

# Frank Wade: Entrepreneur, musician



FRANK WADE, JR.

by Harris Levon McRae

Frank Wade Jr. is an entrepreneur in the classic sense of the word. He currently owns two businesses including Wade's Tire Center and North West High Grades.

"I dove into the tire business four years ago knowing nothing about it. I didn't like the service that other tire places were providing. You would go in and spend your money and the people would act like they didn't really want your business—like they could take it our leave it."

A few months ago, Wade opened North West High Grades, a non-ferrous metal cleaning and sorting operation on North Ceelia Street.

"We separate all kinds of metals—aluminum, stainless steel, brass. Recycling marketable materials seems like it will be a promising business. It is a good business to be involved in for environmental as well as economic reasons."

About 15 men and women are employed at North West High Grades, and five more are employed at Wade's Tire Center.

"There is a lot of unemployment in the St. Johns area and we are attempting to do something about that. Some of the money we make should be returned to the commu-

nity. We want to get more minorities involved—give people a chance. Another 20 to 30 employees will be added at North West High Grades if the operation continues successfully," Wade said.

Frank Wade's business partner is his wife Mary, whom he calls "The Boss."

"I mostly work on keeping Frank out of trouble," Mary said. "My job is paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork. Most of the people that come here leave satisfied. We would rather lose money and see people satisfied."

Frank Wade was recently designated state chairman of the National Business League, and this new position along with his two businesses would lead one to think that business is Frank Wade Jr.'s true love. Not so.

"I was a country-western singer for a while. If I had a choice I think that I would rather be on stage. Anytime I put on a tape or the radio I miss it. I always think that I can sing a song better or at least as good as the person singing it. Then I got involved in business. Some things are just meant for you. I'm still involved in music but to a lesser degree."



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## Front calls march, boycott

The Black United Front has called for a boycott of the Portland Public Schools on Monday, April 19th in protest of the School Board's lack of response to the black community.

Parents are asked to keep their children home from school for one day to emphasize the following demands: 1) curriculum changes; 2) more black staff; 3) teacher training for education of black children; 4) equity in discipline; 5) access to Early Childhood Education Centers; 6) Tubman sitting at Eliot.

Activities for teen-age students are scheduled for St. Andrews Community Center, 806 N.E. Alberta, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Ron Herndon, co-chairman of the BUF, will address the students at 9:00 am. School Board member Herb Cawthorne will make historical presentations from 9:30 to 11:00 and from

2:00 to 3:00 pm.

The Sojourner Truth Readers will perform at 11:00 pm and films on the Black Movement at 12:00. At 1:00 pm Math From a Black Perspective will be presented.

Films for elementary-age children will be shown from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Mount Olivet Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler, and Maranatha Church, 1222 N.E. Skidmore. These films are for children who can supervise themselves. Although adults will be present, there is no child-care service available.

For information call 249-8501.

The boycott will be preceded by a March Against Racism on Saturday, April 17th. The march will begin at Alberta Park, 21st and Alberta, at noon and proceed to King Neighborhood Facility for a rally.

The public is urged to participate in the march.

## School Board seeks seclusion

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

what the community wants and go to Eliot."

Joe Rieke said he would not reconsider his vote. "There is no educational reason to reconsider. I was boxed into the Boise decision. I wanted Jefferson." Rieke considered Jefferson to be the ideal site for Tubman, with the best facilities. He had proposed that the high school be moved to the Adams building. Saying he came on the Board to provide the best possible education for children, he said his decision to use Boise rather than Eliot was based on educational criteria, not social or political. "I'm not into the political issues of the community—I can't change my agenda to fit the Black United Front."

Asked what the BUF would consider as a compromise solution, co-chairman Ronnie Herndon said, "Eliot."



Bruce Broussard, former publisher of the *Observer*, is a candidate for the Republican Party's nomination for Governor of Oregon. Broussard, currently co-publisher of *Oregon Voter Digest*, is the first Black to file for the gubernatorial position.

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