

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
subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com

OPINION

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

Mideast Ceasefire Would Promote Peace

Aggression breeds more aggression

As violence continues to escalate in Lebanon and Israel, national and international church bodies have lifted up their voices in a unified call for restraint of violence, for ceasefire and for the use of a diplomatic process. The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors endorsed the following statement of the National Council of

Churches USA and Church World Service on the current violence in the Middle East:

We hear Jesus' lament in the cries of the Israelis, Palestinians, and Lebanese, the Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others whose lives are threatened by this unending violence. Where can this cycle of vengeance, retribution and violence lead?

When will all Israeli leaders see that aggression only breeds more aggression, and that security cannot be achieved through the oppression and humiliation of others?

When will all Palestinian leaders understand that calls for justice demand the doing of justice, and that suffering in justice does not confer moral license to re-

spond with violence?

When will the United States see that being an honest, effective broker for peace requires fairness in our dealings with both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and now the Lebanese, and that doing nothing to end the violence costs us dearly in spirit, blood, treasure, and moral integrity?

We call upon our own government and all governments, recognizing the success of former peace initiatives, to encourage aggrieved parties to engage in earnest negotiation, and through the United Nations to work with all concerned parties to address immediate humanitarian needs and to resolve the long-term issues underlying the contin-

ued violence;

We call upon all parties in the Middle East to end the current hostilities, to develop non-violent strategies for engagement, and to work toward a just and sustainable settlement of the issues that plague the region;

We call upon the religious communities of the region to pray, teach and lead their people in the ways of peace, and upon religious communities throughout the world to walk with them in solidarity until peace is achieved; and call upon its member communions to pray for all those who have suffered and died as a result of this violence, and their families and communities, and to engage in humanitarian and advocacy actions for peace.

"LIFE'S MOST URGENT QUESTION IS: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?"

Martin Luther King Junior



BECOME A PORTLAND FIREFIGHTER

Exam Date, November 1st, 2006

Accepting Applications Beginning of October

Call our 24-hour job hotline at (503) 823-1343

OR

Call our Recruitment Officer, AJ Jackson at (503) 823-3811

OR

Visit our website at www.portlandonline.com/fire



WE RESPOND
Always Ready
Always There

Voting Act's Powerful Message:

Fair and free elections

BY CHARLES STEELE JR.

The signing of the renewal of the Voting Rights Act sends a powerful message that outright disenfranchising of minority voters will not be tolerated in our country.

It would have been a terrible stain on our democracy if the Congress had not passed this legislation, or if the president had not signed it.

The legislation first enacted during the civil rights movement in 1965 outlaws poll taxes, literacy tests and other deplorable tactics that can be used to prevent African Americans from voting. The law also requires that states with a history of past violations of voting rights - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia - receive Justice Department approval for changes in their procedures.

The lengthy debate in Congress over provisions of the law, as well

as modern attempts to discourage voting, are strong indications that the protections are still needed, and that there remains an element in our society that does not want full participation in elections.

We had a situation where 181 Republicans supported an amendment that would have restricted, and possibly made it impossible for citizens who do not speak English as their first

impacted black voters. In fact, the state passed, and the department approved, a law requiring photo identification before voting in the state, but implementation has been blocked by the courts.

We are not naïve. We know that disenfranchising of voters is still taking place. What happened in Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004 is still fresh in our minds.



'We are not naïve. We know that disenfranchising of voters is still taking place.'

language to get ballots. That demonstrates there are people wanting to play partisan politics with something so fundamental to our democracy as the right to vote.

Since the Voting Rights Act was first enacted the Justice Department has identified 200 incidents in Georgia alone of officials attempting to enact voting practices that would have negatively

But at least with the renewal of the Voting Rights Act, we can again say it is the official stance of this nation that our elections are supposed to be fair and free of obstacles that can prevent people from executing their constitutional right to vote.

Charles Steele Jr. is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Serious Public Health Hazard

Everyone deserves protection from secondhand smoke

BY DR. SUSAN ALLAN

No one should be required to breathe unhealthy air as a condition of employment. Yet for the 35,000 Oregonians who work in places where indoor smoking is al-

lowed, inhaling toxic fumes is an unavoidable part of the job.

U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona has released a comprehensive new report that definitively concludes that secondhand smoke is a killer and must be addressed as a serious hazard to public health.

Studies have shown that simply breathing secondhand smoke for as little as 30 minutes can cause blood vessels to constrict and raise the risk of heart attack or stroke. Secondhand smoke is responsible for lung cancer in non-smokers, for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and for respiratory illness and asthma in children.

It is now clear that even minimal exposure to secondhand smoke should be avoided. Most of us have a choice about that exposure. But what about those who work six, eight or even 10-hour shifts in bars and restaurants where smoking is allowed?

Here in Oregon we are working on many fronts to keep Oregonians healthy. But when it comes to secondhand smoke, we are not succeeding. Secondhand smoke kills an estimated 800 Oregon non-smokers every year. There is a solution. Oregonians can decide to protect their friends and families from this hazardous exposure.

We can demand that all workplaces become smokefree. By simply requiring that people step outside to have their cigarettes, we can protect the health of 35,000 working Oregonians. Such a simple ac-

tion on behalf of public health, such a little change that can improve the health of so many.

Many communities across the country have gone "smokefree" in all worksites. Their businesses have found that the change costs them nothing and can even improve their bottom line in a number of ways, such as smaller insurance premiums due to a lower risk of fires and injuries, reduced cleaning and maintenance costs and healthier employees and higher productivity.

There are also benefits for employees who smoke. Experience shows that when a workplace goes smokefree, employees who smoke often decide to quit, improving their health and that of their families. This helps reduce future smoking rates as well -- when children and teens are exposed to less smoking, they are less likely to become smokers themselves.

Currently more than 80 percent of adult Oregonians do not smoke. It is past time to take the next step to reduce exposure to tobacco smoke for Oregonians. Let's work together to require that all workplaces become 100 percent smokefree. After all, shouldn't everyone be able to breathe clean air while they are on the job?

Susan Allan, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., leads Oregon's public health system and oversees public health programs in the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division.

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Pharmacy AT ARBOR LODGE

New pharmacy customers! Transfer a prescription & get a \$10 gift card. (one gift per customer please)



Yes! We are a regular pharmacy!

- ✓ We fill prescriptions - including antibiotics, high blood pressure medications, anti-depressants, birth control, and more.
- ✓ We have knowledgeable, friendly pharmacists who have the time to share information.
- ✓ Our prices are competitive. We accept most insurance plans and are adding others as requested.
- ✓ We specialize in custom compounding.

Meet your Pharmacist, Melinda Butler.

YOUR LOCALLY OWNED, NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY AT ARBOR LODGE
N INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BLVD • 503.467.4848
www.newseasonsmarket.com • MON-FRI 9am-7pm • SAT 9am-6pm • SUN 10am-4pm