

The Portland Observer

BLACK HISTORY

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PCC Celebrates Black History Month

Portland Community College celebrates Black History month districtwide during the month of February. A number of events are sponsored on PCC campuses and in the community. (Please see the accompanying schedule for a listing of events.) The Theme for 1994 is "UMOJA."

PCC will sponsor a panel discussion led by Portland's Chief of Police, Dr. Charles Moose, on "Personal Solutions to Violence in the Community," on Wednesday, Feb. 2. Chief Moose will be joined by Halim Rahsan from the Portland Youth Gang Program and Harold Williams, chair of PCC's Board of Directors. This event is set at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Terrell Hall 122

at 7 p.m.

Other activities for the month include a "Rap Forum" that features local RAP artists (LOVA, U-CREW and LEE DOG PRODUCTIONS). The forum will allow for discussion on how RAP music influences culture. The artists will be involved in the discussion and copies of their lyrics will be provided. A RAP forum will take place on the Rock Creek Campus, Thursday, Feb. 10 at noon in the Town Hall, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd., and at Sylvania, 12000 S. W. 49th Ave., On Friday, Feb. 11 at noon in STA-1 of the CC Building.

Another highlight of the month will be the "Gospel Explosion" on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist

Church, 3138 N. Vancouver, 7 p.m. Gospel music has been the foundation of American music, and its roots trace back directly to Africa. Don't miss this celebratory event!

At the Cascade Campus Gym, PCC will host the Fifth Annual "Black Business Expo," Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 12 and 13. This event features businesses from retail, service, wholesale, manufacturing, construction and other industries tied to the African-American community. The expo is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Contact Sonia Key-Fender, 244-6111, ext. 4360, or Ken Adair, ext. 4535, for more information.

February Emerge Features The Quest For Justice

As the accused murderer of civil rights worker Medgar Evers prepares to stand trial in several weeks, the February cover story of EMERGE: Black America's Newsmagazine chronicles Myrlie Evers' 30-year struggle to see Byron de la Beckwith convicted for her husband's murder. In "Trails and Tribulations," EMERGE contributing editor and Los Angeles Times columnist Karen Grigsby Bates recounts the tragedy of Medgar's death and the determination of his widow not only to build prosperous lives for her remaining family, but to bring the accused murderer to justice. Bates writes, "her 30-year journey to bring Byron de la Beckwith, Evers' accused killer, to justice has helped to transform how Mississippians -- Black and White -- view the administration of justice in their state."

Bates reports that de la Beckwith is being tried a third time -- the first two trials ended in deadlocked juries in 1964 -- because of Evers' tireless quest for evidence and insistence that a reluctant state attorney general reopen the case. "I'd promised Medgar that I will go the last mile of the way with him," says Evers. "I can't say I will have done that until this trial, whatever the outcome."

Also this month, former State Department Deputy Secretary Clifton R. Wharton Jr. gives his first interview since abruptly resigning his post in November. "I believed my effectiveness had been compromised and I was not willing to stay and watch it be further eroded," Wharton tells Lee A. Daniels, a former New York Times reporter who conducted the interview for EMERGE. "I would not say that mine was a 'forced' resignation. It was a conscious decision on my part, due primarily to the fact that there were successive leaks circulating,

criticizing my personal and professional competence, which I felt weren't being properly refuted by the State Department or the White House."

"In retrospect, when you look at the initial news stories which were done on my appointment, the press said, 'He's college president and corporate executive, but he has no foreign

ing to undermine the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. One activist, Jackie Cissell, says, "The NAACP, without question, is outside the mainstream of the Black community on a lot of the important issues, and if they are not going to represent our people, they need to quite running around with that banner."

NAACP President Ben Chavis tells EMERGE: "In fact, Black conservatives get more attention from White conservatives. They have very little impact on the black community, and most of them are taken as being political and social deviants -- but they are taken seriously by White conservatives. It's very interesting that a group that has no support in the Black community can get financing outside the community to play a divisive role within the community."

And Roger Wilkins, a history professor and a former assistant U.S. attorney general, comments: "Conservative White people are always trying to turn Black people into ventriloquist dummies. They want to pick our leaders, and they want to determine what is legitimate and not legitimate for us to say."

The February issue of EMERGE contains several other compelling articles, including the first extensive interview with George Haley since the death of his brother, Roots author Alex Haley, the last of a 2-part series on how proposed health care reforms will affect African-Americans, and an examination of First Amendment issues in light of a Black attorney's defense of a Ku Klux Klan grand dragon in Texas.

