

Black History Month 1999

The Sacred Wisdom of Africa



See Black History Month

Extend Your Love With A Card From Athena Hampton

This local artist has expanded her line of multi-cultural Valentine's day cards for kid's.



See Metro, Section B.

ONE WAY CHOSEN!
POPEYE'S
CHILDREN'S RESTAURANT
See Popeye's Coupon Inside!

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT NO.
1610

The Portland Observer

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Hussein Dies

Hussein bin Talal, ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom who was admired as a peacemaker died at the age of 63 from cancer. It was a day of grief throughout Jordan and mourners offering their condolences from around the world. Hussein's son, Jordan was crowned to reign as King Abdullah bin Hussein, the fourth leader of this small desert kingdom.

Lewinsky Video Hearing

In a videotaped showing, Monica Lewinsky testified before the Senate about her extramarital affair with President Clinton during the impeachment trial proceedings. There were no new details in her testimony or fresh arguments used against her by the House prosecutors.

AIDS Therapy

The HIV virus has been shown to cause resistance to many marketed drugs. Two new methods were developed to improve therapy for people who have drug-resistant strains of the AIDS virus. One new method involves pinpointing genetic mutations in H.I.V. The second method determines the degree of susceptibility or resistance of H.I.V. when it is grown in a test tube after the addition of selected drugs. With the findings from the tests, doctors can focus on changing the resistant drug for the patient.

Welfare Money

A number of states declined to draw billions in federal Welfare Money. An unused balance of \$3 billion out of \$12 billion was made available in the first nine months of last year. The number of people on welfare has dropped, making it difficult for states to use all the federal money they were entitled to. Some states plan to save the money for times of economic recession.

NASA Shuttle Flights

NASA had to reschedule and reduce its flights for the year because of a faulty Chandra X-ray telescope and Russia's inability to get a crucial piece of the international space station into orbit. Instead of a preferred eight shuttle flights per year, there will only be five. The next shuttle launching by the Columbia will be on July 9.

Jail For Tyson

Mike Tyson, former heavyweight fighter will be facing a one year sentence for assaulting two men after a minor traffic accident last August 31. Judge Stephen P. Johnson ordered Tyson to be jailed in Indiana where Tyson is still on probation for a past rape conviction.

Professor McKinley Burt: A Tribute To An Extraordinary Man

**Memorial Service:
Friday, February
12, 1999, 1 PM
Bethel AME Church
(NE 8th Ave and
Jarrett)**

By CATHY GALBRAITH

Professor McKinley Burt Jr., our dearly beloved friend—long time *Observer* columnist, author, educator, historian and intellectual giant—passed from his earthly life early Saturday, February 6, 1999. He had waged a long battle against emphysema in recent years, and passed peacefully and comfortably at Providence Hospital.

Professor Burt was born on May 24, 1922 to parents McKinley Burt (a chauffeur) and Nadine Scott Burt (a teacher) in St. Louis, MO. His parents divorced several years later, and Professor Burt was raised by his mother, his maternal grandfather and his two maiden aunts in the family home where he was known as "junior." He often cited the experiences of growing up under the considerable influence of his grandfather, who was a well-educated Spanish American War veteran and owner of substantial property. Grandfather Scott passed on when the Professor was an adolescent and his mother passed when he was a teenager. At that time, McKinley set out on his life path, working in a variety of jobs, such as gandy dancer, postal clerk and pipe welder.

Gradually heading west, Professor Burt went to work in the Vancouver Shipyards in 1943, living at Hudson House where he met Tuskegee's Dr. Lafayette Fredrick (father of Lew Frederick) and Mrs. Bobbie Gary. In 1947, McKinley became Oregon's first licensed African American Public Accountant; he opened his office in space rented from Bill McClendon at 2017 N. Williams, where McClendon published the *People's Observer* Newspaper. As a tax accountant, the Professor developed a reputation with the IRS for error-free tax returns for his



Professor McKinley Burt

Photo: Courtesy of Richard Brown

clients, who included many African American owned businesses. During this time, McKinley furthered his education at the Northwest School of Law.

