



Labor union retiree Willie Marion stands outside his northeast Portland home. He was recently inducted into the Northwest Oregon Labor Hall of Fame after 22 years of running a local union.

Labor Leader Makes History

Willie Marion inducted into local hall of fame

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It was an uncommon honor for African Americans last month when Willie Marion was inducted into the Oregon Labor Union Hall of Fame. Marion says he is the first black man of Oregon and southwest Washington to receive such an honor.

Gene Klare of the Northwest Labor Press said union members are chosen because of their service within local labor unions and the labor movement in general. In Marion's case, he became a leader at a time when African Americans were not prevalent in head positions.

Marion was born Feb. 22, 1936 in Tupelo, Miss., and throughout high school worked on the railroad and part-time for both a doctor and his dad who was a plumber. He joined the

army in 1956 and 10 years later moved to Portland, where he became employed at the Oregon Steel Foundry, a now defunct organization located in the northwest industrial district.

Marion worked at several other foundries over the years and was eventually elected to the executive board of the Glass, Molders, Pottery Plastics and Allied Workers International union, became shop steward, served on the negotiation committee and acted as a delegate to conventions.

As a long-time member of the GMP, Marion said it was a friend and fellow union member who in 1977 encouraged him to apply for the position of business representative and financial secretary treasurer at the predominantly-white labor union.

"It took me a year to decide, because there weren't any black-held positions and at the time I didn't think I'd do well," Marion said.

But he ended up staying in that position for 22 and a half years, where he was responsible for taking care of grievances, negotiating contracts and

attending countless conventions and educational meetings.

Marion said that throughout his career he learned a lot about diversity in the workplace, having worked with Latino, German and fellow African American union members.

"I learned how different people react, especially when you are dealing with grievances," he said.

But even among such diversity, Marion said union members never looked at him as being black when he represented them.

Throughout his career running the GMP office, Marion was also active in the Metal Trade Council and Northwest Labor Council and was president of Region One International Molder Union Council.

He retired from GMP Local 139 in December 2000, after serving the union for nearly a quarter century. He and his wife Corrine have six children, sixteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The couple lives in Portland, where he enjoys fishing and is a baseball umpire and basketball referee.

Overdose Deaths Examined

Meth ties with heroin as biggest killer

(AP) — Heroin and methamphetamine were each tied to the deaths of 89 people in Oregon last year, making them the state's deadliest illegal drugs, according to new report by the state medical examiner.

The results represent a sharp diversion from numbers posted a decade ago. Back in 1996, there were 157 heroin-related deaths and only 33 meth-related deaths.

The increase in meth-related deaths probably indicates an increase in the drug's prevalence, said state medical examiner Dr. Karen Gunson.

Deaths were reported as drug-related if a medical examiner determined that meth, heroin or cocaine caused or contributed to a person's

death based on blood levels.

Cocaine contributed to 64 of the 212 drug-related deaths in Oregon. Deaths involving more than one drug were counted in each category, so the combined meth, heroin and cocaine totals exceed 212.

Gunson said meth-related deaths tend to be caused by trauma, from accidents and irrational behavior related to the drug's effects, she said.

"They end up doing things that they normally wouldn't do," she said, such as jumping off a building.

Heroin-related deaths, meanwhile, tend to be caused by overdoses.

Gunson said the number of Oregon deaths related to overdoses on over-the-counter and prescription drugs, such as methadone, likely outnumber those deaths related to illegal drugs.

Fire Safer Cigarettes Coming

Oregon lawmakers have approved a bill which requires only fire-safe cigarettes to be sold in Oregon.

"We are very near the end of a long journey," said Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson. "Members of the Senate and the House of Representative have agreed the time is now for Oregon to have fire-safer cigarettes. Passing this legislation is vital to saving the lives and property of Oregonians from cigarette-caused fires."

Senators Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene and Avel Gordly, I-Portland, carried the bill to the Senate after a 'do pass' recommendation from the Senate Commerce Committee. The bill now goes to Gov. Kulongoski where it is expected to be signed.

After the bill becomes law, Oregon will join California, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Utah, Vermont and Canada in requiring the sale of only fire-safer cigarettes.

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



Are you the mother of a child with ADHD?

OHSU is currently enrolling families in **PACT**, a research study geared toward learning the best ways to support families who are living with ADHD.

Who is eligible to participate?

- Families with at least one child (age 4-21) with a diagnosis of ADHD
- Families who live in the Portland metropolitan area

If you are eligible, you will be randomly assigned to one of two groups:

1. **A home-based approach** where a nurse visits your home at regular intervals to provide services and support that are unique to you and your family.
2. **An information-based approach** where families will be provided with literature about ADHD.

There is no cost for participating in the study. Mothers will receive a \$50 gift card every six months for 18 months for participating in the study, no matter to which group they are assigned. Additional family members will receive \$10 gift cards each time they complete a short survey.

For more information, please call 503 418-3603 or email pact@ohsu.edu



OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

©IRB# 2071

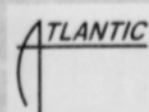
MUSIC MILLENNIUM



Paul Wall's latest album, *Get Money Stay True* has a new sound and polished lyrics this time around. The first single, "Break Em Off," features Lil' Keke and other guests on the album include Snoop Dogg, Rick Ross and Juelz Santana. *Get Money Stay True* also includes the Jermaine Dupri-produced "I'm Throed."

\$13⁹⁹

OFFER GOOD THRU 4/28/07



MUSIC MILLENNIUM

3158 E. Burnside, Portland
503.231.8943