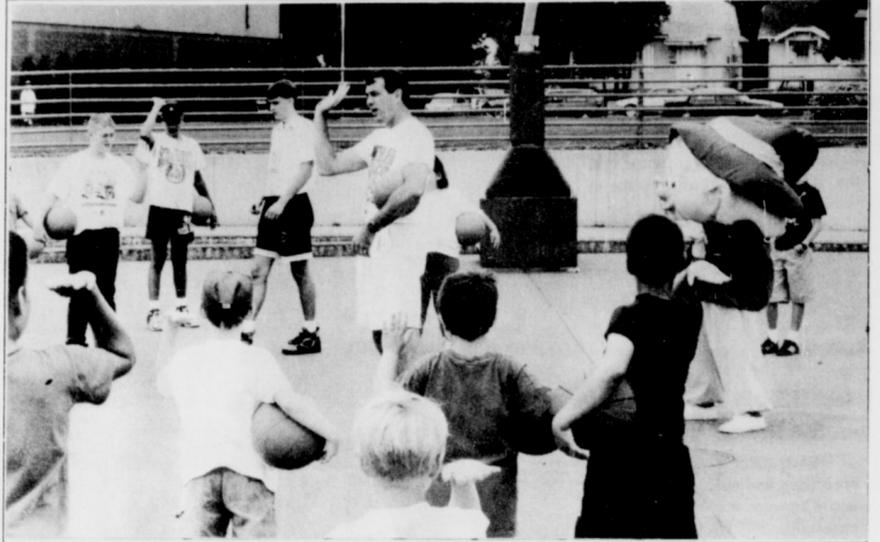
Vancouver City Council member Linda Horowitz has been appointed to the National League of Cities Human Development Steering Committee.

As a committee member she will analyze and develop policy for the National League of Cities on human service issues such as employment and job training, social security, immigration and refugees, health and education, equal opportunity and criminal justice.

According to Horowitz, the steering committee is the place where the policy "nuts and bolts are hammered out" and where members can give a perspective how federal government policies affect cities. Members also have the opportunity to meet with high-level government officials to express concerns and discuss issues.

Horowitz has also served on the National League of Cities Education Task Force. She has been a city council member since 1990.

University Of Portland Hosts Keebler's Snack & Field Day



Larry Steele taught his tricks of the trade to Portland-area kids during Keebler's snack & field day, held at the University of Portland. A full roster of former sports stars, including Carney Lansford, Neil Lomax, Billy Mills, Larry Steele and Juli Veev, conducted sports clinics for kids. The day of events also featured cheerleading performances, martial arts exhibitions and additional entertainment to appeal to the entire family.

Tandy Corporation

Signs Lease At Jantzen Beach Center For 23,600 Square Foot Computer City SuperCenter

Nick Javaras, president of Terranomics Retail Services and head of leasing activities at Jantzen Beach Center, announced the signing of a 23,600 square foot Computer City super store by Tandy Corporation at Jantzen Beach Center.

In announcing their decision to locate their computer City SuperCenter in the Portland/Vancouver trade area at Jantzen Beach Center, Computer City president, Alan Bush said, "The re-positioning and re-merchandising of Jantzen Beach Center make it an excellent location to attract customers from the entire Portland/Vancouver trade area." Computer City features name brands in personal computer products at the lowest retail prices in the market. The Jantzen Beach store is scheduled to open this fall.

According to Javaras, "Our re-positioning program for Jantzen Beach Center is establishing it as a unique destination, unlike anything that currently exists in the trade area. We have maximized Jantzen's destination draw through the creation of several synergy zones: lifestyle, value and entertainment."

Computer City offers hands-on

classroom training on today's most powerful software applications. Professional instructors provide intensive, one-day classes for individuals or group classes for business training sessions on state-of-the-art hardware.

Computer City Direct (CCD) services the business needs of computer City customers. Offering both outbound specialist and in-store assistance, CCD is a team of professionals committed to providing unequalled service, flawless execution and quality system solutions for commercial, government and education accounts. Installation, training and technical support are available through Computer City Direct.

Terranomics Retail Services, the management, marketing and leasing team on the property is currently working with other national retailers and restaurants for the Center. Announcements will be made as leases are signed.

Jantzen Beach Center, owned by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, is a regional shopping center located on Hayden Island, off Interstate 5, Exit 308, on the Columbia River.

Computer City is a registered service mark of Tandy Corporation.

Black Economic Development

National Black Chamber Of Commerce Will Focus On Black Economic Development At Its Sixth Annual Conference In Dallas, Texas

Issues of concern to the economic development of Black Americans will be the order of the day when the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) convenes in Dallas, Texas this summer for its Sixth Annual National Conference.

The conference, which will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 2330 West Northwest Highway, August 25-29, 1993, will take as its theme, "Back to the Future: A Committed Past, A Prepared Tomorrow." The conference will be hosted by the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce.

"This year's conference marks the tenth anniversary of our organization," said Clarence J. Patterson, NBCC Chairman of the Board. "It is an appropriate time to recommit ourselves to the principles of service and sharing that Black business pioneers lived by. We will also take time during the conference to report on the status of the NBCC and its goals for the future."

Mark V. Monteverdi, Manager,

Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., who is scheduled to speak at the conference, said: "The National Black Chamber of Commerce continues to successfully promote the growth of Black businesses and economic development, two abiding concerns of Philip Morris. I am proud to say that Philip Morris has long been a leader in assisting the efforts of minority entrepreneurs, and I am happy to see that more and more major business corporations are following our example."

