

The Portland Observer 25¢

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper
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Wanted

2500-3000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youth in the Portland Metropolitan Area. All of us will promise an employer that we will work for the minimum wage and would like to work a minimum of 350 hours, commencing on or about June 15, 1992 and terminating on or about August 31, 1992. These jobs are necessary to keep us busy and off the streets. The money that we earn will assist our parents in purchasing clothes and other necessities for school next fall. In fact, "some of us might not be able to return to school if we cannot work this summer."

Where are the JOBS?

... unemployment is estimated to be between 6.5 and 7.2%. It should be noted that unemployment for black youth is estimated at 45-55%.

BY BILL COUNCIL

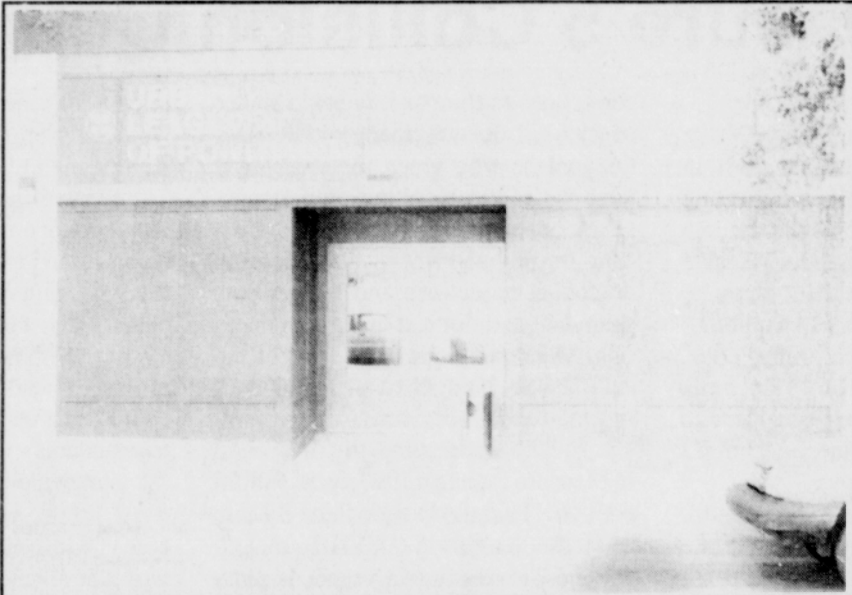
The N/NE Employment and Business Development Action plan has been developed and is reprinted here:

Following the L.A. riot Sam

address three of the underlying reasons for the riot: adult unemployment, youth unemployment and lack of business growth and development. Though there

was no explosion in Portland, the root causes are as prevalent. It is in all our interest to work harder, smarter and faster to eradicate in Portland the causes that led to the destruction in L.A. At the first meeting it was agreed to set a goal of reducing adult and youth unemployment in Portland's Black Community to no higher than metropolitan levels.

The national attention focused on South Central Los Angeles serves as a reminder of how much remains to be done in urban neighborhoods. It was also a grim reminder



Brooks, Darrell Tukufu and Ronnie Herndon asked Portland Community, business and government leaders to meet and intensify collaborative efforts to



Photo by Veronica Green

Tony Ross interviews Edna Gordon who has recently moved to Portland from Magnolia, Arkansas.

or now high a price communities will pay if inner city residents continue being excluded from the benefits of economic growth and development.

Portland is no different, in our city we have built a strong economic base in the region only to leave behind a 19 square mile area in the central city where conditions are worse now than they were ten years ago. In spite of the beginning of many positive efforts within the community there is increasing frustration with lack of community business ownership and employment opportunities.

Community leaders came together

several years ago to form the N/NE Economic Development Alliance. With broad involvement of citizens and every major organization in N/NE Portland, a plan of action was prepared to address a broad range of economic development and employment needs.

Now is the time to broaden and quicken efforts implement this plan and focus on strategic actions which will bring near term results in business growth and development and job opportunities for youth and adults. Activities which are in place need to be expanded and made more effective. Gaps in programs will be identified and

quickly filled. Business and community leaders have to come to the table with resources and expertise.

We will collectively identify opportunities for greater private sector involvement and define areas where existing community, private and government programs can be enhanced or accelerated.

Jobs For Community Residents

According to most conservative estimates unemployment in N/NE is more than twice that of the metropolitan areas. The community needs greater access to new jobs being created within

Continued on page 5



1992 African American Festival Comes Up Rosy!

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Cheers, applause, laughter, tears and many smiling faces can all describe the first two events of the African American Festival, a sanctioned rose Festival event.

