

Alliance Unites to Promote Harmony

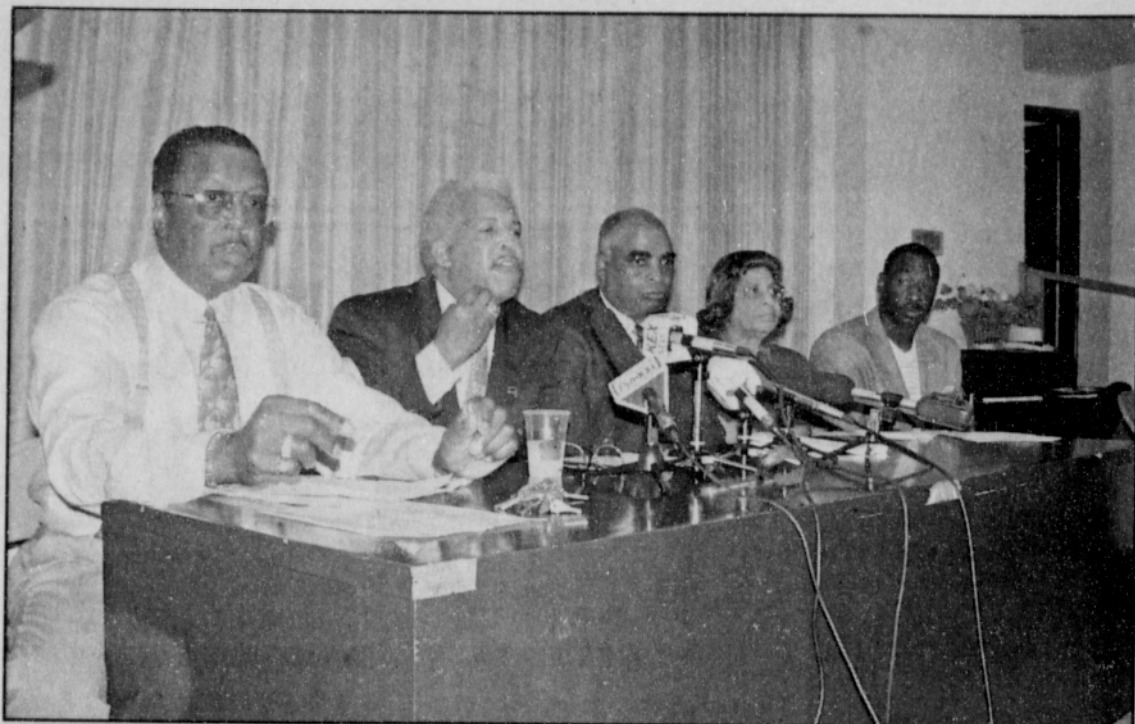


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Amzie Bailey (from left), Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr., Bishop A.A. Wells, Bishop Grace Osborne, and Pastor George Merriweather of the Albina Ministerial Alliance issue a statement Thursday responding to remarks concerning Jewish Americans made by Portland School Board Member Derry Jackson. Pastor Henry Greenidge and Pastor Mark Knutson were also present, but not pictured.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, the oldest ecumenical body of Christian pastors and churches in the North and Northeast communities of Portland, held a press conference Thursday to discuss relations between the Jewish American and African American communities in the wake of remarks by Portland School Board Member Derry Jackson.

The meeting was held just two days after Jackson issued his second public apology for his comments to the Oregonian newspaper that Jews run everything.

The ministerial alliance's statement follows:

The recent statement made by Mr. Jackson in reference to Jewish-Americans carries clear anti-Semitic overtones

whether intentional or not. It is a remark that cuts to the heart of every victim of the Holocaust and Jewish families that lost loved ones at the

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Semitic remarks and the pain that it caused to Jewish-Americans and others. As a result, we called upon Mr. Jackson to give an apology with contrition that captures the hurt and pain caused by his remarks.

Furthermore, the AMA calls upon the members of the African-American and the Jewish-American communities of Portland to not allow these divisive

hand of Hitler's Nazi Germany. Therefore, it is inexcusable and cannot be tolerated.

Because our Christian faith tradition demands justice, as well as reconciliation, the AMA engaged Mr. Jackson in conversation about his anti-

and anti-Semitic remarks to create a wedge between the two respected communities.

