

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily
Reflect Or Represent The Views Of
The Portland Observer

Attention Readers!

Please take a minute to send us your comments. We're always trying to give you a better paper and we can't do it without your help. Tell us what you like and what needs improvement...any suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. We take criticism well! Get your powerful pens out NOW and address your letters to: Editor, Reader Response, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680) Established in 1970

Charles Washington
Publisher & Editor
Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager
Iesha Williams
Graphic Design

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager
Larry J. Jackson, Sr.
Director of Operation
Tony Washington
Associate Editor

Contributing Writers:
Professor McKinley Burt,
Lee Perlman,
Neil Heilpern
Joy Ramos

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97211
503-288-0033 • Fax 503-288-0015
Email: Pdxobserv@aol.com

Deadline for all submitted materials:
Articles: Friday, 5:00 pm Ads: Monday, 12:00pm

Send Address Changes To: Portland Observer,
P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Subscriptions: \$60.00 per year

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, Oregon Federation of Advertising, American Minorities Media, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

SUBSCRIBE TO The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer can be sent directly to your home for only \$60.00 per year. Please fill out, enclose check or money order, and mail to:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER; PO Box 3137
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Zip-Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your 1998 contribution to our Portland Trail Blazers Alumni Emmanuel Lions Basketball game which was held February 7th at 7 pm at The Benson High School Gym. The turnout was tremendous. Everyone had an outstanding time. Income through ticket sales, concessions, advertising and half-time auction most likely will bring in about \$6,000. Every dime will go to E.C.G.S.

I always feel small when writing thank you letters! Think of it. You get black ink and paper as thanks! I so wish we could do more for you who gave so much. One thing we do know, which is, you gave. You made a difference. Your gift will help the hundreds of E.C.G.S. youth that we serve. Without you we might have missed one due to a lack of funds on our part. Because of you one of our youth might become tomorrow's physician, teacher, home-maker, lawyer, student, etc. You did this. Thank you again and again.

For The 1998 Blazer/Emmanuel Fund Drive Committee,
Frank A. Alvey
Chair

Dear Editor,

We, the family of Anthony Branch, Jr. would sincerely like to "Thank You" for printing the article on the families response to the false accusation made by the Willamette Weekly Newspaper.

There was quite a remarkable response from the community. Many people were in agreement that the Willamette Weekly made a personal attack on the family. Falsely accusing, down grading, and labeling innocent people.

Our elders and family were please also very thankful for all the help and assistance your newspaper has given.

Thank you for allowing us to express are thanks and appreciation.

May God Bless you all.
Marcus Branch, Sr.

Citizens of Oregon:

I want to let you know about an extraordinary opportunity you have to learn about and discuss workforce issues effecting your business and all of Oregon.

Businesses are recognizing more than ever the value of a strong workforce, and how important that factor is in today's highly competitive economy. The Workforce Summit scheduled for April 15th at the Portland Hilton will offer a day to work together to deal with issues relevant to the workforce and economy of Oregon. The Summit will provide a forum to look at strategies and programs that are working well in Oregon and focus on additional ways to reinforce, enhance and further the implementation of successful education and workforce strategies. For true economic prosperity our solutions need to be flexible for all of Oregon, rural and urban.

In creating this summit, we are bringing together unique allies; the business community, labor (Building and Construction Trades Union), legislators, and the Governor's Office. Working together we will benefit from our different points of view, perspectives and experiences. The summit will help foster a better understanding about what is happening and what more each of us can contribute to answer the workforce issues confronting Oregon. Please join me on April 15th. I encourage you to set this day aside on you calendars and attend the Workforce Summit--our competitive economic future could depend on it!

Sincerely,
John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.

p e r s p e c t i v e s

We Brought Out The Noise, The Brains - And New, Black History Month(s)

By PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

That's right, "months"! That was a tremendous response we got from our February presentations of some of the greatest innovators and engineers to cross the world stage - and they were ebony-hued, African and African American. We will keep on, keeping on!

We had Portland Observer readers cleaning out the news racks at Safeway and convenience stores, and several beauty and barbershops. Many, black and white, confessed absolute astonishment that the famed Washington Monument in our nation's capital is an original African design; the fabulous 'obelisk' concept whose sky-piercing esthetics is a cultural icon found all over the world - wherever Europeans have been able to haul (seize) them from Egypt.

This revelation proved especially interesting since I provided a recent photograph of the still-standing obelisk of Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut (1503 -1482 B.C.). This was during the fabulous great 18th dynasty of the New Kingdom when a number of Ethiopian and Nubian Pharaohs ascended the thrones: Tutankhamon; Tuthmosis I, II, III, IV; Amenhotep I, II, III, IV (Akhenaten).

