

The Portland

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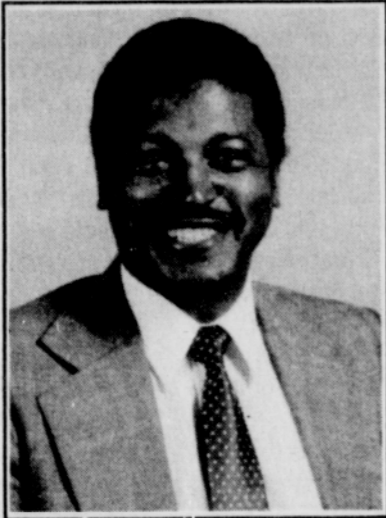
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Brown Is Spaced-Out On Portland's Youth

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Sometimes your vision may not be clear enough for you to see what is ahead; but, for Bennie Brown, Jr., his vision for what lies ahead in the future of today's youth is truly eminent.

Brown has lived in Portland his entire life; except for the three years he did a tour in Paris, France at the expense of Uncle Sam. While in the U. S. Army, Brown made many new discoveries and he became acutely aware of the injustice and the prejudice being experienced on a world-wide basis. It was here, in the Army, Brown was exposed to his first hands-on experience with electronics; not knowing that it would be in this particular field that he would eventually find his niche.



Bennie Brown, Jr.

Brown commented that he oft times wondered what his purpose would be in life. He has sought special courses which would enhance his business skills and interests; then, the field of electronics. Two very important things happened to assist him in making a firm decision concerning his involvement in the field of electronics; first, there was his tour-of-duty, for three years, and, for nineteen years, he worked for the U. S. Forestry Service in the State and Regional office which was located on 319 S. W. Pine, in the old Multnomah Hotel. Brown served as a Contracting Officer. At the time of his employment in the U. S. Forestry Service, there were only two Blacks employed in contract-

ing. ".....Yes -- I Tried to get people to speak up for themselves. We all have a voice. This is America!....."

I asked him to give me a reason on the "Why?" he was no longer with the U. S. Government. His response was, "I just got fed-up with all the racism. I left and drew all my retirement. I would speak out about the manner in which the Blacks were being treated. The brass did not like it! New minority employees were hired and they were told not to speak to me because I was so out spoken. I did not feel that the rights of individuals should be stymied in such a manner. All this 'Yes Sir' and 'No sir'

Gang Intervention Training

Former Professional Football Star and Hall of Famer Jim Brown, Chief Tom Potter, Oregon State Police Major Dean Renfrow and others will host a news conference to announce the planning of a training program for law enforcement provided by the AMER-I-CAN Program, Inc. The conference will take place Tuesday June 30, 1992, 2:00 p.m., at the Justice Center 1111 S. W. 2nd Av., Wayne Sullivan conference Room B located on the 14th floor.

The AMER-I-CAN Program is a life management skills training program that was started in 1988. It is a 15 chapter, 80 hour course which seeks to enhance individual personal skills in 8 critical areas: 1) Motivation, Habits Attitudes and conditioning; 2) Effective Communication; 3) Goal Setting; 4) Problem Solving & Decision Making; 5) emotional Control; 6) Family Relationships; 7) Financial Stability and 8) employment Search & Retention. The program operates within the structure of a self-help, peer-group relationship guided by a facilitator. In 1990, 2000 California inmates graduated from the program. In 1991 2500 graduated and 2500 more are expected to graduate in 1992. Currently this program is being employed in Los Angeles, CA; Venice, CA; Compton, CA; Altadena, CA; Las

with no opportunity to say what was bothering you. You had to take it whether you like it or not. And -- I was not going to do that. Yes -- I tried to get people to speak up for themselves. We all have a voice. This is America!"

An avid reader, Brown began reading up on satellites, their functions and how they could benefit mankind. "My interest was so whetted.....I remember commenting, "This is the future and I want to be a part of it."

Brown remembers meeting a gentleman named Eric Robertson, whom he met and became very good friends with, in The Dalles,

".....Yes -- I tried to get people to speak up for themselves. We all have a voice. This is America!....."

Oregon. Eric was really the one who influenced Brown to pursue the field of satellites.

