

Laurelhurst Elementary Celebrates 70th Anniversary



Laurelhurst School 1st Grade class September, 1925

Laurelhurst Elementary culminated its 70th anniversary celebration with a reunion of some 600 former students, parents and staff Thursday (May 20) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the school, 840 N.E. 41st Avenue. The celebration featured Laurelhurst's Maypole dancers and keynote speaker Judge James Burns. Old photographs and school

memorabilia from the past 70 years was on display. Student research on neighborhood landmarks and a timeline illustrating school events from 1923 to the present also was on exhibit.

Ahmad and Phylcia Rashed To Be Honored In Delta Air Lines Grand Floral Parade

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Festival courts, and a \$4,000 check was presented from the Rose Festival Association to Portland Youth Outreach Coordinator John Canda to benefit Youth Outreach.

Paul Linnman, news anchor on KATU-TV and Bob Miller, morning personality on 1190 KEX served as Master of Ceremonies of the Kickoff Luncheon.

The Rose Festival's Kickoff Luncheon committee is headed by volunteer chairman Richard Ransome of Southwest Portland.

The Delta Air Lines Grand Floral Parade begins at 10 a.m., at Portland's Memorial Coliseum on Saturday, June 12. Some 500,000 spectators will watch the parade from the streets of Portland, and the parade will be televised live by KOIN-TV, Channel 6. Paula Zahn of CBS *This Morning* will join Shirley Hancock and Mike Donahue of KOIN-TV to host the telecast. The Grand Floral Parade telecast will be syndicated to an additional 30 million TV households in 15 states from Anchorage, Alaska to Atlanta, Georgia.

The Rose Festival runs June 3 through June 27 and the Airshow is July 16 through 18. This year's theme is "Among My Souvenirs"

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- 2. \$10,000 Student Loan Repayment program
- 3. Not Going to School? Check this Out!
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- 5. \$2,000 Cash Bonus
- 6. Leadership...Officer Candidate School
- 7. Good Pay and more!
- 8. Prior Service Opportunities

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The Wading Pool

I drove by the old park one day and spotted the wading pool.

It was empty now, a few leaves kicking around it in the bright autumn sun. I marveled how small it looked, years later: only a couple feet deep. But as I drive by in my memory the water is there again and my brother and I conduct splashy innertube raids with neighborhood kids. A little girl, barely three, dangles her feet from the side as mom holds on. In the pool kids yell and splash, run in and out of the concrete circle. For a second I think of myself there, pushing an inner tube. I look up and see a guy driving slowly by a big smile on his face as if he's remembering something pleasant, some summer day gone by. And I realize I'm looking out at me some 25 years hence and the man in the car is looking out at the kid he once was.

It strikes me that both are real in their way as surely as these words are one a memory and one but a funny thought-frozen together as a snapshot of time.

Kid Search Finds A Great Kid

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Usually when you tell someone that he or she has a deficiency, they tend to fall into a slump and just give up to whatever it is that has become their impediment. This is not the case with the young man who's accomplishments were brought to my attention.

Johnny Anton Laray Asher Smith-Clark (Long name, huh?) is not very tall nor is he a big hulky kind of guy; however, he is unique, special and an overall great kid. Johnny is a twelve and a half year old sixth grader who attends Whittaker Middle School. When he was born, he weighed-in at three pounds and three ounces in the fifth month of his mother's pregnancy. His mother did not know whether or not he was going to make it.

Johnny is a "C" and "B" student, "I know that he could do much better", says his mother. "But--because of his deficiencies, which are: a decrease in his motor skills--coordination of his eyes and of his hands, he is identified as a Special Ed. student. he is able to receive (hear) instructions but it takes him a little longer to process the information than it does a normal child."

One day as Larissa Smith-Clark, Johnny's mother, was shopping in J.C. Penney, she came across a display advertising Kid Search '92. She said to herself, "I'm going to enter Johnny. He's just as good or better than those other kids. And furthermore, I think that he is a very wonderful child." She filled out the form and sent the form in along with a picture of Johnny.

In January of 1993, Larissa received a letter of congratulations from the Kid Search '92 which stated, "Kid Search '92 is pleased to announce that Johnny is a regional finalist in the Seattle region." The letter continued to point out instructions that each contestant should follow to remain eligible, such as: interviews, personal interaction (10%), appearance (30%) and personality (60%).

The fourteen hundred regional finalists will receive a personal inter-

view with Wilhelmina Models agents. They then have the opportunity to appear in JC Penney Portrait Studio advertising and possibly be considered to appear in a JC Penney catalog.

Johnny's proud parents, Elton and Larissa Smith-Clark, didn't hesitate when describing their enthusiasm about their son's newly achieved success.

