

Jernigan opens construction firm

By Nathaniel Scott

A one time ABA (American Basketball Association) player, heads his own construction company in the greater Portland area.

Roy Jernigan, who also played three years of professional ball in Kortrai, Belgium; a Portland police department employee with duties in patrolling and the Human Resources Bureau Training Division, ventures into a world of business via Jernigan's Construction Company.

Jernigan was born in New York, moved to Portland in 1960, has two girls and one boy, employs three workers and among his many other duties, finds time to serve as a board of director for the Northwest Ex-offender Association, of which he is a member.

Jernigan's Construction Company is a specialized company specializing in framing and dry walling.

The plight of doing anything is not always easy, and the legal ramifications and other stigmas an ex-offender has to go through taxes the mind of some, and led Jernigan to say: "It was difficult for me, primarily because of my felony conviction. And, it was necessary to have a co-signer in order to get the bond. But, I received a lot of support from the people in the community as well as my probation officer, whose letter of recommendation was instrumental in obtaining of the bond."

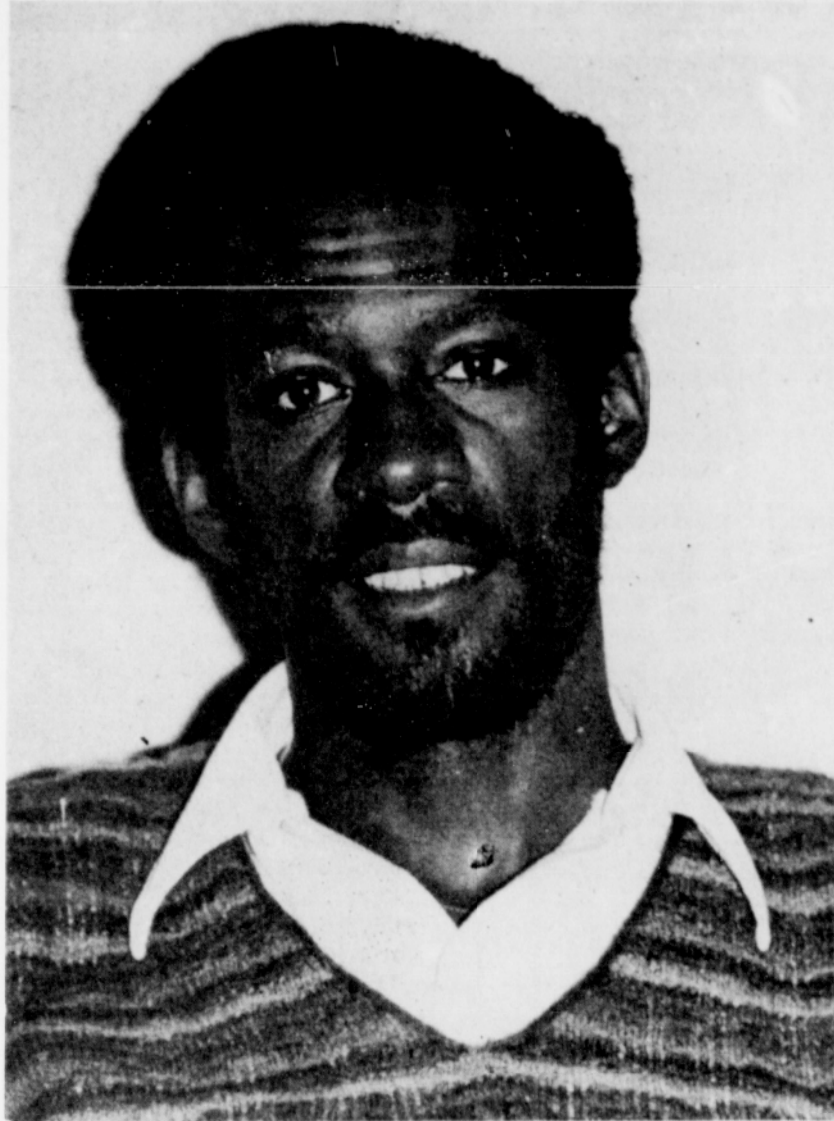
Jernigan is a proud Black man

and would like to have his business located in the Black community, but "I am not looking for office space on Union Avenue, because of the continued construction," he said. "Parking is the biggest problem that I can see -- I am looking for a place that will be more accessible."

With the new Reganite form of politics, the uncertainty of Wall Street, higher taxes and interest rates, one wonders about any new business venture. Jernigan's answer: "Too add to the work force here in Portland, and by being a minority businessman, I would like to employ minorities, Blacks, Chicano's, Women, and Ex-offenders."

Jernigan is educated in the art of people problems. He teaches classes and gives speech demonstrations that graphically and realistically deal with the social and psychological aspect of man. "I don't feel that minorities should be tied to government set asides, welfare, food stamps, and, even our educational curriculum, that we become dependent on the whims of government. We should in effect, be able to determine our own destiny, realistically, without the affirmative action programs that are presently in place," he said. Programs that if curtailed, drastically cut, or for whatever reason, the cash flow of dollars are withheld, would send those enterprises dependent on them under.

