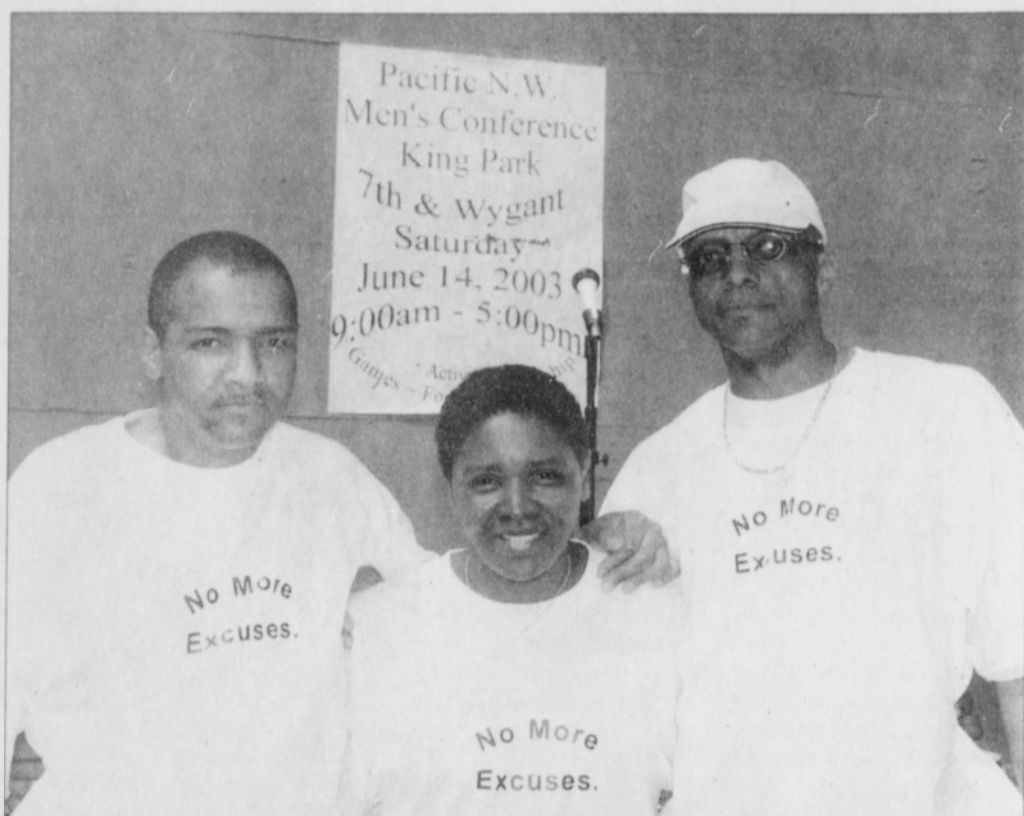


RELIGION



State Faith-Based Initiative Passes

(AP) — A bill that would create a deeper link between state agencies and faith-based or community groups is gaining ground in the Legislature, and Gov. Ted Kulongoski seems to be leaning toward signing it, his spokeswoman said.

The bill would set up a pilot project to determine whether caseworkers can better tap into religious or community groups that state aid recipients are affiliated with — without overstepping the constitutional separation of church and state or a client's privacy. The groups would be asked to supplement, not replace, state services.

Under the bill, caseworkers would be allowed to ask state aid recipients if they are affiliated with any community or religious groups, such as a church, mosque or synagogue. Caseworkers could ask whether clients are interested in seeking help from the group and want the state's help to make contact.

The proposal, which has cleared the Senate and a House committee, is a much narrower approach than President Bush's faith-based initiative. Bush is seeking ways to expand religious groups' ability to receive government money, which civil liberties groups have criticized as blurring the line between church and state.

Dedicated Families

Northeast Portland's Highland United Church of Christ hosted the Pacific Northwest Men's Conference with a family picnic last Saturday at King School Park. Larry Davis (from left), Tara Pressley and Kenneth Smith pledged "No More Excuses" as they enjoyed a barbeque with food donated by Safeway.


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Deacon Dies at 99

A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 17 in Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church for Clark Dean Jr., who died June 2 at age 99.

Mr. Dean was born Aug. 31, 1903, in Denison, Texas. He moved in the 1940s to Portland and was a sheet metal worker in the Kaiser Shipyards during World War II. He later was a customer service representative for Joe Fisher and Jim Fisher auto dealerships. He was a longtime member and deacon in the church. In 1957, he married Lillian E.; she died in 1986.

Survivors include his stepdaughters, Bernice Pollock, Jacqueline Brim and Marian Benton; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.



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