

Community Leaders Tackle Social Issues

Common concerns shared at Washington, D.C. summit

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hundreds of African-American leaders met in Washington, D.C. this summer to discuss today's hot topics: jobs and the economy, education, health care and civil rights.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., invited two community representatives, Roy Jay, president of the

African American Chamber of Commerce and Rev. W. G. Hardy Jr., pastor of Highland United Church of Christ, to the African American Leadership Summit.

The summit began with roundtable discussions with Congressional Democrats and African-American leaders, followed by a panel discussion on the economy moderated by former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman. The summit concluded with a town hall meeting with young, African-American leaders, discussing priorities for new policy.

Senate Democrats, Congressional Black Caucus members and

over 250 African American leaders from around the country attended the summit.

Hardy said he learned that it's often necessary to seek advice from outside the Northwest when addressing problems facing Oregonians such as culturally responsive programs, gang violence, parenting, education and civic leadership recruitment and grooming.

"We face certain challenges in the Pacific Northwest because the African-American community is limited in its resources that it's necessary to use out of our region to seek expertise from (locations such

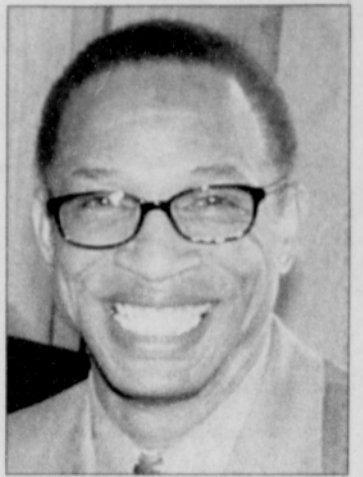
as) Boston, Chicago and Rhode Island, because they've already faced issues that we're facing, affectively addressed issues that we're currently struggling with," Hardy said.

He also distinguished between culturally responsive programs and diversity training.

"By letting the dominant culture define our issues, we spend lots of money on diversity training rather than putting those resources into solving our problems," he said. "I don't think we should fool ourselves into thinking diversity training is a cure-all because we can learn about different cultures but we still don't



Roy Jay



Rev. W.G. Hardy Jr.

know how to respond."

Hardy said he would like to see Oregon host a future African American Leadership Summit to show-

case Portland and also connect area residents to African-American professionals making a difference in their communities.



Democratic presidential hopeful the Rev. Al Sharpton (from left), marches in Atlanta Thursday with Evelyn Lowery, the Rev. Joseph Lowery, and Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. to a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. (AP photo)

King's Papers Appraised at \$30 Million

Civil rights hero saved every scrap of his writings

(AP) — Not only did he break down barriers of race, lead by example and inspire millions to believe in his dream, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. apparently also never threw away any scrap of paper.

Instead, he saved every book, notebook, sermon, letter, telegram, invitation, index card and church financial statement, filling the blank spaces and margins with his own thoughts — serious, committed, single-minded and utterly devoid of frivolity.

These impressions are readily drawn from a collection of King's papers that goes on public display last week at Sotheby's auction house in Manhattan ahead of a private sale later this month.

The 7,000 items include early college exam books, a draft of King's Nobel Prize lecture, the hand-corrected proof of a Playboy magazine interview, scribbled notes on the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, and papers found in King's briefcase after he was

gunned down at a Memphis, Tenn., motel nearly five years later.

If there is a centerpiece, it would be the draft of King's most famous public address, the "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963. But that key passage is not in the text, written the night before at Washington's Willard Hotel; it was added extemporaneously as King spoke to a huge throng at the Lincoln Memorial.

You can see how impassioned he was, impassioned by the cause.

— Elizabeth Muller, Sotheby Vice President

Appraised by Sotheby's at \$30 million, the collection will be offered for private sale after the showing ends Sept. 8. Sotheby's vice president David Redden said "a number" of institutions, which he declined to identify, have expressed interest.

He said the papers would be kept intact rather than sold off to individual buyers. "It must be kept together to be useful to scholars," he said.

Some of the material was previously housed at The King Center in Atlanta and is familiar to scholars. Other items have been in boxes at the home of his widow, Coretta Scott King.

The archive is replete with events and crises of the civil rights revolution led by King — sit-ins at the Magnolia tea room, the Montgomery bus boycott, the firebombing of a Birmingham church, the Selma march, the murder of civil rights workers in Mississippi.

In all of King's writings, "you can see how impassioned he was, impassioned by the cause," said Elizabeth Muller, a Sotheby's vice president who led a six-year inventory of the papers.

The handwritten draft of the 1964 Nobel Prize lecture, with its notations and inked-out revised passages, "is as if the hand just came off the paper; it is as close to the author as you can get," Muller said. "These words actually speak to us."

In one telegram from 1962, King urges Kennedy to nominate Thurgood Marshall and another black judge to the U.S. Supreme Court. In another, boxer Muhammad Ali expresses his hope that King in jail is "comfortable" and "not suffering any physical pain."

Black Dear Abby Comes to The Portland Observer

Tired of reading lame, watered down advice columns that don't embrace or apply to multicultural populations? Searching for an advice column not afraid to use black terminology, address African American issues and is dedicated to being fearless and keeping it real? Look no further because Ask Deanna! the minority advice column that celebrates and embraces the African American experience is coming to The Portland Observer Newspaper. Deanna is a syndicated columnist and former on-air personality from Los Angeles. She enjoys giving advice on every subject under the sun and you can write to her at Ask Deanna! PO Box 88847, Los Angeles, CA 90009 or by email at askdeanna1@yahoo.com.



Real People, Real Advice

Dear Deanna!

My four-Year Old Throws Embarrassing Temper Tantrums. I'm a 27 year old single parent with four children by three men. I'm not on welfare but I work two jobs because of my limited skills. I still struggle to make ends meet. How do I find the fathers and get them to help me? -- Struggling

Dear Struggling,

I commend your efforts to be independent.

You're a positive role model and a good example for your children. Get the government involved. The government can't find Osama Bin Laden, or Saddam Hussein, but they have a good track record of catching deadbeat dads. Contact your local child support enforcement agency to start the process. Don't feel guilty about getting your child support entitlements. Think of the phrase "Baby Need a New Pair of Shoes."

Dear Deanna!

I've been dating my boyfriend for 8 months. I love him because he's attractive and popular among other things. He hasn't said he loves me, but I tell him that I love him and he responds by telling me I am infatuated with him and my heart is lying to me. What does that mean? -- Hopeless in Love

Dear Hopeless,

Time to head back to Biology class. The heart has nothing to do with love. The primary function of the heart is to pump blood throughout the body. Love is mental and requires maturity, emotional balance and common sense. He's arrogant and full of himself to tell you that you are infatuated. Unless you have time to waste, get away from this man and his smoke screens and get on a train that's really going somewhere.

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