

Portland, Oregon

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 35

SEPTEMBER 7, 1989

## OPENING DAY MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AT JEFFERSON HIGH



Ulysses Tucker, Jr., Public Affairs Producer for Portland's KATU TV 2, has been selected to give the opening day of school speech at Jefferson High School on September 6, 1989, 9 am.

He succeeds former Portland and San Diego Urban League President Herb Cawthorne, who served as the opening day motivational speaker for the last three years. No stranger to Jefferson High, Tucker also served as the Senior Day speaker back in May and the speech he delivered prompted school administrators to request his return. The speech left students talking in the hallways afterwards and many went on to write letters thanking him for the "reality" he had brought to them. Since then, Tucker has become a popular figure with programs serving young people around the city and he always finds the time to share his corporate, educational, and personal experiences in workshops or small groups.

"I had a real tough time giving that speech", he said. "About five minutes before I took the stage, I was told that my Portland Mom (Delores "Dolly" Bowman) had died in Texas. I was mad that they did not wait to tell me until afterwards, however, at the same time the speech would not have been so spirited had they not told me. It was tough holding back the tears. I was so emotional, unlike me, that I don't recall much of what I said but if you base it on the requests I have received since then to speak, the calls to the station, and people approaching me on the streets—I guess it was pretty good."

Mrs. Bowman was the Vice-Principal at Jefferson High School at the time of her death and a long time Portland Public Schools Administrator. She was the person who made arrangements for Tucker to speak at the Senior Day Services and a "mentor" for him since his early days at the University of Portland.

A native of Washington, D.C., Tucker says that young people today have their work cut out for them in days to come because society is becoming more competitive and the opportunities for educational advancement are not there like they use to be.

"It use to be all we wanted to do was get in the door", he said. No more. Now, you have to almost kick it in to get ahead. It's no secret that the Reagan years were tough on all Americans, not just Black Americans, and many programs designed to enhance educational opportunities and job training went down in budget cuts. However, that should not be an excuse for failure or motivation to not want anything out of life. I hear so many people blaming instead of taking advantage of what opportunities that do exist. We blame our environment, politicians, the school system, and countless other things for our individual shortcomings. We need to take a closer look at ourselves and our commitment to a better life for our children or future children in my case..."

Tucker feels at ease with the young people he speaks to because he comes from some of the same circumstances. Though his demeanor and positive out-look would indicate otherwise, Tucker was in and out of trouble with the law as a youth until his uncle (LeRoy Cauthen) and ultimately, his grandmother (Carrie B. Tucker) took him into their homes.

Tucker was parentless and the oldest of seven children at the age of fourteen.

"By no means do I come from a Cosby type family", he laughed. "I had it rough for a while. There were some who thought that I would never amount to nothing and others, especially my grandmothers who kept praying for me. Both of my grandmothers have been very big influences in my life. I am very thankful. Young people need to learn to respect their elders and older adults. You do not get old being a fool. People have more resources than they realize. Once I decided that I wanted a better life for myself, all types of people offered help and support. My whole block at home has always supported my dreams even if it was just a pat on the back or a simple keep up the good work. It all starts when you decide to help yourself."

What other advice do you have to offer to a young person who might be on the verge of choosing the wrong way instead of the right way?

"Well, all I can say is to believe in yourself, God, and your inner-most dreams", he said. "More importantly, make choices in life that are reality based and with in your ability. A young person must learn self-respect, how to interact with all races, speak properly, communicate thoughts both verbally and in writing....They must also stay away from gangs, drugs, peer pressure, and criminal activities. Sure, it's a tall order. However, we need for them to do this because the people of tomorrow are the children of today..."

Tucker is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a member of the National Association of Black Journalist. He holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Portland. He is also a Board Member for the Center for the Community Mental Health.

## Drug war over, they won!

Attempts to control illicit drugs in the community has been a losing battle. Even sophistication of the United States military hardware can be outwitted. Program outlined by William J. Bennet is guaranteed not to stem the tide

by Etienne de la Plume,

Much verbiage has been aroused recently in a futile attempt to allay the very negative impact of the insidious drug dilemma here in the City of Roses. Public demand for official intervention has reached a strident note. Especially is this true in the lower northeast sector of the city where the deterioration of the infrastructure is more obtrusive. It is particularly noteworthy to observe that certain community activists have assumed a traditionally uncharacteristic stance with regard to how the battle will be fought. Specific reference is made to the fact that a very vocal and influential segment of the community has now demanded that the governor mobilize the national guard and engage them actively in the mission of seeking out and destroying the user level of the rampant illegal drug trade. This suggestion has been put forth with such persistence that it seemingly has won support from a small quarter in City Hall. Having gained that kind of respectability, it will not be surprising if the state government in Salem will embrace the same principle in the near future.

