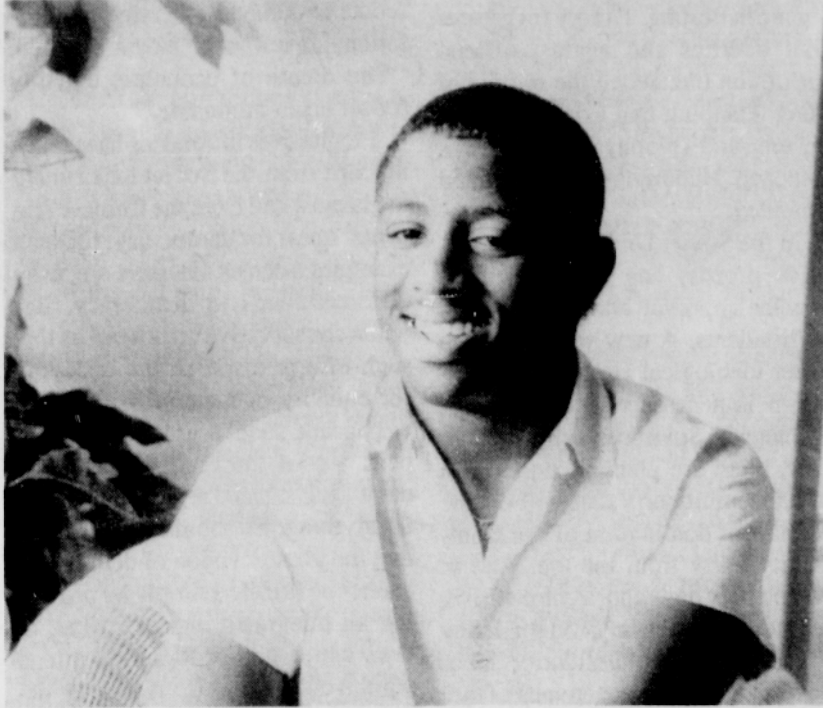


LACK OF FUNDS ONLY BARRIER FOR CHAMPION WRESTLER TO COMPETE IN '92 OLYMPICS



Travis West is a Junior at Portland State University, majoring in Psychology and Black Studies. He is also a Champion amateur wrestler ranked 5th in the nation in Greco Roman Style. But according to sports writers and Travis himself, he is the best blue chipper in the nation, which in laymen terms means he has a bright and successful future ahead.

Travis speaks modestly about his accomplishments, ie: 1983 World School Boy Champion, 3 Time AAA Oregon State Champion, 1987 US National Greco Champion, 1987 US Greco Outstanding Wrestler, US Greco World Team Member, and 1989 NCAA Div. II National Champion.

He speaks more profoundly about his goal, which is to be the best in the world in the amateur ranks, and represent Oregon and the USA in the 1992 Olympics.

But before this can become a reality, Travis must participate in several events which will help him to qualify for the '92 Olympics; A visit to the Soviet Union June 24-July 17, and the US Sports festival July 20th -26th; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. These two events take place in 1989.

Air fare, room and board, for the two events is approximately \$2,500. Thus Travis is appealing to the public for help. All donations are tax deductible (Tax ID # NP13791). Donors are requested to make contributions payable to: Peninsular Wrestling, 6400 N. Albina, Portland, OR 97217. Please indicate funds for Travis West.

SOUTH AFRICAN PLAYWRIGHT INTERESTED IN WHITNEY YOUNG LEARNING CENTER

by Jimi Johnson

Selaelo Maredi, exiled South African playwright is back in Portland doing what he does best, writing and working with young people. The author of "Homeland", a play that received national acclaim came to Portland to direct the play in 1988. He has since decided to return to our city to "visit with friends and write".

Maredi said he received many letters of appreciation about the play "Homeland" from students throughout Portland and this has inspired him to return. "Writers with lots of money may take a retreat on a long boat ride or an island, Portland is my retreat". "Writers need to get different perspectives so they can broaden their base and increase their capabilities" Maredi added.

Maredi sights the lack of Cultural Centers in Portland as another reason for wanting to return. "Children are like a tree, when you grow a tree you must nurture it, cultivate it, and give it water..." "Young people need to grow mentally, and theatre helps the growth of the mind" continued Maredi.

Maredi is currently working on a play called "Our Parents Day" with students from the Urban League's Whitney Young Learning Center. This play is to honor parents and give them a chance to see what their children are doing through theatre at the

learning Center. At the present time, no date for the play has been scheduled.

"Watching Mr. Maredi work with the students is a joy. He's an incredible artist and a great teacher, his work is art in motion and we are honored to have him here", said Deborah Cochrane, the Learning Center director. "To be able to work with a great man like Selaelo is an opportunity that W.Y.L.C. students deserve, and I hope it will inspire other students to attend the Learning Center next year" added Ms. Cochrane.

