

# Observing

## Vancouver Conducts Citizen Survey

A spokesman for Vancouver's Cultural Commission says the new commission is looking forward to getting public comment about the arts and cultural identity of Vancouver.

After several meetings to define its mission statement, goals and priorities, the cultural commission is planning a public survey this fall using either a telephone approach or a clip-out-and-send-back coupon in the newspapers.

The survey results will help define what the Vancouver community thinks is important and what they would support financially. One

question will be about building a performing arts center.

Michael Kissinger, a Vancouver resident, works as executive director of the Mid-Valley Arts Council. Other commission members are Larry Swatosh, chairman; Marlia Jenkins, Ethel Lehman, David Tang, Leslie Durst, Harriet Wilson, Jan Oliva and Allan Weinstein. The nine-member commission was appointed by the mayor and city council in October 1994 to serve in an advisory capacity to city council on matters relating to arts and cultural events and activities.

The survey will tell us what peo-

ple think is a community priority, what links this community tether culturally and what they are willing to support," says Kissinger.

Another project for the commission is development of a cultural plan.

The cultural plan is an action plan listing what the community has as cultural assets and resources, what it wants and how it will approach getting what it wants.

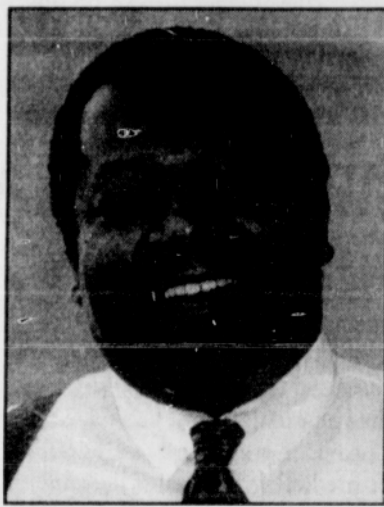
Citizens can participate by returning the survey this fall and by sending comments and concerns to the commission at P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668.

## Thomas Completes Management Course

Sylvester Thomas of Vancouver has successfully completed a new food service management certificate program developed by Flagstar Companies, Inc. The intensive 9-week program was designed to recruit and develop minority candidates to management positions in the Flagstar restaurant chains which include Denny's, Quincy's Family Steakhouse, El Pollo Loco and the largest Hardee's franchise.

Thomas, a manager at Denny's in Vancouver, will return to his management role at the restaurant. He joined Denny's in August 1994.

Flagstar's comprehensive management certificate program covers all aspects of restaurant operations, including human resources, financial and facilities management, business communications, marketing principals and leadership skills. The



Sylvester Thomas

course work for the program which ran June 12-Aug. 11, was conducted at Flagstar's learning center facilities in Spartanburg, S.C.

The studies included food safety and utilized team exercises, class

projects and hands-on application of management principles.

"As part of our overall business strategy, Flagstar has a number of initiatives underway aimed at increasing minority participation in our company," said James B. Adamson, chairman and chief executive officer of Flagstar. "The Food Service Management Certificate Program is a way of developing people within our company as well as those who have an interest in management careers in the food service industry.

Twelve candidates, both Flagstar employees and college students from across the U.S., were selected for participation in the program based on the recommendation of their restaurant supervisor or college professor and an assessment of their potential success within the food service field.

## Minority Business For Year 2000: Part II

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

The response of the readership to Part I of this series (8/30/95) indicates that there is a definite need to revisit some of the earlier concepts put forward. While certain basic principles of successful entrepreneurship will always hold true, a rapidly changing economic and social climate requires timely adjustments and new techniques.

Interestingly, when I recently introduced just such an approach to several neophyte minority business persons, I realized (as always) that there is nothing new under the sun, even as I spoke. As I enthusiastically distributed some out-of-town phone directories to the group, directing them to look in the classified sections of types of businesses novel to Portland - *deja vu* set in with a vengeance.

This was one of the more successful innovations I introduced to my Portland State University business class in 1973. I should point out, however, that more white than minority students pursued the technique to the point of opening the doors of an actual enterprise. I closely studied cases of both outcomes. The difference was found to be as much a cultural one as a matter of opportunity or racial barriers; more on this at a

later date.