Already Attorney David Frohnmeyer is ramrodding into place a state intelligence force which had not been well received by the state legislature. The official position is that the purpose of such a group would be for research and analysis.

Independently, the employment of the state militia to destroy illegal drug traffic and the creation of a special state police intelligence group might appear to be altogether noble and innocuous. But when taken together in the proper context, such actions might portend a very ominous usurpation of power. At the same time, their use in such a manner could prove to be ineffective while eroding some of the very principles of democracy we have fought for 300 years to preserve.

In a recent interview, Dr. Lee Brown, former Sheriff of Multnomah County and presently Chief of Police in Houston, Texas said,

**"Bringing the National Guard in to a community to fight drugs is an invitation to create an unavoidable disaster."**

He further stated that such persons are first of all civilians who are only part time military people. They are neither trained or equipped to do the job. Police work is a very serious profession which requires not only extensive training but also a certain level of skills that the National Guard does not have. The function of the

guard is more suitable to perform in disasters such as riots, floods and other natural calamities where the preservation of life and property is their main mission. Drug enforcement on the other hand is a completely different situation where not only do you want to employ certain subtleties that will produce a maximal effect but you also want to take certain actions that will stand up in court. Tanks and Howitzers might win traditional wars, but not this kind.

The problem with this type of interdiction is that it addresses only the supplier level of the chain and serves only to move the trade to another part of the community where it may continue unabated.

The statistics surrounding this problem are staggering. The Justice Department indicated that more than 80% of all prison inmates admitted to using illegal drugs and more than 60% did so on a regular basis. When the abuse of alcohol is added to these data, the problem is further exacerbated. There is a direct correlation between drug traffic and serious crimes.

Additionally at a more focused level, it is known that there are more than 700 drug houses here in the City of Roses. Even young kids on our streets can show you exactly where they are. One can sit in the Talking Drum Bookstore and watch transactions take place across the street in broad day light. Police have released statistics which reveal that in a small enclave bordered on the north by N. Killingsworth down to Fremont Street on the south and beginning with N. Albina on the west and ending at N. E. 15th on the east, more than 7,074 drug related crimes occurred in 1988 the last year for which complete statistics are available. Much of the youth gang disturbances and other crimes are attributable to the drug trade.

Recent disclosures have revealed that the illegal drug trade is extremely well-organized. The present turmoil in Columbia should underscore that observation. In many instances, drug cartels are better organized than the entire U. S. military establishment. The 25 tons of hashish seized over the weekend in Columbia, Oregon is not only a measure of the magnitude of the problem but also a demonstration of the impunity with which these traffickers in products of death can operate.

Last week The Wall Street Journal published a narrative which lends credence to the fact that we simply are not prepared to fight the drug trade effectively.

They wrote of a recent incident where several of our sophisticated AWAC's tracked a private Colum-

bian aircraft on radar. This technical marvel operates at the cost of \$3,000/hour to the American taxpayer. They were later joined in the chase by our superfast \$2,000/hour F-16 pursuit fighters and some equally expensive submarine chasing turbo-jet Blackhawk helicopter which trailed the contraband-bearing Columbian aircraft all the way to Canada. They then hovered helpless overhead and watched the cache of goodies being loaded onto a pick up truck that disappeared into the night before the Royal Canadian Mounties could nab them. The expense for this single operation might have approached \$100,000. It failed completely even after hot pursuit and employment of the most sophisticated technology known to man. Another truck load of illegal drugs made its way to another community of willing users.

President Barco of Columbia could not have put it more succinctly when he said that as long as the demand for illegal drugs exists, there will be an emerging entrepreneur somewhere in the world who will be willing to take all of the attendant risks necessary to conduct such a profitable business.

In short, like all other wars we have entered recently, we are losing this one quite badly, also. Even with the plan recently submitted by William J. Bennet, the so-called anti-drug czar, it is far too little and significantly too late.

Rather than deploy troops out on Northeast Killingsworth and the streets that flank Martin Luther King Boulevard, they might better serve a useful purpose in the jungles of Columbia and Peru; in the fields of Afganistan and Turkey and also in the modern green houses of Oregon and Hawaii which are all known to be excellent sources of cocaine and marijuana.

There was a time when all of the evils of our society that could be found in the Black ghetto could be attributed to generations of social shortfalls. It was then quite comforting to believe that sort of nonsense because this problem did not embrace the larger community. But now that this problem has become pandemic, we are ill-equipped to do anything significant about it.

Given this type of intractable situation, in desperation we will grab any straw as we continue to sink inevitably into the bottomless abyss. One cannot help but suspect that the recent posturing we observed here in Portland was nothing more than an overtly conspicuous attempt to build a way station to receive the grand old sugar train that Mr. Bennet is expected to engineer out of the nation's capital in the very near future.

