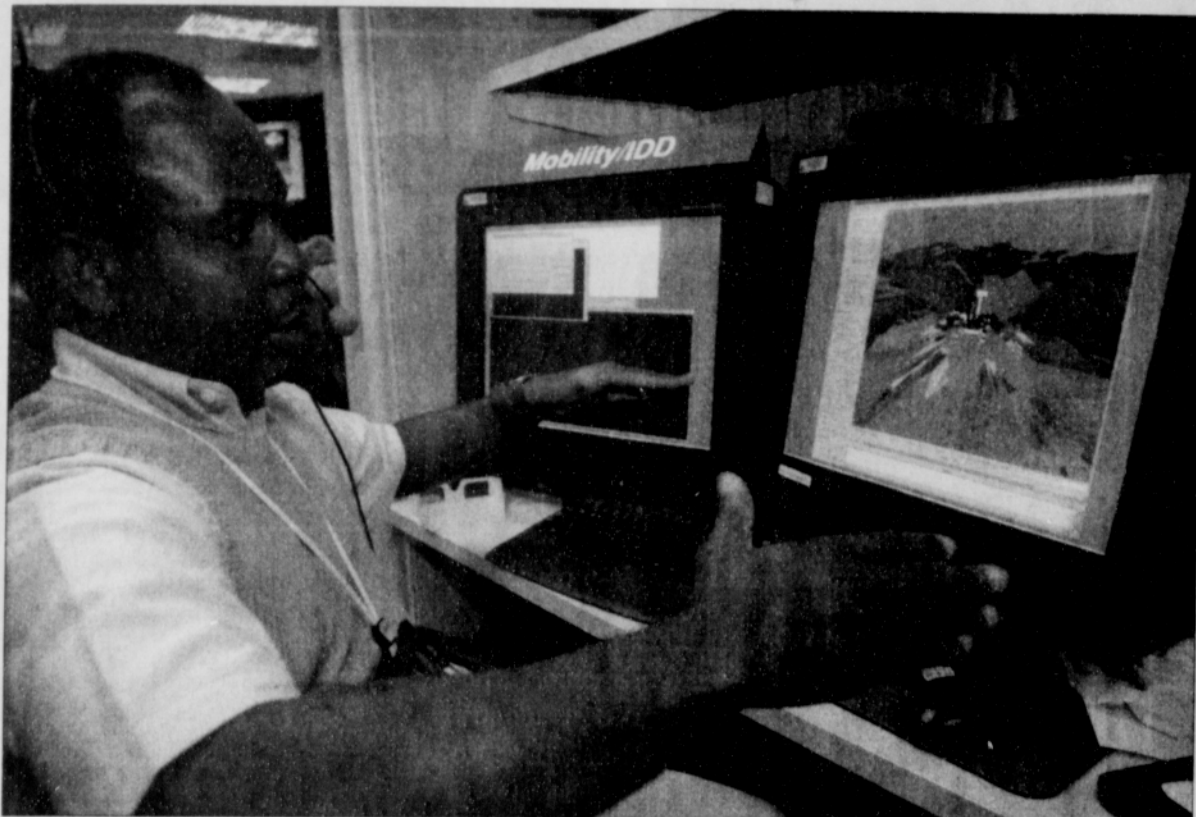


Mars Missions Make African-American History



Dr. Ashiety Trebi-Ollennu, a senior member of the engineering staff at NASA and a member of the spacecraft engineering team, explains how he is using images and data from the Spirit Rover.

