

The Portland Observer 25¢

The Private Industry Council Selects New Program Director

Vernard Taylor Promoted To Direct The Northeast Employment And Training Center



Vernard Taylor has been appointed director of The Private Industry Council's Northeast Employment and Training Center.

Taylor had been a trainer for the council since 1990, working at the center for the past year.

Before joining the council, Taylor worked as a facility monitor and counselor for Portland Progress House, a residential treatment and reform program for ex-offenders. He is also experienced in the hospitality industry and as a small business owner. Taylor is a graduate of Warner Pacific College,

and is currently involved in graduate studies at Portland State University.

"The Northeast Employment and Training Center provides real opportunities for the people of this area to become self-sufficient," stated Taylor. Services include counseling, job training, job referrals, life skills and basic skills training. The center was established in July 1989 to address the needs of North and Northeast Portland's chronically unemployed, especially African-American men and Welfare recipients.

Many partners help make the center successful. Oregon's Employment Division, Adult and Family Services, Portland community College, organized labor, local employers and community groups have joined together to provide comprehensive job training services.

The Northeast Employment and Training Center is located at 3034 N.E. Martin Luther King Boulevard (241-4644). It is an operation of The Private Industry Council, a nonprofit organization primarily funded through the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The Private Industry Council operates a variety of employment and training programs for youth and adults throughout Washington and Multnomah Counties.

Sabin Neighbors To Reclaim park

On Saturday, May 2nd the Sabin community Association and the Sabin community Development corporation will join forces in a community work-day at the Vernon Watertower Playground. Neighbors have expressed concern over misuse of the playground for illegal or nuisance activities. It is hoped that a facelift will encourage more families and neighbors to enjoy the playground and view it in a positive light. Volunteers will paint the play equipment, do some simple landscaping, and install a bench so that parents can sit and watch their children play. Local nurseries donated many colorful plantings for this community service effort. Neighborhood organizations lobbied to have signs posted that will close the park late at night. The beautification efforts have been coordinated in cooperation with the Parks Bureau and Water Bureau. Neighbors will volunteer for a continued maintenance schedule throughout the summer. The community association will continue to work on security concerns in coordination with community policing.

Volunteers are encouraged to join in beginning work at 10 am and then celebrating with a potluck picnic at 1 pm. Wear work clothes, bring tools, and plant donations. For more information, call 284-8870.

Center for Community Mental Health



BY D. BELL

The Center for Community Mental Health was the outgrowth of one man's effort to provide family services to members of North/Northeast Portland. In 1972 Ocie Trotter received funding under the auspices of the Lutheran Family Counseling Services. Lutheran Family Counseling Services had contracted to meet the needs of both southeast and northeast Portland. The funding awarded to Trotter was an effort to fulfill that commitment.

The original arrangement included Trotter and a half-time secretary in a little house on Stanton and Rodney. In 1974 the agency moved to its present location on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Holman.

In 1974 the agency also began con-

tracting with the state/county mental health system for children and family services. Also, it was during 1974 that the agency, with the help of corporate and private donors, began the purchase of the house on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., which now serves as its administration office. Ocie Trotter resigned in August of 1979 and the present director Nate Nickerson started in October of the same year.

The Center for Community Mental Health operates four mental health oriented programs. The Child and Family Services has two components, each specifically designed to accommodate its clients. Regarding children the Center for Community Mental Health is required by state guidelines to address the needs of seriously mentally ill children

who are homicidal, suicidal, or at threat of leaving home or in a state of crisis. Consultation occurs with family, or significant others in the child's life, including caseworkers, teachers and juvenile services.

The agency's adult program serves those who are self-referred or referred by a number of other agencies and facilities in the community. The referral sources may include N/E. Community Mental Health Center, and the State Hospital System, Corrections Division, Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation, or through the private sector such as physicians and hospitals.

The single largest reason for adult referrals is depression, followed by major psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and manic depressive illness. Other problems include significant behavior disorders, life crises, and social problems such as separation, divorce, violence in the home, battering, and other forms of conflict. Clients are helped through a variety of modes such as individual treatment, group therapy, family therapy, skill building groups, etc.

