

A Civil Rights Agenda For The Nineties

BY MARY WENDY ROBERTS

Bias crime in Oregon was down by half last year, according to a report just out from the state Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS). The statistic deserves careful scrutiny, especially by those concerned about civil and human rights.

Does it mean that the war against hate crimes is over and that we can fold our tents? Is it Miller Time for defenders of human rights?

I don't think so, and neither do most activists.

The facts in brief: LEDS tracks bias crimes in seven categories: political belief, race or color, national origin, religious preference, sexual orientation, handicap, and economic or social status. In 1990, the first year that such records were kept in Oregon, 343 were reported. In 1991, the number was 488; in 1992, it was 545.

Suddenly in 1993 we're down to 279. Why? LEDS officials attribute the decline in part to the "learning curve" of local police, who have been instructed to be more conservative in identifying bias crimes. They also note that '92 was an election year that featured a divisive campaign over Ballot Measure 9, an anti-gay rights initiative sponsored by the OCA, and that the Persian Gulf War fueled anti-Arab incidents.

I would suggest another reason for the decline: the courage Oregon's civil rights defenders have shown, the forthright denunciations of bigotry from the pulpit and the press, and the vigorous prosecution of wrongdoers. In response to incidents such as the fatal bludgeoning of an Ethiopian student, law-abiding Oregonians sent a strong, clear signal that they will not



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tolerate hate crime.

And that resistance made a difference. To take just one example, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon quietly approached outdoor advertising companies about anti-Catholic ads that had cropped up on billboards in the Medford area. The ads, which portrayed Roman Catholics as devil-worshippers and papists, quickly disappeared.

This is no time to let down our guard. For one thing, bias crime statistics don't tell the whole story. They don't tell you about local circumstances that may inhibit the reporting of such crimes. The extent to which citizens are aware of their rights and of the remedies available to them have an obvious bearing on the numbers.

Nor do the bias crime statistics tell us about discrimination that Oregonians experience in housing, employment, and public accommodation. The Civil Rights Division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, which is charged with investigating civil rights complaints, has received 1,600 in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, close to the record-setting pace of the previous year, in which more than

2,400 complaints were filed. Allegations of racial discrimination are actually up over the previous year.

Like hate crime, discrimination is a sign of the times. Many Oregonians continue to struggle financially as the state undergoes a painful economic restructuring. They are confronted by citizens who differ in appearance or customs or beliefs. And regrettably, a few react in bigoted ways, blaming those who are different for their problems.

Scapegoatism has long history in Oregon. It runs in cycles, and just because it seems to be retreating one moment is no reason to think that we're out of the woods.

On the same day that LEDS released the latest bias crime statistics,

stories broke about an armed assault on a Eugene synagogue and the victory of the OCA's latest anti-gay initiative in elections up and down the Willamette Valley.

The synagogue shooting reportedly involved skinheads using high-powered rifles and armor-piercing shells. The sad fact is that the war isn't over.

In 1990 I appointed the Oregon Council on Civil Rights to provide a forum for discussion of emerging civil rights issues and to advise me on what needs to be done. During the last two years we conducted civil rights forums throughout the state, and on April 7, we will decide on an action plan at an all-day conference in Portland.

"We want to set specific goals for Oregon, a civil and human rights agenda for the '90s," says council chair Rodney Page, who also directs Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, "and that can only be done successfully if a true partnership exists between government and the grassroots."

The Council is pushing an ambitious agenda that includes the development of human rights commissions in each county. Such groups would provide support to victims of discrimination and bias crime at the local level, providing the foundation for a statewide network of human rights organizations.

Civil rights are never special. They are for the protection of all. The Council's agenda offers the best insurance Oregonians could have of a future in which the dignity and worth and liberty of every individual is respected.

Second Black Navy Hero Denied World War II Awards To Receive Navy Cross After Fifty Years

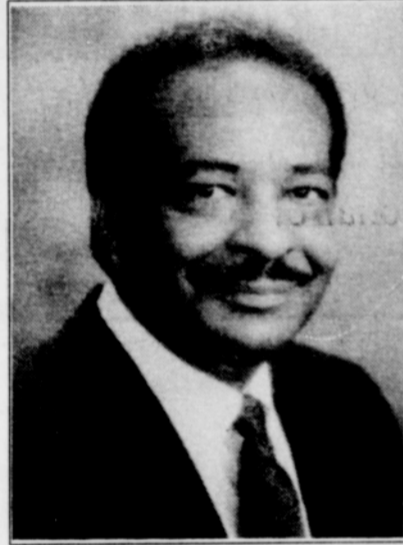
On April 5, 1994, 86-year-old World War II veteran James Dockery received the Navy Cross for his bravery October 29, 1944 during a Japanese Kamikaze attack on the aircraft carrier Intrepid. Dockery was a member of one of the first all-minority gun tub units assigned to the aircraft carrier during its war mission in the Philippines. Dockery, strapped in his anti-aircraft gun to fight off the attacking planes, suffered burns and injuries to his knees and legs—scars he still carries.

