

## Portlander wins gold medal

Na'im Hasan, a Portland resident, competed in the 4th Pan American Taekwon Do Championships this past weekend in Suriname, South America.

Eighteen countries were scheduled to attend the competition, but for unknown reasons several did not appear. The U.S. men's and women's teams were well represented in their respective divisions. The men's team secured six Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals, while the six-member USA women's team

captured six Gold medals.

Na'im Hasan represented the USA National Taekwon Do team in the heavyweight division. He combined his technical skills and mental prowess to defeat the Surinamese and Jamaican heavyweights to capture the Gold medal, becoming the 4th Pan American Taekwon Do champion.

Na'im was sponsored by businesses in the community and the *Portland Observer*. Congratulations for a job well done, Na'im!

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# PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV, Number 4

November 21, 1984

25c Copy

Two Sections

USPS 980-480-806  
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This year's recipients of the Jefferson High School Howard Cherry Award for outstanding young athletes are (l-r) Freeman Tong, men's soccer,

Melissa Hendricks, women's soccer, Tanna Goff, women's volleyball and Donald Newcomb, football. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Emotions ruled 1984 voters

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Ronnie Herndon, a man with a reputation for telling it like it is, told it like it was — Election '84 — to an attentive audience of students, supporters and the curious at Portland State University, November 15.

Unshaken by another four years of the Reagan Administration, Herndon said a look at the total election picture dispelled the notion of a conservative landslide engulfing the nation. "Reagan received only 31 percent of the vote. That is not a mandate!"



RON HERNDON  
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

He pointed to the passage of the Citizen Utility Board and the nuclear waste limitation as examples of progressive issues surviving in 1984.

"The defeat of Mondale was inevitable given the rules in the Democratic Party," Herndon said, explaining that the 20 percent threshold — where candidates have to reach it or no delegates — sets a foundation where only party leaders can pick the candidate.

"Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson won 70 percent of the votes in the primary states."

Herndon also asked rhetorically, "In his own party Mondale did not win the popular vote, so how did they expect him to win the popular vote during the general election?"

He questioned Mondale's Southern strategy as being "historically incorrect, since white voters in the South always went Republican since 1952. The theory, with Bert Lance, blew up in their faces."

Herndon said Mondale failed to take Reagan on with tough issues such as equality, re-distribution of incomes, unbalanced tax policies and full employment.

"The white youth vote went with Reagan because Mondale failed to offer a vision. Talking about 'Star Wars' is not going to get it," he added.

Herndon said the press acted as if they "discovered water" when they reported that Blacks were voting Democratic and whites were attracted to the Republican Party.

"What shakes them up is that Blacks are behind a progressive

movement led by Jesse Jackson, no first use of nuclear weapons, jobs and defense cuts. People are now waking up and voting with issues."

On the local level, Herndon called a sales tax "regressive — the poor pay more." He added, "Something is wrong with an income tax structure when those making over \$15,000 a year pay the same as those making two million."

Herndon said in Election 84 people voted with emotion and misinformation. "The passage of the death penalty is a way people feel they can strike back. However, states where it's already on the books experience an increase in the homicide rate."

Herndon challenged the students to create a new value system that, "insures no child or adult goes to bed hungry. Create a society with decent health care, education and jobs. You should learn from your mistakes and gather strength from your victories."

He pointed to victories in the local election of grassroots candidates such as Herb Cawthorne, Margaret Carter and Bud Clark. Herndon added that he believed Gladys McCoy lost because she lost touch with the community, failed to establish a base and did not address problems.

He also called the exclusion of Africa in Portland State's International Studies program "short-sighted and colonial in thinking."

"The world is shrinking. We need to teach students to respect and value other people's cultures."

## Black students face frequent suspension

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Black children in the Portland Public Schools are more than twice as likely to be suspended than their white counterparts.

This statement is based on the Management Information Services' suspension report for 1983-84. White student enrollment is 36,199 and their suspension rate is 3.04 percent. Black student enrollment is 7,283 and their suspension rate is 7.22 percent.

Black students' suspension rate is down slightly from the 1982-83 year (7.82) and the Portland Public Schools' suspension rate is lower than the national average (9.8 percent). However, in Portland, a disproportion exists and Carolyn Sheldon, coordinator of student services, called this disproportion "distressing."

She added that the circulation of a students' handbook on rights, responsibilities and discipline, "Will ensure we have information out as to what our expectations are. By providing a clear guideline, students will know what is likely to happen if they commit an infraction."

The handbook reviews various levels of disciplinary action from taking a student out of the classroom to expulsion for the entire semester.

However, Dr. Junious Williams, the district's discipline consultant, made this observation in April, 1984: "The new student handbook will not take care of the suspension and expulsion. . . We can expect an increase as administrators and teachers figure out how to use it."

Karen Powell, Educational Program Director for American Friends Service Committee, represents parents and students in discipline hearings. She said Black children are judged more harshly by teachers and administrators.