The Conquest Center is an adult outpatient program which was the first day treatment program for the mentally ill in Multnomah County. The present site for Conquest is Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Emerson. Clients are referred by a variety of means, including state hospital or other mental health agencies and self referrals. Conquest Center's goals are to maintain the chronically mentally ill adults in the community and enhance their daily living skills through a structured program.

Project for Community Recovery (PCR) evolved as a result of the House of Exodus no longer being in a position to provide drug and alcohol treatment. The demise of the House of Exodus left a vacuum in N/E Portland in

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Blumenauer Expresses Sympathy and Support

I want express my sympathy and support for Jacob Johnson, who was attacked and severely beaten last Friday night. According to news reports, Mr. Johnson -- an African American -- was assaulted by two white youths who belong to a skinhead group.

I have spoken to police Chief Tom Potter and Dr. Darryl Tukufu about the incident. Chief Potter assures me that the Police Bureau will investigate the

matter thoroughly and quickly. I have offered my support and services in any way to assure that justice is done. I also have written to Mr. Johnson and his family to express my sorrow and offer my support.

Racial violence, hate crimes, and bigotry cannot and will not be tolerated in our city. This outrageous attack was a tragedy not only for Mr. Johnson and his family, but for all Portlanders.



News In Brief

Free Children's Vision Screenings Set

Oregon 4-year-olds can receive free tests for lazy eye, an eye condition that can affect a child's ability to learn easily in school.

Doctors of the Oregon Optometric Association will provide the diagnostic tests the week of May 11-15. Parents can be referred to a nearby participating optometrist by calling 654-5036 in Portland, or toll-free, 1-800-922-2045 statewide. Calls must be made by April 27.

The 15-minute screenings test for lazy eye, or amblyopia, and preschool vision readiness skills. Lazy eye develops when one eye doesn't carry its share of the vision load. The eye may appear to be normal or may accompany crossed eyes. Parents, pediatricians and the children themselves may not notice that anything is wrong.

Full recovery is possible with early treatment. If amblyopia is detected during the optometric screening, the child can complete treatment before entering school.

Gov. Roberts has declared May 11-15 as Children's Vision Week.

Tom Grant Back at Grant

International jazz great, TOM GRANT, returns to his alma mater, U.S. Grant High School.

The Grant High Alumni Association is sponsoring this event for the benefit of the students and faculty of Grant High.

Tom Grant, class of 1964, has just released his 10th album entitled *In My Wildest Dreams*. This follows his last year's *Edge of the World*, which hit the #2 spot on the R&R charts and "Top 10" on Billboard.

Plan to spend an evening with Tom and hear his strongest and most compelling music to date.

"I want people to walk away feeling good and with the lyrics still playing in their heads after hearing this," says Tom Grant.

Tom Grant Band Concert
U.S. Grant High School
2245 N.E. 36th Avenue
Thursday - May 21st - 7:30 p.m.
\$10.00 tickets available at Fred Meyer Music Dept.

Jefferson High Student Awarded NACME and NASA Scholarships

Jefferson High School student Sekou Crawford, has been selected to receive a \$1,000 TechForce National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) Scholarship. The scholarship money will go toward the first year of undergraduate study at an engineering program of his choice.

This prestigious award is presented to students who are committed to pursuing undergraduate degrees in engineering, have excelled in mathematics and sciences, and have demonstrated commitment to their communities.

Crawford will be presented with the scholarship on June 5 at FORUM '92, NACME's annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Additionally, Crawford has been awarded a full academic scholarship at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. This scholarship is provided by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for aeronautical engineering. As part of this scholarship package, NASA will employ Crawford each summer until graduation from college.

Community Fair Saturday, May 23, 1992

Good things do happen in North/Northeast Portland, and we feel the community at large should hear about them. To make this happen, we, Mallory Avenue Christian Church, are sponsoring a **Community Fair**, Saturday, May 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Groups and organizations that are working to make things better will set up displays and tell about their programs.

