

# I-5. Let's Talk.

about Bridge, Rail, Finances, etc.

Give us your feedback on the latest findings and draft recommendations – including revised concepts for the I-5 bridge influence area, rail, land use, finance, and environmental justice.

- Vancouver  
**Tuesday, May 7, 2002**  
4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Jim Parsley Center (Bagley Center)  
2901 Falk Road, Vancouver  
Accessible by C-Tran bus #4-Fourth Plain

- Portland  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2002**  
4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Kaiser Town Hall  
3704 N. Interstate Avenue, Portland  
Accessible by Tri-Met bus #5-Interstate

**June 10<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Portland):**  
Mark your calendars for the final open houses. Review the Revised Recommendations before they are finalized by the Task Force on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or translation services, call, toll free 1-866-STUDY I-5 or visit [www.I-5partnership.com](http://www.I-5partnership.com). TDD: 800-735-2900. Children are welcome.



Washington State  
Department of Transportation



## OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer

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## Jobs and Books; Not Wars and Bombs

Youth leaders at Sisters in Action for Power and American Friends Service Committee marched single file along the sidewalk of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in northeast Portland April 18 to oppose the "war on terrorism" and its devastating effects on local communities.

Last month, Portland Public Schools cut almost \$40 million, slashing their budget almost to the bone, negatively impacting students' ability to learn and jeopardizing the livelihood of custodians, teachers and their families.

"How come there is more and more money to spend on killing innocent people in other countries and less and less money for us to get updated books," said a youth leader at Sisters in Action.

At the same time, racial profiling and police brutality in the U.S. are out of control. Martin Gonzales at AFSC stated, "Bush's foreign policy and this so-called war on terrorism is an extension of the racist policies communities of color experience in the United States."



People of color unite in northeast Portland to speakout against the war

April 18<sup>th</sup> was designated the "National Day of Truth"—people of color against the war. Several actions took place in many cities across the nation to show that there are people of color who do not support this "war on terrorism."

The main goal was to expose the truth about how this war tar-

gets low income people, women, youth and communities of color and to encourage others to question the true motives behind Bush's war.

In conjunction with this National Day of Truth, Sisters in Action and AFSC hoped to publicly demonstrate their opposition as people of color to this horrific war.

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## RON HERNDON SPEAKS Leadership Impacts People's Lives

Ron Herndon Speaks is a Portland Observer series featuring community leader and activist Ron D. Herndon. The interviews and editing are done by correspondent Yugen Fardan Rashad.

**Yugen:** History rewards the researcher. Talk about history and leadership.

**Herndon:** When you look at leaders that have had a dramatic impact on people's lives, they all were voracious readers of history. Frederick Douglas and other great leaders synthesized information from numerous sources in order to provide leadership. If a leader fails to understand history, you shortchange those you want to influence. That's because you're coming to this with your very miniscule, personal experience, which is but a grain of sand in terms of the universe. A leader must utilize history.

**Yugen:** Sometimes it appears that much of what masquerades as leadership in Portland is based on show business. You're talking about a standard for leadership based on sensitivity to the needs of the community, and understanding what has worked in the past.

**Herndon:** As a leader, you must understand why you're in the game. If a leader is in the game for self-aggrandizement, that's unfortunate.

**Yugen:** So a genuine leader seeks to serve the community and not use this position for personal gain.

**Herndon:** Well, you certainly hope people are doing this work for the benefit of those who have not been able to exercise the privileges of citizenship in this country.

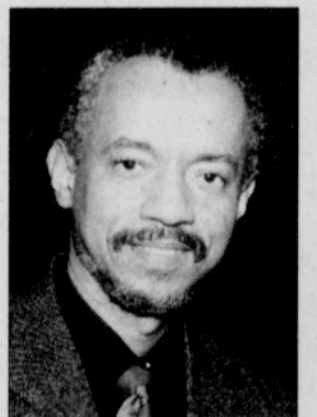
**Yugen:** We're talking about leader-

ship in Portland that offers more bone than marrow. And that impacts issues such as politics, economics, education, and

public health and public safety, which haven't been addressed with the kind of verve and sincerity needed for real change.

**Herndon:** It's not just Portland's black community; it's the entire country. We feel it more severely here because we're more dispossessed. We don't have enough of anything. So we're the ones least served and continue to be victims of poor leadership. Let us, for example, talk about the history of urban renewal in the black communities across this country. Where have we been able to successfully use urban renewal as a development tool? Where are the examples? When has it worked to our detriment and were we able to stop it? I don't hear those kinds of discussions. I just hear people saying 'this is what we're going to do'.

A doctor will perform an examination and run tests, before performing surgery. He will look at the patient's vital signs, health records, allergies to certain prescription medicines; and based upon all the information, will come up with a plan to address what he and the patient thinks may be wrong. This is the kind of homework that's required. And I believe this is why we frequently end up with decisions that have short-term impact, and close to being meaningless. It's a problem with American leadership, period.



Ron Herndon