

OEO celebrates ten years' service to poor

Community Action Week will be celebrated during the week of March 19-26, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended. The Office of Economic Opportunity - better known as the War on Poverty - was one of the

"New Frontiers" programs of President John F. Kennedy and was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Governor Tom McCall, Multnomah County Commissioner James Gleason and Mayor Neil Goldschmidt have proclaimed Community Ac-

tion Week for their jurisdiction. According to Cleveland Gilcrease, Executive Director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, EOA, Inc., the highlight of the week will be a banquet to be held at the Sheraton Motor Inn on March 26th. Guest

speaker will be Alvin J. Arnett, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Other special guests include Mayor Goldschmidt; Chairman Gleason; State Representative William McCoy; John Finley, Regional Director of OEO; J.B. Vutzy, Regional Program

Director of the Office of Child Development; and Dr. D.J. Brooks, Jr., President of the National Association for Community Development. Representatives of Governor Tom McCall and the Department of Labor, Region X, will also attend. Arnett was appointed Dir-

ector of the Office of Economic Opportunity on June 26, 1973 by President Nixon. He had been an employee of the Appalachian Regional Commission prior to his appointment. Arnett was born in Kentucky and reared in Charleston, West Virginia. He graduated from Florida

Southern College and spent ten years in the U.S. Coast Guard. His work with the Appalachian Commission, which began in 1967, was interrupted for two years (1970-1971) while he served as executive assistant to United States Senator J. Glenn Beal of Maryland.

Arnett is a supporter of President Nixon's plan to phase out OEO. Nixon had attempted to eliminate the program by June of 1974, but was prevented from doing so by court action. His current plan is to eliminate OEO and place the programs that would continue under other departments. The Community Action Agencies would no longer receive federal funds, or as Arnett told the sub-committee on Equal Opportunity of the House Committee on Education, "So, rather than advocating total abandonment of community action programs, the Administration is simply suggesting that after ten years, the local initiative share of community action funds be (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 8)



Mayor Neil Goldschmidt presents Cleveland Gilcrease, executive director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, with a proclamation announcing Community Action Week.

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Washington joins education staff

State Superintendent Dale Parnell has named Herman A. Washington, a former president of the Portland Association of Teachers, social studies specialist for the State Department of Education. Washington will join the staff April 10th.

Washington, 32, now is a teacher of social studies at Washington High School in Portland and political science at Portland Community College.

Parnell said Washington will direct a new emphasis on state and local government. "The new Oregon graduation requirements," Parnell said, "will assure that students learn how to cope responsibly with state and local government as well as national government. It's frustrating that students seem to know more about the Aztecs and Incas than they do about their own city government," he added. "We must refocus our efforts."

Washington received a B.S. in secondary education from Alabama State University in 1964 and a M.S. in political science from the University of Colorado in 1969.

His 10 years of teaching experience have been unique. Besides working in small and big city classrooms, Washington has taught in all-white, all-Black and integrated schools.

He spent his first six years

as an educator in Alabama. He began teaching in 1964 at Chilton County Training School. Two years later he became principal of Hollywood Eighth Grade School and in 1967 was named chairman of the social science department of Hollywood Junior High School. He came to Washington High School in 1970.

Washington has been active in his profession outside



DALE A. WASHINGTON

Black turnover explained

School Superintendent Dr. Robert Blanchard told the Model Cities Working Committee on Education in January of 1973. "Since 1968-69, the rate of resignation of Black teachers has exceeded the rate of resignation of non-Black teachers. This is because of the increasing job opportunities for Blacks at very competitive salaries. We must hire two to 'keep' one. Had the resignation rate been the same, our present number of Black teachers would be slightly more than 6.1 percent of the total."

A survey of school district records shows that of 33 Black teachers hired in the 1968 school year, only 16 were teaching in the Portland Public Schools in September of 1973. Of 28 hired in 1969, only 9 remain. Dr. Blanchard's explanation is that these teachers, after majoring in education and achieving certification, leave for better jobs. Black teachers give a different assessment.

Teachers in the system and those who have left state that the reason for the high rate of turnover is that Blacks were hired during the period of 1968 to 1973 to

"cool down" Albina and to satisfy federal requirements. Now that Black students have settled down and there are few racial incidents in such schools as Jefferson, Roosevelt, Adams and Grant, these teachers are no longer needed. They accuse the school district of attempting to eliminate them before tenure is achieved.

Julius Speigener is waiting for his hearing before the state's Fair Dismissals Board. He was terminated by the school district for "insubordination" and other charges.

Speigener was hired by the school district in 1969 as a job developer. He worked with the National Alliance of Businessmen pleasing students on jobs. Speigener had been an auto mechanic and had been employed for 12 years by Pacific Airmotive Corporation, testing and installing wiring circuits and other related work. He also had his own automotive business in Southern California and was a licensed mechanic. He had attended Washington Vocational School in St. Louis, where he studied auto-mechanics, physics, economics, electricity, science and industrial relations. He holds a BA degree and is a certified

vocational teacher.

After a year as a Job Developer, Speigener was selected to operate the new auto shop at Jefferson. He spent a year as a consultant at Roosevelt while Jefferson's shop was being built.

