

50 Years Later

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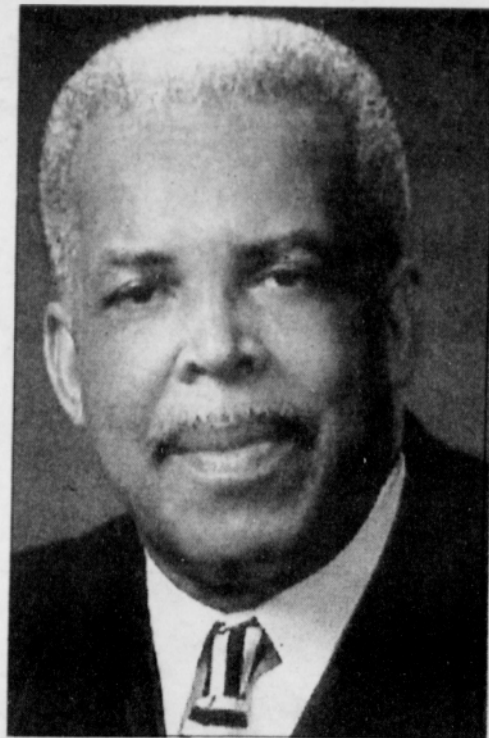
racial profiling, many of these same issues we are dealing with.”

Haynes, 64, has worked on issues of civil rights since a youth. He pointed to the staggering unemployment rates for African-Americans in Oregon which stood at 18.4 percent in January, more than three times the rate of European-Americans locally.

Haynes hopes Saturday’s commemoration will shed light on the close parallels of disparity many still face even after tireless work by Civil Rights leaders years ago.

State Rep. Lew Frederick of Portland, who is only one of two African-Americans in the Oregon Legislature, says of King’s speech 50 years ago, that although it was powerful, he had seen the power of King’s words in earlier speeches.

More specifically, as a child

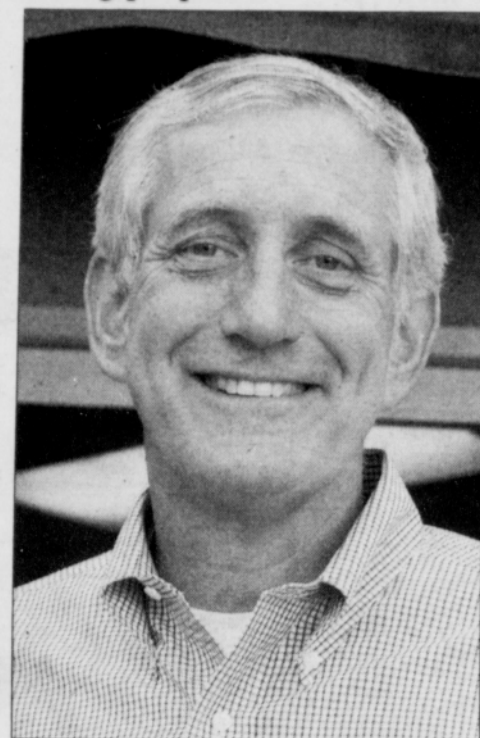


Dr. Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr.

growing up in Atlanta, Ga. during the 1960s, he had parents that were active in the movement.

Frederick added that there is much work to be done to change laws that promote bias, but even more work to be done socially to

remove ‘the culture of fear’ which he feels is the biggest barrier to true equality and understanding among people.

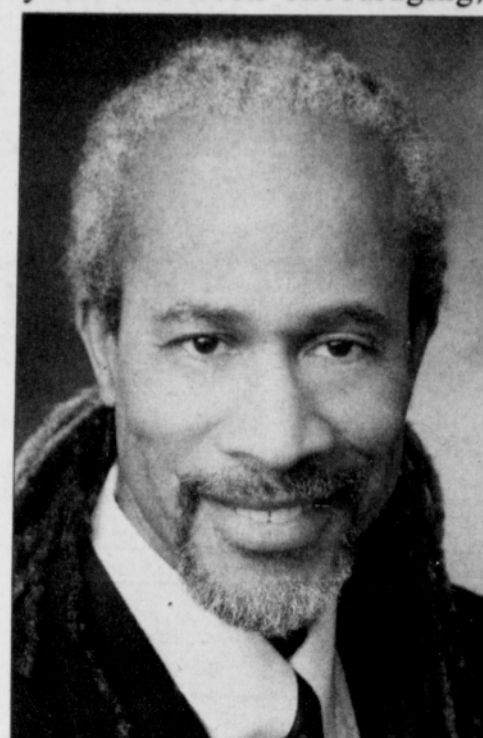


Mayor Charlie Hales

“Portland needs to understand that racial issues are not just overt, but under the surface as well,” he said.

