

OPINION



Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

Preserving History

In 1921 the Young Women's Christian Association for Colored Women was established in a portable structure at the corner of Williams and Tillamook streets. A few years later, efforts to construct a new building on that site were lead by a white woman named Mrs. E.S. Collins, a long time advocate of the YWCA. Her efforts were met with resistance from the white community but the city attorney ultimately granted a permit.

Today that building houses the Billy Webb Elks Lodge No. 1050, and with the help of Faye Burch and Associates, and James Posey of the National Association of Minority Contractors and the host of volunteers from the community at large, the building is undergoing an extensive million dollar renovation.

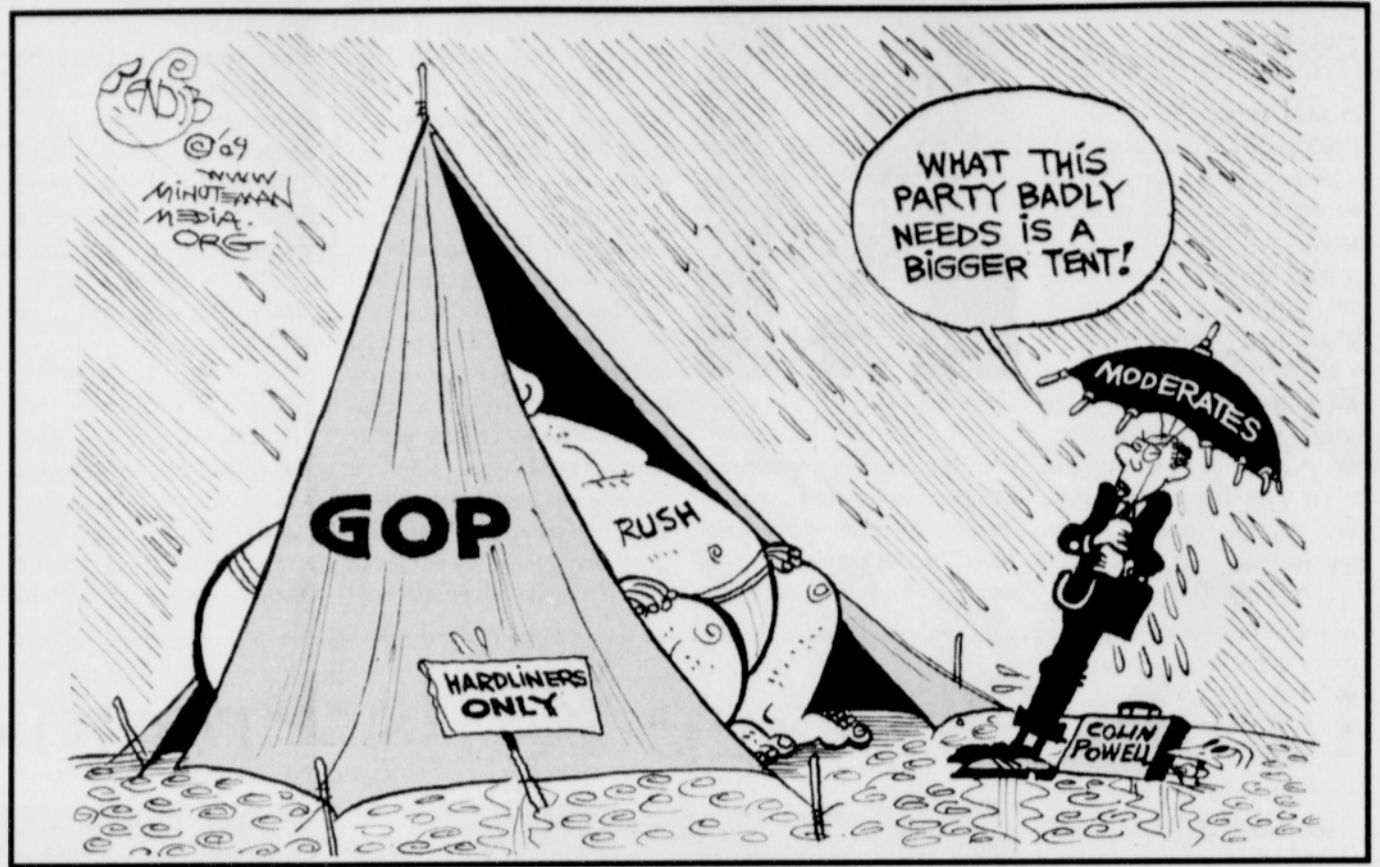
My name is Paul Knauls. I've been a resident and business owner in northeast Portland for over 40 years. I was involved in the Martin Luther King Jr. Statute project and helped raise over \$175,000 towards the monument. I am committed to preserving the African American presence in northeast Portland and as such I am heading a fundraiser to purchase chairs and air conditioning unit for the Elks building.