The Stamford Connecticut resident was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1945 and instead of receiving the Navy Cross which was promised to the gun tub crew by their commanding officer, Dockery and others received a much lower grade award: The bronze star. Last year another surviving member of the gun tub crew, Alanzo Swann, successfully fought through 50 years of what he termed "red tape and a legal mess" to receive the higher award which was finally presented in an official Navy ceremony onboard the Intrepid. Dockery at that time enlisted Swann's assistance in pursuing his award and with the help of U.S. Representative Congressman Christopher Shays of Stamford.

William R. Wiley Named 1994 Black Engineer of The Year

Dr. William R. Wiley, head of Battelle Memorial Institute's Pacific Northwest Division in Richland, Wash., has won the prestigious Black Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by US Black Engineer magazine. Dr. Wiley stands first among 300 entrants in a competition that annually brings out some of the brightest scientists and engineers, working at the frontiers of technological development. A panel of industry experts, executives and academics considers the submissions, which are backed by recommendations from candidates' superiors, colleagues and, in the case of Dr. Wiley, House Speaker Tom Foley, Florida A&M University President Doug Olesen.

As Dr. Wiley says, "There is nothing more powerful than the belief that you can personally contribute to making a better future." Growing up in the South during the 1950s, his college choices were restricted. But a football scholarship to Mississippi's all black Tougaloo College earned him a bachelor's, Magna Cum Laude, in chemistry. After Army service, he took a master's in microbiology at the University of Illinois-Urbana on a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship. Wiley took his Ph.D. at Washington state University.



Dr. William R. Wiley

Dr. Wiley joined Battelle in 1965. Four years later, Dr. Wiley was head of the Cellular and Molecular Biology Section, supervising 25 others. In 1972, Dr. Wiley was promoted to associate Biology Department manager, then department head, managing more than 200 researchers.

In 1979, Dr. Wiley was named Director of Research. Five years later, he became Director of Battelle's Pacific Northwest Division and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory, which Battelle operates on a contract for the U.S. Department of Energy. His divi-

sion has more than 4,400 research scientists, engineers, technicians and support personnel.

Dr. Wiley has been a member of the Board of Regents of Gonzaga University in Spokane. Later, he was named to the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board and helped put in place a uniform set of criteria for higher education in that state. Wiley, a member of the Board of Regents of Washington State University, was named chairman in June 1993. In addition, he serves on the Washington business Roundtable, a group of key business leaders dealing with public issues vital to the state.

Dr. Wiley is the first national laboratory director to join the Council of the government-University-Industry Research Roundtable, which reports directly to the heads of the National Academies of Science and Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Wiley participated in President Clinton's Economic Conference in Little Rock, Ark., in 1992 and is a member of his state's Citizen Cabinet and the Economic Development and Environmental Enhancement Task Force.

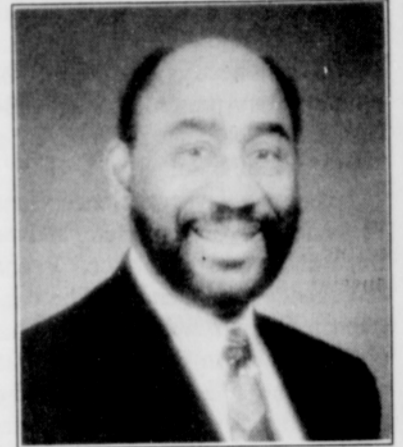
Dr. Wiley is married to the former Myrtle Louise Smith, and lives in Richland, Washington.

