

# METROPOLITAN

## Youngsters graduate with pride

by Lanita Duke

**GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.**— Jeannette Fegan School of Early Learning is creating an educational triangle of love, discipline and academic success for children 2½ through 6 years old. Parents believe their children are receiving an unshakable foundation on which to succeed.

The school is part of a family network that extends to Tulsa, Oklahoma, Los Angeles, California and Portland, Oregon. Betty Fegan Smith, administrator, said her educational concepts and approach comes from her mother's theories on how children should be raised. "You give them lots of love, discipline when they need it, and let them play and have fun."

At her annual graduation, excited parents snapped photos of their children's performance in Cinderella at Matt Dishman Community Center while praising the educational impact and philosophy of the Fegan School.

Linda Harris said of her son's development, "He has a positive self-image. He is excited about learning, wants to read and loves books. The school does a lot for a child's self-esteem."

A.K. Nyoka added, "My daughter has benefited by being socially interactive. Also, Fegan teaches good cognizance skills; reading, writing and good manners. She is learning how to offer her support to what the community is doing."

Smith's educational approach is to start with the ABC's of learning at three years old. "Some people feel that a child should develop motor and social skills. But I feel you can work all this together with academics. We found children as early as three are ready to start reading. If you can catch them early, there is no limit to what you can teach them."

High expectations are the rules at Fegan School. Smith added, "If they can learn who is on the *A-Team* and *Dukes of Hazard*, then they can learn who the president, governor and mayor are. All you have to do is put it out there for them."

Smith started working toward opening Jeannette Fegan in 1978 and was met by bureaucracy, City Hall and zoning laws.

She remembered, "It was dif-



Betty Fegan Smith with her class of '84.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ficult at first. I felt they did not believe a Black woman could set up a school and I was given excuses why I should not start the school."

Smith remodeled a three-story house in a residential area into the school. "I had to get variances for parking, property lines and loading and unloading of children." She overcame those obstacles and opened her doors in 1980.

The fruits of her labor are appreciated when parents like Bernice Kahnoski feels, "It is a loving and disciplined environment. We also like the academic quality Fegan upholds."

Wally Scales stated Smith's emphasis on the fundamentals, "(She) gave my son a headstart on his education and I also liked the chance for him to intermingle with children of his own race."

Smith said her objective is to create a learning readiness environment around and within the student. She hopes to produce trustful, autonomous, intelligent, compassionate and cooperative young people with a sense of humanity to reshape the society in which they live.

"We develop memory percep-

tions, good listening skills and the ability to pay attention," Smith said. "Once he or she learns how to listen, then that child will be able to learn."

She reinforces the education of her two- and three-year olds with homework twice a week and four through six with homework four

times a week. Currently, there are 40 children enrolled but she expects openings this summer.

Star Waters indicated how she was constantly amazed at what her son had learned. "I'm impressed that a small 2½ year old knows that the mayor is Ivancie. At least for a little while."

## Historic North Portland home open

The John Palmer House, an exquisite Queen Anne-Eastlake Victorian Home, built in 1890, is now open to the public. The house features stained and colored windows by the Povey Art Glass Co. The 15 rooms open to the public host a fine collection of gasoliers and Victorian furniture from the mid to late 1800's. It has recently been re-papered in the magnificent Victorian art papers of Bruce Bradbury of Venicia, California.

The house is open for tours from

12 to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Admission is \$3.00; student, senior and group rates are available.

It is also available for private receptions, dinners and weddings. For information call Mary or Richard Sauter at 284-5893.

The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is currently listed in the 1984 AAA Oregon Tour Book and has recently been featured in several publications and is located at 4314 N. Mississippi Ave.



**APPRECIATION AWARDS**—In honor of its 15th anniversary, Portland State University's (PSU's) Black Studies Department gave awards Friday, June 1st, to "12 (PSU) students who have made contributions to the (Black Studies) Department and/or the Black community during the 1968-84 academic year." Front row (l-r) Darrell Millner, Chairman of the Black Studies Department, and students, Sherie Smith, Sylvia King, Kyung Kim, Freda L. Omer, and Owen R. Owen. Back row, Xavier Browning, Nathaniel Scott, Andrew Hosch, Carla K. Kelly, and Paquita Garatea. Not shown but also receiving awards, were Consuelo Reeves and Ronnee Walker.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Prof. returns to Ghana

by Nathaniel Scott

"Dr. (Adolphus) Turkson has been a valuable addition to our department, (but) he is a victim of the budget cuts that have plagued the university over the past couple of years," Dr. Darrell Millner, Chairman of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University (PSU) said, as he reflected upon the departure of the music professor.

When Dr. Turkson came to PSU in 1981, Dr. Millner added, his position was funded through a Fulbright scholarship. And when the funding expired, the Black Studies Department maintained the position. But, because of budget problems, "The department won't be able to do that following this summer (term)," he said, adding, "in a personal sense, he (Turkson) was always a very warm and supportive colleague."

With the culmination of the summer session, Dr. Turkson plans to return to Ghana, where his wife and three children reside. However, beyond that, he cannot say where his next teaching assignment might be.

Nevertheless, he did say, "I feel very glad, actually, (to be) going back to help with the growth of the University (of Ghana); particularly the school of performing arts; of which I am the director."

Dr. Turkson speaks of himself as

a composer; a musicologist, and, he maintains that "my stay here has widened my experience; administratively and academically. I have learned several things," he said. "Because of my own background in African Studies, I



Dr. Turkson (Photo: Richard Brown)

feel strongly that the Black Studies Department (at PSU) should continue to grow."

Dr. William "Bill" Little, whom Dr. Turkson characterized as "my greatest friend since I came here," said in reference to Turkson's departure, "We will lose a senior scholar. He has been a positive influence...providing a certain sort of wisdom and perspective on issues that are relevant to the Black experience."

Dr. Turkson plans to leave for Ghana, either in late July or in early August.

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