

Good Credit Builds Future

Credit, computerized transactions, and other movements towards advanced financial technologies are not as exotic as they once were. As the young adults of this nation begin to inevitably make their mark in our country's economic system, they must awaken to a keen sense of financial consciousness that will be in their best interest as well as the country's. Good credit is becoming more and more important in recent days and we'll tell you why.

Economic experts are generally predicting credit cards and transaction technologies eventually eliminating the need for carrying around cash. People are depending on credit, and credit alone, in doing their everyday financial transactions. Gone are the days when lugging a wallet, ripping at their unauthentic leather seams, was fashionable. Today, it's the shiny plastic with the raised gold-letting that gets the attention. It's modern, it's convenient, and the rapid expansion of this concept spells out the tone of the technological future and the upcoming generation must be prepared for it and not lost in the whirlwind of it with a tarnished credit history.

Credit allows us to fully employ our resources and puts property to



BY
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use that would otherwise lie idle and abandoned. It gives possibility and potential to things normally unattainable to the average person. This also occurs on a grand scale of nations. Africa, Asia, and South America by various institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. However, borrowing money and credit to finance overambitious development plans was also fundamental factor in leaving a large number of nations with a burden of a heavy debt. In many cases, these debts would become insupportable when interest rates went up and many country's commodity export prices took sharp declines. Thus, the economies suf-

fered. Likewise, we must know our limits.

The banking population and their methods of controlling plays a significant role in the credit system, hereby controlling the economic destiny of not only our nations, but the world. A fluctuation in credit affects the level of prices. Where credit may expand, money supply will increase, lending cause for risen prices. The state of personal and business activity within a country can any given moment be gauged from the condition of the credit system, where expanding credit reflects a period of business prosperity and contracting credit reflects a decline in economic activity, otherwise known as "depression". Some economists believe the credit inflation just before the 1929 crisis was the principal cause of the Depression itself.

There are many companies that are willing to give debtors a second (or tenth) chance. American Fair Credit Association issues ninety-eight percent of their members unsecured VISA card from BANKFIRST. However, you must gain AFCA membership status, be employed for the last three months at nine-hundred dollars per month, and have had no "derogatory credit" in the last six months.

Education In The Next Millennium: Part II

By PROF. MCKINLEY LURT

"Ask The Man Who Owns One"; that was a key phrase in the early advertising campaigns of the Buick Company. And last week we highlighted a key executive from a local "computer land" who was using just this approach in developing his "Human Resource Department" -- bringing in performance-tested professionals with supporting data bases. He was a veteran of several community colleges.

The selection of this particular baby-boomer is an example of the interactive nature of the innovative profile I was bringing to education as early as 1971 (He was a student of mine at PSU) -- and of where educators and industry must be today and tomorrow, just to survive into the coming new century. At the time, the firms and public agencies in the Tri-County area with whom I structured both academic and placement forums read like a "Whos Who" of Oregon industry and prime movers.

Our Beaverton executive, while still in my Urban Economics class on campus, also "monitored" several of the U.S. Forest Service workshops that I conducted around the Northwest Region for agency personnel and supervisory people. These "university-accredited" sessions achieved very favorable recognition for their dual success in both the social and

economic areas. Indeed, my stated design and the description in the school catalogue addressed governmental and industry concern with compliance with civil rights and affirmative action laws -- and being unique in the Oregon system, brought increased enrollment in the "on-campus" versions (State-County-city).

The net result was an exponential increase in the interaction between diverse social and economic groups and, automatically, a process was developing where there was an expanded recognition of both worth and capabilities. Also a prospective workforce was provided first-hand direction to opportunities and relevant strategies for career development and the improvement of current economic status. There was seldom need for any heavy-handed directives, "you will hire or else!"

In the Sunday Oregonian for January 7 (Business Section), there is a lead article by staff writer, Richard Read; "Learning To Compete: A tripartite approach involving government, schools and business prepares Europe's workforces." Obviously, the writer got my very focused attention with the following quite relevant comments.

"While Europe hammers its training systems into competitive economic weapons, the U.S. still lacks a systematic mechanism for moving

young people into the work force....

In the U.S., half of all high school graduates have not found a steady job by age 30, the American Federation of Teachers found in a recent study." Previously, I have commented on the growing number of high school dropouts; what miserable prognosis must there be for them? There doesn't have to be.

While I am aware that many Americans are enamored of the European emphasis on vocational training (In Germany a teacher may determine whether a 9-year-old will proceed vocationally or toward a university education. Possessed of a fundamental conviction that, indeed, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," and very early on a high school dropout, I never imposed such restrictions on my own career development, nor permitted any outside force or institution to do so.

