METROPOLITAN

Urban League honors volunteer

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—The Urban League's 1984 Volunteer of the Year, Charles Bolden is reluctantly accepting the award. "I do things not for the recognition. I'm from New York where we are taught our survival comes from working with organizations like the Urban League, NAACP and the Black United Front."

Since June of 1981, Bolden has volunteered at least 12 hours a week at the Employment Division at the Urban League Northeast office. George Rankins, Director of Employment, said Bolden's volunteer efforts improved the efficiency of the League's employment office 25 to 50 percent. "He took it upon himself to set up a color-coded filing system which cross-matched skills with occupations."

Bolden said he felt, "When a person comes to the Urban League, our response should be quick. I just thought of a way that would speed up the response time to meet the needs of that applicant."

Another quality admired and rewarded by the League was Bolden's dependability and consistency. Joyce Owens Smith, vice-president of the Urban League, said, "He treats his volunteer time slot just like a job." Rankins said, "When I need something right away, I talk to Charles."

Bolden believes his fiber comes from his awareness and understanding of his people's history. "Du-Bois, Marcus Garvey and Jesse Jackson were willing to make personal sacrifices in order that the unit of Black people move as a whole. I feel I can do no less at this stage in my life in order that I move with my people to fulfill our destiny."

In some segments of our community, the Urban League is looked upon as an organization that is non-confrontational and accommodating. Bolden acknowledges that perception and said he is somewhat bothered by it. "To whatever degree—either limited or unlimited—their scope is, they still have a positive effect and can have a more positive effect on the community at large. They are now actively involved in the economic sphere as directed by our leaders."

When he first came to Portland in 1981, Bolden said he was appalled by the lack of awareness and apathy among the Black masses. "I constantly hear the excuse that our numbers are small. As an outsider, I believe if there is a nucleus within that thirty-seven thousand that is stable and united, then that thirty-seven thousand can move with that thirty-one million."

Bolden said Portland's Black community owes a lot to Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front. "We are not in a position to confront amicably an enemy that is an antagonist as they have ever been to us."

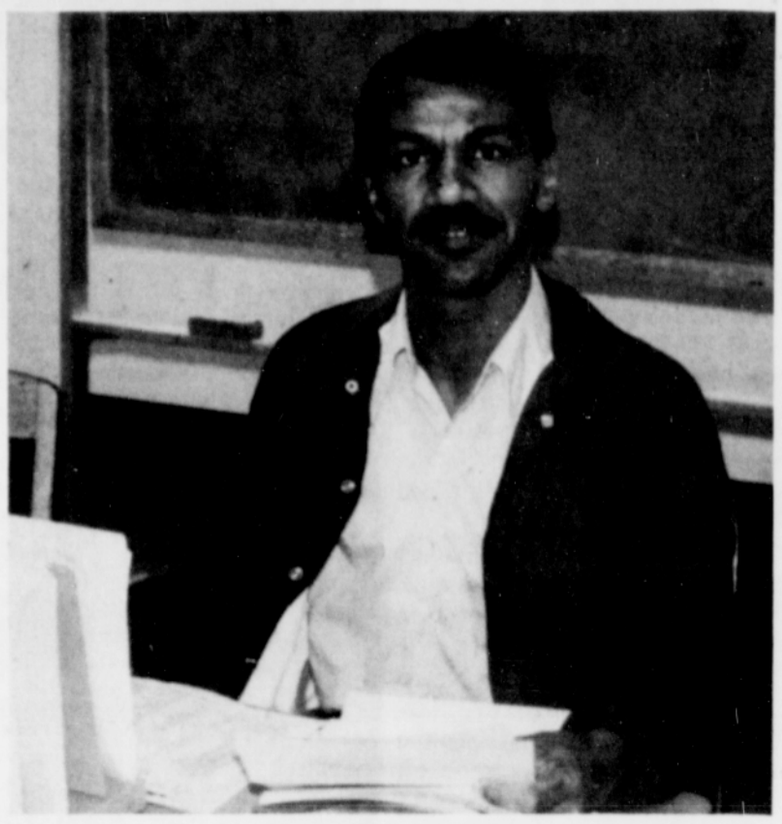
"Whites in power here have done a textbook job on Blacks in Oregon. Instead of brothers and sisters turning to one another for help, in Portland, we turn *on* one another. We are living in a confused state that has been created for us. While this is happening, Portland is growing but the Black community is not growing with it."

Bolden developed his awareness in the hot jungles of Vietnam. "There was an unyeilding brotherhood achieved among Blacks that will stay with me until I die. Vietnam made me aware of a possible violent confrontation if we have to continue to justify our existence to bias minds. I'm opposed to a violent situation which is why I'm seeking ways to do things peacefully."

Charles Bolden is articulate, intelligent and well-read. He is accepting the Volunteer of the Year award with the hope that his example will make the aspect of Black people and organizations working together a reality and not a hope.

"I'm not a New York Black looking down on Black people in Portland. I'm armed with information I'm just dying to share."

The award will be presented to Bolden Thursday, April 19th, at the Urban League's annual dinner.



CHARLES BOLDEN

Job fair highlights choices

Members of Portland's Albina Community and others had a chance to learn about career opportunities available at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and other state agencies earlier this month at the state Job Information Fair.

Approximately 400 people attended the event held at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

Representatives were present from the Parks, Highway and Motor Vehicles Divisions, as well as workers in clerical, accounting and computer programming positions.

Their objective, according to Vicki Nakashima, civil rights manager and coordinator of ODOT's booths, was to help people better understand state job opportunities and to provide assistance to those seeking work in state government.

"The job fair was extremely successful," Nakashima said. "It was an opportunity for individuals in the community to learn how the state job hiring process works and to learn about current and future openings. The number of persons attending indicated the need for events like this. We hope to do it again," she said.

Terry Wimsatt, a secretary in ODOT's Personnel Services Branch, gives information on job opportunities during the Job Information Fair held recently at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

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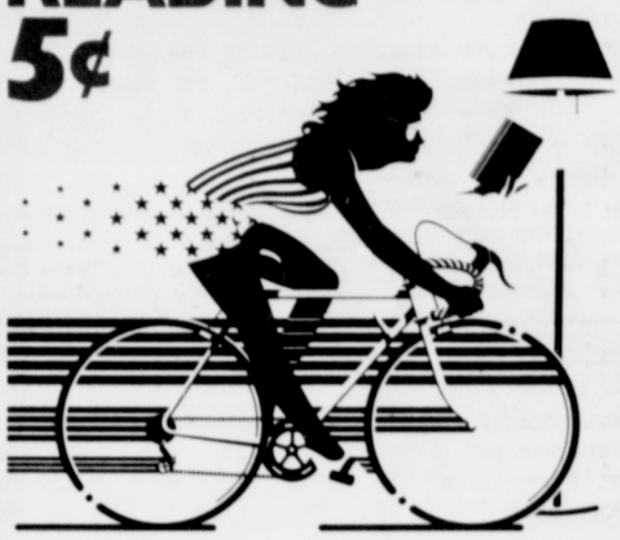

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