Rather, let us stand together and re-affirm the rich, historical relationship between the Jewish-American Community and the African-American Community, as well as our two faith communities.

Children's Center Coming to Northeast

A groundbreaking ceremony begins construction of a new center in northeast Portland to provide short-term care for children who are taken into state custody for reasons of abuse or neglect.

The Children's Receiving Center Northeast at 102nd and Burnside Center will house up to sixteen children under age 12 who cannot be immediately placed with a relative and who do not need extensive services offered by hospitals or special residential care facilities.

Funding for the first phase of construction is provided by Multnomah County through a 1996 public safety bond and other county funds.

"I am pleased that we are finally moving forward on the construction of the center. Children that have been abused need an immediate safe haven," Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito said in the Aug. 3 ceremony.

"The current system often puts a child in the back of police car driving around trying to locate placement, or hours of waiting in a state office until emergency foster care is found," Natio added. "The Receiving Center will help siblings stay together and provide an instant and safe home-like, non-institutional environment so those children are not further traumatized. The current system of housing children who have been removed from their homes has been inconsistent, and often adds to their sometimes frightening experience as they are shuttled from one agency to another."



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn (from left), County Commissioner Lisa Naito, District Attorney Mike Schruck, City Commissioner Dan Saltzman and former County Commissioner Sharon Kelley, gather on the site of a future center for children who are taken into state custody for reasons of abuse or neglect.

This is the first step in development of a 3.5-acre site, which includes the 11,800 square foot residential facility along with a services building.

An existing 15,500 square foot facility will be remodeled to house social service components including family visitation, health services, and counseling services.

Portland's Christie School will operate the residential facility.

About \$4.5 million will be used to purchase the property, \$3.0 million for new construction and remodeling and \$2.2 million for architect and project management fees, permits, structural and materials testing, security systems, furniture, computer and phone systems, and other costs.

A future project will remodel the second existing building on the site; a three-story, 25,000 square foot structure that will house staff from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, State Office of Services to Children and Families, Portland Police Bureau, and Gresham Police Department.

"The Children's Receiving Center is the culmination of over ten years of planning. This is truly a collaborative effort, bringing together the creativity and commitment of the public, children's protective services, law enforcement, health care providers, and children's advocates from local and state levels," said Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schruck.

Gresham To Celebrate Diversity!

The City of Gresham and the Gresham Sister City Association welcome the community to the 11th Annual Gresham Cultural Festival on Friday, Aug. 17 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Vance Park, at 182nd Avenue between Main and Division.

The community event recognizes and celebrates our cultural diversity.

"Gresham's diverse culture will finally be showcased and celebrated as one big family," said festival creator and organizer Ken Onyima.

An open-air market with foods, arts, crafts, and wares from around the world; along with children's activities and continuous entertainment will draw friends, family and neighbors for a day of fun and culture.

The entertainment begins onstage at 11 a.m. with Ballet Folklorico. Throughout the day festival-goers will be treated to the sights and sounds of Los Regionales De Michoacan, Boka Marimba and the Rhythm Culture Reggae Band; along with the Maher Irish Dancers, Polynesian Dancers, Nzuko Ndi Igbo Masquerade of Nigeria, and Umumma Women Dancers of Nigeria.



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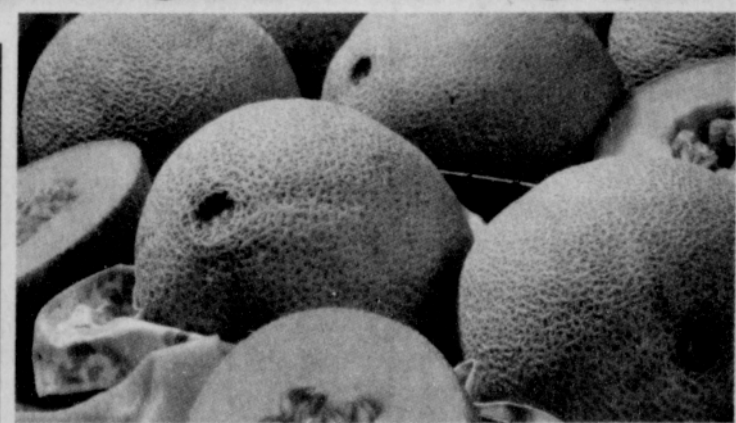
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