

Former NAACP leader urges non-profit groups to "Build bridges"



Myrlie Evers-Williams (right) chatted with Oregon State Sen. Avel Gordly during The Spring Symposium of Portland State University's Institute for Non-profit Management. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Evers-Williams said, "Be open minded enough to bring in experts who are not members of your groups. Their wisdom is priceless."

"Learn to also cut out the negative in your organizations."

"As volunteers we are special, giving of our time, our energy and our money," she said, "but all of us are fighters with strong feeling about what we do and how things should be done."

"The public sees us as saints, because we help save and nurture people in communities through the tough times."

"Let's be sure this deep feeling about our purpose in life makes this the best place in the world to live and pass that feeling to the next generation of volunteers."

"As we build bridges, one may be very strong and another

may be just a wobbly footbridge that feels unsafe to cross," said Ever-Williams. "But they are bridges of understanding, compassion, a linkage that ties Americans together and sets an example for the rest of the world."

Pointing to a strong economy where the jobless rate is down, she noted that although the African American community is benefiting there is still an earnings gap between racial groups.

"We still need to nurture the soul and spirit, as well as make sure some people are no longer hungry."

She told of her son's return from a trip to India, his description of abject poverty and suffering, and his awareness that "some of us criticize America, but even at its worst we are blessed."

"Most of us have moved away from the idea that everything is owed to us," she said, "and now we em-

brace the idea of what do we owe our society."

The two-day event at the Portland Convention Center also included talks by former Sen. Mark O. Hatfield and Sharon Kitzhaber, wife of the Oregon governor.

Several smaller group discussions were held to explore topics about funding sources and strategies, working with government and higher education, organizational change, building mediation and conflict resolution skills and developing prospects into major donors.

They also reviewed crisis management, leadership in communities of color, volunteerism in a time of non-joining, and philanthropy for the next millennium, lessons from Third World nonprofit organizations and how nonprofits respond to welfare reform.

Is There A Doctor In The House, If Not, Why Not? III

BY MCKINLEY BURT

Once again we see that there are a number of copies of a "Portland Observer" article series that will be posted on school bulletin boards and on the walls of some youths homes. What an excellent feedback, and speaking of diversity, comments and questions seemed almost equally divided between blacks and whites-student and teacher (I'm in the phone book: my "last" name is Burt).

That pause in the series worked out pretty well-to allow time to sort out and evaluate the many queries and suggestions generated by the first article (April 29). It dealt mainly with "Programs to encourage Minority Students To Seek Health Careers" and I cited two such major programs I had either brought to Portland (federal), or had designed and implemented at a local medical center (Providence).

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Several persons active in the medical field quickly realized the full scope and impact of my programs; "an important model and this should be an incentive for others to get busy. We are absolutely amazed at this initiative by a non-medical person when a need was perceived. We will be in touch." Do that, because I have developed some new and innovative designs and could use profession advice and help. The other two developed over a quarter million resources.

In the interim, there is much we all can do simply by networking

and using our good offices to connect people with opportunity. I cite as an example the fact that I learned the daughter of a teacher at the Black Education Center had suffered a terrible head injury in an automobile accident. This is a school where I have been a resource person off and on for 25 years, so I rushed right over.

It turned out that I was quite late in hearing of this accident-already the young woman had been successfully operated upon by a very talented African American neurosurgeon associated with Emanuel Hospital. A brilliant reconstruction and the patient looked (and acted) as though nothing had happened. Our Dr. Reuben P. Morriss had again demonstrated why he's rated at the top of his specialty.

Now, for the connection. A month later at a meeting of "Portland's Building of African American History" group. A member had brought along a young Jefferson High School student who was described as a brilliant Junior and interested in medicine-wished to become a "neurosurgeon." My first conversation with this young lady, "Alisha Moreland," assured me that with her intelligence and drive she would be 'all she could be.' You're probably ahead of me here.

I immediately contacted Dr. Morriss and assured him that I had met just the young person for whom he would be the perfect mentor and counsel. I re-introduced them and they off to a very successful mentorship. If the name "Alisha Moreland" sounds familiar it is probably due to media coverage of her selection as Rose Festival Queen at Jefferson High School. Super qualifications as brilliant in scholastics and a top competitor in three sports. Let's network with our youths. It works.

Several readers commented that in last week's article (p.A-2), a Hittite rulers was 3000 years too

early in his extraordinary request of the African medical fraternity: "...a comical exchange of letters occurs when Pharaoh Rameses II tries to diplomatically explain that he cannot furnish a drug which will enable a 60 year old woman to conceive." I quoted from, "The Physicians of Pharonic Egypt," Paul Chalioungui, The Al-Ahram Center for Scientific Translations, Cairo, Egypt, 1983.

And others were equally amazed to learn the "caduceus," the universal medical sign that precedes all our prescriptions is not Greek at all, but is found as early on as 7000 years ago in Ethiopia, Nubia and Punt, right across the Red Sea in what we now call Arabia (by archaeologist), see "Magic, Myth and Medicine" D.T. Atkinson, M.D. Premier Books, NY 1958.

