

The Portland Journal

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The Magnificent Healing Lady

By Prof. McKinley Burt
I was saving this gem for a special monograph to be published this spring, but let me add this bit of reassurance to those women who might wonder if they had carved a place in the early history of the healing arts.

Page A2

"Women Who Go Above And Beyond"

Beauty and power can go hand in hand, and Revlon ColorStyle, celebrating the beauty, of women, and AJee, a new scent capturing the power of women every where unite to sponsor the second "Women Who To Above And Beyond" contest with Essence Magazine, the country's preeminent lifestyle magazine for Black Women.

Page A5

"Retirement Housing: What's Right For You?"

A class explores the many housing options available during retirement years will be held at Alameda Community School, 2732 N.E. Fremont, Portland. The class will meet for 2 sessions, on Monday, April 4 and April 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 pm cost of the course is \$13 plus a \$1.50 materials fee.

Page A6

Two Roads: The Black Woman's Powerful Influence

From the slave blocks to the corporation meeting rooms, her very presence has sustained our entire way of life not without muted complaints, and a spiritual fire that burned deep within, did she bear the humiliation of the slave-master's advances yet our race possessed the inborn ability to persevere and survive!

Page A4

Black Business Fronts: Not Just A Blow To The Knees

Let me begin to count the ways fronting activity in general, and Black fronting in particular, is one of the ways Blacks are prevented from gaining authentic work experience, skills and abilities. Fronting denies legitimate Black business people access and opportunity to real-world business environments which are essential preparation to compete in open markets. Genuine Black businesses are effectively handicapped, ever dependent on others; when it comes to bidding work, the average, not so-well-meaning while prime contractor will say, "They ain't qualified."

Page A4

Neighborhood Rejects Liquor Sales In Mini-Mart Store

BY PROMISE KING
THE KING'S NEIGHBORHOOD SENT A STRONG SIGNAL LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO OWNERS OF MINI-MART, THAT IT WON'T SUPPORT THE SALE OF LIQUOR IN THEIR STORE.

The Arco Am PM Mini-Mart at 3435 NE Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd was a denizen of gangsters, drug-addicts and alcoholics and had a history of notoriety and loudness.

The neighborhood group is contending that sales of liquor in the store would bring back nefarious activities that could re-play some of the vices that has ravaged the community in the past.

It was three years ago when former owners of the Mini-Mart closed down when it was apparent that the trouble in the spot could not be curtailed.

The Neighborhood Association headed by Fred Stewart is not pleased that the AM/PM Mini Stores new owners, Denise and Dorian Boyland had applied to Oregon Liquor Control Commission for a license to sell alcohol.

The Neighborhood Association, rose from its meeting in 1991 to place ban or oppose any new liquor sales outlet in their domain.

The Association board in January had wrote a letter to the Bureau of Licenses and OLCC opposing Boyland's request for alcohol license. However, the neighbors in their meeting last month had decided to re-examine its no-liquor policy and open its decision to have the general public comment.

It finally, refused any new liquor sales outlet, in its last meeting held last week. The body Chair, Fred Stewart had told the Oregonian that "a lot of people never expected this policy to be overturned".



The Arco Am-Pm Mini Mart site under lock and key may be locked to liquor

As must as Stewart would support the Boyland's business venture in the neighborhood, he would resent in the any liquor sales. "We would love Boyland's to have business there, we just don't support the liquor license.

The Boyland's had pledged that to maintain sanity, she would decrease the hours of alcohol sales and employ 24-hour security service to stop social nuisance if their license is approved by OLCC. It wasn't clear if by this neighborhood decisions whether the OLCC will go ahead to approve Boyland's application.

But Betty Worcester, Regional Manager of the OLCC told the concerned neighborhood that "there's a legitimate concern that if this license is granted here, every other package store will get one. That's not necessarily the case at all". An indication that the OLCC may grant Boylands liquor sales application.

Black Business Fronts: Not Just A Blow To The Knees

JAMES L. POSEY
THIS IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE NAT-URE OF FRONTS.

In the first article on Black fronts, I tried to define a front. Bottomline, I said these are businesses with Black faces which, in varying degrees, are selling out in order to obtain short-term financial gain. But this says little about how fronts insidiously sabotage the vitality, aspirations and capacity of real Black businesses to compete in the market place. Like a well placed blow to the knees, many legitimate Black business have been crippled. However, Black businesses aren't just able to get up, win Olympic medals and go skating off to Disneyland. African-American business interests are being seriously hurt, and hurt in a number of ways.

Let me begin to count the ways. Fronting activity in general, and Black fronting in particular, is one of the ways Blacks are prevented from gaining authentic work experience, skills and abilities. Fronting denies legitimate Black business people access and opportunity to real-world, business environments which are essential preparation to compete in open markets. Genuine Black businesses are effectively handicapped, ever dependent on others; when it comes to bidding work, the average, not-so-well-meaning white prime contractor will say, "They ain't qualified."

pendent on others; when it comes to bidding work, the average, not-so-well-meaning white prime contractor will say, "They ain't qualified."

