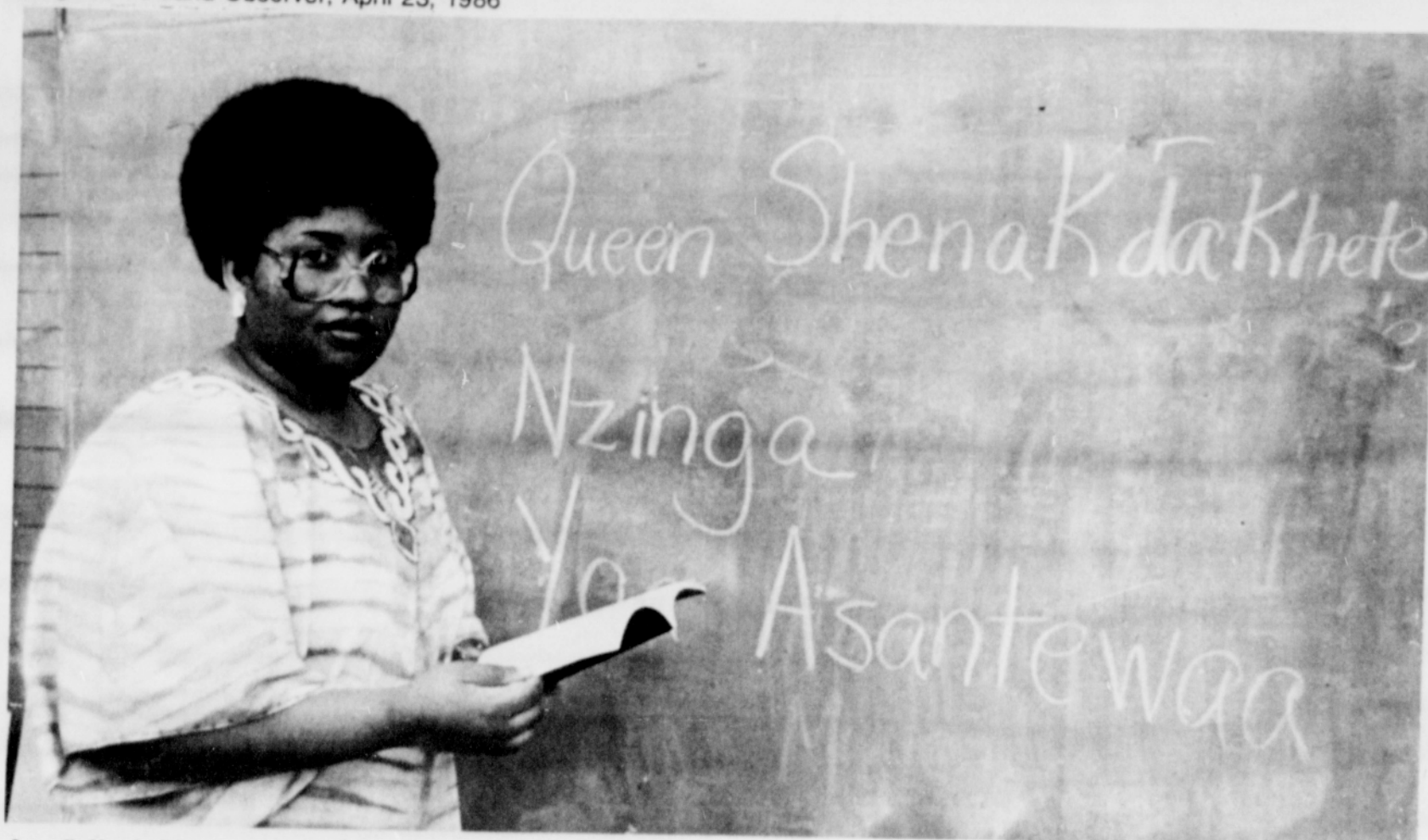




Joyce B. Harris, Director of The Black Educational Center is pictured listing the names of African queens. Her presentation, "Great African Queens", was done for the Black United Front, that is an on-going "Lecture Series" to

educate its current members and attract new members. THE BUF meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Wednesday Protest Day

by Bob Lothian

Last Wednesday was the day for protests downtown.

At Portland State University, about 150 demonstrators gathered under rainy skies to protest the U.S. attack on Lebanon.

The attack was described as "a terrorist act against the Libyan people" by spokesman Joel Shapiro. "The more we speak out, the more we can help," Shapiro said.