According to Speigener, his problems with the administration began soon after the Jefferson shop opened. He found the equipment that had been purchased was of poor quality and that many essential tools were missing. The school refused to buy the items, but when he brought his own tools for the students to use, he was ordered to take them home. One example of equipment that was missing is that the shop operated for two years without the required fire blanket, which is used to wrap a student if he catches on fire.

Then problems developed over purchase of auto parts. The students worked on cars brought in by students, faculty or the public. Stocks of commonly used parts such as bolts and spark plugs were not kept and had to be purchased for each job. Originally he could order parts on open account, but later had (Please turn to pg. 2, col. 7)

Ethiopian famine brings suffering

A disastrous famine has broken out in Ethiopia, plunging millions of people into an unprecedented suffering. The magnitude of suffering and dehumanization of our people has surpassed the limits of imagination. They have turned into prehistoric gatherers search-

ing on the ground for a stray seed of grain. Their flesh is all gone and all that remains is the ghostly skeleton and the baggy skin hanging from it.

The famine has already caused the death of 100,000 to 150,000 people and 88% of the cattle in the country.

Epidemic diseases like typhoid, cholera, smallpox and other diseases are spreading unchecked throughout the famine stricken areas. Two million people already face death by starvation, according to the London Times. The entire population of the (Please turn to pg. 5, col. 6)

Amnesty sought for veterans

Ronald H. Brown, Director of the Washington Bureau of the National Urban League, urged Congress to consider granting amnesty to veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges at the same time that it considers legislation that would grant am-

nesty to those who refused to serve in the military during the Vietnam war.

He made the request in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice which is considering legislation pro-

posing amnesty for conscientious objectors and draft evaders. He said that an unfair proportion of the approximately 450,000 Vietnam veterans who have had discharges are Black.

Saying that minority members were drafted in greater numbers, assigned in greater numbers to front-line duty or to unskilled, dead-end jobs, the NUL leader told the congressmen that Blacks were also ejected in greater numbers with less-than-honorable records.

"It should be noted that at this point in time when unemployment is excessively high, discharges are being used to deny jobs to those who otherwise qualify for them," he said. "To understand the scope of the problem," he continued, "it is necessary to consider that about a million veterans left the service with less-than-honorable discharges since 1950. Fully too many of these bad discharges were given under circumstances that would not earn any sort of punishment in civilian life," he said.

Brown said that all too often "even discharges which have the appearance of being 'honorable' are in fact coded with personal characteristics which may serve to discriminate against millions of men who are not even aware of the presence of such (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 5)

Student achieves honor

by Rosemary Allen

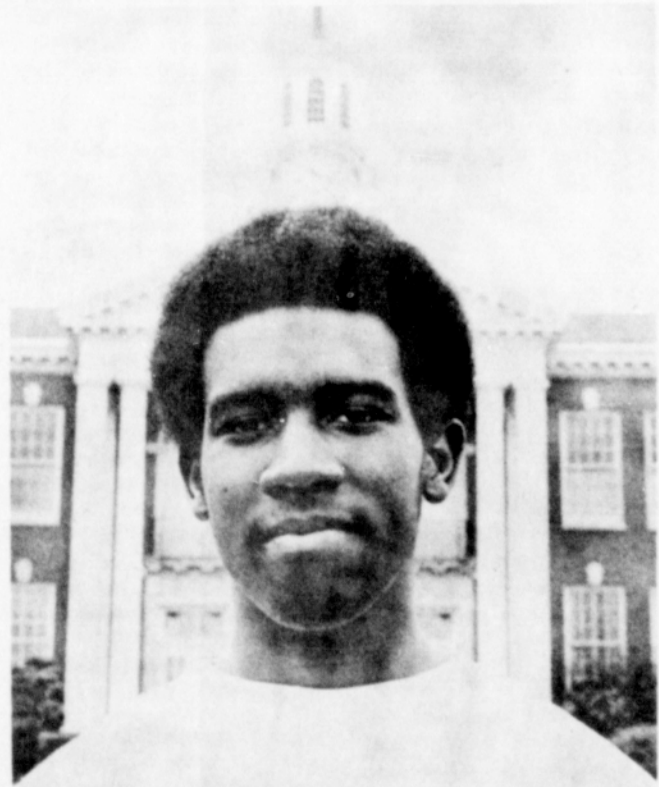
Vincent Barnett recently became a finalist in competition for the National Achievement Scholarship for Black High School students. Students are chosen from results of the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT) scores.

Vincent Barnett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Barnett. He and his family are originally from Detroit, Michigan, where Vincent attended Cass Technical High School.

The Barnett family moved to Oregon in February of 1974. Vincent Barnett now attends Franklin High School, where he majors in Science, Biology and Chemistry. Vincent has an accumulative grade point average of 3.8 and was elected into the Franklin High Friar's Club for males with high GPAs. Five students are elected each year. Barnett was chosen by members of the club on the basis of his GPA and his friendliness towards others.

Barnett is considering attending Oregon State University or Michigan State University and possibly majoring in Biology, but he is still uncertain.

