

“Doing It Right: A Fashion Show For The 90's Family”



In celebration of the 1995 Essence Awards, Essence and JCPenney presented a live review of fashions for the whole family on Saturday, June 10 at the JCPenney store at the Fox Hills Mall in Culver City, California. The show spotlighted the latest in affordable career, evening and urban clothing, sportswear, active wear, and children's fashions available at JCPenney. Fashions were presented by models from the African-American community, including children from the Los Angeles chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. organization. Throughout the show, tips on creating an Afro-centric look using accessories and jewelry available at JCPenney were offered. Special gifts from Essence and JCPenney were presented to attendees. Pictured are (from left to right): Jocelyn Brown, Midwest advertising sales director for Essence magazine, two JCPenney models, Bunny Withers president of the Los Angeles chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and Edward T. Howard, president of the Southwestern region for JCPenney.

The National Political Congress Of Women End Confab With Solutions And Salvation

The National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW) recently ended an action-packed, five-packed, five-day Biennial convention in Seattle, WA at the Red Lion Hotel. The convention wound up with spirited conversation with some of the country's most esteemed African-American female leaders and the development of a national agenda which included the organization's challenge in a ten-point plan for the 21st Century.

"I am so glad that we were able to come together in the name of sisterhood," said founder and National Chair, Dr. C. Delores Tucker.

The event, which began Thursday, July 6, included workshops, committee meetings and the C-SPAN-aired "Women's Roundtable Leadership Summit: Reclaiming Our Community". Moderated by Conference Chair, Dr. Barbara Skinner, the panel included: Yla Eason, President & CEO of Olmec Toys; singers Melba Moore and Dionne Warwick; Rev. Willie Barrow, President, Operation PUSH; Dr. Ruth Love, Professor, San Francisco State University; Dr.

Roz Y. Woodhouse, President, Seattle Metro Urban League; Rep. Dawn Mason, (D-WA.); actress/producer/director Beverly Todd; Washington, D.C.'s First Lady Cora Masters-Berry; Chicago Citizen Managing Editor Lisa Ely; National Newspaper Publishers Association President Dorothy LeVell, Washington, D.C. Shadow Senator Florence Pendleton, U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and newly inducted NAACP Chair, Myrlie Evers-Williams.

The no-for-profit organization featured subjects ranging from empowering youth for political and economic survival; the community reinvestment act; healthcare in the 21st century; affirmative action; access to the information superhighway; a youth forum; careers in the military and revitalizing our communities.

However, the convention made progress when a historic meeting between C. Delores Tucker, Mayor Omar Bradley of Compton, CA., Suge Knight, president of Death Row. NPCBW Entertainment Commission Chairs Melba Moore, Dionne Warwick and Director Von

Alexander took place Friday evening. The NPCBW has taken national lead in the fight against explicit and demeaning gangsta rap lyrics.

Tucker, Moore and Warwick have protested record stores who carry songs with explicit lyrics and more recently, Tucker took on the board of directors at Time Warner where she is a stockholder.

"I feel that the meeting was very, very productive," said Tucker, "we were able to listen to the young men's point of view and that they understood ours." Tucker informed the organization that future talks will be held.

Tucker stated that they have made several attempts to contact the rappers and the label, but have been unsuccessful. At the meeting, Death Row representatives made tentative plans for Snoop Doggy Dogg to meet with the group, however at convention last hours, no one could verify his arrival. The NPCBW Entertainment Commission said, "it is business as usual" and plans remain to take on the gangsta rap giants in the music industry.

The Entertainment Commission, which held a very informative workshop on the issue of the raunchy lyrics, stated that pressure will be applied to Capitol Records, whom they charged with "holding hostage" the recording of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," recorded by Moore and other well-known R&B Artists.

They charged that the record company did not promote the song and they are requesting return of the master copy, videos and any other material relating to the project. They also plan to announce future record companies targeted in its fight against gangsta rap or heavy metal lyrics.

The program was laden with spirited speeches by Lt. Gen. Irene Towell-Harris; St. Sen. Diane Watson (D-CA.); Dr. Betty Shabazz; the White House Assistant to the President Alexis Herman; and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders.

All reminded of the fight that Black women have made in America and that the fight must still continue.

Festival Raises Record Donations

Waterfront Blues Festival Raises A Record \$161,000 And 69,500 Pounds Of Food For Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Food Bank received a record amount of donated funds and food -- \$161,000 and 69,500 pounds of food -- at the 1995 Miller Genuine Draft Waterfront Blues Festival June 30-July 4. Last year, the festival raised \$125,000 and 45,000 pounds of food.

This year's dollar total includes \$12,000 raised by the Oregon Potters Association, whose members donated and sold hundreds of handcrafted, specially priced bowls and other ceramic dishes in a project called "Empty Bowls." People who bought bowls received vouchers for free soup at several participating restaurants. All proceeds were donated to Oregon Food Bank. Last year, the Empty Bowls

project raised \$8,500 for the food bank.

"We are grateful by the success of this community event, which had the support of thousands of people," said Rachel Bristol Little, Oregon Food Bank's executive director. "We are grateful to those who donated time, food, money and talent to the Oregon Food Bank through the Miller Genuine Draft Waterfront Blues Festival. Everyone involved -- from staff to sponsors to volunteers to festival goers -- has helped make sure that thousands of hungry families in Oregon and Clark County, Washington, will receive badly needed, nutritious food."

The donated food will be distributed to Portland-area food banks. Cash donations will enable Oregon Food Bank to acquire and distribute at least 1.3 million pounds of food.

