



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Michelle DePass is compassionate about making a difference in a Portland school system that fails kids of color. One of the two candidates for the Portland School Board in a May 21 vote-by-mail election, she has deep roots in Portland's African American community. See Metro, on page 7 inside for additional, in-depth profiles.

May vote a choice for school board direction

BY DANNY PETERSON THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two well qualified African American candidates are vying for the Portland School Board in a vote-by-mail election on May 21. It means that for the first time in more than a decade, at least one black member of the community will be represented on the seven-member governing panel when the district begins its new fiscal

Opportunity to Serve

year in July.

Michelle DePass and Shanice Clarke are both running from Zone 2, representing the cluster of schools that historically have feed into Jefferson and Cleveland high schools from inner north, northeast and southeast Portland. The geographic area also includes Benson High School. The in-

panel for the first time in more than a decade.

cumbent Paul Anthony is not running for re-election after one term.

DePass and Clarke promise to improve outcomes for students of color. Both candidates point to a recent audit by the Oregon Secretary of State's office and a report from the Oregon Legislature that shows Portland has dramatically failed black and other students of color.

Despite their similar goals, backgrounds and experiences, both candidates are distinct.

Read more about each candidates' backgrounds, experiences and qualifications. See our side-by-side, in-depth profiles of the candidates on Metro page 7, inside.

of the two African American candidates who are running for the Portland School Board from Zone 2, insuring at least one black member on the seven member

Exercise the set of the set o

overcome obstacles and improve outcomes for disadvantaged students. She is one

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Tradeswomen Host Career Fair



A career in the trades is an opportunity for a lifetime of employment. Oregon Tradeswomen invite you to learn more when it hosts its annual Career Fair on Saturday, May 18.

Trial in Max Murders Delayed

The trial date for Jeremy Christian, charged in the 2017 attack a Max train, was delayed last week until early

2020. The judge is allowing the state to evaluate Christian, who stands accused of killing two people and wounding another man.

Bar Sues Far-right Protesters

The owner of Cider Riot, a bar on Northeast Eighth Avenue and Couch Street, filed a \$1 million lawsuit Friday against Joey Gibson, the leader of the far-right protest group Patriot Prayer, for instigating a brawl outside the bar last Wednesday, May Day. The suit also names Ian Kramer, who is accused of striking a woman with a baton to the back of her head hard enough to knock her unconscious.

Outlaw Names New Assistant Police Chief Danielle Outlaw has promoted Jami Resch to Assistant Chief of the Investigations Branch. She had been serving as the Acting Commander of North Precinct. A police officer in Portland since 1993, she has also been an active member in the Police

PO OR code



Bureau's Muslim Council, Slavic Advisory Council and Refugee Integration Program.

Trump Lawyer Enters Prison

Michael Cohen, President Trump's former personal attorney reported to a federal prison in Otisville, N.Y. Monday to serve

out a three-year sentence. Cohen, 52, pleaded guilty to charges of lying to Congress about a prospective Trump Tower-Moscow project, campaign finance violations related to payments he made to two women at Trump's behest, and a slew of financial crimes.

Street Racing Scare on I-84

It was a scary and wild scene on Interstate 84 late Sunday night between 162nd and 181st avenues. A bunch of cars were doing donuts in the middle of the westbound lanes as shown in video on KGW TV. "Real obnoxious," Brent Klausner said. "It was obnoxious."

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A hands-on career fair introducing the high-wage, high-skill careers of the trades will be hosted by Oregon Tradeswomen on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, 16021 N.E. Airport Way,

The event hopes to inspire a new generation of tradeswomen to pursue the many apprenticeships and job openings in the construction industry from local companies and organizations.

Participants in the career fair have the opportunity to learn skills in hands-on workshops, try out tools, meet employers, meet successful tradeswomen, make things to take home, and find out about career training opportunities.

Oregon Tradeswomen, a Portland nonprofit organization, produces the annual career fair. Contact them for more information at 503-335-8200, extension 121 or visit tradeswomen.net



Water Main Flood Claims Denied The city of Portland has denied claims filed by homeowners after a massive water main break last March in the Alberta District of Northeast Portland. At least two homeowners shared the contents of a denial letter with KATU that read, in part, "The main break was not caused by any negligent actions by the city or its employees... we conclude that the city is not liable for that damage."

ACLU Blasts Trump Pardon

The American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday blasted President Trump's decision to pardon a former Army first lieutenant convicted of killing an Iraqi prisoner, saying the move amounted to "presidential endorsement of a а murder." Trump granted the pardon late Monday to Michael Behenna, sentenced to 15 years in 2009 for killing a suspected al Qaeda operative who was stripped naked for questioning before being shot.

