

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  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt  
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder  
REPORTER: Sarah Blount

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

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Portland Observer,  
PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015  
news@portlandobserver.com  
subscriptions@portlandobserver.com  
ads@portlandobserver.com

# OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer

## Failure on Minority Contracts

Oregon's Ron Wyden can help

The following is an open letter to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.:

Dear Sen. Wyden:

Thank you for hosting the February 2006 meeting at Emanuel hospital with segments of the African American community. As you know, I was quite vocal about the chronic, long



**African Americans continue to receive fewer contract opportunities than any other group.**

—James L. Posey, Coalition of Black Men

standing lack of participation of African Americans firms and workers on federally funded projects.

As we discussed in the meeting, the situation over the last decade or so has gotten worse instead of better. In fact, according to the most recent data, African Americans continue to receive fewer

contract opportunities than any other group. As the ranking member of the Oregon congressional delegation and one who has personal

comes; and if necessary, recommend appropriate sanctions.

Because of several large federal projects scheduled to

regional memorandum that would include best practices of programs or program elements known to have successfully include African Americans in essential phases of federal projects.

You must personally set the agenda, coordinate the participation, clarify the expectation, and produce a document confirming a collective commitment to achieving substantial results over a reasonable period.

Your direct leadership, personal involvement, and assurance that this issue gets attention is our best guarantee that genuine progress will be made.

James L. Posey, Chairman, Economic Development Committee for the Coalition of Black Men

start in the next few months, we recommend that you immediately convene a meeting with Fred Hanson at TriMet, Matthew Garrett of Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Bill Wyatt at the Port of Portland, and Portland Mayor Tom Potter, to discuss participation in an alliance that would devise a proposal involving a potential

## Racial Disparity in Court System

Equal justice must mean something

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

Racial disparity in the court system has been a problem for many years. From arrest to trial to sentencing, many African-Americans are all too aware of the legal system's injustices. Others, however, have failed to acknowledge them.

Now, there is solid proof that racial biases can affect a key component of the justice process: the jury. Recent research shows that all-white juries can be and often are biased when deciding the fate of a black defendant. Perhaps this 'new' evidence can pave the way to change, ensuring juries are diverse and fair.

The study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology reveals that diverse juries, especially those that have both black and white jurors are more likely to hand down a fair verdict.

Fifty percent of the study's participants on the all-white mock juries thought a defendant was guilty — even before deliberations. On the diverse jury, only 34-percent of whites had made up their minds before re-

viewing the case. The experts believe that whites are more likely to review the case more thoroughly when there are minorities on the jury, compelling them to hide any racial biases they may have. In other words, white folks will 'act right' when they're around black (or Latino) folks.



**Recent research shows that all-white juries can be and often are biased when deciding the fate of a black defendant.**

black defendant. In short, the prosecution stacks the jury in their favor. The defendant has no chance of a fair trial.

The U.S. Supreme Court has voted down the practice of disqualifying jurors based on race and has more than once cited the need for jury diversity. The court, however, hasn't made clear just how 'diverse' a jury should be and hasn't offered any advice on

how diversity can be obtained. It is still up to the defense attorney to prove based on a community's demographics that whites are over represented on a particular jury. The defense must also prove

that a jury pool's lack of diversity is a result of the prosecution's deliberate efforts. This is time consuming and more often than not difficult to prove.

Federal guidelines need to be set, guaranteeing that a defendant of color, living in a diverse area, will have a jury that is representative of that community.

The court has taken the first step; now the federal government must follow suit, by passing legislation that ensures the term "equal justice" actually means something.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

### Oregon Shakespeare Festival

### ASHLAND

#### ORGANIZED BUS TOURS June 9-11

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare  
Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage  
Bus Stop by William Inge (\$345/person double occupancy)

Sept. 2-3  
The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare  
The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare (\$275/person double occupancy)

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1  
Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand  
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde  
Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage (\$345/person double occupancy)



The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus (2005). Ensemble Intimate Apparel (2006). Gwendolyn Mulamba, Tiffany Adams. Photos: David Cooper and T. Charles Erickson.

Relax and Enjoy!  
Round-trip coach trip; dinner with OSF actors; indoor and outdoor performances; lodging in downtown hotels; shopping and much more!

