

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SIDELINES

By Kathryn H. Bogle

The Metropolitan Club of Portland, an organization planned for Black professional people, will hold a first full business meeting on Friday evening, March 28 at the Bourbon Street restaurant. At this meeting by-laws will be adopted and a nominating committee for a slate of officers will be appointed by the acting president, Dr. E.C. Ogboubiri.

Several months in the planning, (since the early fall of 1979) this organization came out of an ad hoc assembly of 100 interested Black professionals. They elected a board of directors of five officers and two trustees from among their number. Mrs. Lolita Allen was mandated to organize the club and she appointed the committee to develop the by-laws for the organization. This committee has met each week for the past six months to complete their work for presentation.

Dr. Ogboubiri outlines the purposes of the organization to be "to provide a responsible forum for social acquaintance, cultural exchange, self development, economic progress and political expression." Members also expect to work towards making the Portland Metropolitan area more livable for Black people, according to Ogboubiri.

First person to address the Metropolitan Club of Portland will be City Commissioner Charles Jordan. His topic at their first business meeting will be "Issues of Concern to Black People of Portland."

Invitations are out to "Dance in the 80's with Delta." This affair, to be held at the Fiesta Center of the Holiday Inn, Airport will be informal this year, though invitations must be presented at the door. Beta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will welcome their guests Friday, April 4th, from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.



VERNON CHATMAN

Vernon Chatman of the Portland Urban League was one of five Oregon residents chosen from among 80 eligible persons to receive the bronze medallion representing the Thomas Jefferson Award. The search is made annually for persons who have made significant contributions to the betterment of their local communities.

The award, established about four years ago by the National Media Academy and the American Institute for Public Service, came to Chatman at an Award Ceremony on March 14, at the studios of KOIN TV. Chatman's name was submitted for recognition by the Portland Chapter of Links, Inc. and by the Urban League Guild as well as by individuals acting independently.

A conference, to be held later in the year in Washington, D.C., will gather winners from around the country to the capitol for further recognition.

The local award ceremony, taped, will be telecast on Sunday, March 30, at 8:00 p.m. from KOIN TV.

The annual Lenten Green Tea presented by the women of St. Phillips Episcopal Church, was a successful event of Sunday, March 23. Tea Chairman was Mrs. Inez Mayberry. Assisting were: Mrs. Angeline Britton, Mrs. Edna Baskett, Mrs. Mary Bird, Mrs. Margaret Heil and Mrs. Helen Rawlins.



William James Noble (right) illustrates a point for Dr. Fred Burgess, Oregon State University, and two high school friends at conference for National Minority Engineering effort.



High school students and their parents learn the advantages of engineering as a profession.

Pouring were several husband and wife teams, or teams of mothers and sons. The men made gracious hosts at the table and made voluntary offers to "do it again."

"Spread the word!" "Believe it!" "Achieve it!" urged the recruiter.

He spoke to nearly two hundred minority high school students gathered recently for a day at the Sheraton Hotel. The students were guests of two great corporations, Pacific Northwest Bell and Portland General Electric, who had linked corporate arms with the Portland Urban League to give the young people, and their parents, a look at employment probabilities for the 80's.

George Coover recruits professionals to work for the General Electric Company. He had come to invite minority students to prepare themselves academically for a career where openings are expected to be available for some years hence. Namely, Engineering.

Coover predicted that inflation will continue with "oil, gas and automobiles scare and expensive." "Technology," he said, "will continue to escalate, responding to new research and development here and abroad."

"Among the new technologies will be included: lasers, micro-electronics, computer applications, substitutions for materials and fuels, and energy conservation. This means the problems will be more complex and new technologies will be needed to solve them."

Coover went on to recognize that government and "societal" pressures are expected to persist. "These," he said, "will sustain a high demand for minorities with engineering and technical training. Opportunity for progress in the 80's will be open to those who have a positive attitude and are prepared to work in a highly competitive and increasingly complex environment. The primary key to opportunity in the 80's and 90's will be technology."

