## Education ticket to adventure

"One criticism that I have of Blacks in Portland is that they do not utilize the media effectively. The media molds mind, shape thought patterns, and create fads. If the Blacks don't play a role in the media they will be lost in the shuffle."

Ullysses Tucker Jr., Black host for "Dialogue," a weekly talk show on Portland's KPTV-Channel 12, answers his own personal criticism with personal involvement.

Tucker points to the lack of proper feedback from the Black community to various forms of media. "The Western world is built upon the written word, Blacks will to become aware of feedback channels and how to write letters to stations and let the media know that we are out there. blacks have to demand quality programming. If we don't complain about the bad things we see on T.V., the people who control the media will assume that everything is cool.

"For example check out the movies like Buck Rogers, Battle-Star Galatica, Star Wars, or any program for that matter. How many Blacks do you see? Do they have plans for us? This is a tell-tale sign of the future, because all of his science fiction comes true. It is not that I am being pessimistic, but I am trying to be logical, and I realize this is a reactionary statement. One thing that really bothers me is that Blacks are asking "Whats happening" and it's because nobody knows. This is 1980 and in 20 years we will have reached the year 2000. "Masters" student explains how ne received a start at KPTV. "At the University of Portland, a three credit internship is required, after checking with various stations Channel 12 agreed to accept me.

After the internship introduced me to different departments of the station. I decided that I would like to work in either public affairs, promotion, or news. Ultimately I was hired in public affairs."

When questioned about how he received his job as a talk show host so quickly, why he was chosen, and what he reactions were, Tucker came straight to the point. "The reason I was hired to be the producer of the show is that KPTV needed Black programming at the time. Several people had tried to implement a show but efforts failed. I was the first one to stick it out. I was in the right place at the right time. KPTV wanted to do something about their lack of Black programming and they chose me for the job because of my qualifications, attitude, and drive.



Ullysses Tucker, Jr., talks with students at the Black Educational Center.

was like making me a link to the Black community.

Prior to his coming to the University of Portland, Tucker attended Southeastern nebraska Junior College where he acquired an associate of arts degree in journalism in 1977.

Tucker was a basketball player during his days at S.E. Nebraska and when asked about his basketball skills, he replied, "I always wanted to play professional basketball, I still haven't got it out of my system yet. But after I saw that I couldn't play on that level, I realized that I had to channel my energies in a different direction. In the future I would like to be a professional sportscaster for the N.B.A.'

Tucker, the oldest of seven children, advice to young people is, When I was hired for the show it "get your schooling, develop your

writing and speaking skills and carry with you Aritotalian logic and western thoughts, because believe me the majority rules."

If no one knows what is happening by now, then it seems that they are definately in trouble. the space age is coming and we must prepare our children also."

Tucker feels that "the biggest problem in Portland lies in the root of the educational system." The average Black goes to school 9.6 years, which puts him at the freshman level in high school. If there was incentive he probably would continue, otherwise he usually ends up in jail or in the streets. Once you have an education, your avenues are much clearer, you've got to have to

Does Tucker support the Black

United Front? "Wholeheartedly, but on the other hand and this may

sound like a contradiction; I used to pray to get bussed because I attended poor public schools. After all the whites left Washington, D.C., for the suburbs and private schools, the quality of the inner city schools went down. All I wanted to do was be around quality education -- the system here could improve greatly if you upgrade the teachers and the quality of education in the Black neighborhood." Tucker feels that housing is also a problem in Portland. "With the price of gas as it is, many people are starting to move intowards the city in turn putting a squeeze on the Black population. Renovation of older houses are raising the prices of them, economically placing low income

Blacks out of the picture."

## Burnside agencies protest

The Burnside Community Council called for a picket of the United Way Columbia Willamette agency at their headquarters,

The picket was called to protest the recent denial of a \$50,000 grant to the Burnside Consortium, an umbrella planning, funding and administrative agency for the Burnside area. The grant, if approved, would have been distributed to a number of Burnside-serving agencies. United Way officials were scheduled to meet with the Burnside Consortium on Monday, June 30th to explain why the grant request was turned down.

Michael Stoops, B.C.C. board member, calls the recent denial of funds for Burnside indicative of how United Way dollars are generally allocated. "The poorest

neighborhood in the state cannot seem to get United Way dollars to help the poorest people most in. need. United Way is a middle class institution funding middle class, projects," says Stoops.

"Burside-serving agencies have been trying to get tied into United Way for years. One Burnside agency has been trying for almost seven years. They applied last year and were rejected on the grounds that United Way would prefer to channel money into the neighborhood through the newly-formed Burnside Consortium. the Consortium applies and is also rejected. United Way tells the Consortium to apply again next year," says Stoops.

"The trouble with this continual runaround is that the neighborhood is never sure that we will ever get any money from United Way."



## Chatman addresses engineers

By Kathryn H. Bogle

Some 1800 nuclear Engineers, and others involved in the field of nuclear engineering, listened with approval when Vernon Chatman of the Portland Urban League addressed them recently. The engineers were in Las Vegas for a national Nuclear Engineering conference, and Chatman had the rare distinction, as a non-engineer to address the group.

Chatman's message, concerning the minority workshop in Engineering, carried plans for a powerful thrust for attracting potential engineers from among minority students around the nation. Chatman, in outstanding plans, could draw upon his personal experience toward this effort.

Chatman and Dr. Lee Petticord of the School of Engineering at Oregon State University have worked together in Oregon several months ago in the original venture under the sponsorship of the Portland General Electric Company. Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone company was a co-sponsor of this successful first effort, the affair, an all-day syymposium, served to acquaint high school senior minority students with the exciting and rewarding careers awaiting them in engineering. Equally important, the students were told how to attain these careers with well directed study but with little or no cash necessary.

"The body of nuclear engineers gathered at Las Vegas gave evidence that they think highly of our proposal," stated Chatman. "Agreement was reached as the the methods we may use in instituting and implementing the project on a national level."



**VERNON CHATMAN** 

The engineers will use the "financial arm" of the National "NEED" to attend the costs of the project. Each of the local engineering societies around the nation will decide whether or not to

students in their area. "In this way, wherever the women and men.

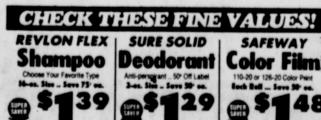
(Photo: By Richard J. Brown)

Engineering Society of a given area sees a need and wishes to establish Engineering Society called the cooperative action in their community, the program can be launched by them," says Chatman.

The original Minority Workshop, held in Portland in December, 1979 participate with the nearest local at the Sheration Lloyed Center Urban League office, the National Hotel, registered nearly 200 students Urban League will do its part and their parents, according to through any of its 117 individual Chatman. He pointed out that in atlocal offices in the nation by tendance were students of diverse gathering interested minority ethic backgrounds, including Black, Asian, Hispanic, and Greek young







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