This year, the African American Festival will feature three days of joyous celebration. The first night, May 29th, over four hundred people gathered at the Portland Foursquare Church on southeast Ankeny to hear and wit-

ness the jubilant sounds of the Gospel Choir Jubilee which featured gospel choirs from all over the Northwest and general Portland Metropolitan area.

The very next day, May 30th, the second day of the rose Festival, the African American Festival held a Gospel Soiree on center stage at the Waterfront Park. The program featured the sounds of "His Song", Mt. Hood Community College Choir, Inspirational sounds from Eugene, Oregon, the

Sermonettes, and the debut performance of the "Mighty Untouchables". The charisma of the "Mighty Untouchables" truly overwhelmed and lifted the people. The crowd at the waterfront couldn't get enough. They continued to shout "More! More! More!" And--they were certainly accommodated.

This was also the first time performance for the Mt. Hood community College's Gospel/Jazz Choir. They gave a splendid performance that the audi-

ence will treasure for a very long time.

If you did not go to either of these events, there is still another to come. The one everyone is awaiting! The spectacular Northwest Gospel Jubilee will be held on the 13th day of June at the Arlene Schnitzer Performing Arts Center. The curtain is scheduled to go up at 7 pm sharp. Be there!

Tickets are now on sale at all major ticket outlets.

Don't miss it!

Local Ministers Begin A Campaign For Racial Reconciliation

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Rev. Daniel Simmons, pastor of Christ Covenant Church and Rev. Henry Greenidge, pastor of Irvington Covenant Church have launched a "Campaign for Racial Reconciliation". They have given substance to their "concern about the polarization and division along racial lines in Portland".

As they have put it, "we wondered why it was that 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning was still the most segregated hour in our nation, and why, instead of leading the way in the fight against racism, the church is either resisting or dragging its feet. We decided the best

place to begin was within our own church denomination (Evangelical Church of America)".

The forward-looking ministers initiated their concept on a recent Thursday evening and plan the format to be a continuing process. The workshop was very impressive, involving three of

the Covenant congregations: Irvington Covenant, Christ Covenant and Vietnamese Evangelical Covenant Church of Beaverton. The event was held at the Irvington Church, 1712/1718 N.E. 11th



Littlehead, founder of American Indian Council of Portland; Khaled Alam, A Palestinian student at George Fox University; Daniel Tran, pastor of Vietnamese Evangelical Covenant; and this writer, McKinley Burt, author/historian.

The founding pastors saw the campaign developing within the following areas:

1. Confession.
2. Relationship building opportunities for becoming more familiar and personally involved with people of different races.
3. Panel/forum to examine race issues, particularly with respect to church history, segregation, culture and doctrine.
4. Celebration of cultural diversity.

Again, the structure of the forum was most impressive and it seems certain that the "Campaign for Racial Reconciliation" will bring a needed healing and fellowship to our community.

Members of various ethnic communities were invited to tell of their experiences, and, then, the group assembled into small groups to respond to the presentations of the several speakers and to develop solutions. Speakers were: Arnold

Congratulations Ivery Lee Mays, Jr.



Ivery graduated from Benson High School in June of 1991. He is now in his first year of college attending Oregon State University, maintaining a 3.74 grade point average. His major is in Electrical Engineering, and he is pledging in Fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha.

Ivery has received a Certificate of Honor from The Educational Opportunities Program, in recognition of scholastic achievement at Oregon State University, and a certificate that certifies that Ivery was duly initiated as a member of Alpha Lambda Delta national Academic Honor Society for Freshmen.

The management and staff at The Observer would like to this opportunity to say, keep the good work up Ivery, we are very proud of you.

Students Celebrate Rewarding Partnership With Business Community

King Elementary second graders invite parents and members of the business community to celebrate the success of their "Dream Star Neighborhood" project on Thursday (June 4) at 6:30 p.m. at the school, 4906 N. E. 6th Street. Students will present their "neighborhood" and thank business partners for their involvement in the project. Guests include Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction Norma

Paulus, a co-sponsor, and representatives from U.S. Bank, U.S. Post Office, Safeway and other neighborhood businesses.

A year's study of safety, drug and alcohol prevention and career education concluded with students building a small-scale "ideal" neighborhood. That Dream Star Neighborhood is complete with students' homes equipped with recycling bins, a police station, fire department,

hospital, church, U.S. bank, U.S. Post Office, school, Safeway and an apple refrigerator plant. Materials were donated by businesses including Alpenrose Dairy and BESCO Associates of Los Angeles.

Students learned about each business represented in their model through guest speakers and tours. For example, a U.S. Bank representative explained

Continued on page 4