

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.

Letters to the Editor

Thankful Dad

I just came back from Washington, D.C., where I attended the 11th annual national healthy start spring conference where we discussed the infant mortality rate in the United States and how important Healthy Start programs are around the nation.

It was perfect timing with the health reform climate down there. We walked to the capitol and spoke with our state representatives. We went to our two senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and our house representative Earl Blumenauer.

We spoke to them about our program and how it has served the community for the last 16 years and how Multnomah County has seen a decline in infant deaths from about 16 percent to 10 percent. We asked for Merkley's support, since he didn't sign last time around, and the continued support from Wyden and Blumenauer.

I am not a county employee, or a big political guy. I'm just a young parent of a beautiful premature daughter who has benefited greatly from our local Healthy Start program and I had to march to Capitol Hill and let them know.

I want my community to know that there is help out there, very good programs to help you through your pregnancy and beyond. You can contact me for more information.

Ricky Booker
papabooker@gmail.com

Saltzman Disappoints

Thursday, March 18, I attended the City Council's hearing on increasing oversight of Portland's Police Department in the wake of another tragedy; the deadly shooting of Mr. Aaron Campbell.

Increased oversight of the Portland's police department is long overdue and will require strong leadership in order to be enacted. That is why we are so disappointed that the commissioner in charge of the Police Bureau, Dan Saltzman, sat silently throughout the entire hearing.

Saltzman's colleagues as well as the community will be looking to him to rebuild the shattered trust between the department and the citizens of this city. In this case, silence isn't golden. In the 15 months he has overseen this bureau all we have heard from Commissioner Saltzman are muted responses, pledges to buy equipment to get to the dead bodies faster and assurances that federal investigators will find no civil rights violations.

This has lead me to wonder whether Saltzman has no idea or ideas about how to improve our police department; or is he too simply afraid to take on the entrenched status quo that lingers like a thousand midnights down in a Cyprus swamp over our city?

After the first tragedy under his watch, Saltzman went silent after the department threatened to publish the results of a no-confidence vote in his leadership. Now we're treated to more of the same. Could it be a coincidence that the commissioner just paid a pollster \$13,000 to find how which way the wind is blowing before he speaks?

As a civil rights advocate I would like to give Saltzman the benefit of the doubt, but the community's patience has worn out: Commissioner Dan Saltzman has to go.

"Skipper" Osborne, founder of Truth and Justice for All and former president of the Portland NAACP

Hansen will be missed

Fred Hansen's exit from TriMet (Front page, March 24 issue) is more than a footnote for minority contractors. In an era when it is difficult to identify leaders who are willing and capable of taking on the difficult problems and issues of society and government, Fred Hansen is a shining star.

The glaring disparities between minority contractors and businesses and their nonminority counterparts is a vexing and politically explosive issue that most government leaders are unwilling to seriously touch. Not only does it speak to Hansen's raw courage to confront these disparities, but it also affirms his intelligence and vision to recognize that all members of our community deserve to be true stakeholders in our Oregon economy.

Hansen's legacy in this area was not one of lip

service, but one of action, accountability and results. He epitomized the notion that we can all win and be the better for it. Most leaders when confronted with this problem either look for legalized justification for doing nothing or invent ways to placate meaningful action and remain politically safe.

The extraordinary work of Fred Hansen in delivering the most progressive metropolitan transportation system in the country will be missed. But for minority contractors his absence means they have lost an invaluable advocate and supporter the likes of which we will probably never see again.

James L. Posey, former president of the National Alliance of Minority Contractors and president of the Coalition of Black Men

Outrageous Recipe

I just read every page of your latest issue and found it quite satisfactory—with one giant exception; the food page recipe (Banana

crepes with brown sugar rum sauce).

This recipe was outrageously unhealthy as almost anyone should know in this day and age when all persons in a position to make positive contributions are helping their brothers beat problems of being overweight!

Please select recipes that make a positive contribution to users.

Larry Beaulaurier

Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries "A Community Church"



Pastor & Elect Lady
Bishop H. L. & Earlean P. Hodge
Pastor/Teacher/Revivalist

Worship Service: Sundays—8:00 A.M.
Seminars: Bible Themes—Wednesdays—6:00 P.M.
"God The Father"; "God The Son"; and "God The Holy Spirit"

Bishop Hodge and Congregation invite you to join us at our appointment with Jesus.

We Reach, Teach, & Preach in Jesus' name!!!

Location: 4800 NE 30th Ave.
Portland, OR. 97211

To inquire about our Church please call:
(503) 863-6545 or email: hodgehpsks@msn.com
www.nwvoiceforchrist.com

TRAVEL GLOBAL
STAY LOCAL
THIS SPRING BREAK
at Oregon Zoo March 22-April 2

presented by
Fred Meyer PDX TV
The Oregonian FOX 12 Z100

GET HOPPING!
April 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Candy egg hunts, games
and pettable bunnies!

OREGON ZOO METRO
dex The Oregonian PDX TV FOX 12 K103

LEGAL NOTICES



Need to publish a court document or notice? Need an affidavit of publication quickly and efficiently? Please fax or e-mail your notice for a free price quote!

Fax: 503-288-0015

e-mail:

classifieds@portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Contact:
Phone: 503-288-0033
Fax: 503-288-0015
e-mail: classifieds@portlandobserver.com