Roy Jernigan, a Black man working for the betterment of the whole.



ROY JERNIGAN

(Photo: Thomas Golden)

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West #40404

As Black people slide into the 80s, Cell Talk finds it necessary to focus attention on the complexion of institutional racism.

Racism as Black people have come to understand it, colors itself in terms of direct discrimination. Direct discrimination can best be exhibited in the areas of education, employment, housing and socialization. It is easy for us to identify racism when it take the direct form or forms familiar to us. All of us can voice experiences in job discrimination, primary and secondary education, etc. And while it is important that we continue to identify and resist direct racism, it is equally vital for us to begin to acquaint ourselves with institutional or structural racism.

As we begin to acquaint ourselves with the less apparent forms of racism, we find how deeply the psychology of racism is rooted into the structure of American society. By no means must we delude ourselves into believing that America can be other than a racist society. It has been our experience in the prison system and from coming from what is popularly called a subculture, that we must delve deeper into the complexion and nature of racism on a structural level.

Primarily Black people must first realize that racism is as American as baseball. That is has taken new proportions under the demagogical system of government and

that its visual attributes are far less damaging than its subliminal assault upon oppressed people. There is a old Black anecdote that states, "What you don't know won't hurt you," which is basically right because what you don't know won't hurt you - it will kill you! The simplicity of this statement has an intrinsic truth value for Black people because it displays the hidden structural or institutional racism that is killing us daily.

The minds or men that control America don't get upset when Black people attack overt racism, it is only when we talk about the covert forms of racism that they become distressed. When we talk about overt racism, we are talking about attitudes, actions and reactions to the greater beast. When we speak of covert racism we address the beast - we are talking about systems, banking, colonialization, policy, appropriation, genocide, politics, religious doctrines, educational rape, gestapos, prisons, economics and social regimes designed to perpetuate white supremacy.

Overt racism is merely the branches on the tree, covert racism is the root of the tree. The tree can grow new branches but once the roots are destroyed, the tree dies.

It is important that Black people in America begin to understand what kind of monster we are up against. The Frankenstein must be destroyed but so must the good Doctor. In our

struggle we have faced many monsters - slavery, segregation, social and economic and political racism in every degree. But the war will continue until we concentrate not only on the visual monster or those things we see, feel, hear and smell but also the invisible monster or the concept, nature, root and creation of the monster itself. The protection of our minds and souls must supercede our physical perservation because it is through these avenues that our oppression is passed on to our children. Our struggle is not purely physical, it is physical, mental, moral and spiritual. When we balance ourselves equally, our struggle becomes comprehensive, dynamic, defined and focused.

South Africa or South Mississippi are good examples of structural racism because in both instances the oppressors prime concern is to the perservation of his system. The concessions made by the oppressor are conceded to save his system, not to rectify a wrong. As long as the system exist the beast is comfortable

in the knowledge that white supremacy will survive. In conclusion, I will add that being a prisoner has helped me to understand that my physical prison is supported by a greater mental prison. That release from prison will not necessarily make me free because I don't have full knowledge of what has been done to me under the system of prison. Prison is

relative to Black life style in America, therefore it is important that the physically free Blacks not discriminate against incarcerated Blacks. That in itself is racist and destructive to what we are all struggling against.

YOU TALK. WE'LL LISTEN.

agencies, power exchange contracts under which some utilities will receive lower-cost electricity for residential and small farm users, energy conservation contracts, power resource acquisition contracts, and resource option agreements.

From the beginning, members of the public have attended the negotiating sessions. Many comments and suggestions have been received already as a result of this public participation.

The May 18 special session with the negotiating teams represents an additional opportunity to make your concerns known and have them considered in future negotiations. Discussion topics have been suggested by various groups and individuals. They include, for example, the effects contract provisions might have on energy conservation, the environment, regional power planning and electricity rates.

Comment orally or in writing at the meeting, or send written comments to:

Public Involvement Coordinator
Bonneville Power Administration
Post Office Box 12999
Portland, Oregon 97212

For more information, write to the above address or call 234-3361, Extension 4261. Outside of the Portland area, call toll-free: in Oregon, 1-800-452-8429; in other Northwest states, 1-800-547-6048.

Remember, What you say counts.

Bonneville Power Administration

Please join us for a special opportunity to comment on matters to be dealt with in our new contracts.

7:30 p.m. Monday, May 18
Masonic Temple
1119 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon.

Registration will begin at 7 p.m. for this special session with the contract negotiating teams.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act requires new contracts with some 150 Bonneville Power Administration customers.

Basic contracts of several types are now being developed. Included are power sales contracts with electric utilities, industries and Federal

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