Growing up in South Africa, he always felt that the vicious system of apartheid excluded the "real" South Africans from living life to it's fullest and benefiting from the vast wealth of the country. Soon Maredi and a group of other South Africans started speaking out against apartheid through art form and theatre. The anti-apartheid stand led to Maredi's exiled from South Africa, in 1977.

Maredi says "people like Marie Brooks of New York City and Marla Gibbs (227) of Los Angeles has been doing 'great work' with inner city youth and we need more people like them to continue our struggle". "When we change our children's minds, we can turn them away from drugs" added Maredi.

URBAN LEAGUE HOST AIDS CONFERENCE

The Urban League of Portland and the Black Health Coalition will host a conference on AIDS and Black Women of Childbearing Age on Thursday, June 22nd at the Red Lion Coliseum. The conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is free to the general public.

Because of the many African American women of childbearing age

who are being affected by AIDS, it is important that the African American community be educated about the consequences of this problem. The conference is being sponsored by the Western Regional AIDS Education Project and will also feature health workshops and speakers.

For additional information, call Useni Perkins at 280-2600.

New approach to poverty

Bend's Representative Beverly Clarno contends welfare helps to promulgate immorality while at the same time dissolving the family

by Stephen E. McPherson, Special Correspondent

Now that the audit of the Adult and Family Service is underway, the multifaceted nature of root causes begins to emerge. While a good amount of attention has been focused on what the detractors of management call frivolous expenditures of public funds, there is an underlying story that everyone acknowledges but few people are willing to talk about.

It has been written and confirmed by some of the key figures in this controversy that racial and gender bigotry play no small part in the effort to unseat the present executives in the division. One cannot help but agree with that conclusion but after a close examination of the evidence there are other factors of interest that come into play.

At the time Mrs. Freddy Webb-Pettet was appointed to her present position, she found it necessary to make four major changes in top management. These changes were dictated not only as a means of bringing about a more efficient organization but also to correct some of the problems that had been neglected in the area of affirmative action. In so doing four white male employees were replaced with four female employees. Two of these replacements were white women, one was Hispanic and the fourth was African American. All of the displaced persons were democrats with highly placed connections in the state government. To take such an action took a lot of courage on the part of Mrs. Webb-Pettet. These changes did not bode very well with the democratic hierarchy. To be sure, a well-coordinated attack was launched by the opposition which included a scathing assault by one of the local weekly newspapers. As a result one of Mrs. Webb-Pettet's newly appointed managers suffered one of its first deletions. Such a victory for the detractors of the Adult and Family Services gave license to other critics to decrease the skirmish into an all out offensive.

In the meanwhile several interesting situations developed in the eastern region of the state which must have given Mrs. Webb-Pettet a foreboding about things to come. Mrs. Beverly Clarno, a Republican, waged a vituperative and well-organized campaign against the democratic contender, Dianne Iverson. Her views on the use of public funds for the poor and indigent are very well known. Not only was she concerned with what she perceived to be extreme waste of public funds in the entire welfare system, but she also accused it of bringing about the destruction of the American family unit by what she called the encouragement of pregnancy among unmarried women for the sole purpose of increasing their welfare benefits. The voters of the 55th District liked what they heard and sent her to the state legislature where she set out like Joan of Arc to correct the problems as she identified them. It was not surprising that her first target would be the welfare system, especially the office in her own territory. As a freshman representative she cast aside the traditional ways of doing things and employed a head on attack like the proverbial bull in the china shop.

Although servicing the least amount of clients, the Eastern Region covers the greatest amount of

territory having one end hugging the border of Idaho and the other kissing the shores of California. The area in between meanders over rugged mountains and craggy hills. One of the obvious targets for attack was the mode of transportation used to cover that great expanse. And attack she did. Representative Clarno focused on the purchase of four wheel drive vehicles, chartered flights and travel out of state.

During the interim the bitter employees union was embroiled in a struggle with the state negotiators over their new contract. They found a willing and sympathetic ear in Mrs. Clarno. They immediately took advantage of that fact and plied her with dozens of letters and telephone calls. Her office was inundated with numerous tidbits which would allege mismanagement and favoritism in the agency.

It would be inaccurate to declare that abuses do not occur among state employees with regard to the manner in which they pursue their duties. It is no secret that the entire government is organized around a system of spoils that should have been reformed decades ago. Another part of the problem arises from the fact that the Oregon State Legislature convenes only every other year. This is an appalling anachronism which is also an interesting commentary on how much importance Oregonians attach to that process. Many other states are moving toward state legislatures as a fulltime position just as is the case in the United States Congress. It also is a peculiar reaction to first identify some of the excesses in government and then clobber the persons who have the courage, experience and commitment to be the very agent for change that the public demands.

