

METRO

The Portland Observer



Local Musicians Raise Voices

Art Alexakis and other local musicians to kickoff a 'Voices for Silent Disasters' concert series to help world humanity

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Help the Hungry

The Oregon Food Bank desperately needs your donations of non-perishable foods and or funds. To find out how you can help, call 503-282-0555.

Friends of the Library Sale

Beginning Friday, Oct. 5 through Sunday Oct. 8, this fundraiser event, at 3016 S.E. Division, is to support the public-library system. Volunteers are also needed; for more information call 503-224-9176 or visit foladmain@europa.com.

Carousel Horses on Display

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 6 through Jan. 31, the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum will present a magnificent display of antique hand-carved wooden animals; for more information, call 503-288-1367 or visit worldforestry.org.

Free Brown-Bag Lectures

Portland Community College will kick off the lunch and learn lecture series, at 4040 N.E. Tillamook St., beginning Monday, Oct. 8, with "Feng Shui Made Easy" featuring guest speaker Kristin Havnaer. A different topic and guest speaker will be featured each Monday throughout October, at noon for the lunch hour. For more information, call 503-614-7308.

Weatherization Workshops

Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Community Energy Project will host free educational workshops to self-weatherize your home, at St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central St.; qualifying participants will receive a free weatherizing kit. Free weatherization is available for seniors. Call 503-284-6827 to register.

Literacy Volunteers Needed

The Volunteer Literacy Program at Portland Community College-Cascade needs volunteer tutors to provide free individualized instruction in basic literacy, English-language and math skills. Contact: 503-244-3898 or visit oregonliteracy.org.

Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), Multnomah County libraries will celebrate the culture and traditions of Spanish-speaking nations with bilingual programs and special events. Visit multcolib.org/events/hispanic for a complete listing of events.

Help Loaves & Fishes

The Two Rivers Loaves & Fishes Center, 9009 N. Foss St., needs volunteer drivers for meals-on-wheels to ensure that homebound seniors in St. Johns receive nutritional meals and a bit of companionship. Call 503-988-4088 to help.

Craftsman Workshops

The Northwest Woodworking Studio is registering participants for fall workshops, classes and lectures. Explore wood craftsmanship and learn the art by visiting northwestwoodworking.com or by calling 503-284-1644.

Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

Fall Swimming Lessons

The Portland Parks will be offering fall swimming lessons for all ages, at various pools throughout the Portland metro area. For rates, registration and information, contact 503-823-5130.

African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000 for more information.

Tax Help in Rockwood

VITA tax aide for low-income families will begin to assist clients at the Rockwood Community office, 18709 S.E. Stark. Clients are seen by appointment only. Appointments will be made on Wednesdays only from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., by calling 503-816-1530.

Citizens Left Hoping for More

After mayor visits grassroots coalition

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community members hoped for more when Mayor Tom Potter fulfilled his promise to visit the Black Citizens Coalition.

Even in the midst of firing John Canda, a respected gang-prevention coordinator, and ending controversial drug-free zones, Potter stuck to the safe topics of schools and housing.

By largely avoiding a public-safety discussion, he also sidestepped issues related to the Portland Police, the only one of the city's departments for which he is solely responsible.

