

Family Living

Thanks For Holding, How May We Help You!

By Prof. McKinley Burt
And thanks for going along with our little attempt at humor in the title of last week's article. We know how trying these days are as media announces, "Schools take their crucial head count of students."

Are you going to request a "crucial head count" of parents and guardians -- that is those who have the energy, commitment and 'time' to make a significant difference in the educational progress of their children? Given, of course, that most 'Humboldt-type' situations will be corrected in a reasonable time.

We may evaluate and reach conclusions about the many parents and grandparents whom we know - but how dangerous indeed has it proven in the past when one tries to extrapolate that kind of information to the general population of an entire community? Or to teachers?

And after 'holding' for so long, are you going to demand full and comprehensive answers in respect to funding, class loads and administrative structuring, including the time table for replacing the superintendent? Remember the "Pied Piper of Hamein!"

A reader has called to make my

view of teachers unions' seem relatively wishy washy. A former teacher herself, she says, "I have been trying to tell my children for years - one a teacher, and all three parents - you're looking at the most sophisticated and refined economic machine and political organization you will ever encounter. The National Education Association."

"Not that it isn't a good 'union', I went on to tell them, it is perhaps the best in the nation. (The Teamsters could learn a lot from them). They do best what they were designed and incorporated to do - they are primarily concerned with the wages, hours and working conditions of the membership: Of course this basic commitment is not shrouded in such colloquial terms. Some say they get arcane at times."

The reader emphasized that inclusion of the world "education" in the title of the union assures a high level of respect from the populace at large and for most, completely obscures that fact that the organization, purely and simply, is a labor union. And certainly, the average layperson and parent thinks the principal activity and resources quite naturally would be directed to achieving educational goals in the academic sense.

Our reader says she finds many

parents under the assumption that the education associations - NEA and OEA (Oregon) - are directly involved in the testing, Training and certification of teachers. And that membership indicates a recognized and accepted degree of ability and competence in the teaching profession ("why else would the organization admit them?," the layperson asks. Isn't it like the Medical Association?")

Of course it would be nice if you could sit down and patiently take a person through a teacher-training classic like the "Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Goal, Handbook I. Cognitive Domains. Here you have the 'nuts and bolts' of the teaching/learning process. Thanks for holding.

And then be able to take the same person through the national and state monthly publications of the education associations. Not only the basics, wages, hours and working conditions - but the big time stuff, credit unions, travel agencies and tours, the tie-ins with major insurance companies, investment firms, auto rentals, publishing houses, mutual funds, just for openers. It's a huge multi-million dollar industry. We want our teachers comfortable and secure - and our students?



The best of family and friends - Carol Freeman, Talunaka Washington, Janice Hudson, Robin Horsley, Rita Herbert, Darlene Horsley, Cynthia Washington, and Audrey Washington celebrate Talunaka's 21st birthday.

Third Math Summit for Teachers, Administrators

More than 400 Oregon teachers and administrators attended the third state Mathematics Summit Thursday, October 2 at Oregon State University in Corvallis to learn how to help students achieve the new high math standards.

Attending in teams from schools across the state, educators learned from outstanding Oregon teachers and others how to help students meet the new high standards.

Beginning with this year's ninth

grade class, students must pass the 10th grade state math test to receive a Certificate of Initial Mastery. The 1997 test showed that only 30 percent of last year's tenth graders passed the test.

Dr. Roger Penrose, Oxford University math professor and world-renowned mathematician, cosmologist, philosopher and author, spoke at the opening session in the LaSells Stewart Center at 9 a.m. Penrose also spoke at 7:30 p.m. at the same location on "The Large, the Small and the Human Mind."

Other speakers included Dr. Ralph Abraham, University of California at Santa Cruz math professor, author and leading chaos theorist; Ivars Peterson, Science News math and physics editor and book author, and Keith Devlin, math and science dean at St. Mary's College of California and columnist and author.

OSU President Paul Risser gave a welcome at the opening session, and State Schools Supt. Norma Paulus spoke at a noon luncheon at the CH2M Alumni Center.

Reflections Book Club!