A Fund Raiser To Retain Metro Councilor Ed Washington

Friday, April 8, 1994; 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Tickets May Be Purchased At:
The Brooks Building;
3620 N. Williams,
Portland, Oregon 97227

\$20.00
(Suggested Donation)



Ed Washington

This is sponsored by Friends Of Ed Washington Campaign Committee

P.A.T.A. Announces Equity/Non-Equity Auditions

Equity and non-Equity actors interested in being considered for the upcoming theatre season take note: The PATA-sponsored joint auditions are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24. On April 23 the auditions will be held from 10:am to 4:30pm at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate, in Portland. On April 24 the auditions will be held at Firehouse Theatre, 1436 SW Montgomery, Portland from 11:30am to 4:00pm.

Approximately 20 companies will be represented at these auditions, including Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Portland, Lakewood Theatre Company, Sylvia's Class Act Dinner Theatre, Oregon Stage Company, Portland, Rep, Triangle Productions, Musical Company, Festival, IFCC and Artists' Repertory Theatre.

THESE AUDITIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!
You may audition for PATA once per year.

PATA will be taking appointments at the following time only: Pre-registration for PATA members will be Wednesday, April 6 from noon to 3pm. The number to call is 241-4902. All others can register on Thursday, April 7 and Monday, April 11 from noon to 3pm at 241-4902. Auditions will be scheduled in 5 minute intervals and this time limit will be carefully monitored. Actors may present two contrasting one minute monologues or a one-minute monologue and a one minute song. Actors who wish to sing will have access to an accompanist on Sunday between 11:30 and 1:30pm. Those scheduled at other times should be prepared to provide their own accompaniment, live or taped (tape players are not provided). No acapella, please. Actors must also submit 24 copies of their resume and head shot (xeroxed or stapled back to back) to PATA no later than April 18. Actors of color are encouraged to audition.

Don't Wait Register To Vote Now Take A Friend With You

Volunteers Spotlited

A North Portland resident and a local non-profit organization were presented with Spotlight Awards at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette's recent Night of the Stars Awards Dinner.

American Red Cross - Oregon Trail Chapter received an Outstanding Agency Participation Award for giving numerous presentations during the 1993 fund drive. Pictured from left to right are John Williams, 1993 rose Festival Junior Queen Courtney Burmester, and Jill Nichols from American Red Cross - Oregon Trail Chapter.

Ed Bailey was honored with an award for his contribution to the public service advertising campaign. He was one of four individuals featured in the 1993 ad campaign and is striving to keep kids out of gangs by sharing his story of his past gang involvement.

Tom Parker from K103 served as master of ceremonies. Media presenters included Julie Emry and Jeff Gianola from KATU, Brenda Braxton and Carl Click from KGW, Kim Singer and Pat Kirk of KPTV, KUPL's Doug Dahlgren and Susan Barr, and John Williams of KISN.

Tax Night

Eastport Plaza Will Offer Special Tax Information, Materials, And Assistance On Friday, April 15

So tax night is less taxing. Eastport Plaza will offer special services including Tax Information, Materials, and Assistance on Friday, April 15 from 6 p.m. until midnight. The Federal Internal Revenue Service, State Department Of Revenue, and U. S. Post Office will be present, providing services for last minute tax filers.

Federal, State, and Extension Tax Forms will be provided. In addition, Eastport Plaza will hand out two \$.29 stamps and two envelopes to each tax payer while supplies last. All services are free to the public.

Participating Eastport Plaza merchants will also remain open for late night shopping.

Eastport Plaza is located on S. E. 82nd Ave, between S. E. Holgate and S. E. Powell Blvd. For further information, call (503) 771-3817 during weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Say You Saw It In...
The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer

To Keesha impatience is a virtue.



IMPROVED MORTGAGES: 30 DAY FUNDING

Keesha from Portland spent months looking for the perfect house. And she's not about to wait another couple of months for the bank to come through with the money. No way. Luckily, B of A has streamlined the way home purchases are approved and funded. That means, from start to finish, you can expect funding in 30 days or less. Guaranteed. ► So if you're in a hurry to get into that

dream cottage, we won't keep you waiting. You can also expect a little thank you from Bank of America in the form of checking free of monthly service charges for two years. These are just some of the ways we're working to build a better bank for everybody. Call 1-800-THE-BofA to find out how we can make it happen for you.

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*Mike from Legal needs us to include this important message: "Offer effective March 31, 1994 and available only on owner-occupied, single family primary residences, condominiums and planned unit developments in Oregon. The interest rate and monthly payment is subject to change after the first six months. Program rate, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Bank of America Oregon. Member FDIC."