



Edward Perkins meets with President Reagan in the Oval Office. Perkins spent part of his childhood in Portland and graduated from Jefferson High School. He served three years as U.S. ambassador to South Africa during the Reagan years.

Ambassador Relates Tale of Apartheid

Diplomat from Portland a role model

"Apartheid South Africa was on fire around me." So begins "My Ambassador: Warrior for Peace," the memoir of Career Foreign Service Officer Edward J. Perkins, a foreign diplomat who spent part of his childhood in Portland and graduated from Jefferson High School.

Perkins' life is a model for young black males.

Born in the segregated South, on a Louisiana cotton farm by grandparents who could neither read nor write, Perkins went on to become a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, South Africa and Australia, serving Presidents Reagan, George Bush Sr. and Clinton.

He recently was in Portland for special appearances and book signings at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church and Reflections Talking Drum Bookstore.

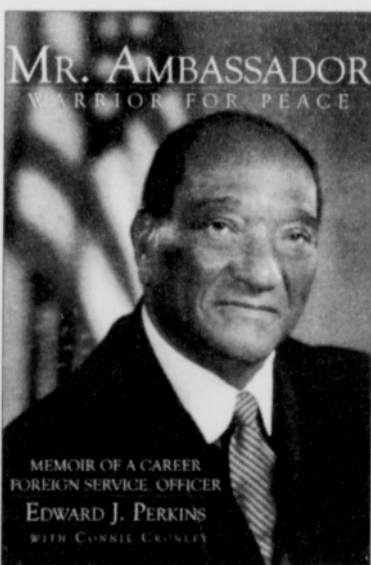
The highlight of his career was his historic and heroic services as an ambassador to South Africa during a volatile time.

His mission was to dismantle apartheid without violence. As he fulfilled that mission, Perkins was scourged by the American press, despised by the Afrikaner government, hissed at by white South African citizens and initially boycotted by black South African revolutionaries, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Perkins contributes his success to the determination, integrity and pride instilled in him by his grandmother, a former slave, his military career and a life-long study of Asian philosophy.

Now retired, Perkins has received many awards, including the Kappa Alpha Psi highest honor, the Laurel Wreath Award for Achievement

and Distinguished Diplomatic Service, and the Links, Inc. Living Legend Award. He is also a life trustee of Lewis and Clark College in Portland.



Home to Walata

A play by NE Portland playwright Everett Goodwin
West Coast Premier

An African American family's return to "Mother Africa"



Hopes

Dreams

Fears

Frustrations

Lessons

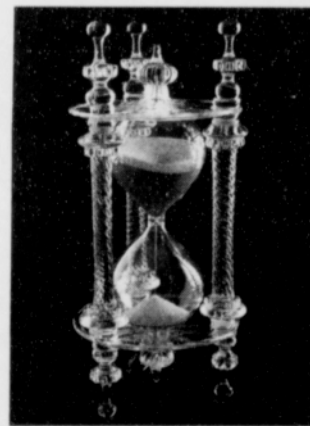
Surprises



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