What this situation does is put Black businesses in a perpetual down spin. They can't get regular work. And any fool knows that consistent, meaningful work is what really determines the level and quality of experience, and ultimately, the quality of the product or service. It's no secret that in order to hire a competent, efficient workforce and to acquire and maintain dependable equipment, a serious black business must have consistent, profitable work.

Accordingly, Black fronts siphon off much of this work. Some authorities agree that fronting is one of the most potent forms of racial discrimination. It's potent because of its deceptive nature - giving the appearance of progress for some Blacks, while most are denied real growth opportunities.

The legitimate Black business is struggling to keep its work crews employed, stay out in front of the IRS and insurance companies, pay the mandated high wage rate for less than proficient workers, and patch up less than acceptable equipment. And, on and on and on, just dealing with the everyday headaches of running a small business. Consequently, Black businesses are drowning in a competitive market, unable to keep their heads above the economic water.

And yet, perhaps the greatest impact is how fronting sells future generations short. Maybe only a few can make this connection, but while young whites are surrounded by prosperous role models in every field, Black youth have all but lost their role models in the construction trade and other labor-intensive fields where we were once commonplace. This was when Black men were real producers and bread winners for their families. In spite of its blue-collar image, it was a vocation black youth had to respect, and many looked up to.

But today, Black fronts, the new role models, have almost become the rule rather than the exception. The front is quite common, grinning up in the white man's face, like a Cheshire cat or even a "tom" cat, begging for contracts and ending up passing the benefits on to whites who already have steady work. And the way the white and Black gatekeepers patronize this sort of behavior, it is calculated to reward the wrongdoers and punish those who are trying to do it right. In fact, any Black business that has been around for a while can clearly chart the history of fronting in Oregon. And over the years, many have watched how numerous Blacks have been beguiled

time and time again, like lambs to slaughter, into fronting activities.

Well, one does not have to wonder too long about what perpetuates this phenomenon. It can be summed up in two words: desperation and deprivation. These twin evils foreshadow this entire issue. Blacks generally realize that millions of dollars have flowed like water through this community and continue to cascade on whites, like showers from Multnomah Falls. But Blacks have been consistently dying of economic thirst in this midst of plenty. Unfortunately, some Blacks are willing to do anything to drink from this economic wellspring, including selling out their own brothers and sisters. It is, without a doubt, a carry over from the legacy of slavery in this country.

But whatever the cause, somehow serious-minded Blacks must take action to arrest these Black fronts who have been striking us on the knees for some time. But for now, their action, along with the cumulative hostile environment for Black business, is striking economic death blows to the head and heart of African-American business enterprise.

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

Historic Orphanage Restaurant Opens Its Doors

Albertina's Restaurant, a hidden jewel in the community for over 13 years, is now serving coffee and breakfast rolls in its main dining room, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Albertina's Restaurant, at 424 NE 22nd Avenue in Portland, is located on the first floor of a former orphanage. People who love to savor good food, learn about history, support endeavors which benefit children and others in need, and

those who appreciate a unique volunteer enterprise, won't want to miss morning coffee and breakfast rolls at Albertina's Restaurant in The Old Kerr Nursery. A dedicated staff of volunteers has been serving reasonably priced gourmet lunches for over 13 years to repeat customers who appreciate a comfortable, charming and unusual dining experience.

Visitors to the stately three-story Georgian, Revival-style building will find an historic display of the former orphanage, depicting days gone by. The Old Kerr Nursery building has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1979, became an official Portland Historic Landmark, under the "humanitarian" designation.

Customers who enjoy coffee and breakfast rolls may also wander through The Kerr Gift Shop, which sells new and consigned gift items, the Kerr's Economy Jar and Thrift Shop, KXV) and resale shops. Shops are on-site and open at 10:00 a.m. For 13 years, each of the volunteer-managed businesses has been donating its proceeds to benefit the programs of Albertina Kerr Centers, one of Oregon's largest human service agencies.

All proceeds raised from this new morning-break coffee and breakfast rolls venture will be donated to assist the programs of Albertina Kerr Centers. Programs which benefit include: Psy-

chiatric day and residential treatment services for adolescent boys and girls; adoption and foster care for children with special needs; early intervention for young children; outpatient counseling services for families; and residential, supported living, and employment services for people with developmental disabilities. Enjoy coffee and breakfast rolls while at the same time helping over 6,000 people annually who receive services through Albertina Kerr Centers!

Editorial
Civil Rights Journal
Why The Cuba Embargo?
To Americans the little yellow school bus is a symbol for children and education.
By Bernice Powell Jackson
Page A2

Housing
Jobs move to Portland from California as Housewares Importer comes to town
With the help of the Portland Development Commission, Portland will welcome to town a new company...
Page A6

Sports
Benson Saves Face For P.I.L.
By John Phillips.
The Benson Tech Boys Basketball Team kept the P.I.L. in a position to hold their heads up after taking fourth place.
Page B6

Arts & Entertainment
Inner City Blues Festival - March 26
The Portland Rainbow Coalition is hosting the fifth Annual Inner City Blues Festival on Saturday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the texas II.
Page B3

EDITORIAL	HOUSING	SPORTS	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGION	BUSINESS	CLASSIFIEDS
A2	A6	B2	B3	B5	B6	B7