

Portland, Oregon

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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## Saluting ...



Datria Dixon  
AMA Headstart  
Cascade Center



Lacy Johnson  
AMA Headstart  
Cascade Center



Erica Battle  
AMA Headstart  
Cascade Center



Connie Carley  
Director  
Northeast YWCA

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### We're Marching For Jesus:

A special program will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 13, at Bethel CME Church at 3:30 p.m. featuring the 'Portland Stars and Stripes Drill Team' and Rev. and Mrs. James Richardson. This will be the first annual Scholarship Fund Program presentation given by the Bethel Young People's Department. Donations are being received in memory of Rev. Matthew A. Watley, Mrs. Lenora Morris - Outgoing Chairperson; Joetta Lynn Ervins - Incoming Chairperson.



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## Nineteen Years of Excellence: Banquet/Fundraiser Honoring James O. Brooks

On Saturday, Nov. 26, the **Portland Observer** will celebrate "Nineteen Years of Excellence" with a fundraiser/banquet honoring the James O. Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund. The guest speaker for the banquet will be the honorable Lee P. Brown, Chief of Police, Houston, Texas. Music will be provided by 'Romeo'.

The idea for the James O. Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund was conceived Monday, April 8, 1968, the day Mr. Brooks died, by Nyewusi Askari, Editor, **Portland Observer**. The announcement of the Scholarship Fund was made in an Editorial Commentary "A Final Farewell," which appeared in the April 20 publication of the **Observer**.

By honoring the life and work of Mr. Brooks, we are also honoring ourselves and our community. Throughout Portland's African-American community, Mr. Brooks was well-respected, very much admired and loved. He was a man of vision, a man of dreams, and a man who didn't wait for others to do what he should do himself. He was a kind man, a gentle man, a man whose heart carried all of the warmth of the sun.

Born in Greenville, Mississippi, Mr. Brooks shaped a legacy that will serve as a standard for those of us who will attempt to walk in his footsteps. He was a man of profound dignity—a man who believed in the brother-hood/sisterhood of all men and women.

The **Portland Observer** believes it must carry on the legacy Mr. Brooks shaped through commitment, hard work and love. We must continue his work. We must inform our youth of his excellence, of his dedication to the less fortunate, of his everlasting desire to

shape a community and a city where we all can live as brothers and sisters. We must continue to expand upon the standards he set for us during his lifetime.

It is in remembrance of Mr.

Brook's legacy and in honor of his spirit of excellence that the **Portland Observer** established the James Brooks Scholarship Fund which will be awarded to two African-American students on the

night of November 26.

Equally as important, the **Portland Observer** will celebrate nineteen years of being the "Eyes and Ears" of the community. Established Oct. 1, 1970, by Rev. Alfred Lee Henderson, the **Observer** has worked very hard to maintain its status as a historically Black newspaper—a tradition that had its beginnings back in the 1820s. Through hard times, down times and sometimes no time at all, the **Observer** has met its publishing deadlines for 19 straight years. For 19 years, the **Observer** has contributed to the economy of Portland, the Black community and the State of Oregon. For 19 years, the **Observer** has served the Black community through commitment, hard work and love.

And now as, the **Observer** prepares to enter the 21st century, it welcomes you to join us in celebration.

And now, the **Observer** prepares to enter the 21st century, it welcomes you to join us in celebration.

It is our hope that the next 19 years will be even more productive than the 19 we are closing the books on. With your help, it will be. Come. Lets celebrate!



Mr. James O'Neill Brooks  
1923 - 1988



Rev. Alfred Lee Henderson  
Publisher, the Portland Observer

## Top Educators In U.S. Convene In Portland To Address Minority, Poor Children

by Professor McKinley Burt

Some 25 top public elementary school administrators and principals from across the nation visited Portland Nov. 3-6 to attend a conference entitled "Partners for Success," an education workshop developed to address the special needs of predominantly poor or minority students.

The goal was to provide answers to three primary questions:

■ How can a failing school be turned around quickly, ensuring academic success for all children?

■ How can successful strategies be disseminated and implemented nationwide?

■ How can business provide a driving force in education reform, particularly for "at-risk" children?

This conference followed on the initial, precedent-setting meeting in July of this year. You would have concluded, however, that you were observing the performance of professionals who had been working together as a team for many years. But, then one would recall that this structuring of goal and mission was being performed by effective educators who had raised their schools to nationally-acclaimed levels. Clearly, their concentrated and productive interaction reflected the very same understanding of team development that raised their individual schools to a pinnacle of excellence.

The conference, held at Rippling River Resort, was hosted by Ron Herndon, director of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Head Star Program and Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon's largest business lobby organization.

