

Harlon Dalton to Speak at "Community Convocation"

The Community Convocations Project announced today that Yale University law professor Harlon Dalton, author of Racial Healing: Confronting the Fears Between Blacks and Whites (Doubleday 1995), will speak to a gathering of concerned citizens at the first of three Community Convocation after-work meetings. The convocation will be held on Tuesday, March 4, from 6 to 9 pm, at Jefferson High School Cafeteria, 5210 N Kerby.

Dalton proposes that true healing will only come about through frank and open dialogue about race: "It is by exploring the things we dare not say to each other that we can best get to know one another." Today he implores citizens to speak openly about the conditions which divide and terrorize us, and "to put on the table all of our fears, trepidations, wishes and hopes." Dalton's presentation is partially funded by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

Follow-up convocations will be held on Tuesday, April 1, at Marshall High School, and Tuesday, May 6, at Wilson High School. For more information call 228-7231, FAX, 228-8840.

USDA's discrimination yields bitter harvest

BY REP. BENNIE G. THOMPSON (D-MS)

If Agriculture Secretary, Dan Glickman is serious, about putting an end to the discriminatory practices at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and I believe he is, then USDA should immediately develop a process to pay remedies to those individuals who have lost their farms as a direct result of USDA discrimination.

Second, USDA needs to establish and implement an independent system - a "watchdog" - to monitor field activities and enforce civil rights laws and regulations. The present system of complaints and appeals, in which the accused USDA agency investigates itself, is thoroughly inadequate.

Third, those USDA officials and field supervisors who have consistently demonstrated more allegiance to maintaining "good ole boy" networks than in promoting fairness and equity, should be immediately dismissed and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Fourth, congress, once again, should revisit the county committee system, which is controlled by a few

farmers who receive a majority of the benefits, and reform the policies and regulations that perpetuate a system which allows minority, female, and small procedures to be discriminated against.

A series of "listening sessions" recently concluded by the Secretary of Agriculture in my district, and elsewhere, revealed that racism and discrimination continues to run amok at USDA. The agency has made a mockery of titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and other laws which are supposed to ensure fairness and equal opportunity.

Blacks, Whites, and female farmers in Mississippi told Secretary Glickman, and his recently appointed "Civil Rights Action Team," that USDA county committees slam their doors in the faces of those who are not a part of local cliques. The listening sessions have served as a vehicle to expose how serious and widespread the discrimination at the department has been. USDA is now a national disgrace, a catalyst to the tragic, in some cases even criminal, loss of millions of acres of land, and wealth, by black farmers. Estimates are that black farmers have lost over 12.5 million acres of land since 1920, with only 2.5 millions acres left.

In some cases, land acquired by black families in the decades after slavery has been transferred, with USDA's help, to the coffers of wealthy farmers, when robbing the

descendants of former slaves of their legacy has become a status quo practice for the USDA. It is easy to understand why employees and farmers refer to it as the "last plantation."

Secretary Glickman's "listening sessions," have given farmers and employees hope that change is coming. But USDA's bureaucracy and its protectors have historically resisted real change - just ask former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy.

President Clinton needs to let us know where eradicating racism and sexism from the USDA, ranks as a priority in the agenda of his second term, and Secretary Glickman has to give us more than warm platitudes and fee-good quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the USDA's founding father, Abraham Lincoln. The time for rhetoric is over.

Every American that wears clothing or eats food has a vested interest in eliminating the decades-old policies of discrimination at the USDA. The agency's history of racial bias and antagonism towards minority and female farmers is well documented, it is time for President Clinton, Secretary Glickman, and Congress to take decisive action, rebuke these antiquated practices, and restore the American people's faith in this \$60 billion federal agency.

(Representative Thompson is a member of the House Agriculture Committee and has been actively fighting to reverse the trends of discrimination at USDA)

Sabin open house

On Thursday, February 27 at 4 p.m. at 1021 NE Failing, Sabin Community Development Corporation will be having an Open House. This is to celebrate the completion of its first new construction home as part of their Limited Equity/Lease Purchase (LELP) Home Ownership Program for low income families.

This is one of five new construction homes being completed this spring, and one of two built by Dream Home Builders.

The LELP program was developed by Sabin CDC, Vernon Neighborhood Action Group and a Community advisory council in consultation with the boards of Sabin Community Association, Vernon Neighborhood Association and Concordia Neighborhood Association.

This celebration will showcase the work of Calvin Jackson, a local minority contractor and owner of Dream Home Builders. Grant funds from the Enterprise Community program other grant contributors (Heinz

Foundation, Portland Development Corporation, Multnomah County's Housing Affordability Development Program, Oregon Housing Trust Funds and many individual contributors) helped to bring down the cost to the home buyer to \$61,000 from a development budget of \$105,000. The home will go to a family earning 60% of MFL.

The primary goal of the LELP program is to provide long term affordable home ownership opportunities for low-income families who are unable for various reasons to secure a home mortgage from traditional lending institutions.

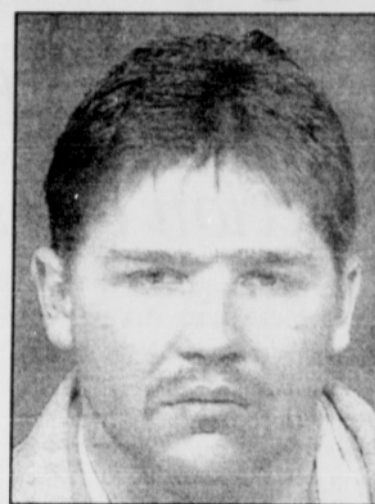
Sabin Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit, community based, membership organization. Our mission is to make sure there is long term affordable housing for low and moderate income community residents and to encourage community involvement for local development, self-help projects, and youth and senior programs.