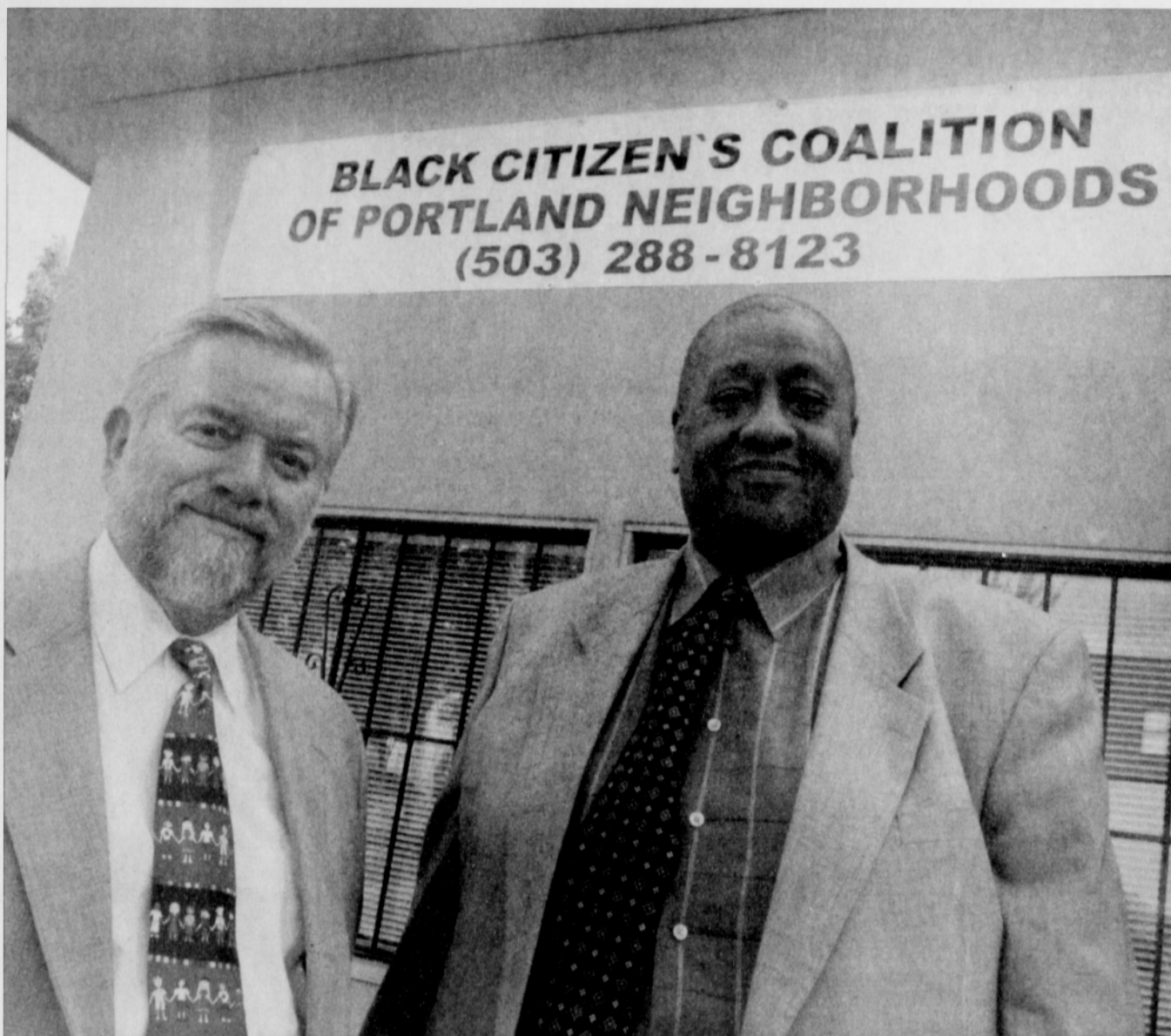
More than two-dozen citizens packed into the coalition's small office on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard expecting to hear about the mayor's future plans for community policing. Potter forced Canda to retire the day before, and someone wrote "gangs" on the bulletin board with a few other topics the group wanted to discuss.

Instead of any hard-hitting promises, they got a series of rosy messages interspersed with the mayor's philosophy on city improvements.

Education dominated the proceedings, which Potter seemed to enjoy, as he prefaced everything with "the City of Portland doesn't run the school districts inside the city's boundaries."

With responsibility off of his shoulders, he expounded on the importance of maintaining trade-school programs such as those that are struggling for funding at Benson High School.

