

(Continued From Page 1)

activities are questionable, then the public has a right to know. I can see both sides. Everything I do as a private person isn't necessarily any of your business in my particular job. But then again, whether I like it or not I'm a role model. People look up to me. I personally, don't want to know everything about someone's personal life.

Portland Observer: How do you feel about being a role model and does that label add pressure to your job?

Braxton: "No, there is no pressure. There aren't enough people who can be role models. I'm not perfect but I'm striving to do better, better myself, and make changes as I come into contact with people one on one. I can't change the world but I'm trying to do my part, so, I don't mind being perceived as a role model. Hopefully, I can pass on a little inspiration or something that can give them the ability to grow so the focus won't always be on me. Take what you can from me and move in the right direction. From there, it's their turn to be a role model. Instead of putting Brenda Braxton up on a pedestal, learn what you can from me and carry it off your own way..."

Portland Observer: Advice to youngsters who desire a career in broadcasting?

Braxton: "My advice is to get into any type of writing program, available. Be persistent and don't let anyone tell you, no. When you get into college, take the necessary classes and make sure you get an internship. Be a tag along if you have too."

Portland Observer: 38% of the Class of 1988 dropped out of high school over a four year period, your reactions?

Braxton: "I think that it's a Tragedy. It's mind boggling that people start off and for one reason or another the system allows them to fall through the cracks. I think it

happens for a number of reasons, but, something has to change systemwide. I believe it should start with the family. If I don't see anybody around me doing anything positive and feel stuck in a rut or situation, then why should I care? I don't know anything else. Why would I think about college or finish high school. I'm gonna go out and hang on the street corners and do whatever it is everybody else is doing. Parents need to be the ones who break the cycle. Just because they grew up one way doesn't mean that their kids

have too. We need the people who have already broke the cycle to give something back through community programs. Everyone needs to help."

Portland Observer: What is it like to work in your hometown and how does it feel when you know that your parents are watching, saying that's my girl?

Braxton: "Everything happened so fast. You just don't walk in off the streets and have things happen like this. I came 2,500 miles and all of a sudden it hit me. I realized that I had just made a major life change and that's when things hit home. I'm very excited about being at home and around my parents (Herman & Muriel Braxton)."

Portland Observer: Were you ready for the move?

Braxton: "I wouldn't have gone into any of the stations if I wasn't ready. Again, things just don't happen like this. People work all their life, sometimes, to get into this type of opportunity. To come home and get a job was almost too much to hope for. Heck yeah, I was ready and I'm very thankful. Faith has carried me a long ways."

Portland Observer: Welcome home!

Braxton: "Thank you, I'm happy to be here!"

Early Season

Ski Activities

Portland Parks Outdoor Recreation Program has a variety of Dec. activities to let your ski season off to the right start this year.

Find your way on snow covered marked or unmarked trails by learning winter route-finding skills on Dec. 7th at Alameda Community School from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Or on Dec. 5 at MLC Community School, 2033 N.W. Glisan, learn about winter nutritional needs, clothing, terrain hazards, and emergency overnight shelters at a Winter Safety Workshop. The cost for either workshop is \$7. A FREE workshop also on Dec. 5 at Parkrose High School, 11717 N.E. Shaver from 7-8 p.m., will give information on Cross Country Skiing such as clothing and equipment needs, buying and renting skis, places to go and a movie depicting the essentials of nordic skiing.

up for a Cross Country Ski Sampler on Dec. 3 or 17. Try one day of skiing and start to learn to guide, use poles, slow down and negotiate hills. Good introduction to this popular winter sport. Each sampler is from 8-5 p.m. and the \$18 fee includes instruction and van transportation from N.E. 16th & Halsey to Mt. Hood.

For those with basic nordic ski skills, get a jump on the ski season by polishing and refreshing your skiing in gliding, poling and hill technique on a Ski Brush Up Clinic either Dec. 2 or 10 from 8-5 p.m. The \$17 fee includes leadership and van transportation to Mt. Hood.

For more information or to receive a copy of the Winter Brochure, write to: Outdoor Recreation, 1120 S.W. 5th, Room 502, Portland, OR 97204, or call 796-5132.

Once you have all this information sign

NABMCC Starts Earthquake Small Black Business Relief Fund

Theme Is: "Share In Rebuilding Small Black Business"

OAKLAND, CA--The National Association of Black and Minority Chambers of Commerce, has launched an Oakland Black Business Earthquake Area Relief Fund (EAR), to help small black businesses in the Bay Area Communities that were hardest hit by the October 17 quake.

Small businesses are the principal employers in the area where black businesses were affected. The employees of these small businesses, not only lost their homes and personal belongings, but also, their jobs, according to reports from many chamber members and their associates.

NABMCC is asking black chambers around the country, its affiliates, fraternal organizations, churches, clubs, corporate friends, community organizations, businesses, and any concerned person to give at least \$1.00, to this sharing cause in helping to rebuild small black businesses.