Following much studying and attending many seminars and conferences, Brown began selling satellite dishes in the private business sector and to residents.

Later on, he discovered that there were not many Blacks in this field; so, he decided to teach youngsters so that they could teach their parents about the world of satellites and electronics.

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His main goal was aimed at the N/NE community of Portland because there were too many young people wandering around without goals. After they finished school, they just joined the statistics.

Michael Grice, Director of Saturday Academy, heard of his fervor and gave him a chance in the Saturday Academy. Shortly before this, Brown had been asked to teach his program at the St. Mary's Academy; but, he de-

Vegas, NV and Cleveland, OH.

"This program provides a start in addressing the multitude of problems which contribute to our nation's gang problem. By providing our youth with a sense of hope, values and greater self esteem, we hope to see a reduction in the number of young people involved in gangs and the level of violence it brings," said Chief Potter.

It is expected that law enforcement personnel from the Oregon State Youth Gang Strike Force and the Portland Police Gang Enforcement Team will attend the initial training sometime in the near future. Officer will attend a similar course of instruction being given to gang members in hopes of developing an understanding of the conditions which lead to gang involvement. "It is our hope that by providing police with this information that we can bridge the gap that sometimes separates us", said Jim Brown. "This is the first time that we have been able to relate to a police agency on this level anywhere. We hope that this will set an example for other agencies across the country. We are able to do this here because the agencies (Governor's Office, Oregon State Police and the Portland Police Bureau) are willing to work together to find solutions to the problem" said Brown.

clined. He wanted this to be a venture that was born and took root first in the Black community of N/NE Portland.

After teaching at the Saturday Academy, his program was the talk of the town. The next organization to solicit his services was the T.A.G. Program with Joy Hicks at the helm. He had been referred to her by Carolyn Leonard, Portland Public Schools Multicultural Education Coordinator. Then - it was on to the M.E.S.A. (Math, Engineering & Science Achievement) Program at Harriet Tubman Middle School, Paul Coakley, Principal.

"....."What a person needs is a strong desire to learn and he can learn anything he sets his mind on.".....

One day, he received a call from Dr. Matthew Prophet and Dr. Ernie Hartzog. Following their conversation, they put in a call to Rene Anderson's office. Brown was then hired to teach a Tele Communications course through the M.E.S.A. Program.

Before he began teaching, he would display his wares to the students on "Career Day" at Tubman, Woodlawn and Franklin High School.

I asked Brown, "How did you manage to learn all of this about satellites?"

His response, "I just had a desire to learn. I don't feel that you need a college degree to learn; however, it is a good thing to have. What a person needs is a strong desire to learn and he can learn anything he sets his mind on. If you want to learn how to cook or ride

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Links Worldwide Efforts Subject Of National Address By Freddye Prophet

Efforts to strengthen the African-American family worldwide--through international programs as varied as literacy campaigns, emergency relief and support of food production--are the subject of a July 1 report by Portlander Freddye Prophet to the 28th National Assembly of The Links, Inc. in Dallas, Texas.

Prophet, national director of The Links' International Trends and Services program has represented the women's service organization at conferences throughout the United States and joined other African-American leaders and officials from 18 African nations at a summit held last year in Abidjan, in western Africa.

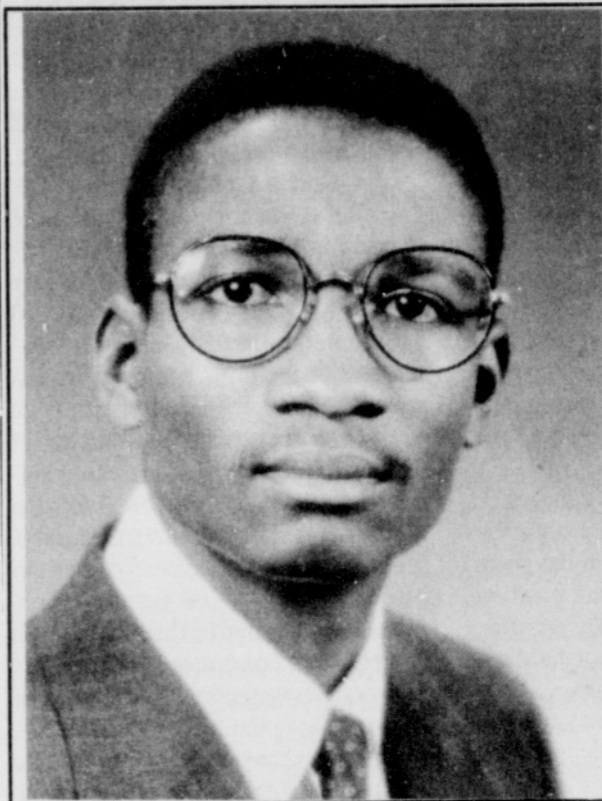
More than 8,000 members of The Links worldwide are involved in activities supporting Third World nations. Prophet's report will focus on efforts such as an African water well project that has aided 16,500 persons displaced by war or living in areas of chronic drought.

