

National Council of Negro Women Announces Frito-Lay/NCNW "Salute" Winners

(Continued from Front Page)

In addition to the winners, the other 10 finalists were: Helen Austin, San Antonio, TX, a social worker; Laura Bush, Bluffton, SC, executive director of the Institute for Community Education; Jeffie Frazier, Hamden, CT, principal of Helene Grant school; Deborah Hyde-Jackson, Encino, CA,

a neurosurgeon; Dorothy Mays, Kew Gardens, NY, administrative supervisor of Little Flower Children's Services; Thelma Neims, Memphis, TN, founder/director of Mission Possible; Joe Ella Rice, San Antonio, TX, a volunteer foster grandparent; Grace Stephenson, Fairfax, VA, director of Rent-A-Tenn,

and Juanita White, Hardeeville, SC, community activist and state representative for Beaufort and Jasper counties.

The NCNW, a coalition of more than 4 million women, focuses on the social, economic and political aspects of American life

Samuel Pierce: An Unsung Hero

by Kathy Martin
(Continued from Last Week)

Furthermore, Pierce is an avid community activist. He served on the Martin Luther King Street Naming Committee and played an active leadership role (through petition drives, radio, television, and committee hearing appearances) in the street naming efforts. Another important achievement is the passage of House Bill 2705 or the Martin Luther King School Holiday Bill. For the first time in Oregon's history, all schools in the state will commemorate the observance of Dr. King's birthday, January 15th. While serving as the executive director of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, Pierce was instrumental in the organization of individuals to testify on the behalf of the bill. He also helped to draft the actual amendments that eventually lead to its passage. However, Pierce insists that, "the passage of House Bill 2705 was a collective effort, as there is little one can accomplish alone."

Presently, Pierce is a consultant with Synergy, Inc. and the executive director of Minority Youth Concerns Action Program (MYCAP). He is also working with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission on its "community speak-out" efforts. But directing the MYCAP program is Pierce's first and foremost concern. MYCAP is a transitional program that works with gang-related/at-risk youth in the Portland area.

The program was started at Maclaren by Lonnie Jackson and Roger Wilder. Due to its success at Maclaren, it has now been established in the Portland community by Pierce and others. The program has operated for two years on a volunteer basis, but is now seeking funding for full implementation.

In conclusion, this writer finds the real Samuel Pierce to be a man of substance. A man who truly has his "works to speak for him." He is honest, sensitive, and cares deeply about the world around

him. And perhaps, most importantly, he possesses the courage and will to take personal risks in order to change that world. As for music, Pierce said "I've done a few things here and there". The truth is that he has written and produced a commercial; wrote a theme song for a small budget movie; written and produced scores of songs—some have caught the attention of jazz musician Billy Mitchell, Walter Orange of the Commodores, and Benny Madena of Warner Brothers Records. While Pierce doesn't like to mention this, he auditioned to replace Lionel Richie with the Commodores and thought he had gotten the part when he was brought in to meet the group. But a new producer was brought in who wanted to change the Commodores' "Richie image." Obviously, that decision did not prove well for Pierce's career as the group's lead singer. Oh well, I guess one loss out of many successes isn't bad. And as always, Pierce laughs it off, because he knows that he has much to be thankful for. Not bad for a kid whose biggest ambition growing up was simply to "eat when the next meal time came around!"

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While many area residents lost the use of their furnaces during recent power outages, natural gas water heaters and cooking appliances continued to operate. Most natural gas furnaces have electric fans and electronic ignitions that safely resume operation once power is restored. If a furnace has a pilot light, the pilot should continue to burn until power resumes.

"Natural gas water heaters continue to operate during power outages because they have no electric parts," said Brian McCabe, supervisor of Northwest Natural Gas Company's conservation section. "Although new gas ranges have electronic ignitions, they can be lit if the power goes out. A person is going to be far more comfortable in a storm if they can cook and use hot water."

"Another advantage natural gas water heaters have is they cost about 40 percent less to operate than electric models and natural gas heats water almost twice as fast. Even in areas served by the P.U.D., heating water with gas costs less."

McCabe said the company's new gas water heater guarantee provides a no-risk opportunity to convert. If a customer is dissatisfied with their natural gas water heater after one year, Northwest Natural Gas will refund all installation and equipment costs and install a new electric water heater for free.

McCabe said converting usually is simple. Customer consultants are available to provide free estimates and calculate how quickly the conversion will pay for itself in energy savings.

PCTF/Schools of the Jefferson Cluster Sponsor Community Conference

The Portland Crack Task Force and the schools of the Jefferson Cluster are sponsoring a community conference "Together We Can Make A Difference," on Saturday, January 20, 1990, at Jefferson High School.

Based upon the premise that a collaborative network will strengthen the community in resisting drug abuse, the Task Force and schools have joined forces to provide information, support groups and resources that will empower community members.

Speakers on a morning panel addressing the importance of developing a systemic approach to the problem of drug abuse include Dr. Gary Oxmond, a director of the Multnomah County Health Department and Ray Leary, a director of the nationally recognized Self-Enhancement, Inc. program.

Afternoon workshops will provide information on personal issues such as addiction, denial, treatment and recovery for persons of all ages.

Registration is free and will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the school's auditorium at 5210 N. Kerby Street. For more information contact James Berry, Portland Crack Task Force (503) 284-8103.

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