

# SPORTS

## Marvin Johnson: Athletic Discipline in Action



Johnson collects trophy for 1-min, 57-seconds of work in ring.  
Photo by Richard J. Brown  
by Fred Hembry

On February 9th, I had the pleasure of speaking with a gentleman whose athletic excellence has flowed into his life's philosophy. The person — Marvin Johnson.

Marvin has dabbled in activities ranging from track and field to fencing.

A short, stout youth in high school (5' 6"), Marvin was not able to compete to the best of his aspirations. By his Freshman year at the University of Oregon, he was beginning to reap the benefits of hormonal change in reference to height. Taking advantage of this, he turned to fencing, where he received a novice award for his excellence.

By age 25, Johnson reached an amazing 6'4". With the abundance of size, he pursued basketball. Marvin played on a city league team for seven years and did quite well. In

addition to this, he recently took on boxing — knocking out his opponent in one-minute and fifty-seven seconds.

Why is Johnson driven to such diversity in sports?

"The discipline that it takes to achieve success at these events helps me to excel in life, also," he comments.

Excel — he does. Marvin is head J.V. basketball coach at Lincoln High School. He also coaches a summer AAU basketball team (ages 13-15), where he's had state championship teams three years running.

He also teaches math at the Black United Front Saturday School, accomplishes stage acting, and educating others in his craft at local high schools.

Marvin enjoys working with our community youth. He continually strives to help them see the realities of life in society for young African-Americans. He believes that education, in hand with athletic perseverance, are the keys to excellence in life.

"My kids see me as an old man, and when I'm triumphant in my athletic endeavors, it shows them that they, in their youth, can achieve anything."

This statement is quite hard-hitting, because Marvin Johnson is 35 years old. This is an age that most view as 'the deceleration years' sports-wise. He sees this year and years ahead as a continual challenge, meeting each new day with more determination than the last.

Young people, take heed to this individual's zeal for excellence, and give 100% in the classroom and in the field of sports.

by Kamau Anderson

On February 5th, Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica, an African-American lobbying organization for African interest, was the guest speaker of the Black Cultural Affairs Board, PSU's Black students organization.

Since November of 1984, Mr. Robinson has spearheaded the Free South Africa Movement which got its start by engaging in civil disobedience at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C. This movement swept across the nation and resulted in the forced closure of honorary South African consulates in several cities, including Portland.

Mr. Robinson, an articulate spokesman, summarized his talk before he began by saying: "Until South Africa is free, we are not free . . . for those of us in our society who are small-minded who still ask the question, 'What does it (South Africa) have to do with us?', the answer is so compellingly simple: It has everything to do with us, particularly, we Americans who are of African descent. For a strong Africa means a strong African-American."

He related an experience to the approximately 200-or-so present in the audience about his travel to South Africa in 1976 with a U.S. delegation. The delegation met with the Rev. Alan Boesak, a leading opponent of apartheid in South Africa, and some white South African businessmen. Rev. Boesak spoke to the delegation in detail about the horrors and viciousness of apartheid, knowing that the "authorities" were listening, which

## Randall Robinson Speaks at PSU

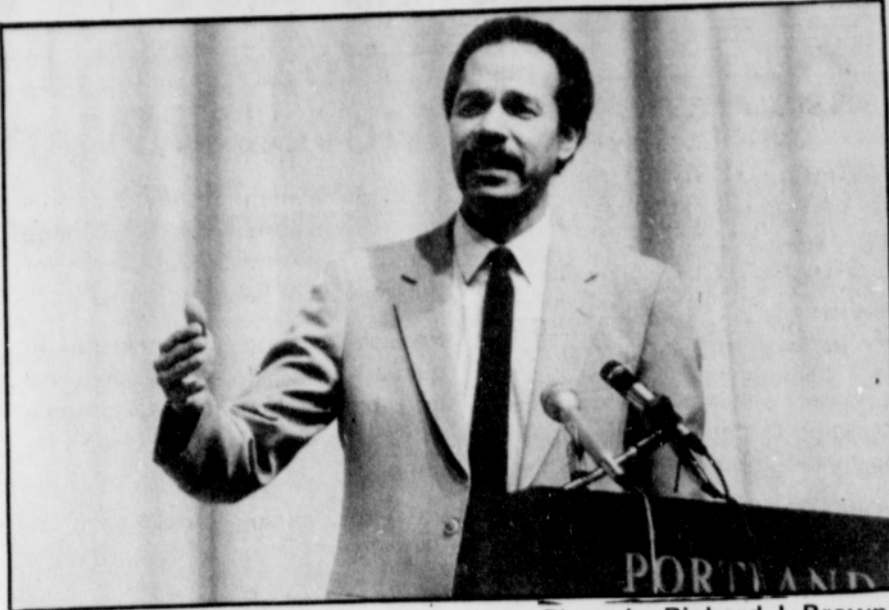


Photo by Richard J. Brown

placed his life in immediate danger.