I urge you to behind this very important and worthwhile cause. The lodge is a vital piece of history to Portland. The building is used to hold fundraisers, wedding receptions, dances, meetings, fashion shows, and all types of community functions. This is the last link of the past in which African Americans first migrated into northeast Portland. It is important that this piece of history be preserved.

We welcome all donations in any amount. There will be a donor board located in the entrance of the lodge listing contributors of \$300 or more.

Please make checks payable to NAMCO/Elks Project. Please print on check how the names should appear on the Donor Board. There is a two name limit.

Paul and Geneva Knauls
Owners, Geneva's Shear Perfection
5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211



Hate is not a Family Value

Destructive impacts are far reaching

BY SANDY SORENSEN

Like so many people across the country, I was shaken and saddened by the shooting at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

The shooting suspect, 88-year-old James W. von Brunn entered the museum crowded with school groups and families, a long rifle at his side and immediately opened fire. He fatally wounded museum guard Stephen T. Johns before he was subdued by fellow museum guards.

Von Brunn has been charged with murder by the U.S. attorney's office. A subsequent police investigation revealed von Brunn's history as an avowed racist and anti-Semite,

who left behind notebooks and writings filled with hateful rhetoric against the Jewish and African American communities.

In following this tragedy, I was struck by comments made by James von Brunn's son in the days following the June 10 shooting. In speaking about his father's

talk about hate-motivated violence. Hatred ultimately destroys the perpetrator as well as the target of hateful acts and the poison of violence seeps into the lives of the family and friends of one holding such beliefs.

I am reminded of the popular slogan often seen on bumper

ety. And, as Erik von Brunn's words remind us, its destructive impact is handed down from generation to generation.

In April, the House of Representatives passed the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill that would strengthen hate crimes prevention, investigation, and prosecution. The bill is now before the Senate for consideration [S. 909].

While no one piece of legislation can address the hateful beliefs and views held in the hearts and minds of individuals, passage of this legislation could send a powerful message about our moral vision as a society.

But this is only one piece of the work to end hate-motivated violence. We must redouble our efforts to provide our young people with bias prevention education opportunities and conflict resolution skills.

Sandy Sorensen is a team leader with Justice Ministries in the United Church of Christ.

We must speak out whenever and wherever hate-motivated violence is perpetrated.

actions, Erik von Brunn stated, "His views consumed him and in doing so not only destroyed his life but destroyed our family and ruined our lives as well.... I cannot express how deeply sorry I am that it was Mr. Johns, and not my father, who lost his life."

Erik von Brunn's comments remind us of a truth that is sometimes left unsaid when we

stickers and buttons – hate is not a family value. Hatred rips apart families as well as communities.

Hatred is corrosive and its destructive powers are far-reaching. Like any contaminant, it leaches into the topsoil of our individual and collective souls, dimming our hope and clouding our vision for a just and fair soci-

have a duty to the greater good of all then a small few.

What I am proposing isn't a handout at all. I am asking for fish. I am asking to teach us how to fish. This new mindset will allow people the chance to save their home. It will help keep our children off of drugs and out of the crime black hole. It would help destroy the process that most of our kids and (many parents) seem to think that the only way to be successful is to be a rapper or ball player. It would help fund the education of these children to the point that the schools would truly be equal not just integrated.