We appreciate support from our White, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian, in this time of need.

The devastation of this earthquake caused damage in Oakland in excess of \$1.5 billion. Those structures affected by the quake were not all residential. Several hundred were businesses, and many black owned.

Many small black business owner in the quake-stricken area, have seen their buildings flattened or condemned. Those businesses that remained standing cannot be reached by customers or employees.

NABMCC wants to assist black businesses to rebuild. So they have established the Oakland Black Business Earthquake Area Relief Fund (EAR). EAR will make it possible to provide a 3% to 6% low interest revolving loan to the black businesses who are in need of help.

Please help! Your contribution is desperately needed. You may contribute on behalf of a relative or a friend. You will also receive a "Certificate of Appreciation."

Please make your check or money order payable to: Earthquake Area Relief (EAR), c/o NABMCC, 654 - 13th Street (Preservation Park), Oakland, CA 94612-1241.

VOA Asking For Participants In The Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program

On Nov. 13, Volunteers of America (VOA) will begin accepting names of families, businesses or organizations who would like to participate in their Christmas Adopt-A-Family program. Adopters will be matched with low-income families who need Christmas assistance this year.

Adopters are able to express preferences regarding the size or type of family they would like to help, and what types of items they would like to provide. Most adopters provide food, clothing, gifts and other special items that the family may need.

Once adopters are matched with a family, they are encouraged to make contact. In most cases, adopters are able to personally deliver their gifts directly to the family's home. This personal contact gives the adopter the opportunity to learn more about the family and to choose gifts with specific

needs to mind.

Last year, over 200 families were helped through the Adopt-A-Family Program and Volunteers of America hopes to help at least 350 this year.

Families, businesses, or organizations who would like to adopt a family may call 232-4746 between Nov. 13 and Dec. 8. The house are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers of America is part of a nationwide social service organization with branches in over 200 communities. In addition to the Adopt-A-Family program VOA operates the following programs: A Child Care Center, two latchkey programs, a temporary shelter for homeless adolescent girls, a shelter for homeless women with children, a Senior Center and free Senior Clinic, an adult day care program, and the Women's Residential Center, a residential facility for female felons.

Along The Color Line

Dr. Manning Marable

Education, Racism And Elitism

There is an inevitable connection between the socioeconomic and political status of African-Americans and other people of color and their access, position and mobility within all educational institutions. If opportunities for young people are limited within public schools or colleges, the size of the potential leadership in politics, labor, medicine, the law, and other key occupations is reduced. Knowledge is power, and the denial of educational opportunity is directly related to the perpetuation of exploitation of Blacks, Hispanics, and all working people.

Last month's education summit called by President Bush was silent on the racial and social class implications of government policies on public schooling. But the dramatic deterioration of education has occurred precisely in the inner cities, in school districts which are overwhelmingly dominated by people of color. The Reagan-Bush administration has deliberately slashed funds for student loans, and the reduction of Black and Latino undergraduates across the country is directly attributable to the paucity of the student loan packages currently available.

Increasingly education is projected as a privilege for the rich, rather than a human right which benefits the common welfare of society. The cost for a private college education increased an average of 9 percent in the current 1989-1990 academic year. The cost of tuition, room and board and related expenses at elite private schools is astronomical: \$19,310 at Yale University; \$19,164 at Stanford University; \$19,395 at Harvard University; \$18,284 at Duke University; and \$14,700 at Notre Dame. The best state-supported institutions are also beyond the reach of many middle income families, and certainly African-American households, which currently average under \$19,000 total income per year. At the University of Texas at Austin, for example, the 1989-1990 tuition, room and board and related costs comes to \$4,254. The University of California at Berkeley's costs total \$6,704 for this academic year.

Even more than economic factors is the pervasiveness of elitism and ethnic exclusivity within universities and academic institutions, which fosters a hostile environment for people of color. Despite the introduction of Afro-American Studies programs, ethnic studies, nonwestern foreign languages and curriculum reforms which have inserted the cultures, histories and perspectives of non-white peoples into college classrooms, Black and brown people are constantly marginalized at most institutions. The system of higher education is generally designed for nonwhites to fail.

The basic pattern of elitism and racism in colleges conforms to the dynamics of Third World colonialism. At nearly all white academic institutions, the power relationship between whites as a group and people of color is unequal. Authority is invested in the hands of a core of largely white male administrators, bureaucrats and influential senior faculty. The board of trustees or regents is dominated by white, conservative, affluent males. Despite the presence of academic courses on minorities, the vast majority of white students take few or no classes which explore the heritage or cultures of nonwestern peoples or domestic minorities. Outside of the classroom, there are few structured opportunities for peoples of different cultures to interact. Most white students receive the elitist message that non-white students as a group are unworthy of attending their institution, and that affirmative action policies have unfairly discriminated against whites. Most courses in the humanities and social sciences focus narrowly on topics or issues from the Western capitalist experience, and minimize the centrality and importance of nonwestern perspectives. Finally, the university or college divorces itself from the pressing concerns, problems and debates which relate to Black, Hispanics or even white working people. Given this structure and guiding philosophy, it shouldn't surprise us that many talented nonwhite students fail to achieve in such a hostile environment.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