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The Portland Observer



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Calendar













CLASSIFIEDS





PHOTO BY BARRY AMUNDSON

Iman Pearce (from left), Jack Hill and Alyssia Maxwell are honored for their participation in a high school writing competition to raise the public's consciousness on systemic racism and help make the world more healthy and peaceful. The contest was sponsored by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Writings for a Better World

Student leaders tackle systemic racism

BY MADISON ARNOLD-SCERBO

Diverse students from Portland are raising the public's consciousness about systemic racism.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility recently honored three student winners at its annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship at Celebration Tabernacle in north Portland. The theme was "How can you work against systemic racism to help make our world more healthy and peaceful?"

The program included remarks from members of the physician's advocacy group and a welcoming by Rev. E.D. Mondainé of Celebration Tabernacle and the president of the Portland NAACP.

Dr. Nicki Nabavizadeh discussed the mission of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Mayor's Budget Supports Albina Vision

Also backs street response proposal by Hardesty

To address a housing crisis, Mayor Ted Wheeler's proposed city budget for the next fiscal year prioritizes added funds to help the homeless, which was not a surprise. But the mayor's plan also provides a small stipend to boost efforts to redevelop residential areas around the Rose Quarter for Albina Vision, boosting a plan to rebuild a diverse neighborhood and correct historical displacement.

general fund budget released last volvement. week had several new line items compared to years prior, includ- woman on the City Council, Rivers, called Frog Ferry. ing a \$500,000 set aside for addiction-treatment, a reversal of past policy when the city has left funding for such services up to the county.

Wheeler proposes \$187,000 in new funding for a Mental Health and Nurse Triage Program, a request by new City Commissioner Enforcement Team (now known JoAnn Hardesty to defer low-in- as the Gun Violence Reduction tensity 911 calls to a nurse to con- Team) to general patrol to help al-



Ted Wheeler

nect the caller to services.

Also at Hardesty's request, the mayor included another \$500,000 for a new "street response" team -addressing people sleeping out-The mayor's \$577.3 million side without law enforcement in-

> Hardesty also offered an alternaincrease funding to the Police Bureau, recommending an end to the Bureau's gang enforcement unit, citing its ineffectiveness. Instead she would move the 28 officers from the Police Bureau's Gang



JoAnn Hardesty

leviate a projected 120 officer vacancies. She also recommended defunding police body cameras.

Hardesty clashed with Wheeler's budget on some issues as well, such as the \$200,000 feasibility study for a water taxi service The first African American on the Willamette and Columbia

Albina Vision would receive tive way to fund Wheeler's plan to \$75,000 under Wheeler's proposal, for outreach—also a new item. The diverse group of backers of Albina Vision previously gained the support of the mayor and Metro Council President Lynn Peterson

> The full City Council will vote on whether to approve the budget in June.

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Good day African American

Page 4

business owners, skilled people, church organizations, etc. If you seriously believe that we should help support our own and encourage others to do the same, then we're inviting you to come and get registered to participate in the upcoming "20/20" Regional African American Business directory, featuring what black people are doing in Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Vancouver WA, PTLD, Salem etc.

Registration is taking place now at 2205 N. Lombard, room 103, PTLD, Oregon. After they are paid for, there will be thousands of directories produced and distributed. Basic business directory listing is less than \$40 a year, less than \$15 for skilled people listings.

For appointment hours phone Gloria at 360-952-1432, Ruth at 360-723-8497, John (503) 358-9655 or Lottie (directory organizer) at 206-271-0311.

Writings for a Better World

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility as promoting equity and justice. She said the group's goals are to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival by striving to end the nuclear threat, advance environmental health, protect our climate and promote peace.

The highlight of the evening was when the students read their winning entries aloud.

Alyssia Maxwell, the third place winner from Parkrose High School spoke about being a member of her basketball team and facing racist taunts during away

"I play for Parkrose High School and every time we go to St. Helens high school there's always a situation or problem happening every year...Their school is known for being racist. We thought we would be able to just play basketball and not worry about anything bad happening this time, but we were wrong about that," Maxwell said

Iman Pearce of De La Salle North Catholic High School, the being in the first grade when a classmate spoke up in front of her, the teacher and other students and said 'No, you're black" after she asked to play from the same toy box

"Somewhere that girl had heard that people like me should not be allowed to touch something that was hers," Pearce said.

of Westview High School wrote about the inequities of providing nomic hardships and discrimina- sicians for Social Responsibility.

tion, maintaining his own determination to overcome obstacles.

"Ain't never a silver-lining playbook so rigged/ as Portland metro's real-estate market... The biggest question for you is: How are you going to use your story moving forward. Are you going to create a conversation? Are you going to make waves? Are you going to foster understanding? Are you going to carve out opportunities? I know I am," Hill said.