Other speakers criticized what they said was Reagan's lack of conclusive evidence linking Libya to terrorism. Reagan has rallied public opinion behind "his Rambo-like antics," said a flyer distributed by the demonstrators.

Led by Palestinian and African students, the group then marched downtown.

As they approached the federal courthouse, the Libya protesters briefly

combined with a demonstration of about 100 Mexican-Americans carrying bright yellow picket signs. The Hispanic demonstrators were protesting alleged police racism during recent anti-drug campaigns. They also criticized lack of coverage of their cause by the *Oregonian*.

The two demonstrations eventually converged on the Federal Building. Though their causes were different, they had found a common enemy. They marched together in a circle with their picket signs.

"No more," shouted the Libya protesters.

"No mas," shouted the Mexican-Americans.

The two demonstrations then went their separate ways, the Libya protesters to Army recruiting offices, and the anti-racism demonstrators back to the courthouse.

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Hispanic Issues Conference

by Bob Lothian

When he addressed the Hispanic Issues Conference, the Portland director of the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service was asked to repeat his statement that, "All Mexicans are not involved in Mexican tar heroin."

The issue is a volatile one for the local Hispanic community, many of whose members feel that Mexicans were the subjects of racial prejudice in recent local anti-drug campaigns.

Many in the audience clapped loudly when the director repeated his statement.

The second annual conference, held April 11-13 at Whitaker School in Northeast Portland, drew several hundred participants who met with local and national Hispanic leaders to discuss education, Hispanic leadership and politics, business opportunities and immigration.

The conference audience listened attentively to Portland ENS director Carl Houseman. His agency is anything but popular with the Hispanic community.

Houseman downplayed racial stereotyping, but he did allude to a definite connection between illegal Mexican immigration and heroin.

"One of the ways it gets here is by undocumented workers," he said. "There is a co-relation to be sure."

Houseman spoke in favor of beefed-up legislation that would sanction farmers who hire illegal immigrants.

His attitude was criticized by Dr. Jorge Bustamante, a college president from Tijuana, Mexico, and adviser to Mexico's president. Bustamante, an expert on immigration, characterized Houseman's attitude as part of a pattern of "blaming immigrants" that included prejudice against Irish and Asians in the past.

Such prejudice clouds the real issue and makes it hard for the U.S. and Mexico to work together, he said. Rather than a problem of lack of border control, illegal immigration is a function of the international labor market — workers go where they are needed and where they can get better pay, he said.

Americans also need to realize that the immigrants are not the poorest or least well-educated, Bustamante said. Many Mexican families are proud of their "braceros." "They are some of our best people," he said.

Illegal immigrants make up only about 10% of Oregon's Hispanic population of about 60,000. The rest were born in Oregon or other states.

Though they are the state's largest minority, Spanish-speaking people continue to be underrepresented in state and local government, said Dr. Maria Marin.

Marin, who is running for Portland City Council position number two, said that no Hispanics are represented on local city or county commissions, staffs or local boards.

"I would say that's unacceptable," said Art Alexander, assistant to city commissioner Mike Lindberg. Alexander attended a workshop with Marin and offered practical advice on how minorities can succeed at City Hall. He urged those present to pressure officials to have more Hispanic representation on their staffs.

Alexander also described the process where a city council measure threatening the Hispanic community was stopped. A staff person noticed the measure on the agenda, which would have allowed the INS access to the city's police computer. After local Hispanics met with chief Penny Harrington and stood vigil at City Council hearings, the measure was defeated, Marin said.

Hispanic teachers and students are underrepresented in the state's colleges and universities, said Felipe Veloz, an

official with the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs. Because teacher attitude is the most significant factor in a student's success, the lack of Hispanic teachers contributes to a high drop-out rate among Hispanic students, he said.

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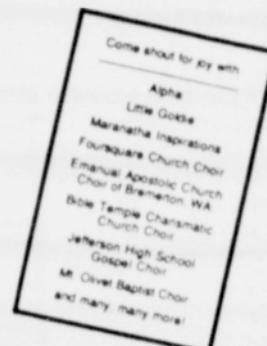
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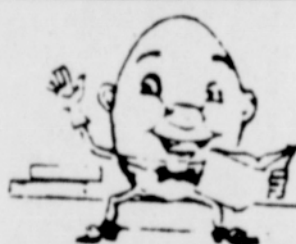
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