BOOK NOW!  
(541) 482-2111, ext. 240  
amyr@osfashland.org

**A 2006 AINSWORTH IN THE CITY**

Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
2941 NE Ainsworth St.  
Portland, OR 97211  
(503) 284-8767

A three-day celebration hosted by the congregation of Ainsworth United Church of Christ (AUCC), whose activities include social response and action in the greater Portland area, support for community issues, and promotion of interfaith understanding. Proceeds will support the mission and ministry of AUCC, as well as our community partner for 2006, Elders in Action. AUCC is also offering a special raffle for a three-night stay for two at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Friday, June 2 — Silent Auction, Hors D'Oeuvres and Dancing**  
When the sun goes down in Stump Town, we will gather at McMenamin's Edgefield, 2126 S.W. Halsey in Troutdale. From 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., we will enjoy a plethora of hors d'oeuvres, have great fun with our silent auction, Live music —featuring Janice Scroggins!—dancing. There will be something for everyone's taste. Tickets are available now: \$35 per person (\$10.50 of which is tax-deductible donation). Call the church as soon as possible at (503) 284-8767.

**Saturday, June 3 — Family Festival**  
Saturday marks the Fourth Annual Family Festival, featuring food, beverages, an inflatable "Bounce House," a clown, face painting, a Portland Fire Truck; and a jewelry, plant and book sale. Festivities run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. right next to the church on a closed N.E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Sunday, June 4 — Celebration Worship Service and Birthday Party**  
When you are as welcoming as AUCC, the worship service offers inspiration, jubilation and the Word of God brought to you by people of profound faith, witness and service. This morning, Ainsworth's Pastor Lynne Smouse Lopez's sermon topic will be "Rejoicing in the Gift of God's Spirit." Rooted in AUCC's traditional Four Seasons Birthday Celebration, the after-church activity will honor and celebrate everybody's birthday with scrumptious food, cakes, punch and beverages. The drawing for the Las Vegas trip will be done at the Four Seasons Birthday Celebration. The winner of the drawing will receive a three night stay at the Bellagio Hotel for two adults air fare included.

A Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural, Open and Affirming Church

### Letters to the Editor:

The horrific stabbing of north Portland resident Claudia Rhone by her ex-boyfriend, despite a restraining order, jail time for harassment and multiple calls to police on the day of her death, is a tragic example of the severity of domestic violence in our community.

By no means was this murder an isolated incident, but it does point to the inadequacies of police response, protection and the

inability of the judicial system to work for victims and survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Local domestic violence and sexual assault organizations have filled a crucial gap in services and education, but core services to survivors could be drastically reduced with the adoption of Diane Linn's proposed Multnomah County 2006-2007 budget.

Portland Women's Crisis Line is facing a cut of \$82,000 in the proposed budget. This translates to 43 percent of the crisis line budget, disrupting services and making our future unsure.

Last year, the crisis line responded to 35,668 callers and provided in-person support to 150 survivors of rape and sexual assault. PWCL provides 24-hour resources and support to any individual, friend, or family member who has been affected by domestic or sexual violence. We have been an active participant in this struggle for more than 30 years and continue to be the only 24-hour crisis line of its kind serving Multnomah County. Proposed cuts will profoundly affect services including the 24-hour crisis line, crisis

counseling, safety planning, resource and referral, advocacy, legal help, shelter bed space, motel vouchers, cab vouchers, education and prevention services.

Who will answer calls from survivors of domestic and sexual violence if we are forced to cut services in response to the proposed budget? Who will work to fill the gap between survivor support and the current state of the judicial system?

The Women's Crisis Line faces a grim reality, as does the survivors of this community. This is an issue that deserves immediate attention.

Colleen McDonald  
Portland Women's Crisis Line Marketing and Outreach Committee

**Subscribe!** 503-288-0033  
Fill 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

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Need to publish a court document or notice? Need an affidavit of publication quickly and efficiently? Please fax or e-mail your notice for a free price quote!

Fax: 503-288-0015  
e-mail: [classified@portlandobserver.com](mailto:classified@portlandobserver.com)  
The Portland Observer