



Metro/Religion

Former Cleo's Manager, Local Entrepreneur Dies

Home Going Celebration of Louis Browning

Services of remembrance for Louis Browning, 81, who died April 7, 2001, will be held Friday, April 13 at 1 p.m. at First A.M.E. Zion Church, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave. with Rev. Z. James Purifoy, officiating.

Mr. Browning was born Oct. 4, 1919 in Arkadelphia, Ark. He was the eldest child of seven children from the union of William and Sarah Browning.

Mr. Browning worked to help his father support the family while receiving his basic education in Arkansas and participated in the civilian conservation corps.

He migrated to Portland, Ore. during World War II. He settled

in Vanport and found work at the shipyards. Later he worked for Union Pacific Railroad where he remained for several years. He married the former Hatshepsut (Hattie Mae) Childs in 1945 of which four children were born from this union. Hard working and always wanting a better life for his family, Mr. Browning attended trade school where he became a certified electrician. In 1959, he and his wife opened Reliable Radio & T.V. on North Williams and Monroe.

A dedicated entrepreneur, Mr. Browning was best known as the former Chief Executive Officer of Cleo-Lilliann Social



Louis Browning

Club, Inc. "Cleo's". He managed Cleo's from 1974 to 1996. The patrons of the club affectionately knew him as "Mr. Browning". He was not just a

mentor but a father to many. He was famous for his blues style of singing happy birthday to the numerous patrons who celebrated their birthdays at Cleo's.

Mr. Browning was always a contributing member of the community. In recent years realizing the lack of housing, Mr. Browning made available land to develop affordable housing by selling lots below market rate. His civic efforts also included financial contributions to local organizations such as the Little League Clubs, Black Women's Gathering, Albina Ministerial Alliance, NAACP, Urban League of Portland, the Oregon State Police Officers Association and Oregon Lung Association. The Cleo's Board of Di-

rectors, staff and the thousands of members and guests who knew him, will celebrate his positive contributions to his community and miss him deeply.

Mr. Browning has affectionately joined his wife Hattie (who preceded him in death) and is survived by his brother, Frank Browning of Dallas, Texas, Virginia Gator of Dallas; daughter DeMetrias Browning, sons Robert Louis, Lynn Edward, and Xavier Lloyd; granddaughter, Ukana; grandsons, Dameion and Robert Eric; great grandchildren, Shaqulia, Gregory, Jahmani, Vanesia, and Bianca all of Portland; and Jamal of Philadelphia; and a host of cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

The Browning family wishes

to acknowledge the love that friends and relatives have shared over the years and especially now at this difficult time. The flowers, cards, and prayers have comforted and strengthened us. A family dinner will be served at First A.M.E. Zion Church after the committal service. There also will be a reception for members and guests of Cleo's at the club at 6 p.m.

Contributions to the Louis Browning Memorial Fund can be sent care of Robert L. Browning, personal representative, P.O. Box 6654, Portland, OR 97228

Arrangements are under the direction of Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel, 2736 N.E. Rodney Ave., Portland, OR 97212.

Dalai Lama Will Honor Oregon Environmental Activist

(AP) — Lloyd Marbet, an environmental activist and former secretary of state candidate, will be honored by the Dalai Lama next month following the spiritual leader's three-day visit to Portland. Marbet will be among 50 people designated as "unsung heroes of compassion" by the Dalai Lama during a May 16 ceremony in San Jose, Calif.

The Dalai Lama is a Buddhist spiritual leader from Tibet who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

"This caught me totally by surprise," said Marbet, who learned of the honor in January.

Marbet, 53, said he was nominated for the award by Jeb Barton, a friend who makes tepees in Bend.

A nonprofit San Francisco foundation, Wisdom in Action, chose the final honorees.

Marbet is program manager for the Oregon Conservancy Foundation, a nonprofit environmental group. He is affiliated with numerous other environmental groups, as a board member or volunteer.

Ralph Nader, the former Green Party presidential nominee, has called Marbet "a towering public citizen who makes democracy work in Oregon. 'I told them I thought there were a lot of other people in the world more deserving than me,'" Marbet said. "But it's an honor, and I finally decided it would be kind of nice to meet the Dalai Lama."

Bold Designs of the Millennium

Tickets are still available for the 43rd annual Ebony Fashion Fair to be held at the Portland Marriott in downtown on Friday, April 20, 8 p.m.

This year, there will be fresh new styles and a few controversial silhouettes so bold, so shocking and so unique that you'll definitely experience a... Fashion Sen-

sation. The show, a local charity benefit for Links, Inc., is characterized by its glamour, elegance and beauty. It has all the energy of a Broadway show plus the flare of the world's most creative clothing designs to make this an event that must be experienced!

For more information, call 503-281-3446 or 503-245-5156.

Silk crepe mini dresses with colorful eyes and lips designed by Lapidus (Paris, France) are coordinated with matching fringe bracelets. (Photo at Right)



Boy Scout Lawsuit Claims Discrimination

(AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon filed a lawsuit seeking to ban recruiting by the Boy Scouts in schools during school hours, claiming the organization discriminates on the basis of religion.