The following material is excellent for youth interested in the medical sciences-or for inclining them in that direction:

*"Gifted Hands": The Ben Carson Story," by Ben Carson, Zondervan Publishing House, (Harper Collins) 1990. This is the inspiring story of the young black man from the inner-city who at age 33 became one of the top neurosurgeons in the world (John Hopkins).

*"MD: The Making of A Doctor," NOVA Adventures in Science videotape (Station WGBH, 1-800-255-9424) A very good introduction to the rigor and dedication required.

*"Biology: The Network of Life," Mix, Farber and King, Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. The best biology book of its type I have seen, this comprehensive, 800 page volume, 8 1/2 X 11 is divided into 4 major sections, Unit I: The Sphere of Life, Unit II: The Language of Life, Unit III: The Evolution of Life, and Unit IV: The Systems of Life; provides an excellent resource, high school or college.

Conclusion of series.

Jack & Jill went up the hill & played near poles and wires. A line was down & Jack soon found if touched he would EXPIRE.

Kites and balloons should be flown in open areas away from lines



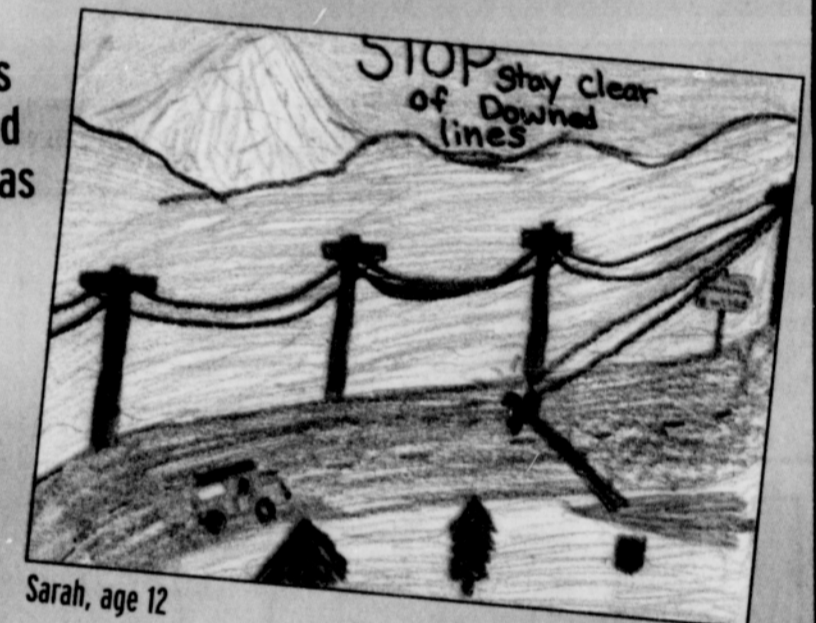
Melissa, age 11

Keep clear of trees or structures close to power lines



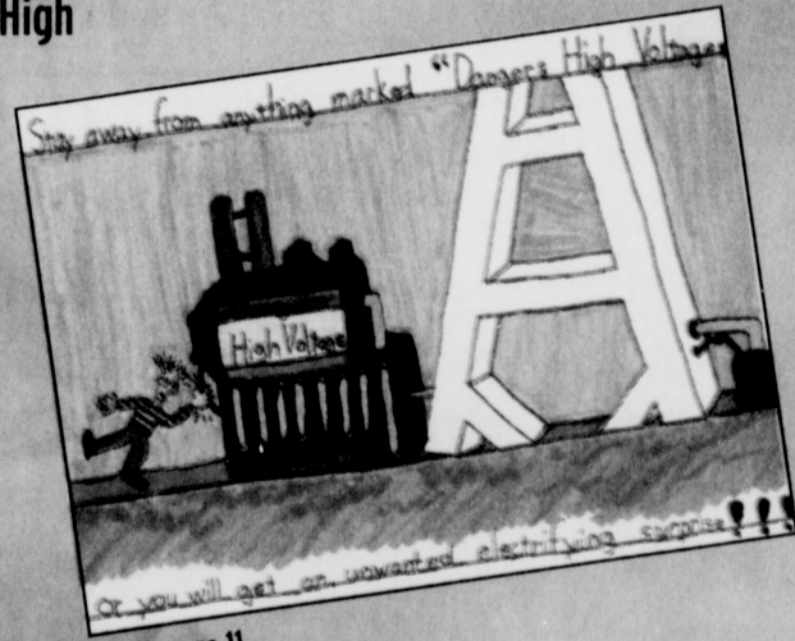
Mahala, age 7

Treat all lines on the ground or overhead as energized



Sarah, age 12

Stay away from substations or anything marked Danger: High Voltage



Dustin, age 11

Outdoor electric safety is important to all of us — especially this time of year when we're outside more. With the help of some of last year's winners in Pacific Power's Electric Safety Contest, we want to make you aware of some of the potentially hazardous situations you and your kids can get into while working or playing outdoors.



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