The keynote speaker was Dr. second place winner, wrote about Brian Gibbs, who serves as vice president for equity and inclusion at Oregon Health & Science University.

"Let's be clear, systemic racism is a corrosive and widespread problem in our society, and we all need to do a better job of confronting it - in our towns, in our neighborhoods, in our schools and college campuses, in our First place winner Jack Hill clinics, and in ourselves," Gibbs said.

Madison Arnold-Scerbo is a housing for people who face eco- program assistant at Oregon Phy-

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Zone j



Portland Community College Seeks Candidate for **Zone 5 Board Vacancy** 0

> Applicants must live in Zone 5 (City of Beaverton/Southwest Portland/PCC Sylvania Campus) and be registered to vote.

One candidate selected by PCC's Board of Directors will serve on the Board until June 30, 2021 and is eligible to run for the Zone 5 seat in the next election for the full 4-year term in May 2021.

Applicants must submit a letter indicating their interest and qualifications, current resume, and references. Letters of recommendation are appreciated, but not required.





The visual stunning Rip/Tide by the founders of BodyVox will be part of a mixed-repertorie of contemporary and classic pieces to showcase advance dancers from the Portland Ballet coming Friday and Saturday, May 10-11 to the Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University.

ance Showcase

The Portland Ballet presents Current/Classic, Friday and Saturday, May 10-11 in a mixed-repertoire program of contemporary and classical pieces that showcase the academy's advanced company dancers.

iconic Serenade, the elegant and vis. beautiful Swan Lake Act II, Tom Quinary, a brand new work by diences.

The bill includes Balanchine's Portland Ballet Master Jason Da-

The Portland Ballet is a dance Gold's energetic Festival Russe, academy committed to fostering the visually stunning Rip/Tide the future of ballet by building the by the founders of BodyVox, and next generation of dancers and au-

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Mother's Day Gala – The St. John's All Nations Church of God in Christ presents "The Pearls of Motherhood" Mother's Day Gala,

Saturday, May 11 at the Monarch Hotel, 12566 S.E. 93rd Ave. in Clackamas with special guest speaker pastor Evelyn McCoy Harris and dance entertainment by Alicia Ndouniama. Cost is \$60. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-247-8337.

Sunday Brunch for Moms – The Oregon Zoo's annual Mother's Day brunch takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 12.. This year's menu includes eggs Benedict, made-to-order shrimp and grits; a carving station and a smoked seafood board along with fresh fruit, salads, a kids' menu and pastries. Seatings available every 15 minutes. For reservations, visit oregonzoo.com/mom.



Black Health Celebration – North by Northeast Community Health Center, the only medical clinic in Oregon devoted to black health, will hold a Community Supper on Saturday, May 18 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! Join emcee Jamaal Lane, Alonzo Chadwick, Andrew Clay and many others for a night of music, dancing, community, and raising money for a great cause. For tickets, visit nxneclinic.ejoinme. org.

Celebrate Mamas – Celebrate mamas in Oregon with hosts Cole and Dayna Reed, Rae Dunnaville, YeeWon Chong, Cleo Tung, Abel Valladares, Jessie Burke, Lindsay Sadlou and Ruthie Crawford , Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at Disjecta, 8371 N. Interstate. This is an event to build community and challenge the narrative around motherhood. Food and beverages will be provided. Free but RSVP required at bit.ly/2019ORMamasDay.

Gun Violence Drama – In a world premiere play, a cast of six diverse women bring the story of Brandon, a young man who is always in and out of trouble, until he is shot in the back by a member of his own community. "A Dark Sky Full of Stars," directed by Portland's Jocelyn Seid, shows through May 12 at Shoebox Theater, 2110 S.E. 10th Ave. For tickets visit theatrevertigo.org or call the box office at 503-482-8655.

Norman Sylvester Band – Norman Sylvester Band plays Saturday, May 11 at the Spare Room; Friday, May 17 at C I Bar & Grill in Tualatin; Saturday, May 18 at Smockville Brewhouse in Sherwood; Friday, May 24 at Clyde's; and Saturday, May 25 at the Memorial Weekend Blues Festival at the Nehalem Bay Winery.

The Royal Trickster – Tenali tries to restore order to the kingdom in the NW Children's Theater and School production of 'Tenali – The Royal Trickster,' now showing through May 12 at 1819 N.W. Everett St. Tickets are \$18-22 for adults, and \$14-18 for youth. Call 503-222-2190 or visit nwcts.org.

Zoo for All – The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by brining a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.

Discount Tickets – Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers



Part 28. Industrial Injuries: What to do if you are hurt on the job

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sure your employer would just as soon not have expenses like that. Speak to your employer today about having a Chiropractic consultation. If you have had a lifting injury or suffer from pain, why don't you call us today. A life of suffering is indeed a wasted life. Don't let it be yours.

