

# The INSIDE

The Week in Review Page 2

## SPORTS

Page 4



## The Portland Observer Sustainability

pages 6-7



## OPINION

pages 8-9

## CALENDAR

Page 10



## MIETRO

Page 11



## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 12-15



## LAW & JUSTICE

pages 16-17

## CLASSIFIEDS

page 18

## FOOD

page 20

This page

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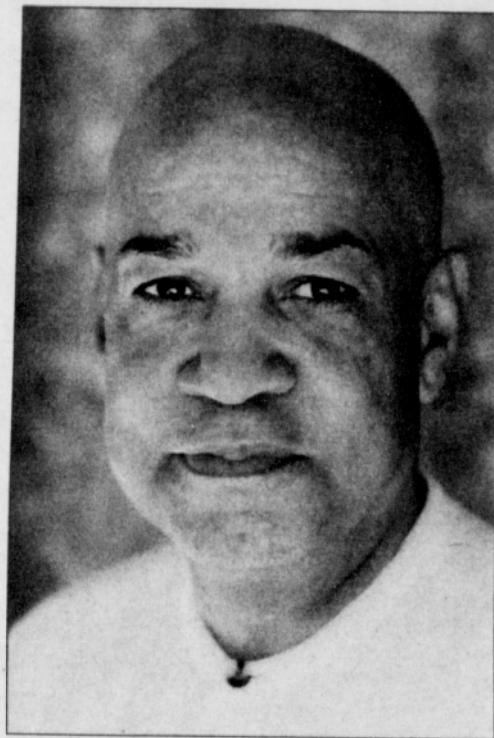
# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS

## Diversity Champion Remembered

### Jerry Walker's passion was a better world



Jerry Walker

Jerry Walker, a longtime community champion for diversity, inclusion and equality is being remembered for his passion to make the world better, his big heart and his gentle spirit after his death at the age of 60.

Walker died May 26 in Austin, Texas where he had recently accepted a management position for the city of Austin. He retired last fall as assistance director of equity at Home Forward, formally Housing Authority of Portland. During his career in Portland, he also held positions at Multnomah County, the Port of Portland, and Oregon Health and Science University.

Walker worked tirelessly in the business community to ensure fair and equitable treatment for minority and women owned businesses. He was a volunteer in the fight against HIV/AIDS, serving on the Ryan White Planning Council of Oregon, where he helped reduce the stigma from the disease, even appearing on billboards to raise awareness and to encourage testing and safe sex practices.

He held executive board positions with the Micro Enterprise Ser-

vices of Oregon, Business Diversity Institute, American Contract Compliance Association, and National Forum for Black Public Administrators - Oregon Chapter. In total, he participated with or held positions in excess of 50 local and national boards and committees. He spoke at high schools, local and national conferences, and was always available to assist with local and national projects in hopes of creating equality and opportunities for others.

He was the first person to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Portland's Business Diversity Institute. The Skanner newspaper honored him as a Drum Major for

Justice. His procurement and equity efforts were also recognized by the American Contract Compliance Association as well as a number of other national and local organizations.

He also volunteered with Brother to Brother, Cascade Aids Project and PFLAG Portland Black Chapter.

Jerry Walker was born on July 8, 1952 to Sallie and Jessie Walker, Jr. in Galveston, Texas. He graduated from LaMarque ISD High School and joined and toured the U.S. and Europe with Up With People. He later enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as a Korean Linguist for some time. He received a Bachelor's of Arts from St. Mary's of California prior to beginning his lifelong career of public service.

He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Sallie Walker; brother, Robert Walker, and partners Michael and Phillip. He leaves to cherish his memory his father, Jesse Walker Jr; sister, Kathryn Robinson; brother, Jesse III and host of nieces, nephews, friends and colleagues.

Memorial contributions may be made to the PFLAG Portland Black Chapter, PO Box 6743, Portland, OR 97228; the Cascade Aids Project, 208 S.W. Fifth Ave., Suite 800, Portland, OR 97204; and Our House of Portland, 2727 S.E. Alder, Portland, OR 97214.

## Date Set for 2nd MLK Dream Run

### Annual event supports north and northeast Portland



Martin Luther King Jr.

BY LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement's March on Washington and Martin Luther King Jr.'s I Have a Dream speech. As one way of honoring the event, the North-Northeast Business Association is holding its second annual Dream Run.

On Sunday, Aug. 4, participants will assemble at 7 a.m. at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street for 5, 10 and 15 kilometer road runs. Along the way they'll be cooled from the summer

sun by misting stations and entertained by church choirs. There will be prizes for the top men and women finishers of each race, and all runners will receive t-shirts, cinch packs filled with goodies, and Cash Duckets good for discounts at participating businesses. There will also be a raffle good for still more prizes.

Proceeds from the event will go to NNEBA's Fellows Program, a youth entrepreneurial training program, and the North by Northeast Community Health Clinic. Sponsors include the Nike Community Store, Metro Regional Government, Kaiser Permanente, Lawyer's Title, Flossin Media, and the Portland Observer.

The Dream Run was inaugurated as a way to get people to visit and promote the residential neighborhoods and business districts of inner north and northeast Portland, also known as the Soul District.

This year on the day before the race - Saturday, Aug. 3 - organizers will be holding an MLK Dream Run Health and Expo-tique, with food, entertainment, and booths by businesses and health-related organiza-

continued on page 4