A former clarinetist in the



VINCENT BARNETT

high school band. Vincent Barnett's athletic interest is in track. Last year he was a member of the track team

and competed as a sprinter in the 100, 220 and the 440 yard dashes and the 440 yard relay.

Strike ends, drive seeks assistance

Despite the successful settlement of the long strike at the Farah Manufacturing Company in El Paso, Texas, help for the several thousand workers involved must continue for a few weeks more, until they can get back on the job, according to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO CLC.

The Amalgamated and the Help the Farah Workers Week Committee have appealed for a generous turnout of contributions that will help the former strikers until

they are called back to work at the big El Paso plant, one of the largest manufacturers of men's and boy's pants in the nation.

Settlement of the strike was announced on February 24th by William Farah and leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, President Murray Finley and Secretary Treasurer Jacob Sheinman. In Portland, Ms. DiFabio, spokeswoman for the committee, declared:

"These workers have made great sacrifices for their beliefs and for the cause of

democratic trade unionism. For long months they have lived on \$30 a week strike benefits. They urgently need our help right to the day when, under union agreement, they can go back to work at Farah.

"Let's get the food, clothing and dollars to the Farah workers by Easter. Our goal is the same as always: to bring help to people in need. We must stand with the same plan: to get people to give whatever they can, as much as they can." (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 6)

Albina team wins tourney berth

by Rosemary Allen

The Albina Sports Program 8th grade Junior-Pro basketball team slipped past Sabin Grade School 56 to 50 to win the Junior-Pro Championship in the Northwest. As Northwest Champions, the team will travel to Kentucky to compete against Junior-Pro teams from all over the nation.

Greg Williams, a P.E. Associate at Portland Community College, coaches the

team. Mr. Williams, who receives a personal satisfaction from coaching the youngsters, feels that it keeps some of them off the streets.

The Albina Sports Program, which this group is a part of, was founded by Phil Walden. Its programs, in primarily track and basketball, include ages of 6 years old to college age. There are no specific requirements to join the program.

Most of the members of

the 12 roster Junior-Pro team have been playing together since the 5th grade. Since the tournament began, the team has practiced two hours a day, every day. Coach Greg Williams and assistant coach John Camp are sure their team has a good chance of winning in the Championship playoffs. They leave for Kentucky March 26th. Their first game is against the Kentucky State Champions.

Opportunities abound in Air Force

by Rosemary Allen

"Many people still picture the Air Force as where you get up at 4 a.m. at the sound of a bugle," stated Master Sergeant John Pennington, an Air Force minority recruiter for the 8 western states. However, Pennington pointed out, the latter is no longer true. The Air Force offers numerous educational opportunities and can be of great help to those who graduate from high school and are yet undecided about their future.

The Air Force tries to discourage dropouts from joining, Mr. Pennington said. "We encourage kids to finish high school before entering the service." The age limits for joining the Air Force are from 18 to 27. Seventeen year olds are accepted with parental consent.

As a minority recruiter, Pennington explained, "my job is to work with people like Urban League and NAACP." Sergeant Pennington works in the minority category. As defined by the Air Force, the minority category includes all except Caucasians. The Air Force, according to Sergeant Pennington, has minority goals in all of their programs. ROTC Scholarships, 12-week Officer Training School and a Medical program are some of its programs.

The Medical program sponsors the student through Medical School, pays all tuition, books, fees and \$400

per month living expenses. The student must be admitted by a medical school prior to enlistment.

The Air Force, as Sergeant Pennington sees it, provides more than just defense for the nation; it tries to solve social problems by taking unskilled, many times jobless, people and giving them skills. As an institution, Mr. Pennington continued, "the Air Force plays a bigger role toward helping society than colleges."

Master Sergeant John Pennington is the father of

five children. His wife, Martha Pennington, was selected last year as "Military Wife of the Year". Sergeant Pennington entered the Air Force 20 years ago at the age of 19. While in the Air Force he has earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a teaching certificate.

While the Air Force is thought to be predominantly for men, it offers numerous opportunities for women also. Sergeant Pennington pointed out. The Air Force does provide strong support for (Please turn to pg. 5, col. 7)

Minority workers seek union membership

Seven minority workers filed for union membership with the Operating Engineers Local 701. The seven - Leonardo Doss, Guadalupe Vargas, James Brown, Lester Brown, Charlye Molden, Bill Davis and Thedis Poe - are graduates of the United Minority Workers - Associated General Contractors' heavy equipment school. All are eligible for journeyman standing. Nine additional persons will apply within the week.

Registration with the union places them on the list for referral to employment. Jobs are assigned according to experience and placement on the list. Contractors call the union for employees, and

only if the union cannot produce within 48 hours can they hire non-union members. Once an employee is hired through this method, he is insured union membership.

Russ Joy, secretary of Local 701, was not available for comment. His office said he had given orders that the number of union members not be released, but that inquirers be told that "it is a changing figure". Recent estimates are that out of between 6,000 and 8,000 union members, less than a half dozen are Black. Black workers have found Local 701 to be one of the worst in Portland in discriminating against minorities.

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