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shanice Clarke, a career educator who runs a resource center for black students at Portland State University, is running for Portland Public School Board, Zone 2, representing inner north, northeast and southeast Portland. Ballots for the May 21 election are in the mail.



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Michelle DePass grew up in northeast Portland where she still lives and where her mom and grandmother were teachers at King Elementary. She is running for a position on the seven-member Portland School Board to make a difference for students, motivated by the alarming outcome disparities for kids of color and other problems in the school district.

Board Candidates Make their Case DePass has deep roots to community

Clarke calls for holistic, new approach

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shanice Clarke, 27, a career educator, aims to improve outcomes for disadvantaged students and students of color in the Portland School District by being elected to the district's seven member board of directors, from Zone 2, representing schools that feed into Jefferson and Cleveland high schools in inner north, northeast and southeast Portland.

Clarke has traversed a personal and winding path that led her to becoming an advocate for education, a goal she calls her life dream.

"I dedicated my life advocating for students," she told the Portland Observer. "I really identify with the true value of doing holistic work with students."

A first generation Jamaican immigrant, Clarke has the experience of navigating some the obstacles that can come with families who are recent immigrants. She moved frequently between her home island and the states while growing up. She also painfully learned how a disadvantaged student can fall through the cracks in school

and not get the help they need.

In her case, as a young girl, Clarke said she was not supported by guidance counselors and teachers after experiencing a troubled home life of trauma, addiction in the family, and loss. Rather than investing in her, they issued "a lot of suspensions and detentions," which ultimately led her to not completing high school in Boston, Mass., she said.

Not to be deterred, Clarke followed up by getting her GED and pursing degrees in higher education.

She would go on to receive a Bachelor's in Human Services and a Master's in Educational Leadership from University of Northern Colorado, where she studied culturally responsive pedagogy and researched better ways of serving diverse students.

Today she runs a resource center for black students at Portland State University, the Pan African Commons, located inside PSU's Diversity and Multicultural Student Services Department.

"I love being on the front lines with **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Michelle DePass, 58, has deep roots in the community; something she knows is an asset in her bid for a Zone 2 seat on the Portland School Board, which encompasses parts of north and northeast Portland, where she was born and raised.

She is one of the two African American candidates vying in the May 21 vote-bymail election for a seat governing Oregon's largest school district, a position vacated by Paul Anthony after one term. Currently the seven member board has no black members.

DePass is the Community Engagement and Policy Coordinator for the Portland Housing Bureau, where she is focused on advising the bureau on how best to connect with community, serving low to moderate income people seeking housing.

The first thing DePass mentioned as a top priority for the school board was closing the racial achievement gap, as outlined in a recent Oregon Secretary of State audit of Portland Public schools, a report that she called "disturbing," but not surprising.

"We've known--community members have known for a long time that black and brown children are being failed. They're not failing. The system is failing them," she said.

DePass would address those failings by "aligning our budget spending with our racial equity plan," she said.

"The whole idea behind equity is that we direct more resources to where there's more need. It's not spreading equal resources across the city because some of our schools are doing just fine," she said.

The daughter of a Panamanian immigrant father and New Orleans ancestry on her mom's side, DePass moved around a bit when she was a child, bouncing from Central and South America back up to the states, but most of her schooling from elementary through high school was in Portland.

Both her mother and grandmother were teachers at King Elementary in northeast Portland for years. And Like her mom, De-Pass has experience as a single mom. She raised two boys, ages 18 and 20, who both

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The Portland Observer

Clarke calls for holistic, new approach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

students and doing crisis intervention and really focusing on improving systems to address, refer, and embrace students in ways that they deserve to be wrapped around," Clarke said.

Her achievements include the development of student engagement programs at PSU, as well as identity and leadership development work. She was part of the process to open the commons, helping to guide a consensus-building, collaborative stewardship process with students, faculty, staff and community members shortly after moving to Portland, directly after grad school, in 2016.

Clarke is a member of the Association of American University Professors, where she's active doing lobbying and supporting the collective bargaining process. But while being an instructor in different capacities at times, she said she identifies most as being an education administrator.

"Being on the front lines, being a young professional, that gives me the ability to inform an education policy that's connected to everyday experiences of students and I think that is something we're

School Board," she said.

ganizer serving as a Board Member some of the most prominent eqfor OPAL Environmental Justice.

She was recruited to run by local African American community leaders, like Joy Davis, the executive director of the Portland African American Leadership Forum, dents, Clarke said. and from leaders at Color PAC.

