

Salem to Host NAACP Events; Saturday March

Court appeal supported

The NAACP will host two Salem events this weekend, including a Civil Rights march on Saturday, Sept. 30 from noon to 3 p.m., beginning at Riverfront Park and ending at the State Capitol; and a NAACP Alaska/Oregon/Washington chapters State Conference Convention, from Friday, Sept. 29 to Sunday,

Oct. 1. The theme of the march is "Justice in Oregon," with particular support for Darrell Sky Walker, a 24-year-old African American community college student from Eugene who many believe was wrongly convicted of manslaughter.

In April, Walker was sentenced to more than six years in prison for recklessly killing 22-year-old Phillip Gillins in a drunken confrontation outside a Eugene bar in June 2005.

Walker maintains that another man, J.D. Beall, threw the punch that knocked Gillins unconscious. Gillins' head hit the pavement when he fell, and he died from brain injuries two days later. Two eyewitnesses, who were drunk at the time, said they saw Walker hit Gillins, but at least six other witnesses say that Beall bragged about dealing the knockout blow.

During the trial, police were unable to locate Ryan Joyce, a wit-



Darrell Sky Walker

ness who could have cleared Walker and Beal pleaded the Fifth Amendment

After his conviction, Walker's case garnered the attention of the Salem-Kaiser NAACP and others who believe Walker was a victim of racism in a system that failed to turn up a key witness.

The civil rights group located Joyce within four hours, whereas Eugene police had no leads after searching more than a year.

Currently, Walker's attorney has filed with the Oregon Court of Appeals and awaits that process.

NAACP representative Sterling Alexander said representatives and other minorities fighting for justice in other Oregon cases are welcome.

The Salem/Keizer NAACP is looking for volunteers to help in the march.

Anyone interested should contact Sheryl Dash or Alexander for more information. E-mail them at email legalredress@yahoo.com or call 503-364-0558 or 503-566-8876.



Portland business leader Roy Jay conducts a court room orientation for people attending Project Clean Slate, the effort he organized with staff from the district attorney's office, Department of Motor Vehicles and Child Support Enforcement for people looking to clean up their past troubles with the law and gain meaningful employment.

Farrakhan Says He's Seriously Ill

Asks others to carry movement

(AP) -- Minister Louis Farrakhan said in a letter to followers this month that he is seriously ill, and he asked the Nation of Islam's leaders to carry on in his absence to make sure the movement "will live long after I and we have gone."

Farrakhan, 73, said he began suffering pain earlier this year similar to 1998, when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent surgery. He said doctors discovered an ulcer in the area during a visit to Cuba in March.

Since then, he has lost 35 pounds while battling "serious infection and inflammation," Farrakhan said in a letter dated Sept. 11 and

published in the Nation of Islam's The Final Call newspaper.

Farrakhan said he will work hard to recover "because I do not believe my earthly work is done." He said he asked his executive board to solve problems during his recovery.

Farrakhan likened his situation to that of Fidel Castro, who temporarily relinquished power because of illness.

While many rejoiced — believing and thinking that if Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution expired they could move Cuba and the Revolution in a new direction — his absence from the helm only proved that Cuba will not fall apart over the absence or passing of their illustrious leader," Farrakhan wrote in the letter.

He also warned followers to be "ever watchful for any smart, crooked deceiver and hypocrite who would create confusion over my present condition."



Louis Farrakhan

Advice from a Pro: Market Yourself First

continued from Front

like the Service Corps for Retired Executives (SCORE), for example, which offers expert business counseling by retired executives. Jay encourages the use of technology to get your products on the Internet.

He said promoting a diverse customer base in a global market is important because no large company is going to work with you if you don't offer services

to every type of person. Having talent is only one aspect to starting a business. The best companies know how to keep an open mind and service a wide range of people.

Other pointers include the hiring of employees that become assets to your company not liabilities. Start-up entrepreneurs should be ready to accept failures and rejection along the way.

Jay's ultimate secret to running a company is his ability to

juggle. "Being your own businessman is not a 9-5 job," Jay says. "You have to be available at all hours and dedicate a large amount of time to your business."

Even for Jay, every day is a continuous struggle in an effort to keep up with changing technologies, growing and failing companies, and even making time to parent his new champion Cocker Spaniel

Parent Summit on Achievement Saturday

Diverse parents, families, and community members interested in supporting academic achievement for school-age children are invited to participate in a no-cost, one day Parent Summit on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Highland Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the event runs from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Equity Center at Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL), the event offers interactive workshops, print and community resources, and opportunities to share information and exchange ideas on what parents and families can do to promote and enhance achievement for all students. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. All are

asked to RSVP their attendance at 503-275-9603.

The featured presenter will be Dr. Reginald Clark from California State University, a national parent involvement expert, educational researcher, and author of "Family Life and School Achievement: Why Poor Black Children Succeed or Fail."

He will be joined by many dynamic speakers and presenters.

Local Business Leader Excels

continued from Front

of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) in 1987, a collaboration of 850 companies doing business with 57 countries.

In July 2007, Brooks will become the first African American chair of the Portland Business Alliance.



Sam Brooks



Life comes with standard safety features. They're all around you.

Gambling can have its own safety features

When you gamble, Set a budget. Set a time limit. Play safe.

Jefferson Film Festival Returns

Jefferson High School again promises to have a thought-provoking and controversial line-up of films for their Annual Multicultural Film Festival, which premieres its 6th season on Monday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. with the documentary "The Corporation."

Provoking, witty and informative, the film discloses case stud-

ies, anecdotes and true confessions that reveal behind-the-scenes tensions and influences in several corporate and anti-corporate dramas. Footage from pop culture, advertising, TV news, and corporate propaganda, illuminates the corporation's grip on our lives.

Admission is free.

in diversity Print



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