## SCHOOLBUSES READY TO SERVE 14,000 PORTLAND STUDENTS

Schoolbus schedules began arriving by mail at 11,000 homes recently as the Portland School district's Student Transportation Dept. prepared for the opening of schools Sept. 5.

A fleet of 350 buses for the Portland School District and Laidlaw Transportation Co., the school district's bus contractor, will provide daily service to and from schools and programs for more than 14,000 students.

The two bus fleets also combine to provide transportation for field trips and special-education students.

Portland Public Schools provides transportation for elementary and middle-school students living more than one mile from school, where unsafe walking routes exist and for special-education students.

"Motorists are reminded to watch for children on Portland's streets after Labor Day," said Ed Green, director of the school district's student-transportation system.

Green said commuters relax during the summer months when children and school buses are not sharing the streets during rush hours.

Recently installed stop arms on the left sides of Portland school buses are the latest step to attract motorist attention. The automatically activated swing arm has flashing lights and the word "Stop" in large letters.

Green said the new equipment is installed on all school-district-owned buses and is being phased in on Laidlaw buses.

Schoolbus drivers will report license numbers of motorists violating schoolbus stop laws and law-enforcement agencies will send warning letters or citations to violators.

## Black Colleges Conference

"Tradition Of The Past: Necessity For The Future" is the theme of the 10th annual Black Colleges Conference, Saturday October 21, 1989. The Conference will be held between 8am and 4pm at the Portland Memorial Coliseum Assembly Hall.

Visiting Dignitaries, Representatives from Black Colleges and Special Workshops will be featured. Conference main speaker will be Dr. Julian M. Earls, Director, Office of Health Services, NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland Ohio. Dr. Earls has been elected into The \*Inaugural Class of The National Black College Alumni Hall Of Fame. Special Luncheon Guest Speaker will be Reverend Tyrone \*Crider, Director Of Admissions, Central State University in Wilberforce, OH. students, parents, teachers and counselors are invited. Costs include \$10 for students, \$15 for adults. Lunch is included. Call 284-7930 for further information.

## SKI CLUB TO SPONSOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Ebony Rose Ski Club Fourth Annual Tennis Tournament will take place, Sept. 8th-10th at three locations in Northeast Portland. Matches will be played simultaneously at Irving Park, Grant Park, and the Portland Tennis Center, beginning Friday, Sept. 8th at 4:30 p.m.

Entry forms are available at the Portland Tennis Center, Osborn & Ulland, Players Racquet Shop and other Tennis/Racquet Clubs in the Portland, Beaverton, and Vancouver area. Entry forms are due by Tuesday, Sept. 5th. Mail forms to: Players Racquet Shop, 3233 N.E. Broadway, Portland, OR, 97232.

## US WEST BOOSTS SELF ENHANCEMENT

Succeeding in life depends a great deal on having a vision and understanding what it takes to realize it.

That's what led 60 US WEST Communications employees to offer some of their time to Self Enhancement, Inc., a subsidiary of the Albina Ministerial alliance, which was established to prepare youths for future employment.

The US WEST employees spent five hours a week with students from Tubman Middle School this summer, showing them how they do their jobs and "serving as a role model," said Pat Hill, a US WEST service specialist with US WEST Communications Services.

Two other schools and eight other Portland area companies or agencies were involved in the event.

"This has been a great opportunity to have a positive impact on young people," Hill said.

**SELF-ENHANCEMENT...** Harriett Tubman Middle School students April Williams (left) and Carl Branch (right) take a look at a computer-generated space shuttle image with US WEST Communication Services System Service Specialist Pat Hill, during a visit to US WEST Communications' Portland office. The opportunity to work with computer graphics was part of a "self enhancement" program for some 600 Portland youths, sponsored by the Albina Ministerial Alliance. "The Self Enhancement program offers us the opportunity to serve as role models and help save our youths," Hill said.

## I-5 RAMPS TO CLOSE

The southbound on-ramps to Interstate 5 from Delta park and Columbia Boulevard will be closed for approximately three weeks, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5 (weather permitting).

The closure will allow the contractor, Wildish Standard Paving Inc., to resurface the southbound lanes of the freeway between Delta Park and Columbia Boulevard.

Since mid July, the contractor has been resurfacing the two center lanes of the freeway. If the weather cooperates, that section will be completed by Sept. 1, allowing work to begin on the southbound lanes.

This work is part of a \$9-million project that will repair the pavement on I-5 between Delta Park and the Marquam Bridge and widen the freeway between Columbia and Portland Boulevards. That project began in July and is scheduled to be completed in fall of 1990.