Among other speakers scheduled to deliver keynote addresses are William G. Mays, Chairman and CEO, Mays Chemical Company Inc.; Dallas County State Senator Royce West, and Benjamin Ruffin, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1983 to promote the growth and development of Black-owned businesses nationwide and also to support statewide Black chambers of commerce.

Students Sharpen Reading Skills

This Summer Building reading skills and enjoyment is the focus of "Come Read With Me," a seven-week summer program involving students and teachers from Kelly Elementary, 9030 S.E. Cooper.

Some 25 students from all grade levels gather on Tuesdays in the school

courtyard or cafeteria from 10am to noon to share favorite books and discuss them with fellow students and teachers. The program concludes Aug. 17.

"We hope that many of our beginning readers will keep their reading skills sharp this summer through



Clarence J. Patterson, NBCC Chairman of the Board

It is headquartered in Oakland, California.

For more information regarding the conference, please contact Thomas Houston or Dvorah Evans at (214) 421-5200.

For hotel reservations, please call the Radisson Hotel at (214) 351-4477 or 1-800-333-3333.

PORTLAND OBSERVER
Office: (503) 280-0033
Fax #: (503) 280-0015

Gangster Rap And Negative Black Music

On any given day, if you tune in to the music Black young people are listening to, you are likely to hear a torrent of renditions that are filled with foul language, violent lyrics, and negative images of Black people and degenerating references to Black women in particular. A few weeks ago, Rev. Calvin Butts, Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, led a rally where hundreds of X rated Rap tapes were collected up and crushed by a steamroller. Outraged by the sexually explicit language, the casual attitude towards violence, and the constant use of the infamous "B" word to describe African American women, Rev. Butts declared that it is time to draw the line against negative Rap music. Rev. Jesse Jackson also aired a discussion about this issue on his television show, Both Sides

with Jesse Jackson. He expressed grave concern that self-degrading, violent and self-destructive behavior could be elevated to the level of acceptability through a highly sought after form of Black music-Gangster Rap. On the other side of the argument, defenders of Gangster Rap and other forms of Rap music insist that Rap music simply portrays life as it is on the streets of the inner-city.

While I am not a proponent of censorship, I am compelled to support Rev. Butt's contention that it's time to draw the line in terms of what we are willing to tolerate as acceptable in the African American community. Black music has always been a kind of reflection of the life and times of Black people in this hostile society. Our music has also been a source of inspiration and redemption. Hence in the 60's and 70's, Black music, from freedom songs to

hit records on the R&B charts, heralded the determination of a people to be free and the coming of a new day for Black people. The Isley Brothers, the Staples Singers, the Impressions, the O'Jays, Marvin Gaye, Curtis Mayfield, James Brown etc., all had recordings that were forward looking and uplifting.

When Black Power exploded onto the scene in the mid 60's, the Black Arts and Culture Movement was at the cutting edge of the quest to achieve a more positive sense of self-esteem and self-worth as Black people. Larry Neal, the Last Poets, Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti, Nikki Giovanni and Amiri Bareaka et., all made revolutionary music with their words. And Gil Scott Heron emerged as the epitome of what it meant to be a revolutionary musician. Dr. Maulana Karenga, the creator of the Kwanzaa, laid out the reason for being for Black

music when he said, "Black art should be functional, collective and committed." The music of the time was very much caught up in functioning to help us improve our self-image as African people, and inspiring us to commit ourselves to the struggle for freedom, justice and equality; the struggle for Black liberation. To use the "B" word in Black music to refer to Black women was unthinkable. The "N" word to describe another Black person was virtually driven from our vocabulary. And we were too busy talking about making revolution to contemplate songs featuring brothers and sisters turning AKs and Nine Millimeters on each other.

It is a tragic indicator of the State of Emergency tearing at the masses of Black people and the current state of the "movement" that some of the most "popular" music absorbed by our young people on a day to day basis

is so terribly demeaning and self-destructive. Chancellor Williams once asked: how did we come from the pyramids to the projects. The current state of much of Rap music compels us to ask: how did we come from being revolutionaries to gangsters. Gangster Rap is in vogue. The negative is becoming the norm. It is indeed time to draw the line.

In all fairness, not all Rap artist are engaged in propagating music that is as denigrating and destructive as Gangster Rap. Public Enemy, KRS-I, X-Clan, Kool Moe Dee and some of the newer groups like Arrested Development, Gumbo, and Digable planets, have put out some very positive and uplifting pieces. Arrested Development, for example, in addition to being an incredibly positive group on stage in their videos, is making a conscious effort to connect up with and be supportive of youth groups and

grassroots community organizations as they tour the country. So all is definitely not loss. In drawing the line we need to downplay the negative and accentuate the positive.

Parents, teachers, preachers, civic, social, fraternal, religious, political and just plain grassroots leaders and organizations should join the moral and cultural offensive that Rev. Butts has launched. Self-hatred, self-degradation, and fratricide are the mark of the oppressed. We cannot afford to allow that mark to remain fashionable in the African American community. African American youth, especially, must be challenged to take responsibility for the rescue and restoration of African people and the Black community; to spark and sustain a movement that will eradicate racism in this nation, and dismantle an exploitive and unjust system. We must draw the line. We must not become the agents of our own destruction.