Children's Agency Adds Families To Name

The Oregon Children's Services Division (CSD) has changed its name to the state Office for Services to Children and Families.

The newly created title became effective this month. The change was required by a bill passed by state lawmakers two years ago.

It requires the new agency to be responsible for child protective services, foster care, residential treatment and remedial services in assisting parents in caring for and protecting their children.

"This is an excellent opportunity for us to provide information to the public on the role of child protective services in local communities," said Kay Toran, administrator of the office.

Toran said the office would prepare a mission statement which focuses on protecting children.

"It is our ardent hope that Oregonians understand that we are in the business of protecting children," she said. "And this will be spelled out in the mission statement."

The office will have 1,487 em-



Kay Toran will direct newly named Office for Services to Children and Families.

ployees and a budget of \$342 million for a two year period beginning this month.

Separately, juvenile corrections has moved from the office to become a new agency called the Oregon Youth Authority.



The Big Three Summit: Three of the most important and influential African American Lawyers, Johnnie Cochran of Los Angeles, Willie Brown, candidate for Mayor of San Francisco, and John L. Burris of Oakland, met recently at a special fundraiser to discuss Afro American political empowerment.

What Should I Do For AN Encore?

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

It would be better to ask, what "shouldn't I do?" -- Since that alleged retirement a decade ago (It was called "early" in those days).

It seems universal in an active career(s) that there is never enough time to pursue all the goals that seem really, really important to one; those that would have been given priority, except that you had to earn a living. So, you know how it goes -- you accumulate all those vital notes somewhere like a 'Book of Revelations' which will lead to a 'Promised Land' of accomplishments. If ever there is time to open it!

The thing about it is, when you retrieve all these self-generated maps and directives, you find that while it is quite true that "nothing ever changes but the name of the game", the new names, vernacular, icons and idioms require a time delay while they are translated. The business game, the grant game, the urban game, the poverty game, politics and whatever have

not changed one whit. The 'play' was written some time ago, lines and costumes are updated but the plots are ancient.

Now the things I had planned to do later fall into three major categories and took their experienced based character from career objectives at particular times: Economic, Education and Science (writing always seemed like a tool or device fashioned to expedite the major thrusts). Those I find in a situation like mine seem to agree on the viability of such a format -- we meet and discuss these matters fairly often.

So it is perhaps not that odd that whether the gatherings are in the inner-city, downtown, Beaverton or Hillsboro -- and whatever the demographics or ethnicity, culture or income base -- man, is it ever difficult to be allowed to bring an experience-based reality and knowhow to either the economic or social marketplace. Scores would divert you from your goals.

Too many who have finished high school or college cannot read, write or count any better than during that period several decades ago when Catholic priests were protesting that many graduates could not perform these tasks. At Westside meetings (formal and informal) with fellow members of the "Association of Oregon Industries" we discuss these things as each strives to shape a viable structure to facilitate ongoing or "retirement" goals; some are my former students, now executives in industry or government.

With many of my contacts, associations and resources developed over a period of many years it really is not that difficult to structure workable and fundable programs within the major classes that I cited earlier: Economics (Business Enterprise), Education and Science/Math. But what you do have 'out there' are many groups of increasingly despairing people, well-meaning, but whose conduct comes off as "greed-ava-

rice-exploitation" or worse. People are frightened.

So it is that for a number of those 'deferred' projects, I have developed viable structures and have found organizations available -- some from the 'old' days who were very impressed with the level of innovation and the design of the "needs-addressed" aspects. But as indicated, today's problems, which slow expedition, center mostly around people in the sense that contemplated operating personnel often exhibit the same deficiencies as the targeted clientele.

Nevertheless, a number of us have gotten what we feel are some important projects off the ground -- without fan-fare or publicity. This is proving to be a necessary approach in a time of stiff competition for funding in both the commercial and non-profit areas. It is always good to hear from like-minded people who are 'real'... and are organized and committed; I am in the 'book'. More particulars next week.

Building Self-Esteem

Basic Skills Focus Of King Elementary Summer Program

"When you help kids build their self-esteem, their work on building basic skills comes much easier."

That philosophy, expressed by program coordinator Lauren Hopson, is the foundation of a summer program now involving some 90 youngsters at King Elementary School (4906 NE 6th). The five-week program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, also provides students with leadership skills designed to help them succeed.

Students in Grades 3-5 who were performing below grade level in school, are eager to learn and are supported in their school efforts by their parents were identified by their teachers to participate in the summer session.

Each 15-student classroom is supervised by a teacher and educational assistant, with a student helper and adult volunteer who are King alumni. Student helpers, funded by the Private Industry Council, are members

of King's second "I Have A Dream" program class, according to Hopson.

Student in the program receive breakfast and lunch each day, as well as incentives donated by area businesses. Highlighting the program are Thursday awards ceremonies, Friday field trips and a picnic on the last day for students, parents, staff and program supporters.

The King program, which runs through July 28, receives some \$33,000 in grant funding

from local organizations including the Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation's Clayton Strain Fund and Edna Holmes Trust Fund, Black United Fund, Portland General Electric, PP&L, Campbell Group and First Interstate Bank.

For More Information, please contact Lauren Hopson at King, 280-6456 or Lew Frederick, director of Public Information and Communication, Portland Public Schools, 331-3304.



Checking Made Simple.

At West One Bank, we make checking accounts easy. We give you a wide variety of accounts from which to choose, all with access to Automatic Teller Machines. Come in and talk to us.

WEST ONE BANK

Member FDIC