Office: (503) 288-0033

FAX #: (503) 288-0015

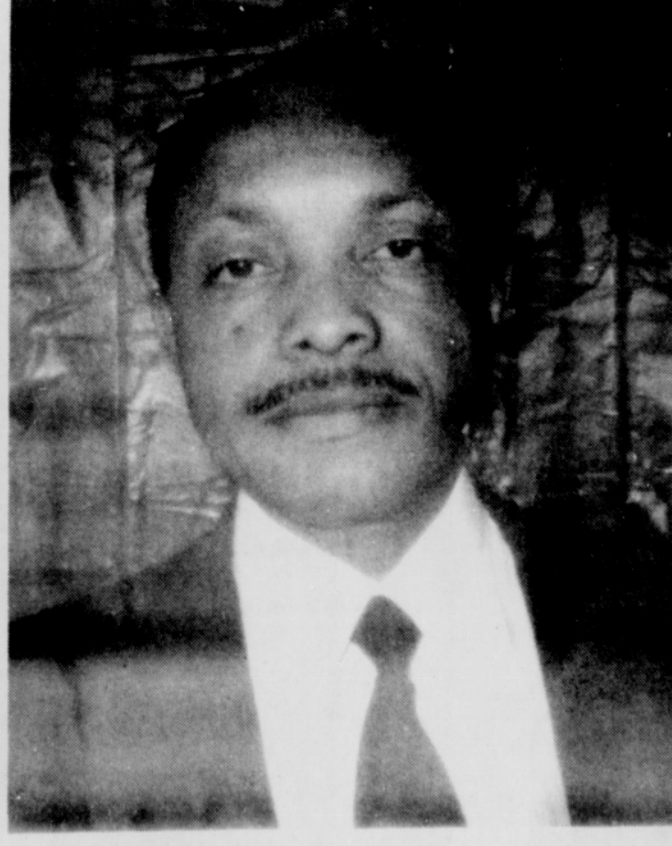
Life Insurance Underwriters Network Agents Serving the Portland Metro-Area!



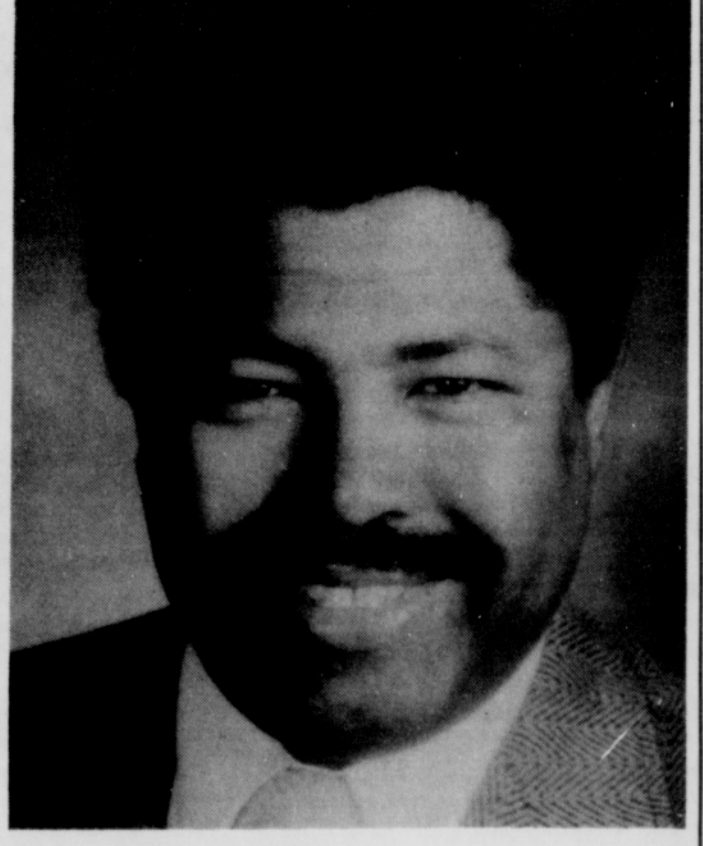
ERNIE WARREN
Standard Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 12652
Portland, Oregon 97212
(503) 293-6434 or 245-3220



DENE BOWLES
All State Insurance Company
811 E. Burnside, Suite 113
Portland, Oregon
(503) 235-9433



JOHN W. JENKINS
Prudential Insurance
909 N. Tomahawk Island Drive
Portland, Oregon
(503) 283-1212



MATTHEW BARNETT
State Farm Insurance
4823 N. Lombard
Portland, Oregon
(503) 285-2546

*These Minority Business Owners
Join In And Support
Minority Business Enterprises And
Extend Their Services!*