Lately the Governor at the eleventh hour has professed his belated support for the beleaguered Mrs. Webb-Pettet. His words are admirable and comforting but still are too little and too late. Previously only certain disgruntled employees had a tarnished view of Adult and Family Services. This attitude now extends to the a significant part of the public. A immeasurable amount of the goodwill and efficiency that was generated so carefully over the past two years has dissipated and will now have to be re-established.

Apart from the long tradition of the proud and rugged westerner who will not let others do for them what they are able to do for themselves, there is a nagging perception that the fight against Adult and Family Service really is an attack on poor people in general. In this great and abundant society of ours there are significant parts of the population who harbor the notion that poverty is a condition that is self-induced. That concept is augmented by the notion that all able-bodied persons must work to support their own sustenance. Poor people are detested and despised as if they were the victims of some dreaded intractable contagious disease. Too very frequently the assumption is made that both poverty and welfare are the exclusive domains of Black people. It might surprise those persons who think that way that less than 10% of those on the public dole are African Americans.

There are a lot of poor white people in this state who are single mothers

They certainly deserve a lot of help.

BLACK LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TO MEET

The Black Leadership Conference will hold its regular general meeting on Saturday, June 17th at 9:00 A.M. in the Urban League Conference Room at 10 N. Russell.

Seniors of the Week



One of Oregon's pioneers, Daniel Elicious Allen, Senior Celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary June 6th

Fully alert and oriented he contributes his longevity and sound mind to clean and righteous living. He still maintains his residence in N.E. Portland with his 87 year old wife. They are the parents of 15 children. They relocated from Lubbock, Texas in 1943. Still very active, Mr. Allen serves as assistant Pastor to Bishop A. L. Wright at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ United. He attends church four times weekly. He sings, plays the guitar and delivers the gospel message on occasion.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROGRAMS CITED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A citizen involvement program that allows people to advise Multnomah County on budgets and other key matters is one of eight county activities to win an award from the National Association of Counties.

Other programs winning an annual NACO Achievement Award are Women's Transition programs in the Department of Justice Services; film permit process in the Right of Way Division; Aging Services Mental Health, Community Coalition for Homeless Youth, Black Youth Advocates Court Watch, all in the Department of Human Services; and Special Needs Housing Program and the Lincoln Place Housing Opportunity Program both in the Community Development Division.

The Citizens Involvement Committee, established by county charter, coordinates the Citizen Budget Advisory Committees and provides public information through such media as the "County Conduit" newsletter.

The office of Women's Transition Services, created less than a year ago, plans and implements new treatment programs for female offenders and their children.

The county's efforts to attract films to the area have helped boost spending by out-of-state movie companies from less than \$1 million in 1986 to

\$22 million last year.

More home visitations is just one of the changes implemented by the Aging Services Division to assist non-chronically mentally ill elders. Other improvements since 1985 include medication awareness projects and increased volunteer participation by health care professionals.

The most outstanding example of the effectiveness of the Community Coalition for Homeless Youth is the Youth Shelter which provides a wide range of services to more than 700 young people a year.

Volunteers and county juvenile division staff provide a stable influence for black male juveniles while advocating for fair and just sanctions and proper services inside and outside the justice system as part of the Black Youth Advocates Program/Court Watch.

An 11-unit apartment complex that was purchased and rehabilitated as a joint project between Multnomah County and a private housing development corporation to provide housing for homeless families. In ten years, the program is projected to be completely self sufficient.

Lincoln Place Homes, a new housing development in mid-county provides 30 homes for low and moderate income families. The project leveraged both federal and private funding.

7TH ANNUAL BLACK WOMEN'S GATHERING

"A celebration of our being, our spirit, our survival" is the on-going theme of Portland's Black women's Gathering. This year is the seventh annual celebration and on Saturday, June 17, from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. African American women will come together for a day to share the beauty of their heritage and culture at the Salvation Army, Moore St. Community Center. The center is located at 5335 N. Williams near Killingsworth.

Last year over 500 African American women from the northwest region participated in the celebration. The emphasis on sharing and networking has been the highlight of the Gathering and this year throughout the day will be open mike sessions for women to exchange information. Some of the topics suggested are health, stress management, good nutrition and personal develop-

ment. A special panel presentation to address these topics include: Sharon Gary-Smith, National Black women's Joy Cross, Self-Enhancement, Inc.

Other highlights and traditions will be a historical perspective by Kathleen Saadat, one of the founders of the Gathering, various displays and information booths supporting the theme, free child care, complimentary refreshments and live entertainment. This year attendees are required to wear rubber-sole shoes to protect the community center floor. For more information contact Gina Wood, 250-9647.

"...if we don't celebrate our own success, if we don't give ourselves and one another our due, who will?" (quote taken from, In the Spirit, by Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief, Essence magazine, March 1989).