

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Saluting



Sarah Jackson
King Elementary School
3rd Grade



Fatima Rushdan
King Elementary School
4th Grade



La' Tina Spears
Sacred Heart School
5th Grade



Willie Banks, Jr.
Holy Redeemer School
6th Grade

The Coalition of Black Men will hold its bi-monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 29, in the cafeteria of Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, 705 North Killingsworth.

The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. and all Black men are invited to attend.

The Coalition of Black Men was organized in June of this year to address many of the social and economic problems that are having an unfavorable impact on Black youth.

NOTICE

Black Writer's Guild to form. For more information - Call Useni Perkins at the Urban League of Portland - 280-2600.

Parent Charges Harrassment

A concerned parent of the Northeast community has informally charged four Portland police officers with abuse and mistreatment of her teenage son the weekend of Oct. 7. The incident has aroused the attention of the Urban League of Portland and Black community representatives who are demanding an investigation by City of Portland Chief of Police Richard Walker.

Mrs. Annette Preston alleges that her son, DeMarcus Preston, and his friend Norman Penny were harassed by Portland police officers and detained in police vehicles the evening of Oct. 7. DeMarcus and Norman were on their way to a Jefferson High School Football game.

An unidentified witness of the incident notified Mrs. Preston who then rushed to the scene at the corner of Killingsworth and Williams with DeMarcus's aunt, Terry Hill.

Mrs. Preston and Ms. Hill said that their efforts to inquire about DeMarcus and Norman's whereabouts were met with alarmingly hostile and abusive responses by the four officers.

Mrs. Preston maintains that the officer-in-charge refused to let her see or talk to her son and that his language was threatening; and after much confusion, the supervising officer haphazardly explained that DeMarcus and Norman were being held on suspicion of gang related activities.

According to Mrs. Preston, the incident was psychologically violent. She says that the officers made an unwarranted seizure of the youths, mistreated them while

in their custody and responded to her son and his friend in an unprofessional and rude manner.

The police version of what happened is as follows: police officers were informed that a group of teenagers, some of them known blood gang members, were West-bound on N. Killingsworth street. When the police arrived, they observed nine or ten youth crossing N. Vancouver at Killingsworth against a 'Don't Walk' pedestrian sign. The report says that because of the youths gang association, the officers conducted a high risk stop.

According to the report, DeMarcus had been known to carry guns on several occasions and during the initial stop, was uncooperative, would not follow police instructions and refused to keep his hands away from his body. DeMarcus was also accused of being confrontative, argumentative and attempted to incite a growing crowd of on-lookers. The report says that two officers attempted to handcuff DeMarcus, and when he immediately resisted, they forced him to the grass. According to the report, moderate force was used.

However, Mrs. Preston says the concern for her son and other Black teenagers again raises the issue of the misguided pursuit of gang members by the Portland police department and the arbitrary searches by overly zealous police officers.

Captain Tom Potter of the North Portland Precinct is now investigating the incident. He informed the **Portland Observer** that he intends to reach a judicious outcome.

Saluting



Dr. R. Y. Woodhouse
Chief Executive Officer, Seattle Urban League

Black Community Meets With CSD

On Saturday, Oct. 22, members from Portland's African-American community met with Mr. Bart Wilson, Branch Manager, Children Services Division, Clackamas Branch, to receive an update on the status of the children of the Ecclesia Athletic Association.

Organized by Gina Woods, a member of the Governor's staff, with assistance from Ms. Teletha Benjamin (CSD), the meeting produced an agenda of its own. After listening to Mr. Wilson give a hour by hour report of CSD's involvement in the Ecclesia case, the community members in attendance voted to (1) harness community resources and make them available to the children of Ecclesia, (2) attempt to make contact with Ecclesia leader Eldridge Broussard in hopes of negotiating a Black community forum, (3) to investigate the philosophy and



Gina Wood

practices of the Ecclesia Athletic Association, as well as other philosophy related African-American organizations and (4) organize an Advisory committee that would advise CSD on the community's feelings, and concerns about the way the case is handled.

At the forefront of this agenda are (1) Mr. James Edmondson, Resources, (2) State Representative Margaret Carter, Contact, (3) Mr. Useni Perkins, Investigation and (4) Advisory, Ms. Teletha Benjamin and Ms. Wanda Wright.

Community members agreed on media strategy and will design communications that will keep the African-American community informed of the progress of the Ecclesia children, as well as any progress to get Mr. Broussard into the community to explain his program, his philosophy and hopefully provide some insight into the death of his daughter.

