

Tell It To The Judge

Motherless Child

Dear Judge Gaines: Please help us break the blackout on this story so we can get our baby back.

My three-year-old daughter (U.D.W.) was taken from me by police, when I was held in contempt of court, for refusing to testify against my fiancé on a domestic dispute charge that I did not even file.

My fiancé is the founder of an underground radio station that used the air-waves to defend a local night club that has been the victim of constant police harassment.

My baby was taken from us, in retaliation for our standing up against the system. Please help us get our baby back.

-Childless Mother, of Motherless child, Illinois

Dear Childless Mother: In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." You and your fiancé should continue to speak out for the truth in search for your three-year-old daughter.

Be strong, never retreat, but always keep in mind that the battle for truth and justice often produces many casualties and prisoners of war.

Your fiancé's battle for truth on his radio station may have led to your daughter being held as a "prisoner of war" by the system.

As a judge, I can not give legal advice; however, find a good lawyer who has been trained to go into battle

and is not afraid to wage war against injustice.

I do hope you have received your child back by now. If you have not, continue in the struggle. If you have, please write and share the good news with us.

Blood From A Turnip

Dear Judge Gaines: I am sixty-three-years-old being supported by S.S.I. I was given a fine of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) and forty-five days in jail for a case that was thrown out in 1992 and retried again this year.

I am unable to work. I am a diabetic with high blood pressure, crippling rheumatoid arthritis, and I am going blind. I can't pay what I don't have. I can't explain myself to good because I don't have much book-learning, but I do know right from wrong. Sir, I am pleading for help. Who can I turn to get things

straightened out?

-Blood from a turnip
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Blood: As a judge, I can not give you legal advice but I do strongly suggest that you hire a lawyer or seek a public defender who can file a motion to reduce your Four Thousand Dollar (\$4,000) fine and to modify your sentence, due to your poverty and ill-health.

The Judge may understand that you can't get blood from a turnip and that a forty-five day sentence to a man in your sick condition could be a death sentence.

If you've got some frustration you need to get off your chest about the Justice System, Write to:

Tell It To The Judge
Judge Leslie Isaiah Gaines
1000 Main Street, Room 270
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Appointments To Human Rights Commission

David Farber, vice president was appointed as chair of the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission for one year.

Additional appointees for a full three year term, by County Chairwomen Beverly Stein are:

Joe Lane, leader of efforts to restore the status of the Siletz tribe, and tutor in adult literacy programs.

Kathleen Bogan, lawyer and community activist.

Charu Manchanda, reappointed. Appointees by Mayor Vera Katz are:

Lowen Berman, former labor organizer mediator.

Elizabeth Baxter and Minje Ghim, reappointed.

"Reclaim Our Children"

Collaboration Key To Black United Fund Effort

The Black United Fund of Oregon, working closely with educators, social service providers, and business people, and is seeking to have a long-term impact upon children in the Pacific Northwest. The vehicle for making this impact? The Black United Fund's annual "Improving Academic Performance: Variables for Success" education conference, to be held October 8 and 9 at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center.

A major goal of the Black United Fund's education conference is to build partnerships between community members to address the complex educational needs of low-income students and students of color. The theme

for this year's conference is: "Reclaiming Our Children."

Workshops facilitated by local experts will provide ideas and resources to help participants identify needs within their own communities and propose solutions. Topics include:

- Fostering Resiliency In Kids: Protective Factors in the School
- Corporate Involvement: Sharing the Wealth
- Parents CAN Improve Their Children's Academic Performance
- Poor and Minority Students Are Gifted, Too
- Educational Issues of Southeast Asian Students

The Urban League of Portland, the City Club of Portland and Port-

Scholarship Trust For The Deaf And Near Deaf Awarded

The T.P.A. Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf recently awarded Kristina M. Porter of Portland a scholarship for her educational program at West Oregon State College.

A total of \$74,700 was awarded to 110 recipients for 1993. Since establishing the fund in 1975, the Association has awarded 567 grants to deaf or hearing impaired persons totalling \$326,200.

The Travelers Protective Association is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri with 262 posts throughout the United States. Over 160,000 members are dedicated to fraternal and



Scholarship Awarded to Kristina M. Porter, Portland, Oregon civic projects that benefit their respective communities.

SOLV Announces

Second Annual Graffiti Removal Project

Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) is coordinating the second annual "Paint the Town Clean project", one-day effort to paint over some of the worst graffiti in the Portland area. On Saturday, September 25, from 10am to 2pm, volunteers are invited to go to various areas in the city where they will be provided with materials and instruction. It is hoped that hundreds of citizens will participate in this effort to show support for some of Portland's hardest hit communities and to send a message of concern to those who would vandalize with graffiti. Volunteers may call

SOLV at 647-9855 to receive complete information about the program including maps and directions on where to report.

The one day event is being sponsored by Portland General Electric, Taco Bell, Oregon Lottery, Sherwin-Williams Paint Company and KGON 92.3. Areas from which graffiti is to be removed were identified with the assistance of the Youth Gangs Program of the N.E. Coalition of Neighborhoods. The Portland Chapter of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of America will provide professional assistance on the day of the event. Other support has been provided by the Portland Police Bureau, Portland Trail Blazers and Safeway Stores.

