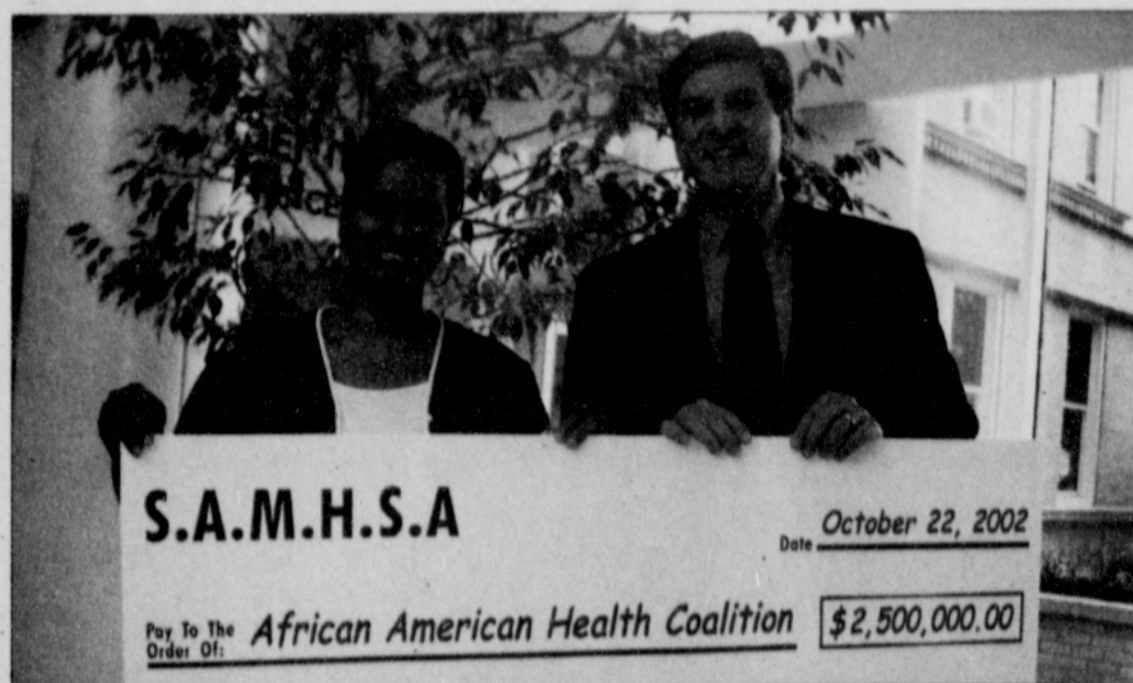


Grant Bolsters Health Coalition Efforts



U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. and Corliss McKeever of the African American Health Coalition gather at Emanuel Hospital in north Portland Tuesday to announce the receipt of a 5-year, \$2.5 million grant to expand drug addiction treatment and HIV/AIDS services for local African Americans.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

'Not Afraid to Talk, Test or Transform' to fight AIDS

As the number of AIDS cases overall has diminished in Oregon, the proportion of people of color newly diagnosed and living with AIDS has increased from 7 percent in 1991 to 17 percent in 1997. According to the Oregon Health Division, African Americans make up most of the AIDS cases among people of color.

In response, the African American Health Coalition of Portland

and its collaborative partners have developed the "Not Afraid to Talk, Test, or Transform" project to enhance existing addiction treatments to include HIV services targeting African Americans in north and northeast Portland.

Coalition leaders joined U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. in Portland Tuesday to announce the receipt of the group's 5-year, \$2.5 million federal grant to pay for the project.

The program will give local residents with AIDS and HIV greater access to medical care, and resource and referral information. Classes will provide education about the disease and tips on prevention.

The coalition expects to enroll 150 people in the first year, 250 more in the second year and 350 each year until it reaches an enrollment of 1,450.

Survivor Speaks on Traumatic Stress

A Post Traumatic Stress Disorder survivor and national victims' rights advocate will be in Portland next week as a guest of the YWCA to educate frontline professionals about recovery from extreme traumatic events.

Because of the terrorist attacks of Sept 11 1991, most Americans are now aware that PTSD can be caused by exposure to a bombing or terrorist attack, as well as through participation in military combat, the condition previously mostly associated with the disorder.



Kelly Greene

To help increase understanding and awareness of this debilitating, but treatable condition, the YWCA/Pfizer Moving Past

Trauma—PTSD Community Outreach Program will hold a professional training program for frontline professionals — fireman, police, rape crisis counselors, etc. on Friday, Oct. 25.

Kellie Greene, PTSD survivor, educator and national spokesperson for the Moving Past Trauma program, will help put a "personal face" to this misdiagnosed and under-diagnosed anxiety disorder.

Jan. 18, 1994 marks the day of tragedy that transformed her life.

DC Sniper Threatens Children

(AP)—Hours after a bus driver was killed in a shooting that appeared to be the work of the Washington-area sniper, police revealed Tuesday they had received a message over the weekend warning: "Your children are not safe anywhere at any time."

The chilling message apparently was discovered by police outside a Virginia steakhouse where the sniper critically wounded a man Saturday night.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said the warning came in the form of a "postscript."

He also said police "will be responding soon" to the latest message. He did not take any questions from the media.

On Monday, police asked the shooter to call them; saying investigators had received a message too muddled to be understood.

Early Tuesday, bus driver Conrad Johnson, 35, was fatally wounded as he prepared for his morning bus route in nearby Aspen Hill, the suburban Washington community where the shootings began Oct. 2.

In all, 12 people have been shot by the sniper in Maryland, Virginia



Police investigate a string of sniper shootings in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. (AP photo)

and Washington, D.C.; three were critically wounded, the others died.

Johnson, a father of two, was shot as he stood at the top of the steps of the bus shortly before 6 a.m. He died later at a hospital.

Moose, a former Portland police chief, has now used four briefings to communicate directly with the person believed to be the sniper.

A senior law enforcement official speaking to The Associated

Press on condition of anonymity said Tuesday a letter found near the scene of Saturday night's shooting suggested the killer wants several million dollars.

Two other law enforcement sources told the AP the letter also contained information that police interpreted to be a vague threat to children. One of the sources, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the letter was "lengthy."

FIRST FRIDAYS OF PORTLAND

First Fridays is a National Organization, Designed to Bring African American Professionals Together to Meet, Greet, Make Connections and Have Fun.

Are You New to the Portland Area? Want to Meet Positive People? Looking for Someone Special? Whatever the Need, There's a Chance You'll Find It!

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