

# METROPOLITAN

## Operation Big Vote

by C. Eddie Edmondson



The A. Philip Randolph Institute's Portland chapter announced that it will again sponsor Operation Big Vote in the Portland metropolitan area for the Nov. 1982 elections.

Bob Boyer, chapter president, said the decision was reached last Thursday, July 8 in a general membership meeting.

as coordinator for the voter education and registration drive here in 1980, Boyer said.

"We will use the same method as we used in 1980," Boyer announced. "Districts 17 and 18—inner Northeast Portland—will be specifically targeted," he added.

In 1980, labor unions and community organizations were recruited to work specific precincts; 35 to 40 unions and organizations worked together to register and educate Oregonians in inner Northeast.

"From 1976 to 1980," Boyer said, "some of the precincts we targeted doubled their vote count." The target for November is to register at least 2,000 new voters and get half that many to vote in November, he said.

Boyer was one of eight candidates in the May 18th primary seeking the Democratic party nomination for the 18th District house seat. Boyer is an official in the Inland Boatmen's Union.

Boyer, who helped establish the local chapter in 1978, said the A. Philip Randolph Institute, named after the famous black labor union organizer who spearheaded blacks' entry into the national labor force, focuses primarily on voter registration and education programs.

## Title I program makes record gains

Test scores show that Jefferson's Title I program is the most successful in the city. Students enrolled in the federally funded program for students needing remedial help in basic skills show the school district's largest achievement gains.

The JHS program serves nearly 300 students. "We try to help students close the gap between their current achievement level in reading and math and their grade level," explains Joan Wright, Title I Director. To qualify for the program, students' achievement scores must show they are functioning at two or more years below grade level. "We are serving fewer students now in terms of the total school population than we did a few years ago," she pointed out.

Title I programs throughout the nation were established in 1965 as a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Federal law states the purpose of these programs is to improve the education of disadvantaged children. As a result of recent legislation, the legal language controlling the program will soon change. So, Jeff's Title I staff is looking for a new name to begin the year in September.

Jefferson's is a model program whose design has been replicated at Roosevelt High School. The reading component uses a three-stage approach. Stage I is for student with the most severe reading problems.

## Students want more education

Most 1982 graduates from Portland Public Schools will continue their education at four-year and two-year colleges or vocational/technical schools.

Glenn Hill, school district guidance and counseling director, said a survey conducted by Portland's school counselors this spring showed 67 per cent of the graduates were planning to continue their education.