She also will address the need for industrialization, economic growth and educational improvements in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the continuing need for closer cooperation between Africans and African Americans.

"The Links is committed to strengthening the African-American family by rendering assistance and service to our global families," Prophet says. "We have noted our common ancestry as well as the circumstances which have resulted in our being separated physically and psychologically for several centuries. We concluded that the time is right to reestablish the bond of togetherness."

The Links is a non-profit, service organization founded in 1946. Marion Schultz Sutherland of Seattle serves as national president.

Louisiana's Youngest State Senator Keynote Speaker At Urban League Dinner



State Senator Cleo Fields (D-Baton Rouge)

youngest state legislator when he was elected to his first term at age 24.

Sen. Fields has established himself as a leader in the war on illicit drugs and in efforts toward economic development. He authored laws that established Drug Free zones near school campuses and created an Inner City Economic Development Program.

This year's Annual Dinner will also recognize local youth groups that are making a difference in Portland. James Francesconi, an Urban League board member active in local youth issues, will be Master of Ceremonies.

Dinner Co-Chairs are Judith Ramaley,

Louisiana State Senator Cleo Fields (D) will deliver the keynote address at the 47th Urban League of Portland Annual Dinner July 9, 1992 at the Oregon Convention Center. The dinner's theme is "A Celebration of Youth." A reception begins at 6:15 P.M., with dinner at 7:15 P.M.

At age 29, Sen. Fields is well qualified to speak about youth leadership and other youth issues. Now serving his second term as state senator from Baton Rouge, Sen. Fields was the nation's

Ph.D., president of Portland State University, and Charles Jordan, superintendent of Portland's Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Highlights of the dinner program include entertainment by the vocal group His Song and presentation of the Shelly Hill and Vern Chatman Scholarship Awards by NIKE and the Urban League.

Dinner tickets are \$35 per person, \$350 for a table of ten. For reservations and information, call the Urban League at 280-2600.

See Uhuru Sa Sa Youth Speaking Panel Inside on Page 3

Parent-Child Reading Support Group Organized

Parent-Child Specialist, Ada Reed-Tellis, and parents of Jefferson Cluster Boise-Eliot Second Grade Summer School, have organized a PARENT-CHILD READING SUPPORT GROUP. Their goal is to accelerate their children's reading achievement and encourage school and community parent-child reading involvement.

Parent sessions, coordinated and taught by Second Grade Summer School Parent-Child Specialists, are scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon, or evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Parents attending these sessions learn ways to help their children learn, plan home extension activities, spend time visiting and interacting with their children in the classroom, and parenting education skills emphasizing social-

emotional growth and child development.

The Boise-Eliot second grade summer school parent-child reading support group will be sponsoring a north/northeast Portland "parent-child reading hour" at the North Portland branch library, 512 North Killingsworth, on Saturday, July 11, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 P.M.

Parent-Child Specialist, Ada Reed-Tellis, and summer school parents will read stories to children. Sarah Kirchfield, Children's Librarian, will share reading tips with parents. Families of the North/Northeast Portland community are invited to attend, apply for library cards, and check out books to read to each other.

For more information, contact Ada Reed-Tellis at 280-6171.



Youngsters enjoy the togetherness of family during the "Family Child Reading Hour."