Urban League of Portland’s Michael Alexander says the city Portland has made progress since

the infamous event that captured the nation’s attention. “The path that this city has taken the last 50 years has been encouraging,”



Michael Alexander

Alexander says.

However he follows up by saying that he is concerned that many of the problems of that era continue to affect the country at large, particularly in politics, institutional practices, education,

healthcare, and economics.

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is inviting Portlanders to join the march and find ways to break the cycle of injustices “right here in our town.”

“We see deep inequities in our communities, in the areas of jobs, economics, opportunity, education, housing and services,” Hales said. “None of us should be satisfied living in a city with such inequities.”

Hales pointed to a current effort to focus on black male achievement in Portland. Research for a federal grant to help Portland address the issues found vast inequities facing African Americans in per capita income, education, incarceration and food assistance.

Portland’s commemoration of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Chapman Square, downtown. People will then march to Waterfront Park where a rally will begin with various speakers at 1 p.m.

In the Neighborhood Thoughts on the Dream

Portland recalls King’s historic 1963 speech

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH

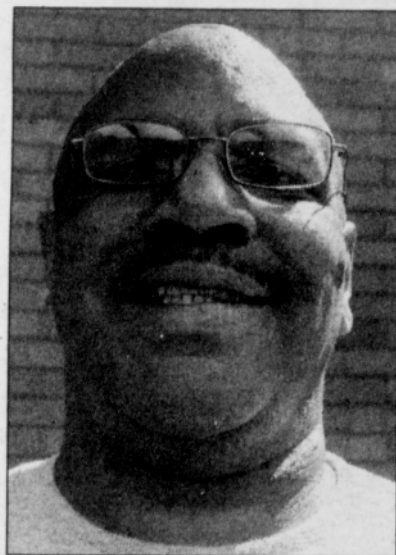
The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is forever etched into the United States of America’s history.

51-year-old Marvin English is a native Portlander and the son of a black panther. He remembers the sense of pride he felt when he heard King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech for the first time.

“There was a lot of racism in Portland,” English said. “It meant a lot to me”

Jim Fasuluo says the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s “was an incredibly emotional and impactful time.”

He pointed to having an Afri-



Marvin English



Tamir Polk

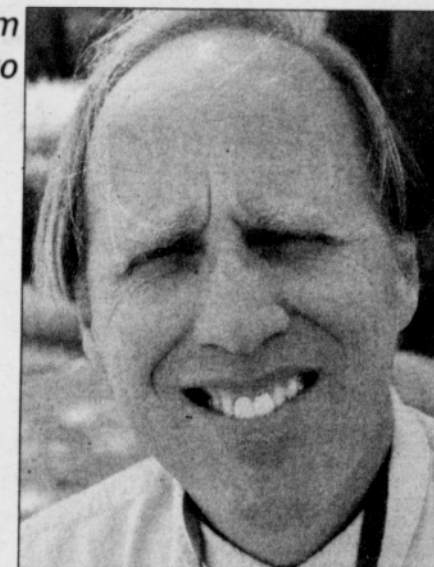
It’s a powerful speech that everyone is going to remember for the rest of their lives.

— Sierra Dawson



Bilisuma Achamyleh

Jim Fasuluo



Sierra Dawson



can-American as president as a remarkable accomplishment for today, but says there remains a lot of work to be done in the way of ending racism.

Bilisuma Achamyleh comes from Africa has only been in America for about a year, but remembers hearing the speech as a child in school and how it made an impact on her.

“I really believe in everyone being equal and being able to interact freely,” she said.

Tamir Polk remembers his parents having a particular fondness for King’s dialogue. Moving forward he believes everyone should live out their “personal dreams” in honor of King’s dream for justice and equality.

Sierra Dawson says, “It’s a powerful speech that everyone is going to remember for the rest of their lives.”

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