

Portland's Black Professional Network



County Chair Gladys McCoy joins the 100-plus individuals as Amelia Lanier cuts the cake at a community reception.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

by Dennis G. Payne

Realizing the need for an organization to serve all Black Professionals, regardless of craft, trade or profession, in October, 1987 a group of individuals started planning for the creation of Portland's Black Professional Network.

The group was brought together by Dennis G. Payne, who developed the idea based on the Black Professional Forum established by Black Enterprise Magazine.

The group has been meeting since October, once a month on the second Sunday at Pacific Power and Light's District Office

(15th and N.E. Fremont), and has grown rapidly from 12 to over 90 individuals. By-laws have been drafted and officers nominations were made at February's meeting and will be adopted and elected at the March 13th meeting.

The stated purpose of the organization is to "bring Black people of diverse professions, backgrounds, talents and skills together, to work towards individual, collective and economic goals that will enrich our lives, enrich our communities, and enrich the lives of our families."

The organization decided to honor Black History Month by

hosting a **Community Reception** last Sunday, February 21st, at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. Over 130 individuals were present, sharing good times, conversation and food. The event was catered by Karla's Krab's & Quicke Delight L&S Catering and music was provided by Ken Berry, Danny Osborne and Friends. The event was organized and supervised by Anita Noble and volunteers from Portland's Black Professional Network.

Speaking to the reception, Dennis G. Payne listed the organization's goals as:

1. to provide mentors and role models to our children for the growth and development
2. to provide growth and opportunity for the development of Black Professionals through training and seminars, and
3. to encourage, support and develop Black Businesses to maintain a strong community and build a better tomorrow.

Dennis went on to say that the only qualification to join is that you are **BLACK** and want to build upon your **Blackness** for a better tomorrow. The organization will be joining the National Black Professional Network and will serve as the country's anchor to the great Pacific Northwest.

In closing his remarks, Dennis stated that everyone's participation and support is needed and demanded and that the next meeting will be Sunday, March 13th, 2:30 p.m. at P.P.—L.'s District Office.

Computer Training for Older Workers

The Center for Urban Education's New Directions program is offering computer training for mature workers. The program is designed for knowledgeable adults with a lifetime of learning and skills who want to develop computer skills to remain in or re-enter their field of expertise.

The eight-week training program includes guided class instruction, software demonstrations, hands-on computer experience, one-on-one tutoring sessions, resume preparation, job search training, and special assignments. Trainees are also given the opportunity to put their skills into practice in a job setting through a subsidized worksite for eight weeks, that could lead to a permanent position.

The program is funded by the Private Industry Council and seeks men and women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Anyone interested should call the Center for Urban Education at 231-1285 and ask about New Directions.

According to the American Heart Association, high blood pressure is particularly prevalent in middle-aged and elderly people, blacks, obese people, heavy drinkers, women who take oral contraceptives, and people with diabetes mellitus, gout or kidney disease. High blood pressure is also more prevalent among men than women.

1988 Act-So Efforts

The Portland Planning Committee for Act-So, Brain Child of the NAACP, is revving up for the 1988 national competitions chaired by Kenneth Edwards of the Northeast Youth Services Center, the Afro-Academic Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics Committee is actively recruiting and soliciting names of 9th-12th grade youth who show exceptional talent in the humanities, sciences, performing arts and visual arts for a May 13th local competition.

Conceived by Chicago columnist, Vernon Jarrett, Act-So is "an in-depth saturation campaign to discover, develop, nurture and reward academic achievement among this nation's Black high school students." Rooted in the firm conviction that our youth can achieve in the classroom at the same superior level at which they achieve in the athletic arena, it is the goal of Act-So to afford the same respect for scholastic and cultural achievement that is awarded the heroes of the world of sports."

And since there is a national agenda to save our youth", says Ken Edwards, "Act-So is one more community effort to reward and recognize our young people for outstanding achievements and to foster their continuance." Recognition is given in the form of medals and money on the local and national levels.

The national competition this

year will be held in June in Washington, D.C. Of the four disciplines considered, there are 21 categories (a student may enter up to three of these): Music composition, original essay, playwriting, poetry, biology, chemistry, electronics, photography, and sculpture. The Act-So committee hopes to have 16 finalists attend. "That, however," says Mr. Edwards, "will depend greatly on the number of youth participating — and we hope the response will be tremendous — and most importantly on the amount of money that can be raised to support our local competition, which is where we currently need the most community support."

Having no doubts that Portland will be very well represented at the National level, the Act-So committee, consisting of Renee Wilkerson-Anderson, Mary Taylor, Carmen Walker, Alene Grice, June Key, Cleovonne Jackson, Lucious Hicks and George Hendrix, is busily forging ahead.

All donations to this effort are tax deductible and should be mailed to: Act-So, P.O. Box 11367, Portland, OR 97211. Applications may be secured from all high school integration specialists, the Portland NAACP office, the Urban League of Portland or by calling Mr. Edwards at 280-2600. Closing deadline is February 26th.

FREE PHYSICALS FOR THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES

Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc. will be sponsoring free physicals for people with low incomes. The physicals will be held March 1, 2, 8 & 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and March 4 & 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The physicals will be held at St. Andrews Church - Community Center, 806 NE Alberta. Appointments are necessary. Call 288-5995 during business hours for an appointment.

The physicals will include a physical examination, blood pressure evaluation, urine testing, and distance vision screening. The physicals will be administered by a family practice physician and an adult nurse practitioner. Participants will receive a written evaluation of their health status.

For more information please call Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc. at 288-5995.

