

Are you a woman of a "certain age?"

Are you an African American woman between 35 and 55 years old?

Help us evaluate a program about sex and relationships!

\$20 for your time

Fill out 2 surveys and try a new computer software program

For more information about this research study call:

1-866-730-3211



This research study is being conducted by the Oregon Center for Applied Science, Inc. with funding from the National Institutes of Health. There are no sales or mailing lists involved.

OPB OPB Gets Funky



My Music: Funky Soul Superstars

Get down at an old school soul party, uniting the best R&B soul and funk artists from the '70s and '80s. Patti LaBelle co-hosts with Isaac Hayes and actress Vivica A. Fox.

Saturday at 9:30pm



Channel 10 opb.org

The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
REPORTER: Katherine Kovach
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Portland Observer, PO Box 3137,
Portland, OR 97208
Periodical Postage paid in Portland, OR
Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year
503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com
classifieds@portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association, Serving Portland and Vancouver.

Board Votes for School Closures

Massive layoffs add to woes

Despite expected opposition from the community, the Portland School Board voted 6-0 Monday night to close Smith Elementary in southwest and Edwards Elementary in southeast Portland.

The board also voted to end Richmond Elementary in southeast Portland as a neighborhood program, but it will keep the Japanese immersion program intact.

School board member Derry

Jackson was not at the meeting, as he was sentenced to 30 days in jail for violating a restraining order against approaching his estranged wife.

The school board has plans to vote on the entire closure plan on March 28, which could shut down Applegate and Kenton Elementary and Whitaker and Tubman Middle Schools in north and northeast Portland, and merge seventh and eighth graders into Jefferson High School.

Declining enrollment and uncertain finances are what spurred the closures, and the

outlook is that these factors will continue to decline for 10 more years.

By the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Portland public schools could be facing a \$51 million budget deficit, which could grow to \$98 million when the Multnomah County income tax is eliminated in 2006.

School officials said this deficit would result in layoffs of 363 full-time teaching and staffing positions, as well as programs for English as a Second Language, alternative and special education. Some bus routes could also be cut.

Foxworth Proposes Safer Policy

Responds to concerns over police shootings

Portland Police may have to start thinking twice when a vehicle is headed toward them. Under a new policy proposed by Chief Derrick Foxworth, there would be more of a restriction on officers from firing at moving vehicles.

After several concerns voiced by the community and studies of police shootings, Foxworth found that the current policy is ineffective.

The fatal shooting in May 2003 of Kendra James, an unarmed 21-year-old woman who tried to drive away during a police traffic stop, brought outrage from Portlanders concerning this policy.

Dr. Rev. Leroy Haynes,



Police Chief Derrick Foxworth chairman of the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Coalition for Justice agrees with the new proposal. He said it was one of the original recommendations that

came from the Kendra James case.

The new policy states that officers can not presume a moving vehicle is a weapon warranting a use of deadly force. A moving vehicle with an incapacitated driver could become an uncontrolled dangerous weapon, but gunshots could endanger passengers in the car who are not committing a crime.

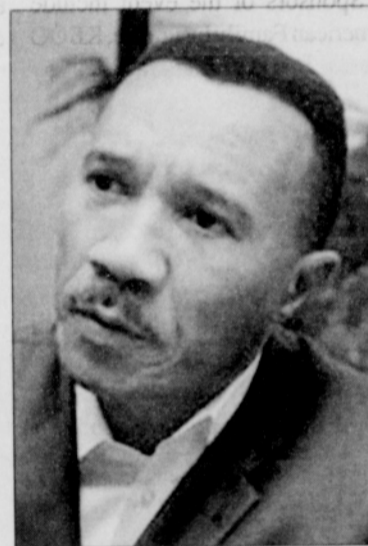
Rather than fire a gun, officers would have to find other ways to avert a vehicle. This does not completely prohibit use of a gun, however, if the officer has no other option. One example would be being trapped in a narrow, dead-end alley with a car headed toward them.

NAACP Leader Runs for Senate

(AP) Former NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said Monday that he will run for the U.S. Senate in 2006.

It is with great pride and deep humility that I announce to you today my candidacy for the Senate of the United States," Mfume said.

Mfume, who was a five-term U.S. congressman before becoming president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, issued the statement after incumbent Paul Sarbanes, 72, announced Friday



Kweisi Mfume

that he will not run for reelection.

Mfume, 56, left the House in 1996.

Mfume, whose adopted West African name translates to "conquering son of kings," began his career as a dashiki-clad radio talk show host and political activist in the 1970s.

He also has been mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for governor of Maryland.

Maryland traditionally votes Democratic, and went for John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

Poor Health Tied to Death Rates

(AP) — Middle-age black men are dying at nearly twice the rate of white men of a similar age, reflecting lower incomes and poorer access to health care, according to a study by former Surgeon General David Satcher.

While overall longevity for both black and whites has improved over the past 40 years, the gap between the races has narrowed little, Satcher said.

The elimination of this racial gap would prevent an estimated 83,570 early deaths

annually, he said.

Some 10,472 of those deaths occurred among black men who were 45 to 54 in 2000, according to research based on a death rate of 1,060 per 100,000 black men in that age group compared with a rate of 503 for white men.

In 1960 the rates were 1,625 for black men and 932 for white men in that age group.

One reason for the differences is that gains in health care access generally have not in-

cluded black men unless they were older or disabled, Satcher said. For example, when Medicare became law, the average black man did not live long enough to become eligible, he said.

Other factors include the relatively low incomes of black men compared with whites, a rise in gun-related deaths among blacks, their disproportionately high death rate from AIDS, and higher rates of heart disease and diabetes, Satcher said.

Subscribe! 503-288-0033

Fill Out, Clip Out & Send To:

The Portland Observer
Attn: Subscriptions
PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

subscriptions are just \$60 per year
(please include check with this subscription form)

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

or email subscriptions@portlandobserver.com