He was so inspired by Rev. Boesak's courageousness that he committed himself to return to the United States to work for the elimination of apartheid. In the meeting with the white businessmen, the critical question of one-person, one-vote was put to the businessmen. The response to the question by one of the white businessmen immediately gave the delegation a clear picture of who and what they were dealing with. The businessman responded without malice, as if it was a normal thing to say, "The vote in the hands of Blacks would be like putting a gun in the hands of a five-year-old."

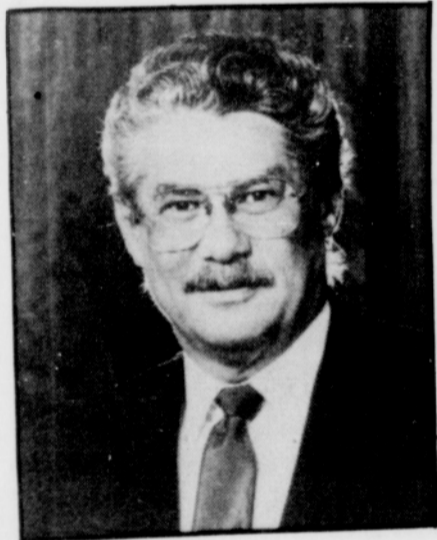
Under the South African governmental system called "apartheid", meaning "racially divided", less than four-million whites viciously control, denying basic human rights to more than twenty-three-million

negotiating table. If sanctions are not imposed, South Africa will deteriorate into a Lebanon-like chaos within the next five to ten years.

Mr. Robinson concluded his speech with a lesson in understanding power. He told those present that his speeches used to take an emotional, moralistic approach to apartheid, pointing out all the wrongs of apartheid on a human level. Aside from being right or wrong, one must know what has to be done to bring about change in South Africa. He added that it is important to be right, but being right is not good enough. One must understand power and how it is used as an instrument of oppression in South Africa. One must understand the power of geo-politics and the role of multi-national corporations in South Africa. If you are trying to convince a congressman to support anti-apartheid legislation using logic and flawless speech and do not have the power to affect the political fortunes of that congressperson, then you are wasting your time. He quoted the slavery abolitionist Frederick Douglass to force his point on understanding power: "Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never did and it never will."

In this, an election year, Mr. Robinson concluded with a call to put apartheid on the agenda of the politicians. If anti-apartheid activists keep pressing the issues and use the television and print media effectively, politicians will take note — because it is the people that make the parade, the politicians only run to find the front of it.

## Barthelemy, Mayor of New Orleans, to Cap PCC Black History Month Observance



A public address February 25 by Sidney J. Barthelemy, mayor of New Orleans, will climax a month-long observance of Black History Month at Portland Community College.

Mayor Barthelemy's keynote address will be at 7 p.m. in the Cascade Hall Auditorium on the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

Barthelemy, 46, was elected mayor in March, 1986, after capturing the largest number of votes for a non-incumbent mayor in the New Orleans' history.

Barthelemy spent seven years

during the 1960's studying for the priesthood in New York and Washington, D.C., and has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Joseph Seminary in Washington. Later he earned a master's degree in social work from Tulane University and served for two years as director of the New Orleans Welfare Department.

In 1974, Barthelemy became the first Black Louisiana State Senator since Reconstruction days. Four years later he was elected as the first Black councilman at large in New Orleans.

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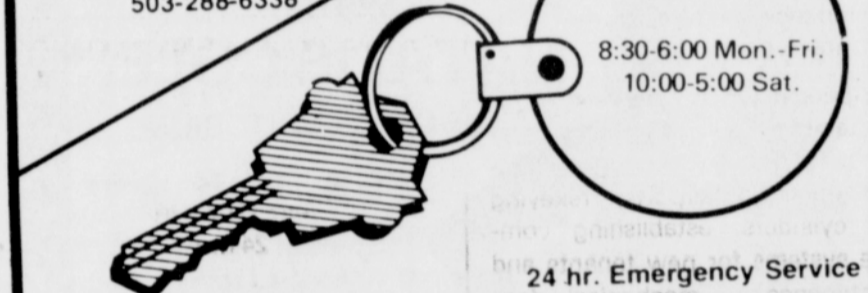
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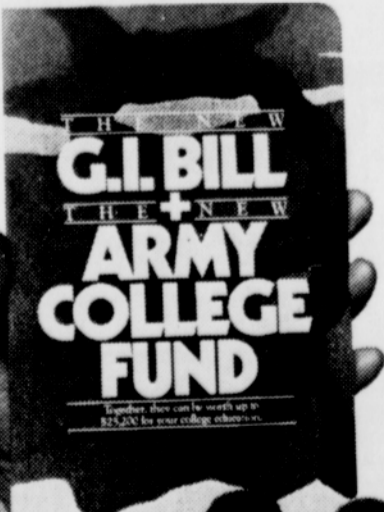
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