METROPOLITAN



Herb Cawthorne - "The Black community must challenge our children to produce, to create and to make a contri

bution to their community.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Urban League links community and business

by Jerry Garner

Herb Cawthorne is Chief Executive Officer of the Portland Urban League. Cawthorne is also a 1984 nominee for the Portland City Council, a distinguished member of the Portland Board of Education and a veteran administrator on the faculty of Portland State University. As Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League, Cawthorne is responsible for a budget of some \$1.6 million.

Cawthorne says that the Urban League must bring together the Black community and the corporate community. Following is an interview with Herb Cawthorne:

Garner: Mr. Cawthorne, what is the Portland Urban League doing in the area of employment, education and economic development?

Cawthorne: In the area of employment, we at the Urban League feel that our organization must do a better job of linking the corporate community with individuals who can work, will work, and make a contribution to the city as a whole. The Urban League is planning on computerizing the Employment Division. We have completely reorganized the staff activities. We have created stronger programs so people can know how to look for jobs and secure them.

Garner: Has the corporate community been cooperateive with your employment goals?

Cawthorne: Yes, I've been amazed at the interest the business community has shown in our employment goals. I have spoken with a number of corporate leaders, and they are interested in what the Urban League is trying to accomplish in terms of employment.

There is a big communication problem between the Black community and the business community. Many Black people are fearful; they don't know where to go and they don't know who to talk with. Blacks aren't part of the network of communication. Corporations want to have a balanced staff, but they don't know who to talk with and they don't have a network to find those Black employees. The Urban League must help link corporations and employees.

Garner: Do you believe that the Reagan Administration has done all it can to address the problem of Black youth unemployment?

Cawthorne: The youth employment rate is a serious problem in this country. About 60 percent of Black youth are unemployed in the city of Port-

The present administration in Washington could care less if the parents of Black youths have jobs. So it is obvious that the administration isn't concerned about addressing the tragic problem of Black youth unemployment. The problem of Black youth joblessness will not be solved at the na-

On the local level, we are not doing all that we can with the resources that are available to deal with the youth unemployment problem. There are organizational problems in the Private Industry Council; there is a lack of creativity and a lack of challenge for young Black men.

The Urban League doesn't want a Black youth to get a job in which he doesn't perform work and still gets paid. We must deal with this attitude among many of our young people. The Black community should be involved in setting the philosophy of youth employment and create experiences for teenage employment.

In the area of education, the Urban League is committed to assist children so they can achieve in schools. The Urban League provides tutors for grade school and high school students, giving them help they couldn't get at home or school. Garner: Do Portland Public Schools

perform a good job in serving the need of Black students?

Cawthorne: The education system can do a better job. We know that if a Black child goes into a classroom and acts up, becomes disinterested, or shows signs of behavior problems, the school system is not capable of dealing with such an individual. They should be, but they're not.

Garner: What can Black parents do to make the school system more aware of their children's problems?

Cawthorne: Keep pressuring the school system. Equally important, the Black community must challenge our children to produce, to create and to make a contribution to their commun-

It seems to me that somebody has told our Black youth (especially young Black males) that being dumb, speak-

ing as though one is ignorant, being uninterested in anything academic or intellectural, is the way Black people should be. Nobody but the Black community can turn this image around. We must encourage our young people

Economic development is another major area of focus of the Portland Urban League. We want to provide affordable housing, revitalize parts of Northeast Portland and, in the future, we want to assist small businesses. We persuaded the owner of the condemned Lynnview Hotel to rehabilitate it and got \$850,000 from the Portland Development Commission. A 15,000 square foot office to house the League's entire operation, plus 24 units of rental housing for the elderly or handicapped was constructed. That's economic development.

Garner: Does the Urban League have plans to build more housing? Cawthorne: Yes. Now we're work ing on a 19-unit apartment house for general market-rate housing.

Garner: Do you agree with those civil rights organizations who say the Reagan Administration is trying to destroy this nation's civil rights' laws?

Cawthorne: Yes. An example of this is the administration's attempt to rescind Executive Order 112416. What the attacks on Affirmative Action means is that Black people are going to have to work with one another. If we want our people to have equality, people must support the Urban League, the NAACP, the Black United Front and other such organizations. Many of our people do not.

Ronald Reagan wants to be around long enough to erase the gains we made in Affirmative Action.

Garner: Do you think the U.S. Supreme Court will eliminate job quotas for minorities?

Cawthorne: Yes. I think the Supreme Court will eliminate quotas and it will be unfortunate. Blacks must realize that quotas protect us only when the liberal psychology of society in in operation and when conservative psychology takes over the quotas will be eliminated. We cannot tie the strength of our future to liberal thinking or conservative thinking. We can only tie the strength of our future to unity and the purpose and dedication of our thinking.

KBOO Boo Ball to be held at Union Station

Portland's premier Halloween costume ball, the fourth annual KBOO Boo Ball will be held at Union Train Station Friday, Nov. 1, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with Crazy 8's as the featured band.

The main attraction of the evening is the fantastic costumes worn by the 1500 fun-seekers who attend. A panel of distinguished judges including Jonathan Nicholas, Cheryl Hansen, Sandy Direc-

tor and other local celebrities will determine the winners of the costume contest with categories in: best group, scariest, most original, funniest and most outragous. Grand prize is two roundtrip tickets to Las Vegas on Sunworld International Airways.

The Boo Ball has been a sell-out each of its four years and received an award from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting as one of the most unique public

radio station fundraising events. It is considered by many Portlanders to be one of the funnest parties of the year.

Ticket prices are \$11, \$10 for KBOO members and an unlucky \$13 at the door. Tickets can now be purchased by phone from KBOO radio station, 20 SE 8, 231-8032, and from Bass Ticket outlets in October. Ages 21 and over, please.

Court rules on **PCC** election

Multnomah Circuit Court Judge Clifford Olson ruled Tuesday that the Aug. 13 Portland Community College (PCC) serial levy election was invalid because Yamhill County did not give notice they would be using a mail ballot.

The college had a three-year \$3.5 million levy before voters in the five counties of the district. The levy failed by 569 votes. Yamhill County used a mail ballot for their portion of the

PCC and three board members,

Carl Piacentini, Dana Anderson and Dick Springer, contested the election and asked that balloting be ruled invalid for Yamhill County.

In making his decision, Judge Olson said, "The mail ballot election was illegal and those ballots should not be counted. It is not proper to vote again in that area only since attitudes change and it would not be the same circum-

Next action in the case will be consideration of election costs, court costs and setting of a new election date.





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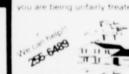
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