"Those folks initiated my process of thinking about running for coordinator position as part of the the Portland Public School Board; and the more and more I thought rates of suspensions dropped by about it, the more and more things connected," she said.

egon Secretary of State's office coordinator, there was only four," showing dramatic shortcomings in outcomes for students of color on the needs. Improving the district's employee turnover rates by making improvements in teacher on. She added that she thinks the training, and supports, are actions she supports.

justice discipline practices—which focus more on rehabilitation and holistic development rather than penal actions for students who wants to emphasize more.

African American/Black Student ers of color, more black teachers," Clarke is also a community or- Success plan, and developed by and make sure they have the supuity education leaders in the state, black students are two times more Head Start and relief nurseries, are likely to get detention, suspension, or another type of punitive action compared to white stu-

In cases where schools in Portland added a restorative justice student misconduct process, the 50 percent, Clarke said.

"I know for example at Ockley She said a recent audit of Port- Green, they had 184 suspensions paired with the training I think land Public Schools by the Or- the year before and then with the she said.

in the district is helping inform her al, things like making sure students have housing or food assistance, is something Clarke wants to expand SUN Community Schools that offer added programs are doing New and improved restorative a great job, but she'd like to see more offerings like that in other neighborhoods and schools that are under-resourced.

In regard to other plans to admisbehave--are a solution Clarke dress racial inequality in the school system, Clarke said it should be a charter school focused on closing According to an Oregon Legis- multi-prong approach. Firstly, the missing on the Portland Public lative report from 2017 called the district needs to "have more teach-

ports in place so they stay.

Early literacy interventions, like also something she wants to invest in, as well as having longer school days and longer school years.

Clarke said professional development and bias training, as it relates to developing pedagogy for teachers, is also something the district needs to be doing, something black educators have specifically requested, she said.

"That restorative justice piece will do wonders for students at PPS," she said.

Culturally responsive curricu-Wrap around services in gener- lum, as has been mandated with the passage of an Ethnic Studies bill in Oregon, is also important, Clarke said.

> "It's...critical to have students feel affirmed and reflected and celebrated through their lived experiences and how they connect to curricular goals. And I think we will see higher performance when we do that work."

> In addition, Clarke is a supporter of KairosPDX, the public the achievement gap for African American grade school students.

Clarke is younger than her opponent Michelle DePass in the May 21 vote-by-mail election, but Clarke points to her more years of overall professional experience in education.

"I think as it directly correlates to the job, I have direct relatable experience. I am a young professional," she said. "I just graduated from grad school a few years ago. But I think that that's also an asset. Being able to have a fresh perspective, a fresh set of eves that's connected and rooted in the experiences that students are having and educators are having and interconnecting those things to inform how we create goals; those are things that I think the board doesn't have and could be a powerful tool moving forward."

Clarke is endorsed by of Joy Davis of PAALF, State Reps. Janelle Bynum and Diego Hernandez; Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon Black Caucus Rachelle Dixon; Reynolds School District Board Directors Ricardo Ruiz and Yesenia Delgado; Multnomah Education Service District Board Director Helen Ying; former state Sen. Robert Boyer, APANO, PCC Federation of Classified Employees, and Former Law Judge Charlotte Rutherford.

For more information about Clark's candidacy, you can visit her website at shanice4pps.com/.

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Many Fault Lines and a Massive Fissuring

America's promise is in peril

by Hakim Hazim The Founding Fathers mulled over various approaches to governing before establishing the outlines of our nation. When they framed our constitu-

tion, they did so with care, deliberation, and foresight.

Believing that axioms, self-evident truths, would remain relevant in people's judgment and conduct, they constructed a new approach for future governance. They factored in various aspects of human nature paying careful attention to the morally corrosive nature of unchecked power. To guard against this, they instituted three branches of government, along with a free press, and empowered citizenry.

America was not just a place; our nation gave birth to an inspiring idea that people, collectively and individually, could, despite their differences, flourish. Leaders trusted the collective will of the people over tyrants, and the people trusted their leaders. This powerful, fragile, dream gave birth to revolution. We became a shining light, a place in which people armed with aspirations, gifts, work ethic, and morals, could come and start afresh.

Now, America's promise is in peril. Our leaders have failed us.

of mind

Baby dolls,

BY MARIAN

WRIGHT

Edelman



ried us. Today, there are many fault lines and a massive fissuring taking place. Cynicism about the other is systematically being fed to us and replacing "we the people." Despite this, my optimism springs from my forbearer's history in this country.

and powerlessness – believing they

no longer matter. They are waiting

I recall the salient imagery of my ancestors crossing the North Atlantic under some of harshest and most inhumane circumstances ever thrusted upon a people. People deprived of the very things America supposedly stood for helped build the American Dream for others, while being subjected to centuries of nightmares.

longed and labored for our piece of the promise.