The Soul Of An Addict

By Savon Lindsay
 Reviewed By O.B. Hill

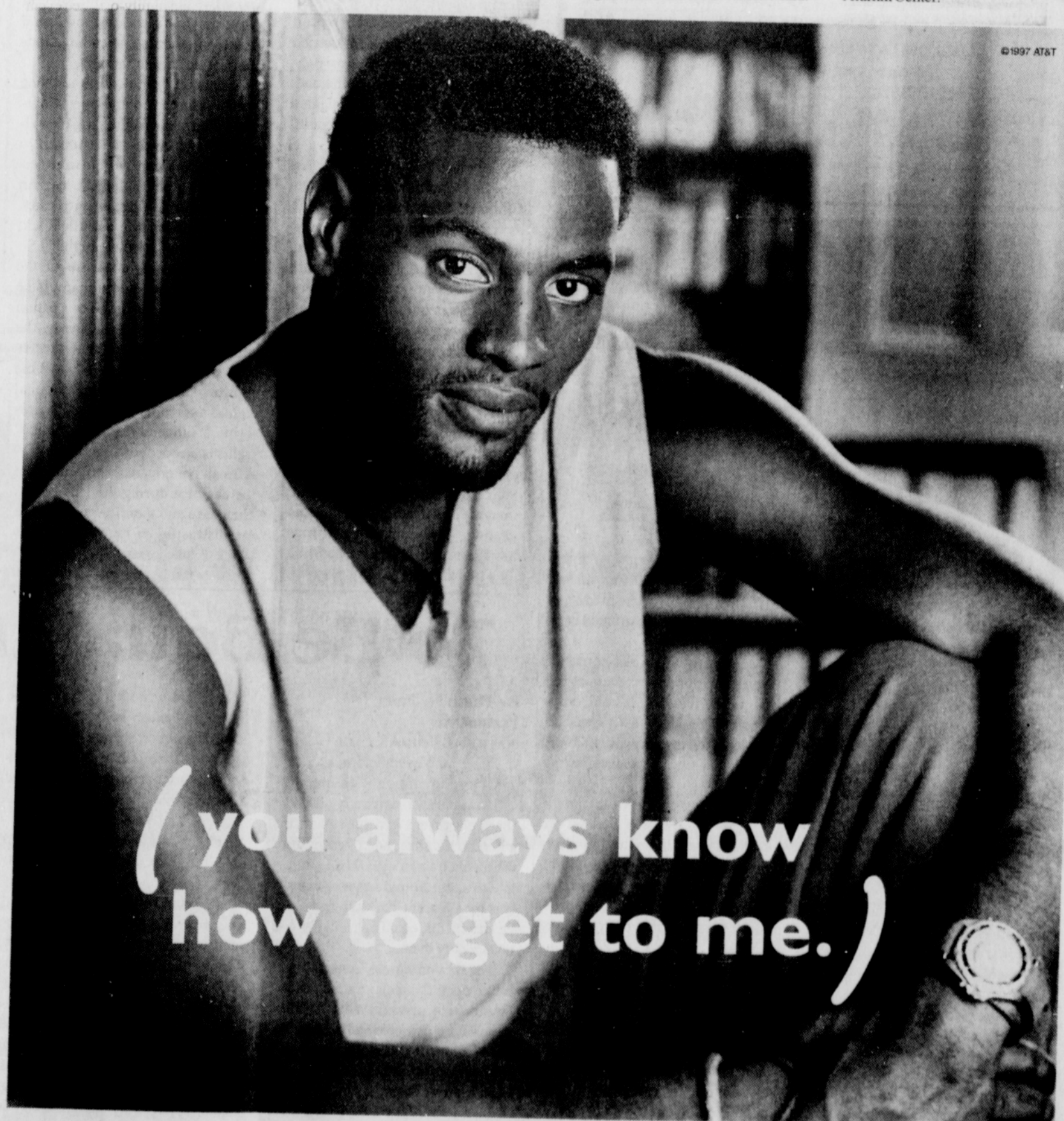


Not long after Reflections started hosting our monthly open mike poetry readings, it became apparent that one of our poet's message needed a larger audience. Not only were the poems entertaining and recited in a style reminiscent to a down home blues song, but these gut-wrenching sermons caterwauled from within letting all listeners know that these words were not of mere fiction, but of real life.

The poems are now comprised in a book entitled, The Soul Of An Addict. This self-published book represents a major accomplishment, if not, a miracle of sorts. It can be read very quickly; however, with lingering results.

Dealing with a struggle faced by many, The Soul Of An Addict gives a clear-cut understanding of a confused situation, i.e., facing the sober reality of drug addiction. Attempting to beat the odds through recovery, Savon Lindsay lets us know the heartaches and the pain of battling with this insidious foe.

Savon, a somewhat soft-spoken man, shouts out his message loud and clear. Inner peace is fragile. The heartless among men are rendered hopeless sin the heartless among men are rendered hopeless in the foggy reality induced by drugs. According to Lindsay you become, "a prisoner of your own mind...being so blind; until it was time...until it was time..." The Soul Of An Addict is a very timely book. It's about time and the time is now.



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