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Straight Shooters help at risk children



Williams and Bellows find courage to love  
See inside



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# The Portland Observer

## Adoption records sealed, after all, for seven days

The temporary stay allows six anonymous birth mothers time to appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court

A day after upholding a landmark adoption law, the Oregon Court of Appeals again placed it on hold Thursday, frustrating hundreds of adult adoptees seeking birth certificates. The court agreed to reinstate a temporary stay on the law for seven days so that six anonymous birth mothers challenging it could take their case to the state Supreme Court.

"We've won every single battle, every step of the way, but they won't let us have this one simple thing: your own birth certificate," said Helen Hill, a Nehalem teacher and chief petitioner for Measure 58, the law voters approved. "Nobody knows what it's like, this emotional roller coaster they've been on."

The stay will expire Jan. 6 unless the Oregon Supreme Court agrees to extend it, said David Schuman, a deputy attorney general who defended the law.

Roy Pulvers, a Portland attorney who has helped represent supporters of the measure, noted that even in granting the temporary stay, the Court of Appeals has not changed its position.

"We view this as the last word by the Court of Appeals on this question," he said, "and they have made it clear the plaintiffs have a seven-day period, at which point their stay will no longer be in effect."

The Court of Appeals refused to reconsider the birth mothers' case, which it rejected in its decision Wednesday. A three-judge panel unanimously ruled that the mothers had no constitutional right to keep birth records confidential of children relinquished for adoption.

(Please see 'Adoption' page 3)

## More students attend black colleges

The United Negro College Fund will host its annual star-studded televised fund-raiser on Sunday

BY THE STAFF OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Danica Williams-Larry decided to attend Fisk University, a historically black college, because of her desire to know about her culture and her desire to know about a world about which poet Nikki Giovanni often wrote. Giovanni often spoke of her alma mater located in Nashville, Tenn. and made Williams-Larry, a graduate of Jefferson High School and now a business and English major, want to attend the school. When Williams-Larry arrived at Fisk three years ago, she found a lot more to love about the school.

"I know why I love Fisk. It's being around so many motivated, educated black people with the same goals," said Williams-Larry, a 21-year-old junior. "And the fact that your teachers know your name, not just your Social Security number."

Williams-Larry is among the increasing number of Portland students attending historically black colleges. And this Sunday, Williams-Larry will be among several Oregon students featured on KPTV-Channel 12 as part of the United Negro College Fund's annual star-studded fund-raiser. The event will air from noon to 4 p.m.

The theme of the fund-raiser is "An Evening of Stars: A Celebration of Educational Excellence." Celebrities Lou Rawls, Debbie Allen, Star Jones, and Lynn Whitfield will host the event. The program will feature concert performances by recording artists such as Lauryn Hill, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Barry White, Earth Wind and Fire and many more. In addition there will be guest appearance by Quincy Jones, Gen. Colin Powell, Tom Joyner and Barry Bonds. Elaine Ordal, UNCF's Portland consultant, said each

Danica Williams-Larry, Sharee Buckley-Johnson, and Teresa Phillips all attend Fisk University in Tennessee.



PHOTO BY DAVID YARBELL

year an increasing number of Portland high school graduates are attending historically black colleges funded through the UNCF. Currently, about 200 local students attend colleges supported by the UNCF. "The people of Portland should be made aware of this," Ordal said. "These same kids are coming back to the community to help make a difference in this community." The United Negro College Fund is the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance

organization in the country. Under the direction of William H. Gray, III, UNCF has been named as the No. 1 educational nonprofit organization in America by the Chronicle of Philanthropy. In addition, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation named UNCF as the administrator of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which is a \$1 billion 20-year initiative to provide financial assistance to high-achieving African-American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian students who are in severe financial need.

## PGE answers call to help Urban League move forward

BY DIONNE PEEPLES OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Margaret Carter sent out a clarion call for help and Portland General Electric has answered.

Carter, interim director of the Urban League of Portland since December, asked area businesses to help rebuild

the agency following its loss of major funders following a Multnomah County report that revealed financial mismanagement under the leadership of former president and chief executive officer Lawrence Dark. PGE is helping the cash-strapped agency by allowing one of their employees to work at the agency to

assist with the restructuring that Carter, a former Democratic state representative, has planned.

Kimberly Powe, a government affairs specialist at PGE, will work as the League's operations manager for at least three months. Powe works at the

League three days a week and at PGE two days a week. Her job is to help the League track its accountability and to assess the needs of League employees, she said. PGE pays her salary. Cindy Finlayson, a PGE legislative relations and public policy supervisor, said Powe was selected to help the Urban League because she has experience working with nonprofit organizations. Most

recently, Powe worked as a fund-raiser for the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. In her position as a loaned executive at the United Way, Powe assisted and coordinated fund-raising campaigns at major companies in the Portland

Carter, who is also running for the Oregon Senate, said Powe is an asset to the League. "I'm very pleased to have this person on staff," Carter said. "The job is moving so fast. It's hard not to have people in place to implement the change. ... I am not Superwoman. I cannot do it all."

In addition to providing the League with an operations manager, PGE donated \$25,000 to upgrade the agency's computer system, Finlayson said. "We feel the Urban League is a valuable part of the community and we realized it hit hard times and we decided to lend targeted assistance. ... We are sure other businesses will do the same," she said.

The League came under fire last year after a report from Multnomah County revealed major financial problems. In October, Dark resigned from his \$95,000-a-year position, after the county review raised questions about the agency's handling of public and private money under Dark's leadership. As a result of the questions raised, Multnomah County



Margaret Carter

stopped payments on a \$1 million contract to the Urban League. Worksystems, one of the League's largest funders, also canceled its contract and the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette canceled its payments, too. Dark resigned, saying his resignation was necessary so that the agency could move forward.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON

Kimberly Powe is the operations manager for the Urban League of Portland, on loan from PGE.

"We feel the Urban League is a valuable part of the community and we realized it hit hard times and we decided to lend targeted assistance."

Cindy Finlayson, legislative relations and public relations supervisor.

metropolitan area. Powe, who is a graduate of Georgetown University, said she brings a fresh perspective to her job at the Urban League. "I'm a very creative person and I have good writing and organizational skills," Powe said.

### Weather

Through the weekend

Today 46° F / 7° C  
34° F / 1° C  
Clouds and sun

Thursday 46° F / 7° C  
40° F / 4° C  
A Shower late

Friday 46° F / 7° C  
38° F / 3° C  
A few showers

Saturday 48° F / 8° C  
40° F / 4° C  
Cloudy with rain

Sunday 49° F / 8° C  
39° F / 4° C  
Occasional Rain

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### This Last Week in History

On Jan. 3, 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.  
On Jan. 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.  
On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.