Generations of our leaders fought for the futures of their children, bearing patiently the injustices of our nation, while keeping a longterm view in mind.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,

tel Premises" and children are for-

Five Years Later and Relisha is Still Missing

Today many feel a sense of angst, a nation's conscience. He knew that ing. America was based on the nothe legal system, religious institutions, and scientific community, had long agreed upon our inferior status.

As a Christian, I marvel at Dr. change the direction we are King's use of spiritual values. He shattered those racist perceptions, while unifying a nation. King understood and trusted that the original idea was good, but it needed to be fully implemented for all. He was grateful to be an American, because the dream, though delayed, proved true.

America, from its inception, was a collaborative effort in which the founders considered history, philosophy, principles of governing, and the passions of the people when they decided to wrest power and their future from British tyranny. They rightly placed their faith in God and the people. Today, we are returning to the old, divisive politics of exclusion. We are returning to a tribalism that shuns those we don't agree with and critical thinking about issues. We see politicians on both sides utilizing strawmen argu-We were excluded; yet, we ments, victimizing victims, ranting about selective prosecution when justice is at work against them, and not shockingly, debating when a baby can be terminated. Missing from these discussions is our voice. We matter, and a great deal more than we think.

understood the landscape. He em- ward and get involved in your comployed godly principles, strategic munity and political discourse-not logic, and critical thinking to arouse meme sharing and Facebook rant- analysis.

tion that every citizen matters and has a voice. Do you believe that? If you do, are you willing to engage with people you disagree with?

who are different than you in race, ethnicity, beliefs, and political party? Will you seek common ground? What if we rejected the cynical news cycles that show one side of an issue only? What if we, the citizenry, took seriously our civic duty to be educated on matters and critically thought about some of the things taking place in this country? If we did, things would change, and politicians could not get away with their business as usual approach. Corporations could not slant the news they have purchased with impunity.

We matter and what we do matters. If we lose sight of this, the American Dream dies, and our children's dreams will die with it. We can secure the results we seek if we return to the original principles of our nation, trust in God and one another. What we are seeing today are the results of our entrenched political party system, and our apathy. This approach will fill us with fear and angst, while stripping us of our voice. It is time to return to civil, informed conversation. It is time to return to the American Dream.

Hakim Hazim is the founder of I am challenging you to step for- Relevant Now, a nationally recognized consultancy that focuses on security, criminality and decision

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tiny trucks, toy food and dress-up capes. Scattered about the ballroom of a motel in northeast Washington, D.C., and captured in a Washington Post of Capitol Hill where big deals are column by Petula Dvorak, these made and bills become laws, the hallmarks of child's play are not motels-and the 1,000 homeless merely a sign of productive imag- children within them-are largely nothing to bring Relisha home. leaders and policymakers at all inations-they're evidence of a out of sight and out of mind. Other larger child and family poverty shelters are similarly isolated. crisis that must end in our affluent nation.

Twenty minutes outside the city's downtown, a stretch of budget motels along a major highway serve as overflow shelters for a morgue. Out of direct view and homeless families in the nation's tucked into the nooks and crancapital. They have strict rules nies of a dense, bustling city, it is about where children are seen and heard. Signs dotting the hallways homeless children. announce "No Playing on the Ho-



serves event spaces to carve out areas where children can be children. However, the lack of space and high cost of reserving ballrooms and conference halls means popup playtimes are much too limited.

Away from the hustle and bustle

Until it closed in October 2018, the city's largest family shelter was D.C. General, a former abandoned public hospital whose neighboring buildings included a jail and too easy to overlook out-of-sight erywhere among us, without safe

Until tragedy strikes.

was abducted from the D.C. General homeless shelter in March 2014. Relisha loved art and baby dolls and would exuberantly spell V-I-C-T-O-R-Y on her school's cheer team. For months, Relisha's disappearance dominated the news cycle and brought the glare of national attention to D.C. General.

City officials, pundits, locals and anonymous online commentators heaped blame on Relisha's family, her teachers and her social workers. But assigning blame did Five years have passed and Relisha is still missing.

Why do we fail to see our poor children until their faces stare at us from a Missing Child poster? Why do we blame parents rather than blame our broken, unjust system that fails to provide affordable housing for families?

Thousands of Relishas live evplaces to live and grow up. They are homeless because housing is the Children's Defense Fund.

Eight-year-old Relisha Rudd too expensive and their parents' jobs pay too little; unaccounted for because affordable quality child care is out of reach; finding pockets of playtime in motel ballrooms because play is otherwise forbidden; hurting because poverty hurts.

> It's time to stop assigning blame and start taking action. This month, the Children's Defense Fund will release a new edition of our report Ending Child Poverty Now with an urgent call to action. We must make poor children's struggles visible to our political levels of government and in every state and community. We must lift up child poverty solutions that work including a higher minimum wage, housing assistance vouchers for struggling parents, transitional jobs programs and child care assistance.