Obviously, if you're bold enough, such an approach will get you around the constraints imposed by the establishment or their inept minions to keep African Americans confined to "traditional" businesses. And, above all (as I said last week), you have got to read the relevant business journals and guides (and explore the not-so-relevant material for new and important concepts - never mind what the school system has done to you; force yourself to read and like it).

White I definitely want as much feedback from readers as possible in our effort to structure a viable minority business format for the year 2000, let me say that I don't want attention diverted by any controversy around individuals in the community whose "business" (?) activities appear less than desirable (exploitation of prison labor - and selling minority temporary workers as the "low wage, no benefits" solution for business profits.)

Your concerns are well taken, it is ugly business. But get this dialogue into the "Letters To The Editor" section and let the community join in. The same with many of the very excellent suggestions many of

you are making in respect to problems encountered in financing, leasing, sales technique and types of proprietorship. There is not enough room in an article, I need a book! Hmmm?

Speaking of "types of proprietorship," I believe it would serve the community very well if there were to be conducted intensive seminars on "cooperative" for profit enterprises and capital formation enterprises. Not only should we be looking at mutual funds for personal investment and 401-K, but as the type of financial structure which could be used to support businesses in our community. Certainly my articles (and others) have revealed that we have innovators of useful and marketable products right here among us.

Two generations ago, African Americans did it right here and successfully, as I have documents time and time again. It will be a further revelation to you when the "African American Historic Sites" project is completed in the near future. I have been a participant in this effort and can assure you that many of the accomplishments of Portland black pioneers are truly amazing -- in both the business and social realms. What has been done before can be done again, the genes are still here.

## Simpson Judge Rules Jury Can Hear Racial Slurs

In a stunning blow to the defence in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, jurors will be exposed to only two of the 41 taped excerpts in which Detective Mark Fuhrman, a key prosecution witness, utters racial slurs.

Judge Lance Ito, in a crucial ruling issued late on Thursday, also rejected defence efforts to introduce 18 portions of the so-called "Fuhrman Tapes" that depict the now-retired detective as a rogue cop who tortured suspects and fabricated evidence.

Simpson lead attorney Johnnie Cochran reacted with scathing criticism, calling it "one of the cruelest, unfair decisions ever rendered in a criminal court in this country."

But District Attorney Gil Garcetti appeared pleased with Ito's ruling, saying, "Now let's get on with this trial and get it to the jury."

Still to come, however, is a courtroom drama in which the prosecution will see one of its star witnesses — the man who reported finding a bloody glove on Simpson's estate — depicted to jurors as a liar.

Fuhrman, described by the defence as a racist who planted evidence to frame the black football hero, testified five months ago that he had not used the word "nigger" anytime in the past 10 years.

But perhaps as early as Friday, the mostly black jury will find out he uttered the racial epithet twice when transcripts of audiotaped interviews

with aspiring screenwriter Laura Hart McKinny are presented in court.

Ito also ruled that McKinny can take the witness stand and tell jurors that Fuhrman used the word "nigger" 41 times during the interviews, which were conducted from 1985 to 1994.

Legal analysts believe that alone could bolster Simpson's chances of being acquitted on charges that he murdered his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman the night of June 12, 1994.

But experts contend that the prosecution case would have been decimated if Ito had allowed the jury to hear all, or even a large part, of the tapes in which Fuhrman brags at one point about beating black suspects' faces into "mush."

When the tapes were played on Tuesday with the jury absent from the courtroom, Fuhrman's monotone voice echoed through the downtown courthouse and across Los Angeles, exposing racial divisions in the city and the police force.

"The prosecution has every reason to be relieved," said Karen Smith, a professor at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

Still, Deputy District Attorney Chris Darden was less than thrilled with Ito's ruling. "All black people are offended when they hear those words," the black prosecutor said.

But Simpson's defence team was livid. "For the judge to rule that only

two of those incidents are admissible is outrageous, is specious and it's unspeakable," Cochran told reporters.

As the grand finale before resting their case, the defence had hoped to play the tapes before recalling Fuhrman to the witness stand, where famed trial lawyer F. Lee Bailey was expected to attack him as a perjurer.

Fuhrman has contended that he was only play acting for McKinny to lend dramatic flavor to her screenplay. Prosecutors had accused defence lawyers of trying to "hijack" the trial.