CRIME STOPPERS Child Abuser sought

Investigators from the Multnomah County Child Abuse Team and the FBI Fugitive Task Force, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in locating and apprehending Gary William Clarkson. Felony no bail warrants are on file for his arrest. The warrants stem from a sex abuse case involving an 8-year-old girl.

Gary William Clarkson is a 26-year-old white male (DOB/022370). He is 5'8" tall, weighs 180 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes.

If you have any information regarding this case, call the Crime Stoppers Program. Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case, or un-



Gary William Clarkson

solved felony crime reported to Crime Stoppers, and you do not have to give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Fraud Suspect



Peter Andrew Godwin

The Beaverton Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying an apprehending a fraud suspect going by the name Peter Andrew Godwin, obtained an Oregon ID card from DMV. In the ID photo, the subject is pictured with

a mustache and goatee, and has a full head of hair that is parted on the left.

On October 15, 1996, eight days after his first ID card from DMV, the subject obtained a duplicate. Only, in the duplicate ID photo, the subject has shaved off his goatee, combed his hair forward without a part, and tried to make himself appear more heavyset than in the original.

On both ID cards, the subject lists his date of birth as July 24, 1968, his height as 5'6", his weight as 210 pounds, and his address as being on South Thayer Road in Oregon City.

The subject is with a heavyset female, believed to be his wife, and a child.

Crime Stoppers offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that lead to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you do not have to give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Unemployment fraud

Gregory Black has pled guilty to felony theft charges in Multnomah County court for fraudulently collecting unemployment benefits. Black was sentenced to 24 months probation, community service, and ordered to pay restitution of \$4,554 to the Oregon Employment Department.

To receive unemployment benefits, a person must be able, available, and actively seeking work. Also, any earning during a period a person is claiming benefits must be reported. Individuals may earn up

to one-third of their weekly benefit amount before benefits are deducted dollar for dollar.

Charges were brought against Black as a result of an investigation by the Employment Department.

The department regularly prosecutes individuals found to have claimed unemployment benefits while working and who incorrectly report their earnings.

The investigation by the Employment Department was triggered by the agency's cross-match system.

Car chase arrest

At approximately 5:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 18, 1997, Portland Police Officers became involved in a vehicle pursuit in North Portland. The chase ended when the driver drove into a dead end street, turned his vehicle toward a police officer and attempted to run him down. The policeman fired several rounds at a vehicle driven by Dennis James Bacote, black male, 20 years, of NE Portland. Bacote driving a Ford Explorer, and accompanied by another male subject, was observed driving erratically in the area of N. Albina and N. Killingsworth St. When officers

attempted to stop the vehicle a chase ensued.

The driver Bacote, was placed into custody at the scene. The passenger ran from the scene and has not been located. The officer was able to avoid the vehicle and was unharmed. A Rottweiler dog inside the vehicle was shot and killed during these actions. Bacote has been lodged into the Justice Center Jail. He is charged with Attempt Aggravated Murder, Attempt Assault I, PCS II, Reckless Driving, Attempt to Elude, and a Warrant-Probation Violation Criminal Mischief II.

Police Charge Son In Double Homicide

On Friday, February 14, 1997, at approximately 8:50 PM, Portland Police detectives were contacted by Patrick James Niiranen at Central Precinct, regarding a double homicide at 7024 SE 21st Avenue.

Portland Police detectives have charged 37-year-old, Patrick James Niiranen, with the death of his parents. Mercedes (78 years) and Henry (75) Niiranen were discovered by detectives deceased inside of their southeast Portland home. The two victims had died several days earlier as the results of multiple blunt trauma wounds.

Niiranen had been charged with two counts of Murder, and has been booked into the Justice Center Jail.

ODOT Employee Killed Near Wilsonville

Salem - The Oregon Department of Transportation has identified an employee killed in a construction accident this afternoon as Larry Howland, 45 of Portland. Howland, a construction inspector, had been an ODOT employee since June, 1978. Howland died after a piece of earth moving equipment struck him as he was inspecting a work site in the southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near the Wilsonville Interchange. An investigation is continuing.

The million dollar lineup.



Five out of seven shown

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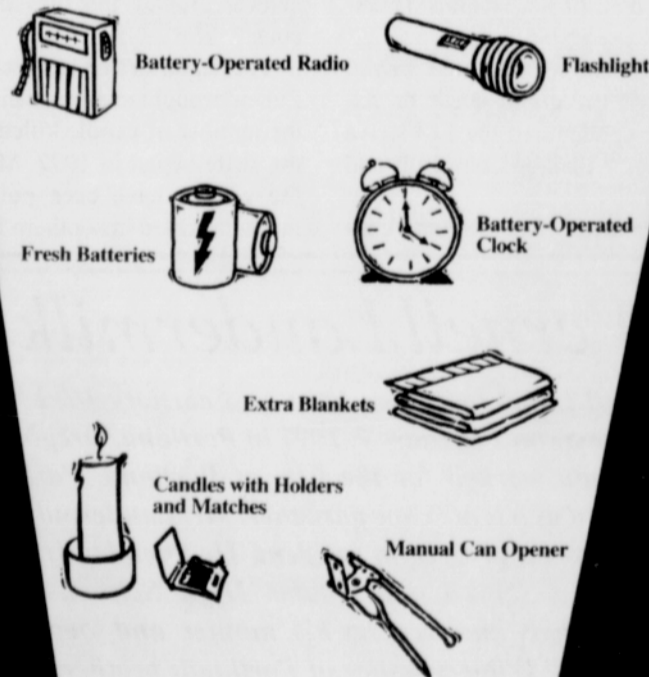
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