

# Reflections of a Queen

Grassroot News N.W. - By now the last roses have wilted and people have cleaned the mud off their shoes from this year's Carnival. The Court that this community will remember the most is the 1980-81 court. From the grassroots of N.E. Portland, the qualifications of Robin Marks captured the public and catapulted the senior from Lincoln to rein as Portland's queen.

Currently, Robin, 19, is gearing up for her sophomore year at the University of Arizona. "My area of study is still Aerospace Engineering. I'm going to stay in Engineering until I obtain a Bachelor's degree."

Robin's rein was during a very precarious period in Portland's history. Nationally, the attempt on the life of Vernon Jordan, Director of the Urban League was still fresh in the air because within a week of his visit to Portland, the shooting occurred. Also pressing was the proposed School Boycott where 5,000 students stayed home to show support for the boycott. Grassroot News asked Robin if any of this affected the Rosarian perception of her or was it ever perceived: "It was never an issue with the Court because during my rein, and before, we were involved in our Court activities. So, unless we read the paper we really weren't aware of what was going on outside. My personal reaction was that some of the issues I was for, and some I was against but I chose not to be involved."

During the last coronation, as she gave her crown to the current queen, Robin's statement to the

Court impressed some and depressed others. She summarized that portion of her address. "Basically, my speech was just a thank-you speech. I said that I was the first Black queen to have ever been selected in 72 years of existence of the Rose Festival. I thanked the Rose Festival along with the members of my family, community and all organizations because they showed their appreciation and support. When I became Queen I never looked at my experience as being the first Black queen but rather as someone who could best represent the Portland Rose Festival. Later, I looked back at being the first Black Queen and it hasn't hit me yet, if it's suppose to hit me harder."

The Rose Festival is tied into the Portland school system which for a significant number of inner city youths was quite insignificant in terms of education received, yet Robin excelled. "My interest were always math and science and toward the end of my junior year, I looked for a career field that included math and science. Engineering was dominant in this area and airplanes have always been one of my fascinations."

One of Robin's major achievements is in the area of Track and Field. "I did a bit better at the University of Arizona than I anticipated. My first goal was just to make it to the nationals. Two weeks ago, in Austin, Texas, I won the national title in the 400 meter hurdles. That wasn't expected. Locally, in my senior year, I won the dual, district and state titles."

Included in Robin's peer group are a highly visible bunch of youth



QUEEN ROBIN MARKS

who aren't that motivated and whose vision stops at the here and now. Their conversation is centered around gaming and making it on others. "I wish I could take those individuals somewhere else where other peers are doing something. In

Arizona, you see Blacks getting their thing together and you see those who aren't. It's out there if you really go for it. My advice to my peers is to be yourself, go for the stars and reach for the top."

## Artharee named Manager



BARUTI L. ARTHAREE

Baruti L. Artharee has been named National Product Manager for Boise Cascade Paper Group. He is responsible for the Business Forums product line.

Artharee attended Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon and was chosen to be a member of "Outstanding Young Men of America" in 1980.

Artharee has been a sales representative for Boise Cascade for seven years.

Boise Cascade is an integrated forest products company engaging principally in the manufacture, distribution and sale of paper, packaging and office products, wood products and building materials, and in the growing and harvesting of timber to support these operations. Its manufacturing and distribution facilities and its timber lands are located primarily in the United States and Canada.

## Who will speak for us?

The Black Educational Center will sponsor a 2 day conference titled, "Who Will Speak For Us? Preparing Black Children to Meet the Challenges of the Future," on June 26 and 27, 1981 at 1639 and 1640 NE Alberta St.

The conference will focus on strategies to involve the total community in developing models to improve the quality of life for Black children from infancy through the teen years. Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Dean of Law School at the University of Oregon will be the keynote speaker.

Derrick A. Bell, Jr., has been both a practitioner and a teacher in the field of civil rights. A professor of law at Harvard University from 1969 through 1980, he also litigated civil rights cases throughout the South during the 1960s.

He has written at length on racism and poverty and specifically the long-term effects of the Brown decisions.

He served as director of the Western Center on Law and Poverty, a project which provided recruitment, training, and budgetary and technical assistance to the seven legal services programs in the Southern California area.

Workshop topics include: Black Operated Adoption Programs; Options in the World of Work; Education vs. Training; Psychological Development; Black History and Culture; Education, Employment and Training; Parental Involvement in Education; Combating Social Oppression; and Innovative Community Based Programs. For registration information call 284-9552 or 282-9465.

## Cawthorne threatens suit

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6) the local level and redirects the thinking of those who had only a half-hearted commitment in the first place. Therefore, if we are to get good education and employment opportunities and dignity in this community, under these circumstances, we are going to have to stick together and struggle together.

"I'm encouraged by the encouragement I've received.

The basis of the suit, which will be a federal court civil rights suit under the 14th Amendment, is:

1) The district policy adopted in 1965 involved mandatory disposal of Black students at primary and middle school level to predominate-

ly white schools and prevented the return to neighborhood schools. There was no counter-balancing policy requiring white students to transfer to Black schools.

2) The natural and foreseeable consequence of this program was the eventual destruction of enrollment problems for predominately Black schools.

3) Closure of Washington/Monroe and Adams would have a disproportionate effect on Black students in the district. The disproportionate impact on Blacks was a natural, probable, and foreseeable consequence of past practices and policies with respect to desegregation.

The suit asks that:

- 1) The Court assume jurisdiction of cause
- 2) The Court declare the action to close both Washington/Monroe and Adams to be discrimination against Black students
- 3) The Court infer a permanent injunction restraining closure of both schools (but not of either school)
- 4) The Court direct the School Board to develop a school closure policy that does not have a disproportionate impact on Black students.

Cawthorne said he will file the suit as plaintiff, but that he hopes others with grievances will come forward and join as plaintiffs in a class action suit.

## Ordinance considered

The Multnomah County Commission will consider attachment of penalties for persons who refuse to obey the order of a Sheriff to leave an official emergency zone. The hearing will be held at the Court House, Room 602, on June 25th, at 9:00 a.m.

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