"I am so happy", says the mother, "because it was a wish come true for Johnny."

His father was beaming also because his son tries so hard. "I am happiest when he is successful and after he has achieved goals that he has set for himself."

"He is a very determined child", his mother added. "He never let's his self esteem go down--even after negative comments have been hurled at him by his peers. He will always get somewhere positive because he is not a quitter."

Johnny, his mother and his father traveled to Seattle. There--Johnny competed with other children from across the northwest region. The competition was held at the Hyatt Regency-Bellevue.

"I don't ever want him to be ashamed of me."

Johnny is aspiring to become a singer and a model. Whether he wins overall or not--hopefully--this event will help motivate him so that he will continue to pursue a career in singing and as a model. This will also serve as a point of positive encouragement in his life.

"We (Elton & Larissa) are recovering drug addicts; Larissa shared, "and I wasn't able to see my son for ten years. So, you see, this is a wonderful opportunity to show the world and the

Portland community that it is possible to get up out of the holes in life and rise above it all with the help of God and a strong husband and a loving Christian family."

I asked Larissa and Elton whether or not they had explained their trial to their son. Their response was --

"He's the one that keeps us in line. And in answer to your question",

the mother answers excitedly, "Yes! we told him everything and we are doing our utmost to do what is right in the sight of God and in our son's eyes." Johnny loves his mom and dad and he is very aware of their deficiencies. He also knows that a successful recovery from drugs takes time, love and patience. He seems to be brimming over with all three.



Johnny Anton Laray Asher Smith-Clark

"I don't ever want him to be ashamed of me", Larissa mentioned.

Johnny, his parents and his grandparents (John & Bertha Smith) are all members of St. Paul Church of God in Christ; under the watchful tutelage of Bishop J.C. Foster. Johnny sings in the choir; is a soloist in the church and he serves during a special time of service, the lifting of an offering for the poor and needy. (This is a time that he especially loves because he enjoys helping others.)

Now the wait begins.

The winner will be announced in July of 1993. We (the Portland community) will await the judges decision with baited breath.

With all the negative hype and media coverage, this is truly a success story.

Congratulations Johnny from the entire Portland Observer staff. We wish you continued success.

"Economic Series" Harder To Quit Than Cigarettes

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

This is definitely the conclusion, for there are other serious problems in this community that need addressing. However a final 'wrap up' is needed. An improvement in finances is needed by everyone in these difficult times. I've heard from Blacks, whites, Asians, Hispanics, Native Americans, Africans, you name them. Here is some final input or direction.

I am able to identify a lot of my constituency because a number of them feel that their ethnicity may be at the root of their economic problem and are quite frank in their comments. Let me say this right off. Being "disadvantaged" is a description that defines an increasingly larger segment of our population these days regardless of race, gender or national origin--and in many cases, regardless of skills obtained on the job or by training or education. Presidents, Congress-people and other assorted leaders have had little to offer other than rhetoric. You are going to have to do a lot toward bailing your self out of this disaster.

Cooperation and association among yourselves for the purpose of identifying common problems, goals and effective techniques for drafting solutions should be a prime tactic to be vigorously pursued. After those trips to the library I have been emphasizing, there should be a comparison of notes with others who have been similarly inclined to improve their condition. Cross-referencing can be an invaluable tool; have note pads and a tape recorder handy for these meetings which ideally could lead to a regular schedule of highly productive conferences.

This commentary on the value of association and cooperation might lead you to consideration of the concept of INVESTMENT CLUBS. Several decades ago these organizations were fairly popular among groups of both

white collar and blue collar workers and civil servants who wished to substantially improve their financial circumstance. Usually numbering about a dozen persons who had a common base--same employer, neighbors, etc.--the club members would assess themselves a certain sum out of their salaries to be contributed to a common pool each month, say \$50 or a \$100.

The monies would be invested in such common stocks as met the approval of organizations like state pension funds. Most of the time this worked pretty well and, certainly, the "profits" were higher than that paid by the banks on savings accounts--which would really be the case today. However, I introduced this line of thinking for an entirely different reason. In a conversation with an Asian neighbor, I found myself listening very attentively as he described the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE OF HIS FAMILY; actually an "investment club!"

Those relatives possessing special skills or training in particular commercial endeavors were financed from a common pool of monies accumulated by family members working at every kind of occupation imaginable: laborer, clerk, cook, warehouseman, berry picker, fast foods, whatever. A "Board of Directors" set the amount to be contributed monthly, and also selected the business opportunities to be pursued. The scheme had been working well for fifteen years, even providing after school and summer jobs for the children. I visited several stores and shops of their operations and was very favorably impressed. When the banks refused to lend them money, they just increased everybody's assessment, refinanced their cars, or mortgaged their houses--whatever necessary.

