

Jesse Jackson Keynotes National Black United Front Convention

by Avel Gordly



Dr. Conrad Worrill urges adapting Portland Education model by local BUF chapters. Photo by Richard J. Brown

"Building Black Unity, Where Do You Stand?" was the theme of the Eighth Annual Black United Front Convention held July 23-26, in Washington, D.C. 365 registered delegates, representing 12 chapters in 9 states, met at the Howard University School of Social Work. Over 150 of the delegates were youth, who had active roles in the workshops and plenary sessions.

Jackson Enthusiastically Received

Undeclared presidential candidate and Democratic frontrunner, Jesse Jackson, gave the convention keynote address; and his arrival, speech and departure were greeted with cheers of 'Run, Jesse, Run' and standing ovations. Many of the issues raised by Jackson were later addressed in workshops which focused on education, AIDS, drugs, administration of justice, Black women and Black men building unity, and international affairs.

Portland BUF Education Model Urged

In his closing address, Dr. Conrad Worrill, National Chairperson, urged the 12 chapters to study the Portland BUF education model. For eight years the Portland Chapter has been the catalyst for making African American history and culture part of the Portland Public School curriculum. Nationally prominent African American scholars in mathematics, science, language arts, art, music and history have been brought to Portland and have contributed essays from which lesson plans are now being developed and from which teachers will be trained.

Portland's curriculum effort is considered a national model by Dr. Asa Hilliard, chief consultant on the desegregation plan for Portland Public Schools. Dr. Hilliard has been promoting the Portland effort around the country.

The Kansas City, Bay Area, Chicago, and Houston BUFs have already begun to follow the Portland BUF lead, and Worrill urged other chapters to look at how this national model could be adapted in their communities.

NBUF Elects National Officers

During other convention business, delegates elected national officers to serve two-year terms: Dr. Conrad Worrill, Chicago, Chairperson; Elizabeth Butler, Brooklyn, Secretary; Arnetta Dunn, Kansas City, Treasurer; Obba T'Shaka, Bay Area, Vice Chair-Organization and Training; Iris Dunbar, Chicago, Vice Chair-Women's Affairs; Avel Gordly, Portland, Vice Chair-International Affairs; and Jitu Weusi, Brooklyn, Vice Chair-Administration. Additionally, Ron Herndon will serve on an economic development committee.

Portland BUF members attending the National Convention included Ron Herndon, Co-Chair; Bobbi Gary; Jean Reese; Dorothy Alexander; Richard Brown; and Avel Gordly.

For more information about local BUF activities, contact Black United Front, P.O. Box 3976, Portland, Oregon 97208.

NOTE: The Eighth Annual Black United Front Community Unity Day will be held Saturday, August 15th, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the Jefferson High School track and football field. Come out and enjoy the music, food, friends, and other festivities.

Having a Party

Come to Mt. Angel, Oregon, Thursday through Sunday, September 17 through 20 for one of Oregon's biggest parties. Four days and nights of food, fun and festivities for the whole family. Street dances Friday and Saturday nights, more than fifty food booths, live entertainment on three stages throughout the festival, biergarten, weingarten and a kindergarten for the kids.

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- CHILDREN'S MEDICINE
- SCHOOL AND JOB PHYSICALS
- PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE



Portland dentist, Dr. Edward Ward, will be contributing a series of columns for The Portland Observer containing basic oral health information for the lay person. His first article appears in this week's issue.

In addition to his thriving dental practice, Dr. Ward is an energetic and committed community worker. He and his wife, Barbara, a counselor at Jefferson High School, have two children.

COMMUNITY DENTISTRY

BY Dr. Edward Ward

You Child's First Visit to the Dentist

That first visit to the dentist's office can be filled with tears and trauma, or it can be a relaxed, comfortable procedure. One thing for sure—that first visit sometimes determines life-long attitudes toward oral health care.

Your child's first visit to the dentist should ideally take place around the second birthday when all the "baby" teeth have come in. At that time, your child will learn that "The Dentist" is there to help him, and perhaps detect the beginning of a correctable dental problem early on.

If your child's initial experience with a dentist is under stressful conditions, an injury or painful toothache situation, he will always associate dental visits with discomfort and anxiety that may last a lifetime. And if you as a parent are fearful, you can be sure that your feelings will be transmitted to your child. Don't introduce the subject of pain by saying "it won't hurt." Modern technology has helped us achieve our goal of pain free dentistry.

That first visit can be an educational one. We like to teach your child correct brushing techniques, and will introduce good oral hygiene habits that we believe will prevent later disease and tooth loss.

We recommend check ups every six months, and setting good examples in your home by regular brushing and flossing, limiting sweets in your diet, and regular visits to your dentist. Studies show that 18 to 34 percent of all two year olds already have one or more decayed teeth. So don't delay that first visit.

Dr. Ward's dental office is located at 610 S.W. Alder, Suite 1008, Portland, Oregon.

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