A number of jobs expected to increase during the next decade in-

clude some crafts and trades requiring some advanced technical schooling. Some are professions which imply college education such as engineers, life and physical scientists, architects and people in the medical professions.

Coover pointed out that some occupations will be decreasing too, and commented: Stenographers will be less in demand by 22%. Why? Because mechanical and electronic means will be found to replace some of the work "stenos" do.

Working out a few statistics for the students, Coover revealed that "for every 1,000 college age people, 31 are getting 4-year college degrees each year, but only 15 of every thousand college age Blacks are getting degrees and only 13 of every college age Hispanics are getting degrees."

"Among Blacks only 15 out of every 1,000 Black college graduates are getting degrees in engineering. So what difference does that make? What will be the technological impact? Without enough Blacks or Hispanics with technological training, how can they fully take advantage of the opportunities of the 80's? It is plain that minority high school students and graduates must be prepared to make wise choices of college courses."

On an upbeat note, the "National Minority Engineering Effort" is beginning to pay off. But there's still a long way to go, according to Coover.

Industry is helping through aid in scholarships, part-time jobs, and in hiring the graduates when they get their degrees. (Base pay for an engineer on a first job after college graduation is about \$15,000 a year).

Other speakers through the day's sessions on Engineering Awareness were introduced by Vernon Chatman of the Urban League and Thornton Bell. Listed to speak were Herb Cawthorne of Portland State University, Ernest Hartzog of Portland Public Schools, Angie Davis of Pacific Northwest Bell, Bill Lawson of PGE, Bessie Fields of PSU, Brother Frederick Williams of University of Portland, Dr. Fred Burgess, Oregon State University of Washington. Each

stressed the importance of higher education for best personal advantages in the 80's.

William James Noble was introduced as being the first Black man to be graduated as an electrical engineer under the ME3 program at Oregon State. Noble later added an advanced degree in Business Administration received from University of Chicago.

Jefferson High School provided choral music during the luncheon.

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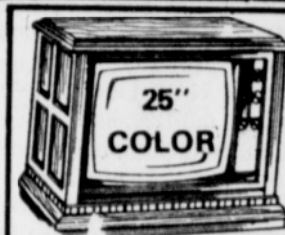
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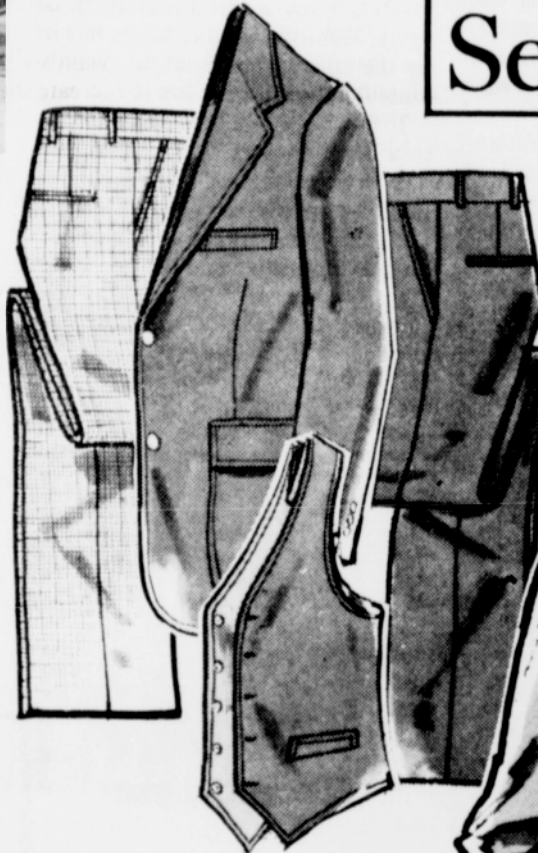
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