Now let's put this operation in the perspective of similar groups in our

community--BUT NOT FAMILIES! Rather, organizations of mutual interest which could consist of friends, neighbors, coworkers--or even church-sponsored groups. This may indeed represent a practical form of community development, one which would incorporate several elements for success which have been lacking: structured cooperation, continuity of effort, close support and commitment. I put forth this proposition when teaching that Urban Economics Course at Portland State University, but there were no takers in the minority community--only several groups of students who worked it pretty well to their advantage.

One other avenue of finance occurs to me, for financing those large pieces of equipment necessary to expand some existing business or to secure a large ad lucrative contract. Not many trains around anymore but you may have noticed that the locomotives bear a plate bearing a "Trust Equipment Certificate Number". This means that the railroad does not own the locomotive, but leases it from a Trust Company whose business it is to buy large expensive machinery used by railroads, mines, steamship companies, etc. I considered this route on a small scale when I was in the commercial steamcleaning business in Albany Oregon many years ago. I needed telescoping platforms to clean highway signs, bridges. It is worth considering in an effort to advance economic development in the community. Those Investment Clubs could do it.

To those callers who are serious about progress, why don't you call me at 284-7080 and we can arrange to get a room near me at 1708 NE Alberta. Evenings or Saturday afternoons. The neat accommodations can handle ten or twelve people. Bring note pads or tape recorder or both.

Present Scholarships PCC And Blazers

Portland Community College Skills Center celebrates unique graduates: Trail Blazers will present scholarship awards on Friday, May 28, at 11am. The event will take place at the PCC Cascade campus, Terrell Hall, Rm. 122, 705 N. Killingsworth.

Twenty-seven students in building construction and business clerical

programs will be honored for completion.

Trail Blazers Marshall Glickman, senior vice-president of marketing, and Geoff Petrie, senior vice-president of operations, present scholarships to five students. The Blazers recently awarded the PCC Skills Center \$10,000 to help students stay in

school. Keynote speaker for the occasion will be Pat Kirk, news anchor for KPTV-12.

The PCC Skills Center programs in NE Portland aim to help the unemployed and underemployed become self-sufficient through short-term intensive training in basic and technical skills.

"Brotha's Love Your Moma"

As a baby I look at her for Love and Affection.
As a young man I look at her for Love and Affection.
Though we didn't have a male in the House-hold we did fine.
Moms worked hard and provided for me as best she could.
Good times and Bad times, my Mother has always been there for me.
For some of you younger brotha's, listen to your mother.
Her words are words of wisdom...wisdom that's established through experience and observation.
Follow her guidance, accept her advice, and know her knowledge, For it will make you a good man.
A relationship between a mother and a son is special.
Your mom will always worry and think about you.
Your well being will always concern her.
So brotha's if changes need to be made you would have to make them.
The greatest enemy is yourself my brotha's, you make a difference.
We are on this sinful Earth for a limited amount of time, some longer than others.
I am telling you, my friend, look after your mother while you still can.
If not will walk into a cemetery to visit your mom, holding back those tears and pray to God for her soul.
I will always be my mother's son.
I will always be my mother's baby.
I respect myself because I respected my mother first.
"The End"
Use your intellect and live Positive!!!
Peace My Brotha's"

By Anthony Jason Washington

African American Men's Club, Inc. Juneteenth Celebration

Dance*Dance*Dance*Dance
Texas BBQ Louisiana Fish Fry
Casual Dress
Saturday, June 19, 1993
Texas II Annex & Courtyard
1625 N.E. Alberta
6 P.M. to 2 A.M.
\$3.00
Non-Profit Organization

AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION PORTLAND UNIT

NATIONAL BENEFIT GAME

June 4, 1993
Multicultural Senior Center
5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

Unit Meeting 6:00 P.M.
Registration 6:30 P.M.
Play 7:00 P.M.

Director: Johnnie Williams SR.

The money from this benefit goes for scholarships
Parking and entrance in rear of building

Congratulations To The Class Of '93!!

More than 20,000 seniors in Oregon and Southwest Washington have reason to celebrate as they leave their high school years behind and look toward their futures. State Farm, Pepsi and KATU Channel 2, in partnership with Project Graduation, are encour-

aging these young people to celebrate soberly by financially supporting the alcohol and drug-free graduation events of 144 schools.

Through this joint effort, public or private high schools in 23 counties with a graduating class of 25 or more

students were eligible for cash donations and a "Class of '93" banner for their school-sanctioned parties. Participating schools also are being recognized on KATU in congratulatory messages which will air in June and July.