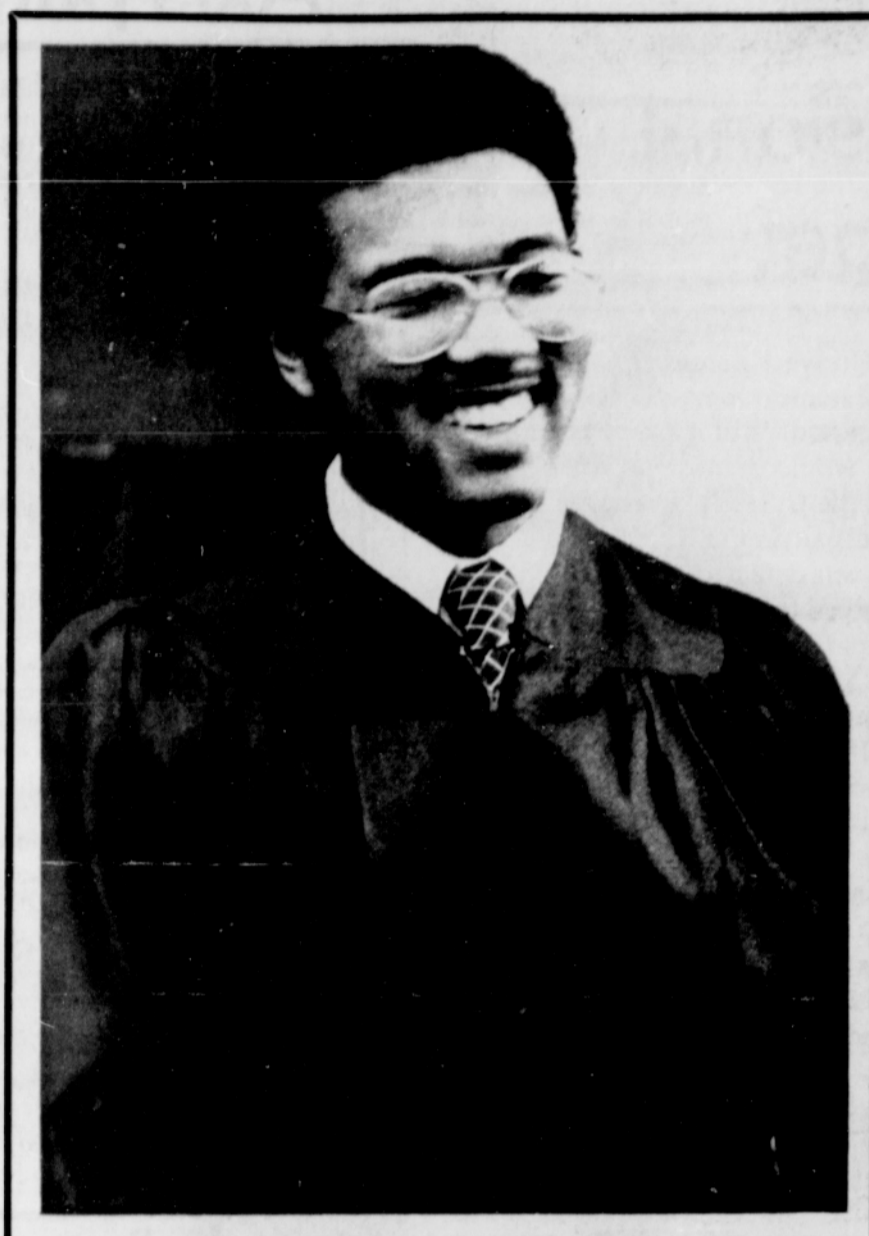
In addition, Hill said, the survey showed 21 per cent of the students were planning to work full time, five per cent would enter the military and six per cent were undecided upon their future plans.

Approximately 41 per cent of the students plan to attend a four-year

college this fall, 22 per cent a two-year college and five per cent a vocational/technical school.

The survey had a 78 per cent response rate (2,415 students) from Portland's 3,088 graduating seniors. "The survey results are very positive as to the confidence our Portland students have for success in continuing their education," Hill said. Considering today's economy, most students are not making plans for college unless they truly believe they can succeed with the investment.

"The Portland school's administration sees in these statistics a vote of confidence by our students that they have received the kind of education in our schools which has prepared them for college studies," Hill said.



KONRAD MARK HAMILTON

## Black community subject of study

Konrad Mark Hamilton, a recent University of Oregon Honor's graduate, is compiling a history of the Portland Urban League and the City's black community from the time of the Urban League of Portland's founding in 1945 to the present. Hamilton's work will be the first history of the city's black community during this period of time, and the first to explore the relationship between the black community and the city's principle black advocacy and social service organization.

This study follows upon the work done by Hamilton for his honor's thesis at the University of Oregon, which dealt with the history of the National Urban League and its role in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s. This work won Hamilton the distinction of being one of four individuals to receive the honor's degree in history from the University of Oregon in 1982.

Following the completion of his Portland study this summer, Hamilton will be entering the University of California at Santa Barbara where he will be pursuing graduate studies in Public History under a two-year fellowship.

Freddye Pettet, Executive Director of the Urban League of Portland, has cited Hamilton's efforts as being important in increasing the black community's consciousness of its recent history and progress. Pettet said, "It's just as important to know where you're coming from as it is to know where you want to go. Studies such as those done by Konrad Hamilton keep us in touch with our recent past and help provide a direction for the future."

Konrad Hamilton is the son of Judge H.J. Belton and Midori Hamilton of West Linn and is a 1976 graduate of West Linn High School.

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