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# PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

July 24, 1991

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## Urban League's Successful 'Urban Forest Project'

by Professor McKinley Burt



Twenty-six inner city youth, ages 13 to 15 have completed a five week summer program co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Urban League of Portland. The Mt. Hood National Forest was the scene of this valuable and stimulating experience where the sites included the Eagle Creek Ranger Station, the Zig Zag, parts of the Columbia Gorge and the City of Portland's Experimental Tree Farm.

Each day the boys and girls and their three supervisors boarded vans at the League's headquarters and headed 'for the hills,' embarking on a life and learning experience not often available to urban youth. Mr. Jim Bonner, Project Coordinator, informs us that the young people were quite successful in adjusting their city lifestyles and preconceived notions about the "great outdoors" to the realities of a forest workplace. They received a stipend of \$20 a day for their labors.

Activities were carried out under the direction of their supervisors and experienced U.S. Forest Service personnel. They restored trails and benches, improved wildlife habitat, pruned trees and cleared brush and slash. They gained survival skills and there was the human dimension as they learned about "forest availability for the handicapped" who might not realize that these scenic and recreational facilities had been made accessible to them.

There was an additional educational and economic benefits when the youths learned about the many career and job opportunities provided by the forest sector of the northwest economy. Also, they were introduced to current thinking and practice in the areas of ecology and conservation of our national resources. The community congratulates both sponsoring agencies for a program that has made our youth less "at risk."

### "JUSTICE FOR KIDS"

#### GRAY PANTHER RALLY AND PICNIC

Saturday August 3, 1991

Starting at 12 noon

Alberta Park

20th/Killingsworth

(Killingsworth Exit off I-5)

#### Speakers:

- Congressman Ron Wyden
- Park Commissioner Charles Jordan
- County Chairwoman Gladys McCoy
- Rep. Bev Stein
- Senator Shirley Gold
- Rep. Margaret Carter
- Sharon Gary-Smith
- Oregon State Health Services Commission
- Rev. Joshua Phillip
- Sickle Cell Anemia-Board Chair

#### THE GRAY PANTHER JUSTICE FOR KIDS RALLY WILL:

- Look at the need for both young and old to work together to fight the frightening lack of awareness and concern for children.
- Kick-Off the Portland Gray Panther's new intergenerational project to reach out to Portland-area children.
- Celebrate the 86th Birthday of Gray Panther Founder Maggie Kuhn and her concern for intergenerational justice.

#### BRING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CHILDREN FOR FUN, FOOD AND THOUGHT!

Balloons, Hot Dogs, and Prizes.

All Free! Gray Panthers 224-5190/231-7509

## For Your better HEALTH

see our health special on page 7



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS OF OREGON

### NAMCO To Spearhead New Contracting Opportunities For Black Contractors

Calling blacks an endangered species, Mr. Nathan Proby, President of the National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon, claims that "Blacks aren't getting their fair share of the jobs and money, and we have families that need to be fed, too." These comments by Mr. Proby echo the concerns of African-Americans across the country from its leadership to the ghetto.

These are the same concerns recently voiced by Congressmen Conyers of Michigan, and the rest of the Congressional Black Caucus during hearings chaired by Conyers on defense contracts awarded to vendors.

NAMCO hosted an open house on July 22 for contractors and the media to dedicate its new headquarters at 4837 N.E. Martin Luther King, Blvd.

Initial funding for start-up was provided from within the organization, but a major fund raising campaign is planned.

According to Proby, "The reemergence of this outcry for equal opportu-

nity to participate in Oregon's booming construction industry comes at a time in our history when African-American contractors find themselves up a tree along with the spotted owl.

As an endangered species, the need to join forces to combat the continuous exclusion from the construction marketplace comes out of necessity. Black businesses, which once constituted the largest group of certified disadvantaged business enterprises in the state, now rank fourth in number of certified firms behind Women, Hispanic and American Indian-owned firms. Statistics released in 1990 by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) indicate that thirty-four Black-owned firms were certified. Moreover only fifteen of these firms were able to obtain subcontracts during the past four years. Over half of these are no longer in business. There are currently only three Oregon-based Black firms now active in ODOT contracting activity. Therefore, African-

American contractors had but one alternative, establishing NAMCO.

O.B. Hill, Chairman of NAMCO and Darrell Holefield, treasurer, said some of the minority contractors certified by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are no longer in business or have not re-filed for recertification even though their eligibility status has expired. A major goal of NAMCO is to assist Blacks with employment opportunities in the construction industry. For more information contact 282-9084.

#### Special Notice:

Mr. Nathan Proby, President of the Oregon Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon, suffered a heart attack in Salem while attending a hearing. (Tuesday a.m., July 23, 1991)

His condition has not been determined at press time.

The Observer extends its prayers for a quick recovery.

### Christmas in July at Doernbecher

It's hard to think of sleigh bells and snowflakes when the hot sun beats down. But at Doernbecher Children's Hospital at Oregon Health Sciences University, in-patients and out-patients are being asked to dream of the winter holidays for an art contest. Four winning designs will appear on holiday greeting cards. The contest is being sponsored by The Doernbecher Children's Association (DCA), a group of Doernbecher friends organized to create greater community support and understanding of the hospital. The DCA will sell the cards later this year as a benefit for Doernbecher.

The winter holiday theme includes Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's. Entries should be drawn on 8-1/2" x 11" white construction paper. The artist may use pencils, paints, crayons, felt-tip pens and/or other art supplies.

The artist's name, age and address must be printed on the back side of the entry. Entries should be submitted no later than July 31 to the DCA at the Doernbecher Foundation, 9600 S.W. Capitol Hwy., Suite 120, Portland, OR 97219. The winners, whose names and ages will be printed on the cards, will be notified in August.

The greeting cards, 12 of one design per packet, will sell for \$10 and may be purchased from the DCA through the Foundation office.

### American Red Cross Standard First Aid Classes Scheduled

Before going boating, hiking or camping, you may want to refresh your first aid skills. Summer recreation can be enjoyable if you're prepared. Red Cross will offer a course in Standard First Aid at McIntire's Athletic Club, 23500 S.E. Stark, Gresham, Saturdays, August 3 and 10, between noon and 4 p.m.

This course teaches accident prevention and first aid skills. Adult CPR training is also included. Participants receive Standard First Aid and Adult CPR certificates after successfully completing the class. The fee is \$25 (\$30 including textbook). Call 667-2290 to register.

### Fun at Sabin Multicultural Celebration



William 4, and Marquis 5, show off painted faces.

### HERE TO STAY!

By Tony Washington



MID-K Beauty supplies with 10-years experience has 11 shops Nationwide, and offers a variety of Black hair products at competitive prices. Mid-K-Beauty Supplies is located at 5411 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. 335-0271. With 2 locations on the West Coast, Seattle and Portland Mid-K-

Beauty Supplies is here to help the community and encourages all Non Profit Organizations to call them, they may be able to assist your respective firms with your needs. The Portland Observer would like to thank Mid-K for their help in the community, also congratulations on your Grand Opening on June 23, 1991.