We must keep children front and center, invisible no longer.

Marian Wright Edelman is Founder and President Emerita of **MCS Still in**

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Portland Community College covers the base of PCC's oldest and will soon be one person short on largest campus, Sylvania Campus. its seven-member board of directors

Zone 5 in southwest Portland and Beaverton, is stepping down after to Jeannie Moton, executive cobeing elected to the post in 2017 ordinator for PCC's Office of the because she is moving out of the President and Board Directors, district, college officials said.

years remaining in the post, which Friday, May 24, at noon.

Interested candidates are encouraged to forward a cover letter, Valdez Bravo, representing resume, list of references, and letters of recommendation (optional) at jeannie.moton@pcc.edu or by PCC is now accepting pplica- mail to PCC-Board of Directors, tions from interested candidates P.O. Box 19000, Portland, OR living in Zone 5 to fulfill the two 97280. The deadline to apply is

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The Real Threats to Free Speech on Campus

A disregard for the humanity of

students BY GLORIA OLADIPO

The school year may be winding to a close, but the tired argument about "at-

tacks on free speech" on college campuses is alive as ever.

According to Donald Trump, liberal universities like Berkeley are allowing conservative students to be "assaulted" for sharing their beliefs on campus. To combat such violations, Trump signed an executive order requiring colleges to "protect free speech" or risk losing federal education funding.

I'm delighted to alert Trump and all those with similar concerns that free speech on campus, on both sides of the political aisle, is doing just fine — to a point.

College campuses, now more than ever, are home to a variety of organizations with differing tions, Students for Justice in Pal-Israel, as well as other organizations with conflicting viewpoints.

More specifically, college campuses are fairly accommodating spaces for conservative students.

To date, no campus has banned any form of Trump paraphernalia, nor has any college persecuted a student for wearing pro-Trump symbols. College campuses routinely host conservative speak- gard for the safety and humanity ers: Cornell hosted Dick Cheney, while the University of Baltimore commencement ceremony,

among other examples. Outside organizations actively use their influence to make sure conservative students have their perspectives represented. Many conservative organizations are well funded by Republican politicians and wealthy Republican families.

Additionally, conservative news outlets such as Breitbart and the National Review regularly publish articles demonizing universities they say aren't doing enough to protect their version of "free speech," which appears to mean shielding campus conservatives from any kind of criticism or protest.

When the president and other conservatives talk about the precarious state of free speech, they're often referring to efforts to stop hateful speech on campuses.

They're angry that Milo Yiannopoulos wasn't allowed to speak at Berkeley when he was planning to out undocumented students, political views: pro-Democratic putting them at risk of deporta- speech, has consequences - inand pro-Republican organiza- tion. They're angry that a student cluding freely spoken responses organization from Cornell Univerestine and Students Supporting sity canceled conservative speaker Students shouldn't be expected to Jannique Stewart because of her be idle in response to hate speech. blatant homophobia.

> College campuses have always been willing to host dialogue, even when it's difficult. However, the president's and other conservatives' demand that outside speakers be permitted to freely antagonize the most marginalized students on their own college campuses shows a complete disre-

of students. So is free speech in jeopardy?

had Betsy DeVos speak at their Yes, but not in the way that conservatives traditionally conceive it.

> Contrary to the usual story, many leftists within universities are persecuted for their beliefs. Lisa Durden, a black professor formerly at Essex Community College, was fired after defending a black-only Black Lives Matter event on Fox News. Jim Stump, a former professor at Bethel College, was fired for defending evolution compared to the university's predominantly creationist beliefs.

Trump's executive order itself and the outside intimidation that conservative publications exert on students — represents an actual attack free speech. Student groups, often made up of people of color and other marginalized demographics, are constantly demonized for organizing to stop hate in their communities. While conservative students speak freely, those in opposition to homophobes and racists are silenced.

Free speech, including hateful of anger and protest from others.

Instead of shaming and censoring progressive students, more should be done to protect those who protest, fighting against hate and for their own humanity.

Gloria Oladipo is a sophomore at Cornell University and a permanent resident of Chicago. She can be found writing and fighting @gaoladipo on Twitter.



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GOD BLESS

Page 10

DePass has deep roots to community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

attended Benson High School.

DePass attended both Metropolitan Learning Center, an alternative high school known for its successful and experimental learning techniques, and Jefferson High School, during the heyday of its exceptional dance program in the 1970s.

She completed a Master's degree in Sustainable Business at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute in Seattle and a bachelor's degree in Community Development from Portland State University.

