

# Black History Month



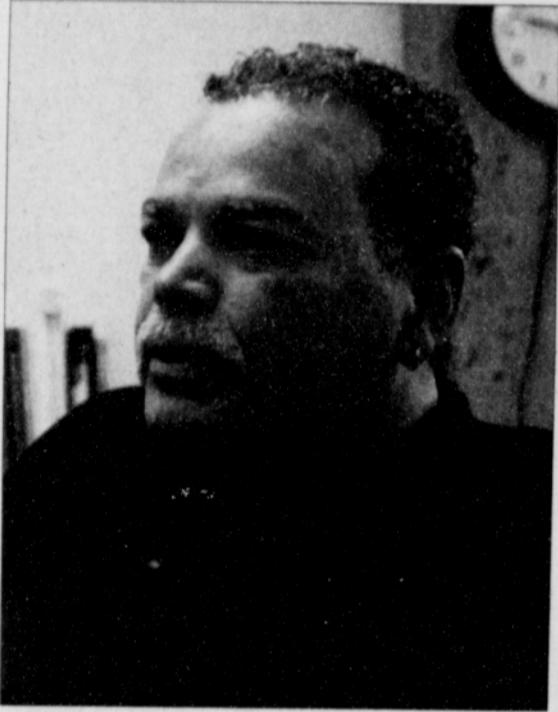
Patricia Roberts Harris, educated at Howard and George Washington Universities, built an illustrious civil service career.

## PCC Sponsors Talk on Buffalo Soldiers

Portland State University professor Darrell Millner, an authority in African American history, will present an informative lecture in celebration of Black History Month at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College.

Millner will talk about the African American Buffalo Soldiers from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25 in Terrell Hall 122 on the campus at 705 N. Killingsworth St. The event is open and free to the public. The slide lecture will give an introduction to the African-American movement in the military affairs of the U.S. beginning in the Colonial era and the roles they played in the Civil War era and ending slavery.

Millner will focus on the creation of the Buffalo Soldier units and



Darrell Millner

their relations with white settlers and the harsh realities of the frontier. PCC's Multi-cultural Awareness Council is sponsoring this event.

For more information, contact Penny Thompson, resource center coordinator at Cascade, at 503-978-5216.

# Powerful Puppets

continued from Front

the show on bullying.

"You're Not the Boss of Me!" seeks to teach kids the difference between being a 'tattle-tale' and reporting an issue in order to try to solve the problem. The script also explores the role and responsibility of the observer who sees an act of meanness and how they can empower the victim by confirming what was experienced.

"Children need to report and continue to report," Fouts said. "We help them find safe people in their universe. The program sends a great message about what small children can do to make the world a better place."

The presentation usually involved a high level of audience participation and the puppeteers said that after the children return to class there is usually a lot of disclosure. After a show last year Kids on the Block program manager Lynette Jelinek said 20 fifth grade girls at a Portland elementary school were suspended after a fellow classmate reported that they had been teasing her about obesity and stealing her things.

"It's a major problem and schools just aren't going to put up with it anymore," Jelinek said, who was a child abuse prevention specialist and a social worker for 17 years before joining up with Kids on the Block.

The presentation at El Monica may not result in a wave of suspensions, but it certainly hit home with some children.

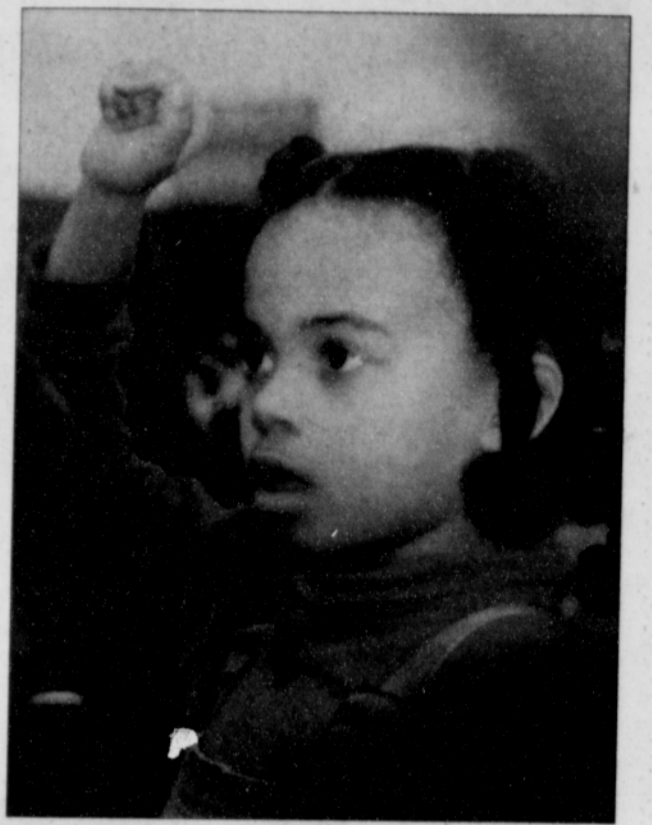
Olivia Pace, 6, said there is a boy who calls her names and when she asks him to stop he plugs his ears and sticks out his tongue.

Amy Buck, 7, is called 'crybaby' so much by a group of kids at her day care that she wants her mother to put her in a new after school program.

Before Wrik Sinha, 7, moved to Beaverton from India, he was subjected to kicking by a group of boys every day as he walked home from school.

Josh Bone-Christian, 6, was carried by his shirt neck down a flight of stairs and locked in an empty room by some older boys at his church.

El Monica Elementary School second grader Olivia Pace, 6, raises her hand to ask a Kids on the Block puppet a question after the presentation on school bullies. Pace is sometimes called names by a fellow classmate who covers his ears and sticks out his tongue when she asks him to stop.



PHOTOS BY WYNDE DYER/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Puppeteer Ramona Fouts and puppet Clare Sanchez performs "You're Not the Boss of Me!" for students at El Monica Elementary School in Beaverton last Thursday. The Kids on the Block Awareness program has been in high demand since a statewide mandate went into effect requiring all schools to teach their students school safety and how to deal with bullies.

It's disclosures like these that make Saxe and Fouts continue to volunteer their time for Kids on the Block Awareness Program, which in Portland has the largest volunteer base in the country and pro-

vides all of its puppet shows for free to schools.

"It's heartwarming," Saxe said. "And it's important to give back to the kids - they're the future"

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