As we continue this report next week, we will examine experience-based procedures that can develop this into a general rule for success. "Read, Work And Do!" Accounting, Auto Finance Company, successful transfer from payroll department to electronic technology servicing in the huge self-contained city of a major aluminum plant, Designing award-winning computer/communication projects three decades ago. You and/or your kids can too -- if not brain-washed!

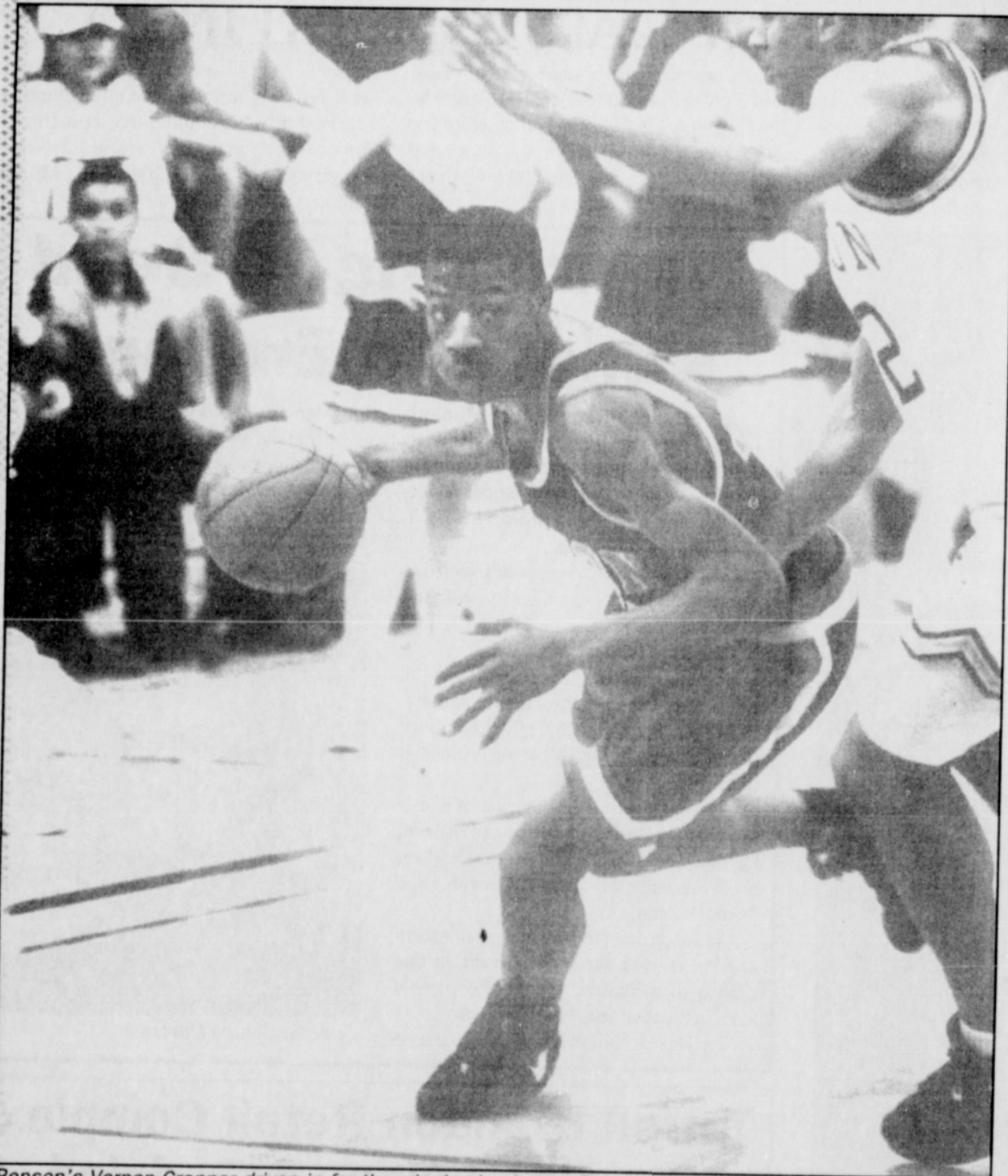
COALITION OF BLACK MEN SPONSOR HOUSING SESSION AT DISHMAN

A Homeownership Opportunity Forum will be held Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Matt Dishman Community

Center, 77 NE Knott - Room B. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP to 282-7744.