Now, legal experts say, the defence may decide to forgo further testimony by Fuhrman, whose attorney recently said he might refuse to answer questions by invoking his constitutional right against self-incrimination.

In one of the two excerpts admitted by Ito, Fuhrman says, "We have no niggers where I grew up."

In the second example, McKinny asks Fuhrman why black Moslems live in a certain part of Los Angeles. "That's where niggers live," he responds.

Ito said he was barring Fuhrman's remarks about police misconduct because the defence had failed to prove that the incidents ever occurred and had not produced any evidence of their claims that he planted the bloody glove.

## Oregon Steel Appeals \$1.4 Million Fine

Oregon Steel Mills, Inc. has filed an appeal of a \$1.4 million fine levied by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division.

The fine, the largest every levied by the agency, followed 20 charges of occupational safety and health violations in the sale of a sandblasting abrasive made of recycled steel mill air pollutants.

The abrasive breaks down into dust, releasing toxic lead, cadmium and arsenic, the state agency says. Company officials say the agency misunderstands the chemistry of the sandblasting material.

Jan Wagner, a spokeswoman for the agency, said the appeal will go to an informal conference and then to an administrative law judge if necessary.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has joined the state in issuing a "hazard alert" on the material.

## Radio Help And Kid Kare Decals.

Young people heading back to school and motorists along the highways have a network of friends throughout the area -- Pacific Power employees who drive vehicles displaying Radio Help and Kid Kare decals.

The programs offer a safe haven for children who are frightened, or bothered by strangers; and communications for the public in general from the scene of an accident, fire, or other emergency, or a less critical need -- a stranded motorist or person needing directions.

Pacific Power general business manager Carl Talton said Kid Kare was created by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Pacific Power, for use throughout company service areas in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

"The Kid Kare decal on the side of most Pacific Power vehicles is a symbol to a child that the operator is a friend and provides a safe place to wait for help to arrive," Talton explained.

Radio Help was initiated by Pacific in 1985, as a means of providing communications between the scene of an emergency and agencies responsible for providing such services.

Since inception, Radio Help has expanded to include 235 private companies, public agencies and other utilities throughout the western United States, all willing to offer communications in an emergency -- be it major or minor.

"Both Kid Kare, for Pacific Power vehicles only, and Radio Help, for a growing number of organizations throughout the west, are symbols of a commitment to serve the public," Talton pointed out.

## Crime Stoppers Wanted Subject

The Beaverton Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating Thomas Anthony Williams.

An Arrest warrant is on file in Phoenix, Arizona, charging Williams with Failure to Appear on Fraud and Theft Charges. Locally, Williams is wanted on a felony parole violation.

Thomas Anthony Williams, also known as the "Sweetheart Swindler", has been known to befriend women, and then disappear after bilking them out of money.

Williams, who is known to speak in a fake Australian accent, may be calling himself "Tom the Rancher", or Dr. Tom Chaliner, and may be staying in area motels.

Williams is described a white male, 40 years of age, with a date of birth of March 29, 1955. Williams is 6'1 tall and weighs 160 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes. He may or



Thomas Anthony Williams

may not be wearing glasses.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-Help.

## Bicyclists Peddle To Tri-Met Record

Bicyclists have nearly doubled their use of Tri-met buses and Max light rail trains over a year ago.

Spurred by completing the installation of bicycle racks on all Tri-Met buses last February, cyclist ridership raced to more than 78,000 boardings, up from the previous fiscal year's nearly 41,000.

Max light rail alone carried more than 35,000 cyclists.

Bikes on Tri-Met permit sales jumped to nearly 5,000, up more than 2,000 over the previous reporting period.

Tri-met began allowing permit holders to take bicycles on eight bus routes and Max in June 1992.

Since then, ridership and the program itself has steadily grown and now includes bicycle racks on all of Tri-Met's 600 buses serving some 600 square miles in the tri-county area.

The program has been simplified and improved along the way, with other efforts like the addition of a youth permit for those 8-15 years old.


"We're pleased to offer more transportation choices to the community," said Bob Post, Tri-Met deputy general manager. All permits cost \$5 are good for two years.

For more information, cyclists can call 239-3044.

# PROGRAM

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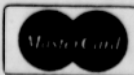
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