"Some teachers cannot handle language differences. The kids will say something forcibly and teachers become afraid," she added.

Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, led the fight to alleviate the disproportion facing Black students in special education, lower achievement levels and disci-

pline. He complemented Powell's reasoning. "Black students are judged with a different yardstick. You have individuals making decisions about discipline who are unaware or not trained in how to work with Black children."

Herndon said the chief desegregation consultant, Asa Hilliard, believes that the majority of discipline problems are the result of poor instruction. "When teacher expectations rises, discipline problems decrease."

According to the district's analysis of students suspended by cause and ethnic group, the greatest cause of suspension among white students was "unacceptable individual behavior," followed by "behavior with other students." Among Black students, the greatest cause of suspensions was "behavior with other students" followed by "behavior with staff."

The Early Childhood Educational Centers leading Black student suspension are Vernon with 35, Irvington with 11 and Boise with 7.

Dr. Betsy Geddes, principal at Vernon, called herself a "disciplinarian." "Each child has a right to learn. Those who choose to break the rules must suffer the consequences. The emphasis is on a positive approach — removal, re-entry with a contract signed by the student."

## Army holds Central America style exercises in Oregon

by Robert Lothian

Three hundred and fifty troops from the U.S. Army's 2nd battalion, 9th infantry, stationed at Fort Ord, California, practiced mountaineering at Oregon's Saddle Mountain State Park near Seaside from November 10-18.

At least one Portland television station, KOIN, in its news broadcast of November 14, said the troops were there because steep volcanic terrain at Saddle Mountain resembles similar terrain in Central America. The maneuvers came at a time of stepped-up U.S. military activity after the scare over the Soviet MIGs allegedly being unloaded

The suspension rate for Middle School Whitaker with 47, Tubman with 39 and Ockley Green with 27.

Herman Washington, principal of Tubman, said the suspension rates recorded were not reflective of the situation because of in-house suspensions — where students are detained in "time-out rooms" — data was not collected.

Washington said he has never agreed with in-house suspension. "Staying at school and not working does not make sense to me."

Black students' suspension rate for high schools are 81 for Jefferson, 43 for Madison and 28 for Grant.

The Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee recommended that the district's discipline policy be consistent in terminology, procedure and action. "The development of a building's discipline plan should continue. The plan should be mandatory and require a specific plan to address a high priority discipline problem."

Powell said there is a two-step process to lower the discipline disproportion. "Teachers and administrators should apply rules fairly and parents, along with the community, need to be more visible in school."

Herndon agrees. "If you get a notice saying your child has been suspended, it's too late."

at a Nicaraguan port, said the KOIN reporter.

Lt. Fred Burmester, acting logistics officer for the battalion, said the training included mountain climbing and rappelling. "It has nothing to do with Central America," he said.

Training also included "military operations in urban terrain" at Camp Rilea on the Oregon coast, said Burmester. This involved practicing entry techniques, setting up defenses and knocking down walls in a simulated village at the camp; live blanks and smoke bombs were used, he said.

The park remained open to the public during the maneuvers.

## FOCUS ON ENERGY: Free energy audits for homeowners

The Oil Heat Institute of Oregon, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Energy, offers free energy audits to homeowners and renters who heat with oil, propane, butane and kerosene. Homeowners who heat with wood are also eligible for the program, but must contact their electric utility to schedule an energy audit. The audit qualifies homeowners to apply for a 6½% loan or 50% cash rebate for weatherization items recommended in the energy audit.

To arrange for a free home energy audit the homeowner must contact the Oil Heat Institute by calling

231-7071 (Portland) or 1-800-452-8660 (Statewide) and request an energy audit.

At the time of the audit the customer will receive a lenders list designating the banks that are offering the low interest loans. The customer must then take a copy of the audit, along with contractor bids, to the bank and arrange for the 6½% financing. There are no income guidelines for the low cost financing. Customers are responsible for hiring their own weatherization contractors, or may do the work themselves.

For low income households,



homeowners may apply for a 50/50 cash rebate wherein the government will pay for half of the cost of weatherization, up to \$1,218 for a single family dwelling. At the time of the audit the customer will be given a State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) application, to be completed and returned to the Oregon Department of Energy. Once the DOE approves the application the homeowner may have the weatherization work completed and receive the 50% cash rebate.

Please note: All customers must have the free energy audit completed before any of the weatherization

work is done. Only those items showing cost effective on the energy audit will be considered for financing and/or the 50% cash rebate. The financing and rebate are not retroactive.

A tax credit of 15% of the first \$2,000 spent on weatherization is available to customers who do not use the low interest financing and/or the 50% rebate. For more information on tax credits, contact the Internal Revenue Service.

For further information please contact the Oil Heat Institute of Oregon by calling 231-7071 or 1-800-452-8660 (toll-free).