"An organization that excludes students based on their religious beliefs should not be given special access to elementary schools during the school day in order to carry out their discriminatory policies," said David Fidanque, director of the Or-

gon ACLU.

The suit was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court on behalf of Portland resident Nancy Powell and her fifth-grade son Remington. Both are atheists. Atheists cannot be Boy Scouts.

A Boy Scout official said his organization is not seeking special privileges in the schools.

"We live in a complex country and a complex society and diverse ideas and diverse groups should not be

excluded from our schools," said Larry Otto, scout executive of the Cascade Pacific Council in Portland.

"The Scouts don't seek any special access. We want to be treated like any other community organization," he said.

He said the Boy Scouts have a relationship with schools that goes back 90 years.

"Other organizations parallel to scouting have sets of values that they stand on, and it's not the school's

place to say 'this is a good one and this one's out.'"

The ACLU filed an earlier lawsuit claiming schools should be closed to scout recruiters because the group is a religious organization. A 1999 Multnomah County Circuit Court decision went against the ACLU. An appeal is pending before the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Fidanque said the discrimination aspect in the current lawsuit was not brought up in the earlier one.

Portland Bible Student Dies of Snakebite

(AP) — A Multnomah Bible College student died of a snakebite while studying in Indonesia.

Twenty-two-year-old Holly Miller of Greeley, Colorado, died Monday on the island of

Sumba, four hours after being bitten on the heel by a pit viper. She was on the island as part of a foreign studies program called EduVenture Indonesia, which takes American students to the country in 14-week ses-

sions. According to a press release from Multnomah Bible College, Miller was returning from a festival with a Sumbanese friend when the snake struck. The snake bit her and then bit the friend, who

survived with just a swollen ankle. Miller had an immediate reaction to the bite. She was taken to the nearest hospital, an hour away, but the hospital didn't have any antivenin for the bite.

Woman Poses as High School Student

STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

motion to vacate the guilty judgment, he will sign it. He will also rescind the requirement that Blankenship be registered as a sex offender. Throneberry's story has stunned her former classmates and the Vancouver families who thought they were helping a troubled street teen who had been abused.

"I remember the first time I met her, thinking she was a teacher," recalled classmate Ken Dunn. "Then she said she was a student, and nothing after that ever made me think she was that old."

Throneberry recently appeared in Clark County Superior Court, and continued to identify herself as Stewart.

Fingerprints and witnesses show she also had been known as Stephanie Danielle Lewis in Pennsylvania, and as Emily Kara Williams in Texas.

"There is a whole history of confusion with her identity," said defense attorney Kathleen McCann, who plans to seek a mental evaluation for her client.

Police say Throneberry was born May 18, 1969, in Wichita Falls, Texas. She lived in Electra, Texas, until after 10th grade in 1985. Police say she became a sophomore in high school again 12 years later at Evergreen.

Throneberry told school officials she didn't have a transcript because she had been home-schooled.

As Stewart, Throneberry completed three years at Evergreen, earning a 2.83 grade-point average, brought down somewhat by a D in drama class. She graduated 256th in a class of 616. The state spent about \$11,500 on her education.

Throneberry lasted only five months with Randy Fisher's family before being asked to leave.

"I really didn't think she was a kid," Fisher said. "When she had to explain something, she'd say, 'Oh, I'm just a teen-ager.'"

One of her tennis teammates, Tsering Kheyap, said some of the girls thought Stewart looked older. Barb McKay, the mother of one of Stewart's closest friends, said she thought the woman was hiding something. But she still thought Stewart was an at-risk teen because of atten-

tion from social service agencies and attorneys who were frequently checking on her. McKay even obtained a state license to provide foster care for the woman, but Stewart chose not to move in after all.

Throneberry campaigned for a Social Security card in her false name, even appealing to Gov. Gary Locke. In an effort to obtain a birth certificate, the first step toward receiving a Social Security card, she had to provide fingerprints.

The prints came back to haunt her. Earlier this year, Vancouver police Detective Scott Smith examined her record and found the fingerprints connected her to other cases of homeless teens with stories of abuse.

Smith said the woman's patterns were the same at every stop.

He said Throneberry denied the connections when he questioned her about her identity.

Eventually, he sent a photo of the woman to Throneberry's parents, who identified "Brianna Stewart" as their daughter.

"She's just going cross-country and using different names and receiving welfare," her father, Carl

Throneberry, told the Columbian from his home in Comanche, Okla. "She talks a pretty good line, they tell me."

If convicted, Throneberry faces sentences of up to 90 days for first-degree theft, 60 days for second-degree theft, and six months to 12 months for perjury.

Daphne, Ala., police Detective James Matthews said Throneberry traveled by bus to Daphne last year and told police she was an 18-year-old amnesia sufferer named Brianna Stewart in search of clues to her past.

"She was getting more unusual with what she was coming up with," Matthews recalled. "She told stories that didn't make sense."

Matthews, who said no charges would be filed against Throneberry in his jurisdiction, said the woman told him she had amnesia and that a traumatic event had caused her to hitchhike across the country four or five years earlier. She said she was about to finish high school and was interested in studying law and that she had worked for a Vancouver lawyer, he said.

"I still don't know why she picked Daphne," Matthews said.

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