

BUSINESS & Finance



Service Contractor of the Year

Charles Cason, president of CEC Services, Inc. (right), a minority firm that provided security for TriMet's Interstate Light Rail project, was recognized as the Service Contractor of the Year at the Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards Luncheon at the Oregon Convention Center. The award was presented by Cody Gray, associate counselor at Portland State University's Business Outreach Program. The event recognized minority and women-owned businesses in construction, manufacturing, professional and non-professional services.

C-Tran Cuts Bus Services

Southwest Washington residents will see cuts to mass transit due to the defeat of a local tax levy in the Nov. 2 General Election.

A proposed sales tax increase of three tenths of one percent, would have maintained and provided some enhancements to reconnect Clark County communities with C-Tran bus service.

"What this means is that the community will start to see service reductions every quarter, beginning in January," said Lynee Griffith, executive di-

rector of the agency. The reductions are necessary to balance C-Tran's budget by January 2006.

"Our goal, at this point, is to educate our riders on upcoming service changes so they're able to plan appropriately," Griffith said.

Balancing the budget requires a 46 percent reduction in service, equally affecting local and commuter routes, and para-transit van service.

All commuter routes to downtown Portland will end. The service will be provided

only to the nearest TriMet light rail stations at Delta Park/Vanport and the Parkrose/Sumner transit centers.

In addition, the following service will be completely eliminated: The Connector, Route #114 Camas, Route #173 Battle Ground, and all Sunday service. Additional reductions will take place in May, September, and finally in January 2006.

For more information, call the C-Tran Passenger Service Office at 360-695-0123.

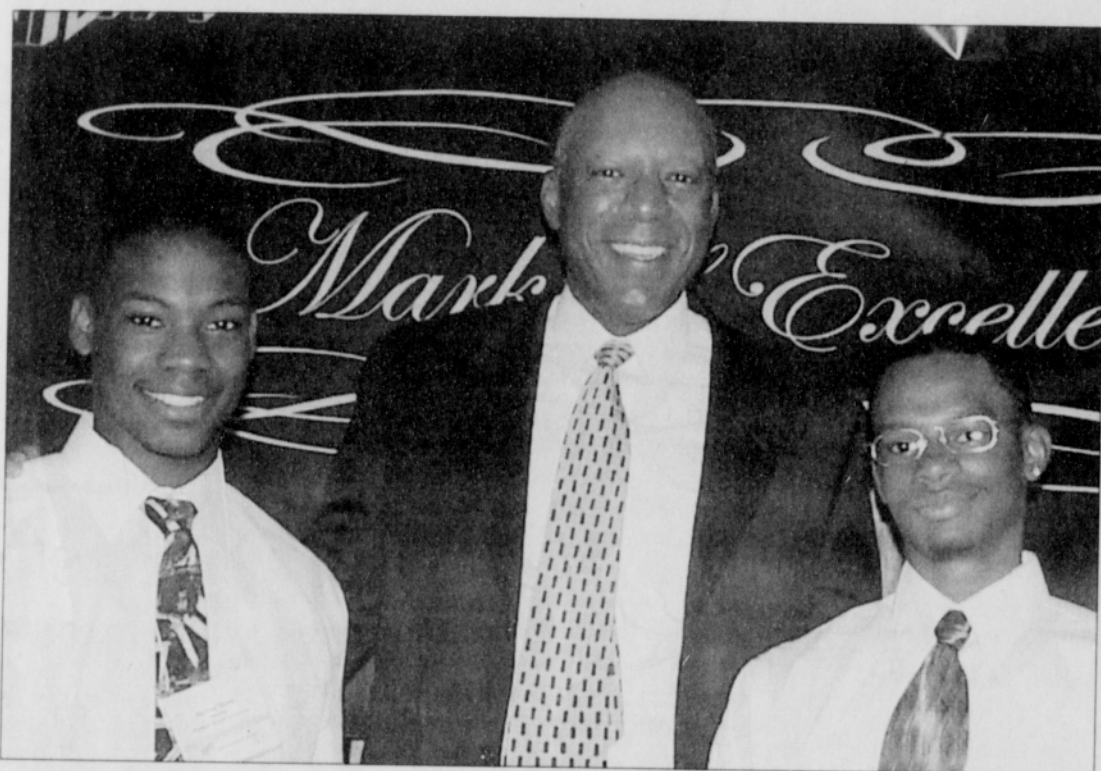


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Awarded for Excellence

Upward Bound scholarship winners Michael Waller (left) and James Orr (right) are congratulated by former Portland City Commissioner Charles Jordan at the Marks of Leadership Summit of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. Waller and Orr are juniors at Western Oregon State University.

Gas Appliance Inspections Offered

Northwest Natural provides home safety inspections as part of its natural gas service and advises customers that since the home heating season has begun, early fall is a great time to schedule a free inspection.

Additionally, if an appliance needs repair, homeowners will have the best chance of finding

an available contractor that specializes in gas equipment.

In 2003, Northwest Natural received approximately 43,000 calls from customers experiencing equipment problems.

In last January's freeze, there were more than 2,800 inoperative equipment calls, from customers left with no heat or

hot water in extremely cold weather. These equipment problems may have been identified beforehand during a pre-season safety inspection.

For more information or to schedule an inspection, call 1-800-422-4012 or visit www.nwnatural.com.

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