DePass has gained a wide variety of professional experience over the years, from academic, to private, to public. The work has included construction, budget and program management; and working in the energy conservation field. In terms of government experience, in addition to her current role at the city, she's worked for the regional government Metro and Portland Parks and Recreation.

She has served as a community volunteer for years, including chaperoning students, and leading Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, a program making connections for girls with incarcerated mothers and grandmothers. She has led outdoor expeditions for kids of color. She's also taught business basics at King Elementary and at Beaumont middle school.

"I have the experience of ac-

As a single parent I've been volunteering for the schools for 28 years in Portland and that's before I had children," DePass said.

As to her strategy to making improvements in Portland schools, DePass points to a 2017 Oregon Legislative report called the African American/Black Student Success plan, which was developed by some of the most prominent equity education leaders in the state.

for school districts to provide more wrap around services, creating interventions to bolster early childhood literacy, and expanding some of the programs that provide things like housing assistance and food to low income families, like the SUN School program, which she said does "a great job."

DePass said she knows from personal experience the plight of surviving in a low-income upbringing and the disruptions that situation causes for learning. As a child, she and her family were homeless at times.

"I know for myself that I showed up [to school] and I was not focused on what was happening in the classroom, I was focusing on we don't have a place to live...I know that that's happening, this level of trauma is happening more and more, especially due to the housing crisis," DePass said. "21st century schools need to recognize and address that all tually dealing with the issues that of their kids are maybe not ready are current right now at the district to learn and need extra support to

level and I have the time to serve. stay in school and to be successful than just being erased out of histoin school," she said.

DePass boasts the endorsements of both Portland Association of Teachers and Oregon Education Association, two organizations that provide significant backing both monetarily and in credibility to school board campaigns. Even so, they have snubbed past candidates of color for school board: Jamila Munson in 2017 and José González in 2015, specifically.

But DePass said that's no rea-She supports the report's call son to believe the candidates endorsed by PAT and OEA are "anti-candidates of color," adding that PAT has been advocating for more diversity on the board.

When asked if DePass supported KairosPDX--the public charter school whose mission is to close the achievement gap for grade school -aged kids of color, particularly black kids--DePass said "absolutely."

"I know in that case that they're doing an excellent job. I fully support Kairos. I'd love to see 17 of those Kairos' around the community because I know they're doing a great job."

She also said she's really excited to support getting an Ethnic Studies Bill that was passed fully implemented, to mandate ethnic studies in K-12 schools, which she said is slated to happen this upcoming school year in the fall.

"How empowering is that, to walk into a classroom and see a black teacher and hear about the greatness of your people? Rather ry," she said.

DePass lists three things that aligned at just the right time to motivate her to run for the board.

The first was that she previously went through the Emerge Oregon Program in 2017, which is a program that teaches Democratic women how to run for public office. At the time, she completed the 70 hour training program with "the sole goal of supporting other women running for office."

The second was that her youngest son is soon set to graduate at Benson--and thus enable her to have more time to dedicate to being a school board member. As a mom who cooked a hot breakfast everyday and a hot dinner every night, and focused on spending fleeting time with her children, it was a significant chunk of time gained, she said. The third reason was prompted

by a recent audit of Portland Public Schools by the Oregon Secretary of State's office and the realization that the district was facing a lot of issues that she felt she had the experience and qualifications necessary to address them.

Among some of DePass' endorsements are former Gov. Barbara Roberts, State Sens. Lew Frederick and Michael Dembrow-both former teachers of hers, Multnomah County Com-Susheela missioner Jayapal, AFSCME Local 189, Stand for Children, Portland Public School Board Member Julia Brim Edwards, Beaverton School Board Member Donna Tyner, and many others. For more information, visit DePassforPPS.com.

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Dbituary In Loving Memory Willie Kemp Jr.

Sunrise: March 8, 1943 Sunset: April 28, 2019

Willie Kemp Jr., a resident of Portland since the 1970s was originally from Flint, Mich. He was an 18 wheeler truck driver for Portland General Electric for 40 years.

He is survived by his wife Perry Wills Kemp; daughter Wendy Murchinson; sons Tommie (Kimberly) Kemp and Kevin (Stephanie) Kemp; three sisters Fannie Smith, Louis Evans and Cora Kemp, all of Flint, Mich.; two brothers, James Kemp of Sr.; grandparents, two sisters and Lansing, Mich. and Inell Kemp two brothers; and a grandson, Calof Flint; eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, an aunt and uncle and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. He 2337 N. Williams Ave., on Friday, was loved by many. He will be May 10, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. truly missed.

parents, Beatrice and Willie Kemp tist Church 1730 S.E. 117th Ave.



vin Richman Davis.

Public Viewing will be held at Terry's Family Funeral Home, Services will be held Saturday, He was preceded in death by his May 11 at 11 a.m. at Bethesda Bap-



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