Accountability! We must change this stupid no snitch rule in our communities.

And we must stop supporting these singers, actors, rappers, and athletes who don't do anything for us.

If you continue your current path Black America, well shame on you.

Warren Ballentine is a lawyer, a nationally syndicated radio host and TV commentator.

Our Current Path is a Let Down

Confronting the ills of Black America

BY WARREN BALLENTINE

My entire life I have been hearing how the white man and the government are the reasons so many of us were poor, uneducated, and unemployed. Now, don't get me wrong I do understand that the holocaust of slavery, the unjust justice system of Jim Crow and the civil rights disparities has crippled black Americans in many ways. But, can we still say that today?

We must take accountability for our actions as well. Today we have a black man as Presi-

dent but he is a President not the Savior of Black America. We have more black millionaires than any other time in the history of this country, yet our schools are worst than they were before integration.

Our unemployment rate is higher than ever before. Our kids are kill-

letes to the point that we make them gods. We spend our last dime supporting them but do they support us? How hard would it be for 10 or 20 of them to come together and buy properties in cities and towns and open up businesses and trade schools?

We must stop supporting these singers, actors, rappers, and athletes who don't do anything for us.

ing each other like they were living in the Old West. And we own almost none of the businesses in our communities. Is this what Dr. King gave his life for? Is this what Thurgood Marshall fought for?

Why is this all happening now? Lack of accountability in our race. We blindly support singers, actors, rappers, and ath-

Where are the Dick Gregory's, Muhammad Ali's, Bill Russell's, and Jim Brown's of this generation?

I know some of you will say, Warren, these folks don't owe us a thing. Why do we keep asking for hand outs? To you I say a great majority of these stars voted for our current President and his message is clear that we

Credit for Saving Lodge

The Portland Observer story "Renovations Save Lodge" (front page, June 17 issue) is missing one important ingredient: CJ Jackson Construction is doing renovations on the North Portland Elks Lodge only because of the diligence and hard work that Wanda Broadous and the Broadous Entertainment team did to make the community aware of the fact that it needed renovation.

CJ Jackson and company did not just show up out of

the blue to do repairs. Wanda and the team put on dances, fashion shows, live entertainment and tirelessly distributed fliers, made phone calls and incorporated James Posey, Avel Gordly and Margaret Carter among many others into the effort.

No one knows this, but Wanda put so much work into the cause that on the day of the last show, she wound up in the hospital in cardiac arrest. She just about gave her life for the Elks. They have

barely mentioned her, your article skipped her all together, nor has anyone from the Elks offered to share any of the credit with her.

She is not asking for credit. But I, being someone who cares for her and am her right-hand-girl, have witnessed the long hours put into planning a series of shows to support the renovations and the passion she felt for it.

Please give Wanda her due.
Brenda Gersch; Secretary, Broadous Entertainment

Oregon Department of Transportation DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GOALS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010

This will serve as notice of the Oregon Department of Transportation's proposed annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal of 11.50% for Federal Highway Administration. As a result of the statewide Disparity Study, ODOT has received a waiver from FHWA to allow contract goals for specific groups identified as having a significant contracting disparity. The annual goal has been calculated as 11.5%, of which 1% would be a race-conscious goal for Black American owned DBE firms and Asian American owned DBE firms. The remainder of the annual goal, 10.5%, would continue to be race- and gender-neutral. The 2010 Goal is 1.0% for Federal Transit Administration contracts and grants, and will be entirely race- and gender-neutral. This calculation is made in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 to comply with U.S. DOT requirements.

Public comments are being requested in the development of ODOT's overall goal. Submit written comments to:

ODOT, Office of Civil Rights
355 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 986-4350
Fax: (503) 986-6382

Attn: C. Jill Miller

ODOT will consider all comments and quantitative and anecdotal data in determining its final DBE goals.

ODOT will post its analysis and final goals at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/CS/CIVILRIGHTS/.

Oregon Department of Transportation

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