Other contributors included Governor Neil Goldschmidt, Portland Trailblazers, U.S. West Communications, Pacific Power and Light, Westcom Communications, N.W. Regional Education Laboratory, and other local businesses and private foundations.

Two of the workshop components were of particular interest:

A. How to quickly turn around Cleveland Elementary School (a fictitious model)

"A K-8 school is suffering from 'Academic Arrest'—Your mission is to resuscitate and get it in the peak of health!"

Defining the problem: Drawing from information you shared in July, the following symptoms were identified: Poorly trained principal; Poorly trained teaching staff; Low academic achievement scores; Poor parent and community involvement; Unkept physical plant; Poor student discipline; High absenteeism; Low student and staff morale.

The innovative yet experience-based solutions developed here were perhaps the most impressive application of skills to be observed. The next component to be described gives rise to the hope that this combination of caring and expertise can be fashioned into a structure for delivery to the nation's education establishment as a whole.

B. National Principals Organization: How to systematically implement changes nationally; setting it up and keeping it going.

The purpose of this organization of nationally recognized educators who are successfully educating low income children is to influence national policy that will foster equity and excellence in the education of all children. Further, we will accomplish this by:

- Advocacy.
- Business partnerships and alliances.
- Lobbying.

IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN, EVERYONE MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS: EDUCATION, PARENTS, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY.

INVOLVEMENT OF ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO: ADVOCACY; MENTORSHIP; INFORMATION DISSEMINATION; TRAINING; BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS—SERVING AS A RESOURCE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

It is with every degree of encouragement, support and felicity that we advance the success of this new organization, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE.



On Oct. 1, 1970, the first issue of the **Portland Observer** newspaper hit the streets of Portland. Rev. Henderson was publisher and editor. Ms. Margaret Wicker was the general managing editor. On the front page appeared pictures of Mr. Charles Jordan and Mr. Russel H. Dawson.

## Portland Man Serves On Navy Repair Ship

by Gwendolyn R. Jackson

SAN DIEGO—As a participant in high school and college sports, Portland native William Burton Jr. always considered himself a team player. That's why he felt at home after joining the Navy.

"The Navy has given me confidence and enriched my life," says the 34-year-old son of William and Mary Ann Burton of Portland.

"I've learned leadership and personnel management skills that I'll probably never get anywhere else."

Burton has had the opportunity to put his management skills to use on the Navy repair ship USS Jason, homeported here.

"I'm the master-at-arms for the mess decks (food service area) as well as the leading petty officer in my division," says the food services manager.

"I supervise over 70 people in various aspects of mess (food) management, areas such as sanitation, food-borne illnesses, personnel management and food



Navy man William Burton Jr. serves aboard the repair ship USS Jason, homeported in San Diego. The 34-year-old petty officer first class is the son of William and Mary Ann Burton of Portland. (Below) The Jason under way off the coast of southern California. The Jason provides mobile repair service to fleet ships ranging from small frigates to aircraft carriers, the Navy's largest.



handling. "Working with as many food service assistants as I do, it's important to emphasize the importance of providing adequate and wholesome meals to the crew," says Burton.

"Without a proper diet, ship-board life would be miserable. When the ship is under way, the crew really has one of two things to look forward to—a good meal or liberty. My job is making sure they get one of those."

Burton, a 1972 graduate of Grant High School, joined the Navy in December 1975. After completing boot camp at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, he remained there for the next six months assisting other recruits with basic training.

In January 1977 he completed his food service management training, also located at the Naval Training Center. In April 1978 Burton decided to leave the Navy and become a restaurant manager in Washington state. After he was laid off in 1980, he returned to the Navy.

Since returning, Burton has had various naval assignments including several other ships. He reported to the Jason in May 1986.

Burton feels he's fortunate having the opportunity to serve on a ship with both male and female crewmembers.

"I've also been on an all-male ship and I feel that in those situations, the men tend to be more 'macho'. With a mixed crew, you're dealing more with reality because these days it's pretty rare to find naval installations that are all male," he says.

With a Bachelor's degree to his credit, Burton plans to complete his Master's in human resource management development and apply for one of the Navy's officer programs.

"I'd like to complete my degree before I apply," says the petty officer first class. "I think it would look good on the application."

"The Navy is a good place to start. I recommend it to anyone who is thinking of joining the military."

"But like anything else, think about what you want to do and have some idea of what you'd like to do in the Navy. You'll have a greater chance of success in your field," he says.

Gwendolyn R. Jackson is a Navy journalist assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Center in San Diego.