MARCH 1 DEADLINE FOR MINORITY-STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS

March 1 is the deadline for Oregon Black, Hispanic and Native American students to apply to the state's public, four-year colleges and universities for waiver of tuition and fees.

Under a program adopted last May by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, 146 Oregon first-time freshmen from these minorities are eligible to receive the waivers each year.

The waivers, worth about \$1,500 annually, are awarded competitively only to students who meet all normal admission requirements. Students from the three minority groups qualify because their rate of enrollment at State System of Higher Education institutions has been only about half that of the general student population.

Persons requesting applications by March 1, and subsequently completing and returning the application, can be considered for admission for Fall 1988.

Applications are available by writing or calling admissions offices at any of the eight institutions:

- Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, Ore. 97850.
- Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Ore. 97201.
- Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601.
- Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore. 97331.
- Portland State University, Portland, Ore. 97207.
- Southern Oregon State College, Ashland, Ore. 97520.
- University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. 97403.
- Western Oregon State College, Monmouth, Ore. 97361.

The tuition-and-fee waiver program, considered to be among the nation's most aggressive higher-education affirmative action initiatives, is intended to increase numbers of underrepresented-minority students on the eight campuses.

CALENDAR

Rights on Trial Forum

Sat., Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Musicians Union Hall, 325 NE 20th, Portland, 6:30 p.m. chicken dinner. Door donation, \$2; low income \$1. Dinner, \$5.50; low income, \$3. Call 249-8067 or 236-6154.

Success Through Phonics

Sat., Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1-4 p.m., PSU, Lincoln Hall Auditorium, \$15, scholarship available: Call 282-6925. For info call Mary Garrett, 620-2200 or Phil Bransom, 636-8126.

"Punch" Puppet Show

Sat., Feb. 27, 3 p.m., Hollywood Branch of the Multnomah County Library, 3930 N.E. Hancock. Free.

Children's Dental Fair

Sat., Feb. 27, OMSI, 4015 S.W. Canyon Rd. In honor of the advances in dental technology and National Children's Dental Health Month.

Black History Concert

The Story of the Spirituals
Sun., Feb. 28, 4 p.m., Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th. Featuring Dorothy Butler, Helen Oakley, Emmett Wheatfall, Ada Jackson, Cleo Butler, Phillis Whitmore and Ray Tellis.

Dizzy Gillespie Celebrated

Fri., Feb. 26, 9:00 p.m. Eastern time on PBS. Check your local listing for time in your area.

Proposals Sought for North Portland Enhancement Program

The North Portland Enhancement Committee will hold an informational meeting **Wednesday, March 2**, to answer questions and discuss guidelines for submitting proposals for projects to benefit North Portland. The 7 p.m. meeting will be at St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central St.

Moment Without Prior Names Gordon Parks

Mon., Feb. 29th, 10 p.m. Eastern Time on PBS. Check local listing for time in your area.

Panel Discussion Forum

Saturday, Feb. 27th, 7:30 p.m., public panel discussion forum, "Malcolm X Legacy For Today," 2732 N.E. Union. Info, call 287-7416.

CANCELLATION

Nicaraguan artist, Carlos Montenegro, slide show of his work and the new cultural institutions in revolutionary Nicaragua.

Reception to Honor Oregon Women of Historical Significance

Fri., March 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Oregon Historical Society, SW Broadway at Jefferson. \$5 at the door. Call for reservations, 232-1872 or 658-6057.

Volunteers Needed for Field Experience

The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation needs volunteers for medical-related services. If you need field experience as a medical assistant, phlebotomist, lab tech or other medically-related experience, lend us a hand and earn school credits at the same time.

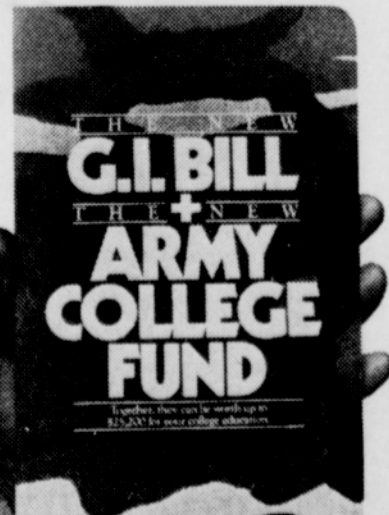
Contact the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation today — call (503) 249-1366. Ask for Mrs. Taylor.

THIS BOOKLET CAN CHANGE THE WAY YOU PLAN TO PAY FOR COLLEGE.

THE G.I. BILL PLUS THE ARMY COLLEGE FUND CAN BE WORTH UP TO \$25,200 TOWARD YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION.

Here's how it works: First you contribute to your education—\$100 per month for the first full 12 months of your enlistment. Then the government contributes—up to \$9,600. That's the G.I. Bill. With the Army College Fund, you can add up to \$14,400 more! (See table below.)

| ENLISTMENT | THE G.I. BILL | THE G.I. BILL PLUS THE ARMY COLLEGE FUND |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 2 years | \$9,000 | \$17,000 |
| 3 years | \$10,800 | \$22,800 |
| 4 years | \$10,800 | \$25,200 |



And the rewards of being a soldier go far beyond earning money for college. You'll also learn self-reliance, discipline, team-work and pride. So when you do get to college, you'll be able to get the most out of it.

For more information about this program and how you can qualify for it, see your local Army Recruiter today. Or call toll free 1-800-USA-ARMY. You'll find out that paying for college through the Army pays off in more ways than one.

ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.



... This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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