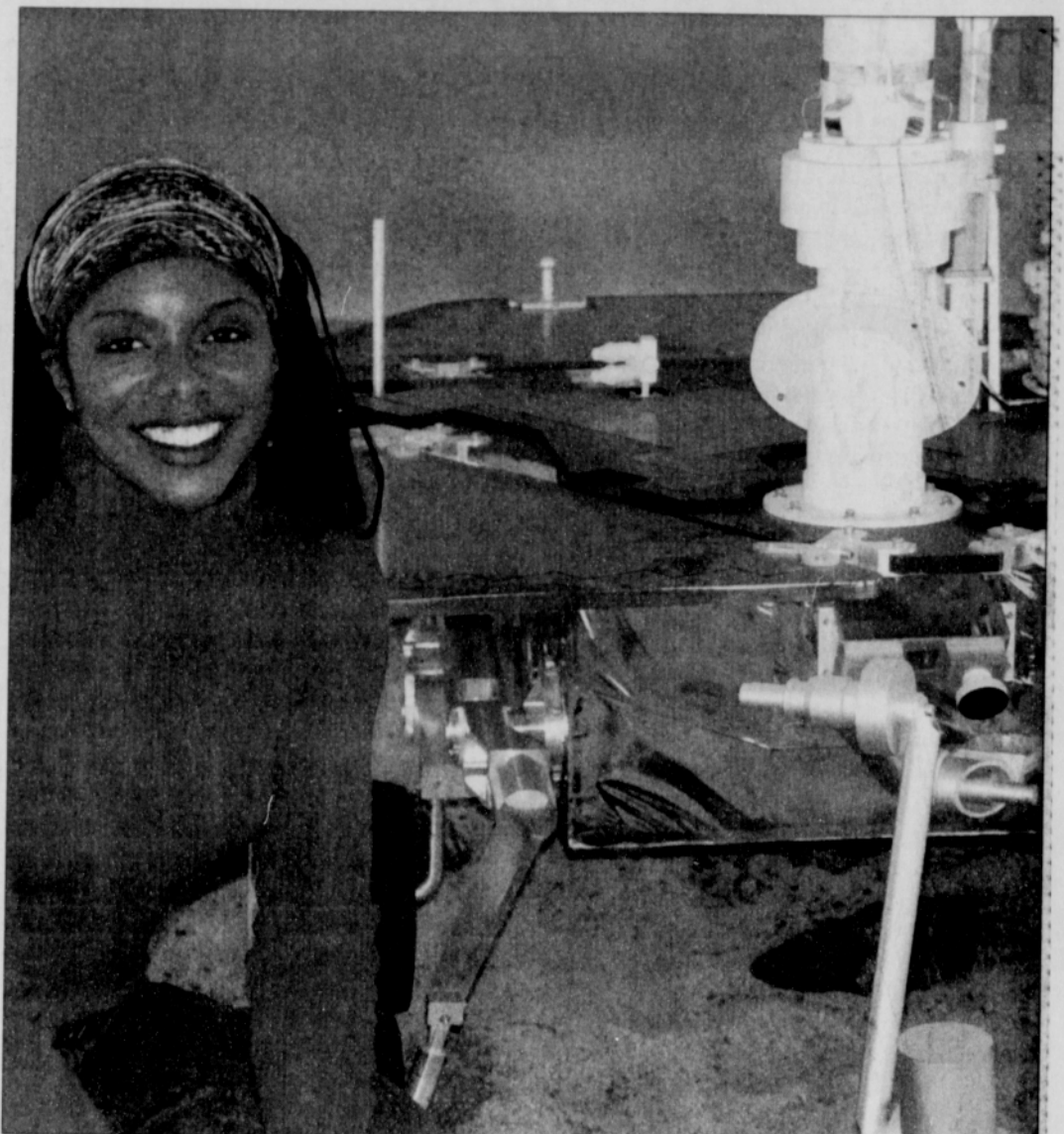
While Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity are exploring the surface of the Red Planet, a team of scientists including several African-American engineers is tracking their mission from home.

Shonte Wright, a thermal systems engineer, designed some of the heaters that allow the rovers to survive and operate on the surface of Mars.

"This project has provided all of us with not only an oppor-

tunity to demonstrate knowledge, but to learn more about science and engineering as it applies to space exploration," she said.

Dr. Ashiety Trebi-Ollennu works with NASA's Robotics



PHOTOS COURTESY NASA/JPL

Shonte Wright is one of several African-American engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. working on the Mars Exploration Rover Mission.

Technologies group and is in charge of equipment checks for the rover and its robotic arm.

Other African Americans include Kobie Boykins, a mechanical engineer who was on the team that designed and tested the solar panels that give power to the

rovers, and Dr. Edward Tunstel, a senior robotics engineer and a member of the team responsible for navigating the rovers.

Jeff Grads Appear on National TV

The entire nation has witnessed some successful Jefferson High School graduates on stage and on basketball courts in recent days.

Jonté Moaning ('01) danced with Janet Jackson during halftime of the Super Bowl. Aaron Miles ('01), Michael Lee ('01), Brandon Lincoln ('02), and Thomas Gardner ('03) appeared in nationally televised college basketball games.

Moaning earned his place to dance with Jackson in an open audition that attracted more than

1,400 dancers. He continues to pursue his dance education and career with different professional dance companies on the East Coast.

"Jonté has been able to move into such success because of the great training he received at Jefferson," said his mother Louise Moaning.

Basketball players Miles and Lee are playing at the University of Kansas, Lincoln at the University of Oregon, and Gardner at the Uni-

versity of Missouri.

"We are proud of these alumni and the hundreds of others who have graduated from Jefferson recently. They showed up, worked hard and had fun here so they were well prepared to follow their dreams and become productive members of our society. And we're proud of the faculty and staff who guided these young people through their high school years," said Jefferson Principal Larry D. Dashiell.

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Dan Schuster and Nancy Goering (from left), coaches and engineers for the Ockley Green Dragon Masters, are joined by team members Abner Bastida, 7th grade; Trinidad Alvarez, high school mentor; Ruben Francisco, 8th grade; David Child, coach and engineer; Claudia Alvarez, 8th grade; and Ner Bastida, 7th grade. Dragon Master Timothy Ong of the 8th grade is not pictured.

North Portland School Explores Mars

When NASA's Spirit rover reached out with its robotic arm and examined a patch of Martian soil with a microscope, some of Oregon's brightest and most adventurous students did almost the same thing.

Students from Ockley Green Middle School, 6031 N. Montana, and others competed in their tasks with a simulated Martian land-

scape in the gym at Liberty High School in Hillsboro with a LEGO robot they designed and built themselves.

Seventy-seven teams from Oregon, Southwest Washington and Northwest California participated in the tournament.

The students' LEGO robot rover simulated travel in Gusev Crater on the Martian surface to compete for

points based on the number of missions completed. Robots attempted to dock habitation modules, collect ice cores, launch a Mars Ascent Vehicle and much more.

"This is truly an accomplishment that reflects individual initiative and teamwork," said Bruce Schafer, Chair of the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program.



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