This is the same Queen Hatshepsut I presented here a decade ago, and whose temples and other structures still stand. She pioneered urban design with carefully planned boulevards, parks, gardens and public plazas.

She even sent expeditions to bring back animals for the city zoos. See Montet, Bernal, Petrie, Erman, Duyn, Life, et al. Oh what rascals some educators be. Shame!

Then we followed on with the great black engineer, David Crosthwaite, the genius from Purdue who made the high rise and the sky scraper possible. Two teachers have already called and said they took their class downtown to visit several tall building and reinforce the incredible fact that thanks to Crosthwaite's thermodynamic inventions, hot water, showers and air conditioning are as accessible at the fiftieth floor as at the first (you also may flush the toilet in the penthouse - same pressure).

They described their students as quite wide-eyed and thoroughly motivated when they cited his 34 American patents and 80 foreign patents, covering his designs for systems installed in the Rockefeller Center, Empire State Building, The World Trade Center--and those new skyscrapers over a hundred stories tall in Indonesia and Japan. He died in 1976 shortly after I last talked to him, but today's thermodynamic systems are built on his pioneering models. And like our next pioneering African American engineer, Crosthwaite devoted thousands of hours to teaching and motivating

black youth. And it is just last week that we seem to have gotten the whole town in gear with our revelation that a local black graduate of Benson Technical High School, Thomas M. (Don) Rutherford made major engineering designs for the famed Howard Hughes "Spruce Goose" ("actually birchwood", Don says). I have reams of documentation and pictures for that contribution and others ranging from propellers, helicopter, submarine and his other inventions and improvements. Enough for a major national magazine article and motivational materials for my youth technology center. He will be back in Portland this year and I hope to introduce him to the public. He is a very modest man, but kids need the inspiration.

Well, what have I omitted. We have some really good role models on the way, from science to drama, from builders to physicians. And from prehistory to literature and from space to agriculture. They are all there but it just seems that there are those who don't want our children to know about them. Youths may want to start to read better, to count better - maybe even using the "Binary System" as developed by the ancient africans. It's right there on the papyrus, see Gilling's, "Mathematics in the Time of the Pharaohs", Dover, 1972 (available and very revealing). Shocked by those recent head-

lines, "American 12th Grade students lowest of all the industrial nations in math and science"? If you can't aid them yourself, get them tutors - you just think you can't afford it. If white kids are in big trouble, then black and hispanics are worse off. And above all, we have got to supply a high level of motivation, like the role models I've been presenting in these pages. Obviously they are not getting these in Portland schools, not even when the original school is right here. 'They' don't care!

You can't believe it? Well, ten years ago I made a major presentation to the Benson school administration - about using the accomplishments of Mr. Rutherford to motivate "lagging" students black or white. The principal, curriculum specialists and others were present but as you might guess, nothing ever happened. Not that much happened at other schools. Don't ask where the million to help disadvantage minorities went, for repairs? raises? 'overhead? seminars?

It is quite obvious that much will have to be done on our own. Start with role models; get "Created Equal: The Lives and Ideas of Black Innovators", James Brodie, William Morrow, 1993; "Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Everett Just," Kenneth R. Manning, Oxford V. Press, 1983; Just for starters, more next week.

PGE really deserves the Spirit of Portland award. Our Neighborhoods First has been a real blessing to residents of North Portland. The company and its volunteers have been wonderful helpers and partners in our efforts to build a strong neighborhood.



Antoinette Edwards
Columbia Villa-Tamarack
Family Resource
Center Coordinator

We'd like to salute a spirited community.

Orion Collins and his sister Zakari Newton team up for the North Portland Caring Community Rose Festival Parade outing, sponsored by PGE's Our Neighborhoods First.



PGE helps Seed the Future at a tree planting in Portsmouth.

Brenda Addy takes part in the Homowo African Harvest Festival, sponsored in part by PGE's Our Neighborhoods First.



We're proud to receive the Mayor's Spirit of Portland award as a Business of the Year. But we're even prouder to be part of a community where people work together to make this a nice place to live. That's what community spirit is all about. And that's why we consider it a privilege to help sponsor events like the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival, Seed the Future tree plantings and the St. Johns Parade.

PGE congratulates all the dedicated Spirit award recipients including the Kenton Neighborhood, volunteers Don and Mary Gilbertson, and Lila Estes. We're honored to be counted among them. And to be in a city where community spirit is alive and well.

Portland General Electric
OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FIRSTSM