



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
All-American Youth Basketball Camp youth leader Shawn Black (left) speaks with Val Polk, activities coordinator with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, and basketball coach E.J. Penn (right) at Irving Park. POIC students like Black are chosen to mentor the younger campers.

Basketball Camp and Much More

continued ▲ from Front

pants, like Woodlawn or Peninsula, but Irving is packed with history, and he believes it's the only place to offer such a wide view of the entire area - good for safely keeping an eye on everyone and everything.

"Geographically, these kids don't live here anymore," Penn said. "They may live farther north but they are still connected to the community."

But Penn has secured the park,

where he and his staff hold court for three and a half hours each weekday through early August. Youth leaders and parent volunteers help oversee the crowd of young players in daily drills and clinics, scrimmages and fundamentals. The price, which costs \$125 for a four-week session, includes lunch provided by a federal lunch program.

Each activity is educational and especially tailored for at-risk youth with lessons on listening and focusing.

"Inner-city kids bring themselves

up, and with single-parent homes they [themselves] are the only one they've got to listen to" Penn said.

So he has developed what he calls "cool talk," a verbal style that comes naturally for the outspoken and high-energy coach. He supplements his mentoring with a range of persuasive guests with their own cool talk, which this year includes a who's who of legislatures working toward universal health care during the camp's annual Community Health Care in the Park, Saturday, July 21 from noon to 5 p.m. Penn has invited

formergovernor John Kitzhaber and state senators Alan Bates and Ben Westlund to speak to campers and their families, with chiefs of staff from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith already on board.

The health fair will include dental and other health exams, immunizations, lunch and other activities.

There is still time for youth to sign up for the camp. For more information or to donate time or money, visit www.pdxallamericansports.com or email firststepssports@comcast.net.

TriMet Hires Hires New Recruiter

A US Bank executive with nearly 25 years experience in employment issues has been named as a new Human Resources Manager for TriMet.

Angela Burns-Brown will direct various human resources functions and plans for the transit agency, including staffing performance management, workforce planning and employee relations issues.

"This is a critical position within

the agency and we're very pleased with the depth of experience Angela has to strengthen our organization and recruit top-notch employees to TriMet," said Fred Hansen, general manager.

Burns-Brown is the co-founder and past President of Oregon Chapter of National Association of Urban Bankers, a current board chairperson at Jefferson Financial Academy and a former Board Member at



Camp Fire Boys and Girls.

She has a Bachelors Degree in Education from Pacific University in Forest Grove and Executive Management Certificate from the School of Business Administration at Portland State University.

Angela Burns-Brown

Will Roy Make a Run for Mayor?

continued ▲ from Front

These days Jay says he has at least nine jobs, including president and co-founder of the African American Chamber of Commerce, president of the Oregon Convention and Visitor's Service Network and owner of the downtown SmartPark garages.

Winning the parking management bid in 2003 was a boon to Portland's minority business chambers; in an unprecedented move Jay brought together the African American, Hispanic and Philippine American chambers of commerce to form the Alliance of Minority Chambers. The groups partnered with Star Park and were awarded the bid over the Portland Business Alliance.

"That definitely surprised people,"



Roy Jay

Jay said. "In the past we didn't get those kinds of contracts."

Jay says the SmartPark garages are an example of the million-dollar bids minorities should be competing for in Portland. He wants to see more joint ventures

instead of sheltered market programs that award often-smaller contracts to firms who qualify for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise programs.

Jay said another leader in the local African American community, Harold Ford, put it eloquently when he said, "It's like feeding people baby food, but when do we get solid food?"

Jay is also creator of Project Clean Slate, a program started in 2005 that helps those with past minor criminal and civil offenses clear their records and reintegrate into the community.

At this point Jay says he'd prefer

discussing Project Clean Slate to City Hall prospects. The project, until it passed last month in the Oregon Legislature as HB 3054, has been kept alive through chamber members, company donations and Jay's personal retirement fund.

"That's probably more important to me than any political race," he said.

And with the 2008 May primary election for the non-partisan position 11 months away, the mayoral candidate pool is all speculation. Potter's wait for a decision on re-election is also stalling a possible City Hall shuffle with a rumored mayoral bid from City Commissioner Sam Adams.

But Jay isn't even sure the mayor's title is his best tool for effectiveness - a sentiment shared by Democratic Congressman Earl Blumenthal, who chose not to run for mayor in 2003 to better serve Oregonians on a national level.

"Sometimes it's better to be a passenger in seat 38-A than to be the pilot," Jay says. "Sometimes you can be more effective just being in the audience."

N-Word

continued ▲ from A4

over the thing and you got your little six-year-old and seven-year-old sitting in the back seat of the car -- those children hear that. And I am telling you when you put the CD on and then you get up and dance to it -- What are you saying to your children?" he said.

Embracing the N-word or its more euphemistic forms as a symbol of em-

powerment or term of endearment is as logical as supporting the re-institution of segregation or of slavery. The word carries with it too much history and hurt. It is beyond rehabilitation -- a lost cause.

It'll take centuries for us to escape its stigma and its place in America's memory.

Allow the history books to refer to the N-word as an obsolete term - a distant memory of our nation's ignorant past when we were but a fledgling experiment in democracy still trying to figure things out and failing miserably in some respects.

Let it serve as a lesson our community

never wants to re-learn. Let us not tempt fate and risk repeating history by allowing it to continue to settle deeper into our consciousness. With every utterance of it, we spit in the face of progress, we disgrace our elders and ancestors and we show that their sacrifices were made in vain. We release the spirit of hatred that conjured up the term in the first place.

Join with me and give this word a permanent funeral. Bury it now.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

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- Clean-up begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Celebration at Irving Park 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Clean-up Groups located:

- Maple Mallory Apartments 3720 NE Mallory Ave. Portland, OR 97212
- Jefferson High School 5210 N Kerby Ave. Portland, OR 97217
- Cornerstone Community Church 2216 NE Killingsworth St. Portland, OR 97211

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