

Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries  
"A Community Church"



Pastor & Elect Lady  
Bishop H. L. & Earlean P. Hodge

Worship Service: Sundays—8:00 A.M.

Seminars: Bible Themes—Wednesdays—7:00 P.M.  
"God The Father"; "God The Son"; and "God The Holy Spirit"

Bishop Hodge and Congregation invite you to join us at our appointment with Jesus.  
We Reach, Teach, & Preach in Jesus' name!!!

Please join us as we celebrate "Black History Month" on Sunday February 21, 2010 at 3:00PM

Theme: "Reflections Of Greatness In Black" (Psalm 90:1-2)

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Tellis of Portland Christian Center, Bishop Lamont Tellis, Pastor

Location: 4800 NE 30th Ave.  
Portland, OR. 97211

To inquire about our Church please call: (503) 863-6545 or email: hodgehspks@msn.com www.nwvoiceforchrist.com

# Creating a Plan for College

## High School Seniors: Time for a check list

BY FASHUN N. STYLES  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congratulations high school seniors! Whether you've already received your college acceptance letter, waiting on a letters to arrive or still observing your options, the Portland Observer wants to be the first to cheer you on.

We know Spring break will soon shine. But before high school seniors sprint to the nearest sunny destination, are you set? Do you have a check-list to make the next level of your academic or college life a success? Though the life of a high school senior is packed with passing exams, prom nights and placing that diploma in hand, it's never too early to prepare for the promise that an academic degree will bring.

Yes, teachers, parents and family members know, senior year does require a lot of multi-tasking. We've all been through it. We know it's a time to celebrate and commemorate memories. But at the same time, the time to create your college prep-list

is now. Before things get to la vida loca with the hundreds of students that will need the same thing you need, why not get what you need now. One way to be academically prepared is to recognize how college studies will differ from high school studies. But another, among the many milestones that you will create over the next few years, is that it's important to learn time management. Over the next few weeks—before the final grades, graduation night and getting your diploma—you need to create a check list with your parents or guardian. Set a time to go over it weekly and stick to it (contact your college or the academic institution's acceptance offer or other information to add to your check-list)

Here are a few tips from alumni, professionals and more.

### Eager is never too early

There's nothing wrong with being eager, but just make sure you're also early with all of the deadlines and requirements. If you're looking at enrolling in a prestigious college, make sure you can financially afford it. Educate yourself on how to obtain the money you need and more. Search for scholarships, grants, internships, work-study programs, etc.

### Think before you trash

Do you have a habit of throwing money away? Well don't start now. If you want to be able to afford the fun side of college life, you first must be able to afford the financial side of staying enrolled. Don't be surprised if after you've received your college acceptance letter, that they contact you via postal or email regarding college finances that you hadn't applied for or even expected. Take the time to go over your financial options with your family before you take the leap to something that might not be affordable next year. Ask your parent or guardian to set aside some time with you to translate any official correspondence that could turn into cash for your college career.

### Talk to your academic counselor, teachers and staff, community leaders

Why? To get a competitive edge, get a head start. Make appointments with your adult peers to get advice, letters of recommendations, and reference letters about outstanding class projects. Professional and community leaders are also exceptional opportunities to get referral letters because they also know what volunteer activities you've participated in outside of the classroom. Make a list of these contacts and ask them to go over your accomplishments. A variety of professional letters gives scholarship committees and college professors an opportunity to get to know your

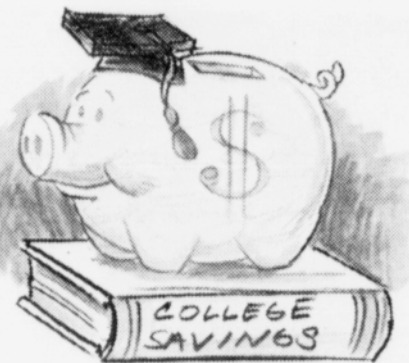
accomplishments.

### Follow Through with Financial Aid

If you are planning to use some sort of financial aid such as loans, grants, or even scholarships, you should complete a lot of financial aid paperwork. This starts with the FAFSA, which is a federal-level form which establishes a file for you within the federal government system, but it doesn't end there! Each college has its own paperwork that establishes a file within that particular college.

### Before you take the leap, look local

Even if you've already selected your top list of schools, don't limit staying local. Local can also mean a different county, city or even a neighboring state, that's within your



family's means; a car ride away. Once in awhile, some colleges may mail academic offers directly to you. Do miss out. Take the time to go over your options with your family before you take the leap into something that might not be affordable next year. Many of these options are just as competitive, some culturally diverse, and may be a way to save on airfare; while applying your money to your own car or apartments. And because many of these colleges promote the positive spin of staying local, don't be afraid to contact that college or school for a financial incentive package. You may just be the asset they need for their school.

### Keep copies of everything

Each year, some students face a big surprise on move-in day, when they realize that their financial aid application is not complete. Students may complete some of the steps and believe they have done everything necessary—when, in fact, they have not.

### Track your tracking

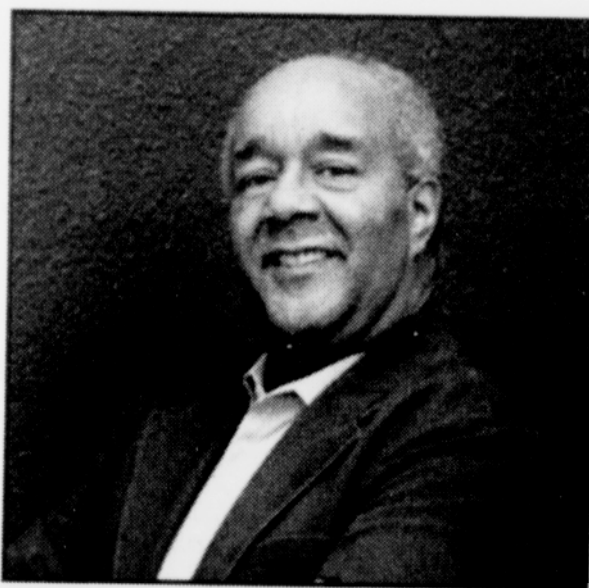
Keep track of dates, who you spoke to, their department, and their telephone and extension number. Continue to follow through on everything your mailed (certified mail, overnight delivery, receipts of mail). Once you and your parents or guardian believes you have done everything necessary when it comes to applying for financial aid, follow through with a phone call to a counselor. Ask them exactly where you stand and whether there will be a balance due on move-in day.

Next column: Creating your senior year college planning calendar.

# MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES

Join us for a special night with  
**New Song Community Church**  
Senior Pastor **Richard Probasco**.

You will be blessed as  
Pastor Probasco  
shares from his heart.



Richard Probasco is well known as a speaker, musician, and singer whose speaking and music ministry covers more than four decades. As the founder and president of New Song International, he still remains faithful to his 33 year calling to pastor New Song Community Church located in NE. Portland. He has appeared as the featured soloist at countless numbers of concerts, civic and church events. Pastor Richard has an anointed delivery of the word of God with passion and humor.

**Friday, February 26th at 7pm**

**New Song Community Center**  
**2511 NE MLK Blvd.**

**Corner of NE MLK Blvd and Russell Street**

Infant and Toddler care will be provided. Doors open at 6pm for every service

**For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481 or log on to www.mfhmportland.com**