Black Expo '88

'The Beginning'

It was new, exciting, bubbling with excellence, laced with traditional African grace, and a memorable sight for tired eyes. It offered African-American greeting cards, African-American prints, African-American dolls, African-American coloring books, African-American Heritage pins, sweat-shirts with African-American heroes and heroes on front and back, African gowns, African shirts, African-American food, books, Bean pies, jewelry, and just about everything African-American the mind could conceive on this day, Oct. 22, 1988.

It was called the Black Expo - Community Bazaar.

Although the name suggest a community fair of some sorts, it was much, much more. It was a spiritual gathering. A gathering of some of Portland's most gifted, talented and inspirational artists, businessmen/women, families, organizations, and of course, African-American children.

Sponsored by the Black Professional Network, the Black Expo was a high class act. Its participants read like the who's who of who will enrich our community well into the 21st century: Sister Charlotte Lewis, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Omar Shabazz, Kemet T-Shirts, Black Stuff, J. Cornell Foreman, Arlene Marshall, William Rutherford, Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Black United Fund/BPN, Phil Reid Studio, Grace Kuto, Johnny Olive, Kathryn Jennings, Richard Brown, the American Muslim Community, Jennie Portis, KBMS Radio Station, Waverly Davis, Kal's Designs, Allen Biggers, John Barnes, Judy Alexander, J.V. Packers, Ltd., Gloria Flucker, and on and on.

According to Dennis Payne, President, the Black Professional Network, "We want to thank the African-American community for its unforgettable support ... From the moment we opened for business until the moment we closed shop, the community was there. It shows that African-Americans will spend their money in the community if you provide them with quality products, excellent service and something they can personally relate to. Our vendors were so excited about the success of the Expo until all you heard was LETS DO IT AGAIN!!!

And the Black Professional Network plans to do it again. Plans are underway for a second Expo to take place in December, 1988. If you missed this one don't miss the next one. You can't help but walk away completely satisfied, overwhelmed and proud to be living in a community where there is enough talent, skill and excellence to fill the sun.

EDUCATION

The Black United Front Saturday School enrollment is now open at the following sites:

Columbia Villa, 9338 N. Woolsey Ct.; Emmanuel Temple Church, 1032 N. Sumner; Piedmont Friends Church, 5736 N. Albina; Redeemer Lutheran Church, N.E. Killingsworth and N.E. 20th; St. Phillips Church, 120 N.E. Knott; YWCA, 5630 N.E. Union; Allen Temple Church, 4236 N.E. 8th; Mallory Avenue Church, 126 N.E. Alberta; St. Andrew School, 806 N.E. Alberta.

Children in grades 1 through 6 are eligible for the program which teaches African-American history and culture, reading and math. Children will also receive help with homework. Classes will be held from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon throughout the school year. Parents may enroll their children by going directly to one of the nine available sites. Space is available for 355 children on a first come, first served basis.

Over 100 volunteers are involved this year allowing for this expansion of the program. The Black United Fund thanks the community for its generous support of this program. For more information, call Avel Gordly or Karen Powell at 230-9427.



Dr. Carl Parker

CITIZENS INVOLVED IN TEACHING YOUTH (CITY)

The CITY program which provides tutoring services to students in grades 1st through 6th has begun offering after-school tutoring.

Services are available 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Benson Baptist Church on Vancouver Avenue and Wygant. A student may attend twice a week. The cost is \$25.00 a month. Scholarships are available. For further information contact Dr. Carl Parker at 281-8596.

Saluting



Mr. Donnie Griffin

Mr. Griffin is the Oregon Director of Community Affairs and Corporate Communications for US West. Mr. Griffin, a Washington State University journalism graduate, joined the company's Oregon headquarters office earlier this year. He's been with the company for 12 years.

COMMENTARY

DREAM GIRLS: A Must For Portlanders

Dream Girls opened at the Civic Auditorium on Oct. 25, and in spite of the bad review by Bob Hicks of The Oregonian, This musical is a **must see** for lovers of the arts. The overwhelming response from the vast majority in attendance was "out of sight."

The show played to a packed house and the only thing missing was more seating to accommodate the walkups at the box office.

Perhaps Bob Hicks would have enjoyed reviewing the Def Leppard concert at the Coliseum. At least there he may have seen some "missed steps" or heard "off" key notes.



The Cast of "Dream Girls"