EMERGE: Black America's Newsmagazine, based in Arlington, Va., was established in 1989. It has an ABC-audited circulation of more than 150,000.



Myrlie Evers consoles her son, Darrell, during Medgar's funeral.

policy experience," Wharton recalls.

"They did not look further than that because they were thinking that here is a stereotypical minority appointment, not the appointment of an individual who has any international experience. But the press made up their minds that mine was a 'token' appointment, and that was the way they wrote about it."

In another ground-breaking story, Cincinnati Enquirer columnist Trevor W. Coleman reveals a Black conservative conspiracy against the NAACP. According to the article, several Black groups and individuals with right-wing agendas are organiz-

Denise Crittendon Named Editor Of The Crisis Magazine

First Woman in 84-Year History To Hold Post

The Crisis Publishing Company, Inc. has named Denise Crittendon as editor of The Crisis Magazine--the oldest, continuously published, national African-American news magazine in America. She becomes the first woman to serve as editor of the 84-year-old magazine, according to the publication's new president and publisher, Gentry W. Trotter.

The Crisis, which was founded in 1910 by civil rights activist W.B.E. DuBois, in previous years has been considered the official, national news organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). However, in recent years the magazine has expanded beyond

the NAACP's organ status and coverage of civil rights news excessively; and today its coverage includes civil rights news, music, art, editorials, health, business, youth news and fashion.

Most recently the Crisis Magazine has been placed on newsstands in many major cities across the country as a general African-American news magazine with an emphasis.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Crittendon was recently on staff at Wayne State University in Detroit as a journalism instructor before joining the Crisis staff. She has also taught at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan and Olivet Col-



African American Reflections

POETRY IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WORDS OF WISDOM

Not a day passes by without me looking at the sky and thinking, why did Dr. Martin Luther King have to die?

Some people wonder why people had to sit back and sigh, but for me, I will always know why.

Then they cried as the night went by and the Black people wondered if they were going to die.

At their surprise, Dr. King came and said, "Our race will never die."

But all who think Dr. Martin Luther King was the first one to speak ... well, you're wrong. He was just the first one to be heard.

Jillian Murphy
age 13
Portland, Oregon

Immaculate Heart Parish Mardi Gras Dance

Wednesday, February 9, 1994, Immaculate Heart Church, invites you to attend a Louisiana style Mardi Gras Dance, at its Parish Hall located at 2926 N. Williams, featuring San Francisco's Zydoco Flames. Come and hear this tight young quintet with its feet in the East Bay and it heart in Lafayette, La. Also to be noted, quite a few of Immaculate Heart's members are from Lafayette, La., and they know how to get things going. This evening promises to be a very authentic Mardi Gras celebration, for those who have never been able to attend the famous celebration in New Orleans, La., we promise you a bit of those festivities right here in Portland, Oregon. The evening will not disappoint those who want to dance to Zydeco music or learn the Louisiana two step and other Zydeco dances. Come out and have some fun with us!

The band fronted by a couple of guys who really love what they do, accordionist Bruce Grodoan and the washboard man Lloyd Meadows. Come, bring the family, wear a costume, get in the Mardi Gras Mood.



Presented by U.S. BANK.

THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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Portland District

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Daughters Of Shining Star Of Unity Temple

#1379 I.B.P.O. Elks Of The World

Event: Ethnic Disco Dance

When: Saturday, February 19, 1994

Where: 6 N. Tillamook • Time: 9:00 P.M. To 2:00 A.M.

Ethnic Fashions by Sheeba's

The Daughters Of Shining Star Of Unity Temple #1379 are a one year old temple in The Billy Webb Improved, Benevolent, Protective Order Of Elks Of The World. The African/American order was first born in 1899 with an all male membership. The Auxiliary, known as the Daughters Of Elks was first organized on June 13, 1902. The

I.B.P.O. Elks are the African/American Temples Of Elksdom. The African/American Temples added the 'B.P.' to the initials I.B.P.O. These letters stand for Benevolent, Protective Order and Denotes not only its difference from White/American Elks Orders, But defines its place in the African/American Community. In times when no national system ex-

isted, The Elks Lodges through proceeds from social, cultural and recreational functions: supported the widow, unwed-mother, or burial of a community member. With a focus towards charity and education, The Daughters Of Shining Star Of Unity are carrying forth with the mission, for the 'Betterment Of The Community'.