



VINCE JONES

## Tri-Met honors Jones

High school basketball players boarding Tri-Met operator Vince Jones' bus may recognize Jones, but they no doubt will think the uniform's all wrong. That's because Jones, named May operator of the month at the Transportation District's Center Street Garage, referees high school basketball games when he's not driving a bus.

Jones finds the time to keep track of the players on the hardwoods in

between his keeping track of his own basketball team of sorts at home. Jones is the father of six children; the Jones family lives in Northeast Portland.

Jones' transit career goes back to Rose City Transit days, and Jones says things have improved a lot since then. Jones' philosophy of dealing with the public is one of open conversation...he says, "It helps both of us have a better day."

## Speaking universal language

By Nathaniel Scott

DETROIT -- Horace Greeley, in his endeavor to inspire people to become materially wealthy said, "Go West young man, go West." And I, in my endeavor to inspire educational wealth, cultural fusion and national togetherness, say to my fellow Oregonians, "Go East Oregonians, go East."

And when I say East, I am speaking about a destination point of Detroit, Michigan.

Detroit, Michigan, like many other cities in and around the country is experiencing economic problems, unemployment, increased crime rate, unrest, and growing pangs. But, a new trend and a blossoming concept is moving the city in a modernistic approach that is paying particular attention to learning. One such concept is CODE, (Cultural Opportunity for Detroit Exchange), introduced ten years ago by native Detroit, Leno Art Jaxon.

Jaxon, whose father, Keno Jaxon, was a painter, sculpture, poet and singer-musician, is also founder of the American Black Artist Inc.

CODE's concept says, "We are committed to the concept that the bridge of common interests among today's people is stronger and broader than the gap of difference. These interests can become shared experiences through the universal language of art forms, which transcend age, racial, religious, economic, national, ethnic and sexual differences." And Leno Art Jaxon, it's founder says, "Art is a universal language, to some it has no meaning...to others it communicates values. Cultures nestles in art. We create it as we live."

The concept of art deals with colors, shapes, forms -- written, spoken, drawn and words in song. It stimulates, motivates and, "Children respond to art forms more readily than anything known to man. Music is the easiest -- and the color comes second," Jaxon said. "The educational value is far reaching, and since the inception of the program (CODE) it has been



LENO ART JAXON

mandated that all the schools of the City (Detroit) do art programs."

Leno Jaxon is a man who is in search of many things: Heritage, lineage and truth. He said, "Black people as a whole are lacking in information and knowledge that will lead to the truth; a truth that answers, who am I; that which instills pride, self-worth and dedication to self and a race of people." He said distorted history has led Black people to not recognize the importance of Black peoples' contributions to America and world history. And that "The 1967 riot in Detroit brought a great deal of attention to Black people, which was good because they (whites) were not aware that Black people were discontent -- or that Black people had problems."

Problems are being dealt with through such modernistic approach as CODE, an approach that has won Leno public and private acclaim by City, State and Federal officials alike who see and understand the need for truth and unification.

Leno is currently compiling data and information from the four corners of the world that hopefully will culminate in a book to be published within five years. The book, he says, "Will deal with truth."

Leno Art Jaxon is a Black man who is on the rise; forever searching for ways to bridge the gap of ignorance, and as he said, "Knowledge is self, is the key to the mystery of life," and the fusion of a race of people. Black people.

## Train today for leadership tomorrow

By Marie Martin

Recently, while attending the Annual National Youth Workers Alliance Conference at the University of Washington, I had the opportunity to meet a proud, young, gifted and Black woman by the name of Mary Kay Penn. She addressed the conference where over 300 nation wide affiliates attended. Her topics being youth participation on boards and the positive showcasing of our youth. This remarkable young lady, when asked why she was motivated to address youth issues said, "I believe in young people. I believe that young people should be given a chance, an opportunity, and the patience that should accompany those things. With those elements, we as young people can do and take a stance on anything."

Due to racial problems at school and a poor attitude, Mary Kay became involved in the Youth Service System upon the suggestion of a school counselor at the age of 14. The Youth Program was her outlet from the torment of growing up. This outlet provided her with an important factor that many Black youth often lack: self esteem. She went from being an average client to a participant in the Big Brother/

Big Sister program. After becoming it's facilitator, she was then promoted to the position of Public Information Specialist at the age of 17. From there, she became a board member of the National Youth Workers Alliance and is presently a staff consultant for the National Commission on Resources for Youth in New York City.

Mary Kay advocates that young people should be politically active and more aggressive. Her message to young people who are attempting to do something with their lives is: "To have a positive attitude and the desire to succeed. You have to be willing to go after what you want, and be able to stand up for what's yours. We young people have to start training today to be leaders of tomorrow," she explained.

Her accomplishments include: An oral address to the Senate regarding youth employment programs; several interviews with Congressmen; the host of a weekly radio show in Chicago. But the biggest accomplishment of all "was being able to raise \$4000 dollars by myself, to attend an Ivy League school in New York where I was accepted solely on my accomplishments," she concluded with a smile.

At 18 years of age, she can indeed smile!

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The U.S. once had a state named Franklin, but it lasted only 4 years. The State of Franklin ceased to exist in 1788 and became part of Eastern Tennessee.

Youngest man ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize was Martin Luther King Jr., who won it at age 35.

Even though 13 is supposed to be an unlucky number, the Great Seal of the U.S. has 13 arrows, 13 leaves, 13 olives, 13 stars and 13 feathers - and the man who designed it, William Barton, has 13 letters in his name, and the motto on the Seal, E Pluribus Unum, also has 13 letters.

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