

METROPOLITAN

Black United Fund kicks off Oregon campaign

by Lanita Duke

The Black United Fund of Oregon gives Black people an opportunity to invest in concerns that are uniquely their own. The time is now.

—Rev. John Garlington
Board member, BUF of Oregon

Grassroot News, N.W.—With those words a statewide information process was started to alert and inform Black people in Oregon of the latest affiliate of the National Black United Fund. The Fund is a Black philanthropic organization that provides monies and resources to various programs and groups across the United States.

The Black United Fund is defined by Mary Avery, President of the Oregon Chapter, as "an organization designed to collect, administer and distribute funds to programs which serve our interests."

Studies show these interests have been ignored and suppressed by traditional charities. The National Science Foundation documented the lack of support charity foundations have provided organizations developed and run by people of color.

In 1970-71 only three percent of assistance for senior citizens was allocated in the Black community: 1 percent went to youth programs controlled by Blacks and 6 percent went to Black colleges. The study also discovered when grants were made to minorities, they flowed through broker agencies controlled by the majority culture.

The Black United Fund grew out of the Brotherhood Crusade in Los Angeles, founded in 1968 by the late



Pearl Spears Gray and Mary Avery, new president of the Oregon Chapter of the Black United Fund launched a drive to help those minority programs not funded by conventional foundations.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Walter Bremond. In 1974 the Black United Fund was founded with affiliates in four cities—Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston and Fort Worth. It now has 15 affiliates in 14 states.

The idea of Black fund raising for Black causes is as old as the struggle for human rights in America. The concept goes back to Prince Hall's Masons, Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois. This historical

linkage is traced by King Davis in his book, *Fund Raising in the Black Community: History, Feasibility and Conflict*.

According to James Joseph, President of the National Black United Fund, the Fund is "a self-help mechanism in the Black community

seeking to mobilize the resources of the community by getting Blacks to give and support Black priorities."

The fund-raising method the Fund uses is federated fund-raising, which, until recently, had been the exclusive domain of the United Way of America. Federated fund-raising is payroll deductions, and a court battle waged by the United Way and the federal government tried unsuccessfully to prevent the National Black United Fund from becoming a part of the Combined Federal Campaign. This victory enables federal workers to make charitable deductions to groups of their choice.

The United Way has been charged with funding non-controversial and non-confrontational groups like the Urban League, which receives the bulk of its funding from the United

Way. The United Ways shies away from supporting groups in the minority communities directed toward social change.

The beneficiaries of the Black United Fund include a diverse collection of national and local organizations: A Bilalian child development program, a welfare rights program in Detroit, shelters for battered women in Los Angeles, and the National Conference of Black Lawyers in New York.

Avery said, "There is a need for a Black United Fund in Portland. With the economy the way it is we do not have access to a lot of the monies we once had. We need all types of services and social change organizations that traditional charities do not fund."

Avery is asking Oregonians who

are contacted by the United Way to give to the National Black United Fund. "Later this month the United Way will go to every federal agency and ask for donations. We ask you to check the box that says the National Black United Fund."

Avery cautions against checking the United Black Fund in Washington, D.C. "If you check NBUF the money will come back to us at the Portland chapter." She also said the Black United Fund is different from the Black United Front. "Only our call letters are the same."

On the national level, Joseph concludes, "we will use the resources of society to work with other groups outside the Black community on a common agenda, but we are also doing what we have got to do to help ourselves."

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Director of Oregon Symphony Orchestra, James DePriest, demonstrates use of baton to Adam Magnett, age 5. Adam and other students and staff members of Holladay Center for Handicapped Children will host DePriest as featured speaker during Portland School District facility's first day and evening open houses for community Oct. 19 at 2800 S.E. 71st Ave.

Black Republican visits here

LeGree Daniels, Chairman of the National Black Republican Council, will be in Portland, October 25 and 26, 1983.

Following a morning breakfast on the 25th, hosted by Kay Toran of the State Affirmative Action office and several members of the Governor's Commission for Women and other interested women, she will make stops at Parkrose and Jefferson High Schools.

Mrs. Daniels will be the featured speaker at Commissioner Charles Jordan's Forum Luncheon for the Black Community which will be held at 12 noon at the Thunderbird at Jantzen Beach. The public is invited and reservations may be made with the Commissioner's office.

A Fund Raising event with Mrs. Daniels as the honored Guest will be held in the evening at Geneva's Restaurant from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This event is for the support of the Republican Candidate, Chad Debnam, in House District 18.

The morning of the 26th, a group of Republican business leaders will host a breakfast with LeGree Daniels before she departs Portland. Her next stop includes luncheon



LAGREE DANIELS

at the Red Lion, Eugene-Springfield, where she will be the Guest Speaker for the quarterly meeting of the statewide Oregon Federation of Republican Women.

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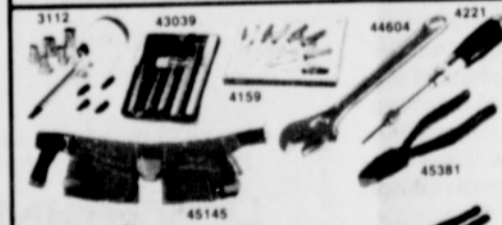
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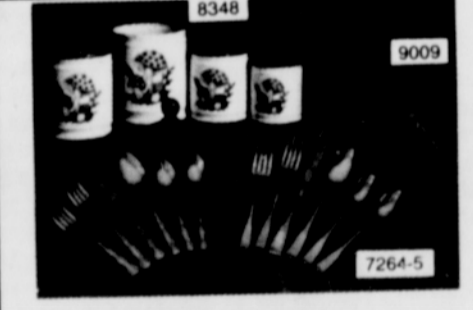
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