Be sure to put this on your calendar, and be looking for more information to come!

For more information, give us a call: Bob Nelson (287-4050) or Willie Stoudamire (288-5173).

Settlement Day Helps People Clear Up Outstanding Warrants



Multnomah County has 21,000 outstanding arrest warrants: warrants issued as recently as ten days ago or as long as ten years ago.

They bog down the court system, cost tax payers money and interfere with people's ability to get jobs. Many of the arrest warrants can be cleared up easily if the individual with the outstanding warrant would come forward. But individuals have not come forward for a variety of reasons. Some fear going to jail, some have forgotten about the warrants and some just don't know the warrants exist.

In an effort to reduce the backlog of outstanding arrest warrants, Multnomah County is holding a Settlement Day on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, 1992. Individuals who want to check on, discuss or clear up their outstanding warrants can do so on Settlement Day without fear of being arrested. They can

come to the second floor of the Justice Center, at 1120 S. W. Third Avenue, and meet with representatives from the Multnomah County District Attorney's office and the Metropolitan Public Defender's office to discuss their problem and possible solutions. There will be no cost to the person for these legal services. If an agreement can be made with the District Attorney's office the matter will be disposed of that day. If not, the individual can still make an appearance before the court that day and have the warrant withdrawn. The matter will then be scheduled for a regular court hearing. The person will remain free until that hearing, but if he or she fails to appear at that hearing another warrant may be issued. If the person is not satisfied with the DA's offer, he or she is free to leave and will not be taken into custody.

Matters that can be processed on Settlement day are Multnomah County warrants for misdemeanors, warrants for traffic crimes, possession of lesser amounts of controlled substances, felony property crimes, failure to complete a DUI Diversion Program and failure to make child support. Matters that cannot be handled on Settlement Day are probation violations, traffic infractions, (running a red light), parking tickets, class A or B felonies, or felonies involving assaultive behavior.

Nor will it be possible to process warrants from outside of Multnomah County.

Anyone interested in taking advantage of this program is encouraged to call the Public Defender's office at 273-1351 to register. This is a 24 hour phone number, which will be used during the week of April 27 through May 1, for the exclusive purpose of Settlement Day.

The Portland Police Bureau has agreed to participate in Settlement Day. "We support this effort. There is a 'win' for everyone. We would rather have people with warrants come in voluntarily than arrest them on the streets or at their homes or places of business," says Portland Police Bureau spokesperson Sgt. Derrick Foxworth.

Settlement Day is coordinated by the Volunteer Lawyers Project, a nonprofit organization that links low-income people who have civil legal problems with volunteer attorneys who take on the cases at no cost. Volunteer Lawyers Project also has special programs for the homeless, people with HIV disease, homeless veterans, people who speak Spanish and people with family law problems. Settlement Day is one of the events taking place during community Law Week, sponsored by the Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.

Hunters Set Record At Oregon State Pageant 1992

Kids are great, but when you see them excel at the rate these youth have you will be amazed by the desire and willingness to be the best they can be.

On April 26, 1992, the Oregon State Pageant at the Sheraton Airport Hotel got on the way. It saw 11 young ladies compete for U.S.A. National Miss in four divisions: Petite, Pre-Teen, Teen and Miss.

The highlight of the night saw last

year's National Pre-teen Champion, Nikesha Breeze Hunter crown her sister Aryanna Hunter, age nine, from Sherwood, Oregon. It's the first time sisters have won the division three straight years. It's also the first time in the Pageant's history. I guess they join the likes of Pittsburgh Steelers, 49ers, and Lakers in dominating this division. The Hunter girls are definitely a force and their parents should be proud of

them all.

The pageant had the girls express their talents in essay, evening wear, and a host of other categories. More involvement is needed, however, as I only saw 11 contestants. "It's a great learning experience," exclaims Vivienne LaCour, National Director. "I want to see a lot more kids involved and show the talents. I'm here for a service to them, and I enjoy my line of work."

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