Chief Moose of the Portland Police Bureau said about the program "Many of our fellow citizens are working to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. This cleanup project provides an opportunity for us to become involved and work towards improving the livability of our community."

SOLV is a nonprofit organization started in 1969 by Governor Tom McCall to address issues of livability in the state of Oregon by bringing together government, business and citizen volunteers. Paint the Town Clean is one of many activities coordinated by SOLV.

PORTLAND OBSERVER
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Noted Poet And Author Will Conduct Workshop At North Portland Library



Lois Lewis

Lois Lewis, noted Portland poet and author of such books as "Ephemeral Ecstasy" and the "Flower and the

Weed" will conduct a Literature-in-Motion Workshop at the North Portland Branch Library, 512 N. Killingsworth for children Grade 3 and up. Lois motivates students to become aware of their own creative voice and then write with it.

Lois will share some of her poetry and children's stories to inspire students to write in groups and individually. The writings will then be put in book, poster or card forms. The dates are Saturday, October 2nd and 16th from 2:30 to 4:30pm. On October 16th at 3:30pm the community will be invited to come and hear the students present their work. Call the library at 248-5394 to pre-register.



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2108 N.E. 41st Ave.

Mon 7pm

Tues 7pm

Wed. 9:30am & 5pm

Thurs 7pm

Fri 9:30am

Temple Baptist Church

1319 N.E. 7th

Fireside Room

Tues 12pm

North Portland

Northminster Presbyterian

2823 N. Portland Blvd.

Fellowship Hall

Tues 7pm

University of Portland

5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

Columbia Hall

(Enter from Portsmouth)

Wed. 5pm

Call Collect Weekdays, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, (503) 297-1021

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Legal Aid Series 19: Getting Rental Repairs

If you are renting, you have a right to a clean, warm, safe place to live. Although landlords in Oregon have the right to evict you within 30 days without a reason, they cannot do so simply because you asked for repairs to your home.

It this happens to you, showing your landlord acted illegally is not easy. You must prove you are getting kicked out because you asked for repairs. If the landlord can prove you violated rental rules or the lease, that you were late paying rent in the past or you owe rent, a judge may find these to be the reasons for eviction.

There are, however, ways to protect yourself. Ask for repairs in writing and keep a copy of the letter and all documents for your records. It's also a good idea to keep a written log of dates and times of mailing, tele-

phone calls and fact-to-face conversations and to use certified mail as proof you sent a request or response. If you are low-income, Multnomah County Legal Aid can help you draft a letter asking your landlord for repairs.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing such problems as broken windows, a leaky roof, cracks around the windows and doors, leaky toilets and faucets, sewage backups, septic tank overflows, no hot water, leaking pipes, broken heater or furnace, exposed wires and broken light fixtures. He or she must also clean up a house or apartment that was dirty or infested with rats or cockroaches when you moved in, or cluttered with rubbish left by the old tenant. Holes in walls, broken stairs, peeling paint and collapsing ceilings must be taken care of.

If the oven is burned out, the stove burners don't work or the refrigerator won't keep your food cold, this is the landlord's problem if he or she provided the appliances. You must also have a working smoke detector, locks on your doors and windows that work and keys for door locks.

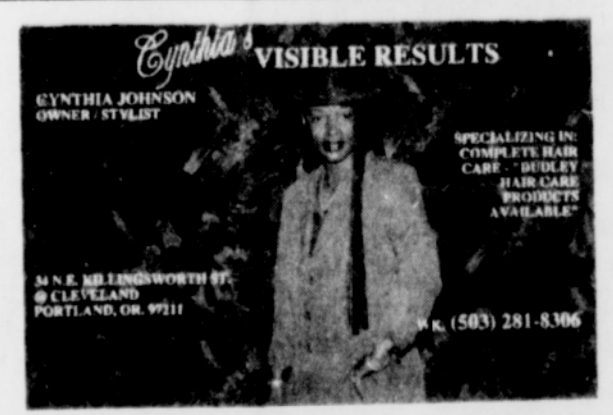
You may get the city's help with these problems. If you want your home inspected and live within Portland city limits, call the Bureau of Buildings of Portland at 823-7306. Before doing an inspection, the Bureau will want you to send the landlord a letter by certified mail and wait 10 days for a response. If the Bureau finds violations of the city code, the housing inspector will notify the landlord in writing. Ask for a copy of the letter. Usually, the landlord gets 30 days to make repairs. If repairs are not done,

the city may order the landlord to a hearing or impose fines.

You may have to call the Bureau to make sure they follow up on your complaint. But beware. If your rental is in such bad shape that it's a serious hazard to your health, the inspector may order you to vacate. This isn't very common, but if forced to move, you may get money from the city for moving costs. Be sure to ask the inspector about money to help you move.

Multnomah County Legal Aid Service provides legal advice and representation to low-income people living in Multnomah County with landlord-tenant problems. Appointments may be made by calling our downtown office at 224-4086 or our Community Law Office (on the Portland Community College Cascade Campus) at 295-9494.

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