In 1954, the Professor relocated to Los Angeles where he worked as a tax accountant for nearly ten years. He attended classes at Los Angeles City College. In 1964, he moved back to Oregon, following the end of a nine year marriage. He lived in The Dalles where he worked as an accountant and then in the Electrical Engineering Department, both for Harvey Aluminum Company. He returned to Portland and worked as Chief Accountant in 1969-70 for the Albina Corporation, at that time the largest minority-owned and operated manufacturing plant in

the United States. He established McKinley Burt and Associates, through which he contracted with school districts to provide computer-assisted instruction and services. Other clients for these and a variety of visionary programs included Model Cities, the US Forest Service, and OMSI.

In 1969, he published the ground breaking *Black Inventors of America* (reprinted in 1989) and he is widely known as the founder of the Black Inventors movement that continues to grow. In 1971, he began teaching at Portland State University, where he was professor in the Urban Studies and Black Studies programs. He impacted the lives of an entire generation of students who attended his business and other classes. He

left PSU in 1983 and continued consulting work for Portland Public Schools and other organizations and agencies. He was featured in the OPB video *Local Color* in 1986.

In 1987, he became a feature writer for the *Portland Observer*. Through his *Perspectives* and other columns, he presented his views on issues of the day, communicating to *Observer* readers each week, up to the present. He drew from his childhood upbringing, neighborhood life in St. Louis, his professional and personal experiences in Portland and elsewhere, and above all, from his unmatched intellect—to give a perspective that was uniquely "the Professor's."

CONTINUED TO PAGE A2

Community Group Challenges Tri Met To Invest In Youth

Sisters in Portland Impacting Real Issues Together (SPIRIT) held a community meeting to offer Tri Met a challenge to strengthen its efforts at keeping the region's environment healthy by adopting a program designed to invest in youth as transit riders for the long haul. The community meeting was held February 2, 1999, at 6:00 pm at Lutheran Inner city Ministries 4219 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. Invited guests include Fred Hansen, Tri Met General Manager and Bob Williams, Tri Met Board Member. Other presenters include Kevia Jeffrey

from the Environmental Justice Action Group, Ross Williams from Citizens of Sensible Transportation. Tri Met has initiated some impressive projects to increase ridership as well as deal with growing concerns around congestion and the environment. Two such projects include the Fareless Square, 600 blocks downtown in which passengers can ride for free, and the Passport Program, partnership between Tri Met and business that enable the employees of those businesses to receive a free yearly transit pass.

SPIRIT is proposing that Tri Met cre-

ates a similar "passport" program for youth who use public transit to get to and from school called Y (youth) 2K and Beyond. This program would eliminate fare requirements for students during school hours and allow students to use school photo ID to travel to and from school. Members of SPIRIT and other community leaders argue a program like this would promote a mass transit culture, and support environmental responsibility. Y2K and Beyond not only increases

"Youth are the most transit-dependent and the most limited in income...getting to and from school is a great concern."

ridership it heightens the potential of setting patterns and a new culture of transit travel. Youth are current and future riders. "If Kids like me use the bus now to get to school, we are more likely to use it later as adults to get to work" comments of Terenie Faison, is developing a transit culture in youth is an investment in the ridership of a community tomorrow.

The Mayor's office just published a report on Fareless Transit in the Portland Metropolitan Region. The finding of the report showed that making transit passes more assessable for young people is a logical and sensible step in the promotion of public transit and a first step in a fareless transit system. "Youth are the most transit-dependent and



Fred Hansen, General Manager of Tri-Met.

(Photo by M. Washington)

the most limited in income...getting to and from school is a great concern.

While youth are a logical constituency to target in the expansion of ridership and the promotion of a mass transit culture, there are barriers. 15,000 kids use public transit to get

to and from school. However, a key issue for many parents and students is the cost of getting to school. In addition last September youth fares increased. A monthly pass now costs \$29.

CONTINUED TO PAGE A2