"We've forgotten that not everybody goes to college," he said, "but in the last 10-15 years, schools have increasingly seen their jobs as preparing kids for col-



Willie Brown of the Black Citizen's Coalition of Portland Neighborhoods (right) welcomes Mayor Tom Potter to a grassroots meeting with residents to discuss issues important to the local African-American community.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

lege."

Potter then encouraged the community to hold the schools accountable, saying, "They're talking about your children, so you should be able to be engaged."

The message visibly resonated with the attendees in a few 'amen's and heads nodding, but not everyone was satisfied.

One coalition member by the name of Vernon Baker interrupted with a direct question: "What do we do to ensure that our kids, once they get through school, are going to have the level of education to succeed?"

Baker became one of many attendees making not-so-subtle attempts to redirect the mayor's attention to policy adjustments the city could make, such as when Willie Brown, the coalition's executive director said, "We need to devise some other ways to reach kids."

Rather than examining the ways that the city reaches out to disadvantaged youth, Potter took them literally by pledging to relocate his office for a week in January to Jefferson High School so that people wanting to do business with him during that time "can see for themselves"

what goes on there. Additionally, he endorsed a "training center for those communities that need them most along MLK."

The reference to the symbolic street flowed into the mayor's second-favorite topic for the meeting, the Portland Development Commission, which has been receiving scrutiny by the entire council since a referendum this past May gave the city more say in its budget.

He repeated a statement that he had made earlier in the month during his "de-

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Making Education the Top Priority

First-generation scholar represents PSU

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Carmen Anderson described herself as a "school addict" for the first time in her life recently. The confession came easily compared with everything else she has confronted.

Hoping to represent older, nontradi-

tional students and student-parents at Portland State University, Anderson accepted a position this month as the college's student ambassador.

Anderson admits that she experienced "all the stereotypical things that happen to young women when they're not doing what they're supposed to," including teen-

age motherhood and drug use, even though her aunt and uncle tried to provide a supportive home. College wasn't even on her radar before the age of 30.

"I had never really thought about going to school or enrolling," she says, "but after I had my second child, I figured that some kind of degree was the only way for me to really get ahead and get skills where I'd be able to take care of my children."

As her first child was diagnosed with autism, Anderson entered college to major in the teaching of special-ed children, but soon found that the root of the problem lay in the upbringing of these children. Citing her own experience with an alcoholic father and a mother who overdosed in '96, she says, "I'm really more interested in family pathologies and things that shape kids, and I think that being a kids' counselor doesn't help a lot unless you fix the family."

She plans next fall to start graduate school, where she hopes to refine her skills in helping families recover from difficulties and enter the process towards decent jobs.

"They're just getting out of the prison system, getting out of rehabilitation centers, and they're getting their children back and wanting to make things different in their lives," Anderson says. "I'm hoping to push higher education as an initiative in a way to facilitate bettering your life."

During her activities as representative of the college, Anderson vows to get more people aware of the resources available, especially for student-parents. She says she wouldn't have found out about all the college offers if she hadn't happened to take a class with the programming director of the student-parent center.

"There's tons of opportunity here, it's just a matter of how much you go for the opportunities," she says. "There could be more community events here on campus or in the Park Blocks where there could be more resources."

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PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Carmen Anderson wears a uniform while she gives tours around Portland State University and represents the student body at dinner functions attended by visiting dignitaries.



Basko Kante

Africa Fest to Promote Understanding

First celebration Saturday at New Columbia

A cultural event and community gathering filled with food, music and more will take place Saturday at Africa Fest, an African community gala gathering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at New Columbia, 4625 N. Trenton Ave.

"It's time African communities come together and address the growing needs of the African refugee and immigrant in the Portland area" said Basko Kante of the Pan-African Community Organization, the primary sponsor of the event.

Kante, originally from Ghana in West Africa, has lived in Portland for over 30 years and is committed to working with African refugees and immigrants, community organizations, city officials and others in an effort to raise money and consciousness to the local issues and

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