The session is sponsored by: Coalition of Black Men, Portland Housing Center, and Partners or Project Downpayment

SPORTS



Benson's Vernon Cropper drives in for the winning basket as Benson defeated Wilson, 71-70, in a pivotal game last week in the Portland Interscholastic League. (Photo By Michael G. Halle)

GRAND OPENING: NIKETOWN FIELD HOUSE

The official grand opening of NIKE's first new, top-of-the-line sports and fitness retail store since 1993 is set for Friday, January 19, 1996, during the Blazers-Suns basketball game in Portland, Oregon at the new Rose Garden arena. It will be the home-grown Oregon sports and fitness company's fourth store currently open in Portland.

The NIKETOWN Field House is a new venture for NIKE, its first-ever retail store inside a major United States sports arena. The store is designed after a

real field house that might be located near a court, rink or field -- before the days of the great arenas - where visitors might find memorabilia from past teams and locker, ball and towel rooms. The 2,000 square-foot store will spotlight apparel in NIKE's basketball, women's Total Conditioning, Organized Team Sports collections, as well as selections of some of NIKE's top men's, women's and children's athletic footwear. As part of the opening events, on Wednesday, January 17, from 6-8 p.m., NIKE will host a special preview reception

at the store for northeast Portland business and community leaders.

On Friday, grand opening day, the NIKETOWN Field House will be open from 11 a.m. - 12 midnight. At 5 p.m. Friday, before the Blazers-Suns game begins, the NIKE Hammer will be outside the store, and the public is invited to shoot a basket to try and win tickets to the upcoming Blazers-Cavaliers game on January 21. After the game, Portland Trail Blazers Buck Williams, Chris Dudley and Gary Trent are scheduled to drop by and tour the store and greet shoppers.

Cowboys, Steelers Set For Super Bowl

Pittsburgh Will Try To End NFC Domination; Dallas Enters Big Game For Third Time In Four Years

An AFC team that has never lost a Super Bowl will try to end the NFC's recent domination when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Dallas Cowboys meet on Jan. 28th at Tempe, Ariz.

The Steelers, winners of four Super Bowls in the 1970s, are back in the National Football League's ultimate game for the first time in 16 years. Their opponent is the team of the 90s, a Cowboys team that is in the Super Bowl for the third time in four years.

The NFC has won the last 11 Super Bowls, with the Los Angeles Raiders the last AFC team to win in 1984. Two of the NFC wins were by the Cowboys, who defeated Buffalo each time.

Super Bowls have a reputation for lopsided scores. Twenty-one of the previous 29 Super Bowls have been decided by 10 points or more. But two of the best games involved the Cowboys and Steelers. The Steelers defeated

the Cowboys, 35-31, in Super Bowl 13 and 21-17 in Super Bowl 10.

It will mark the first three-time meeting in Super Bowl history.

The only other rematches in Super Bowl history were Miami against Washington, Buffalo versus Dallas and Cincinnati against San Francisco.

The Cowboys will make their record eighth Super Bowl appearance. They are 4-3 in their previous appearances. No other team has made more than five trips to the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys defeated the Green Bay Packers, 38-27, in the National Conference title game Sunday after the Steelers edged the Indianapolis Colts, 20-16, in the American Conference championship game.

The Cowboys used three touchdown runs by Emmitt Smith and two scoring passes by Troy

Aikman to defeat the Packers. Ernie Mills to the Colts' one with 1:51 remaining, setting up the winning score by Bam Morris.

The key matchup at Sun Devil Stadium will have Smith and the NFL's second-ranked rushing offense going against a Steeler team that led the league in rushing defense.

The Cowboys and Steelers have not met since the opening game of the 1994 season. Smith rushed for 171 yards as the Cowboys coasted to a 26-9 win in their first game under new head coach Barry Switzer. The all-time series between the teams is tied, 13-13.

Switzer can join predecessor Jimmy Johnson as the only coaches to win a Super Bowl and a college national championship. Switzer led the University of Oklahoma to three national titles.

One Las Vegas oddsmaker has installed the Cowboys as 12 and a half point favorites.

SET Grants Available

Self Enhancement, Inc. has a limited amount of funds available for projects involving African American youth between the ages of 14-17, within Multnomah County. Youth eligible for services through these funds should be medium-risk youth; not involved with the juvenile justice system or CSD. Projects should be one time events or activities or a series of distinct activities. Individuals, groups, social clubs, and other organizations are eligible for funding. Grants will range from \$200-\$2,000. Deadline for applications are February 1, 1996; April 1, 1996. For an application or further information, please contact Self Enhancement, Inc., 1730 N. Flint Avenue, Portland, OR 97227, (503) 249-1721.