

A Passion for Fashion

continued ▲ *from page 13*

made was put on display as fashion design of the quarter.

"School taught me the basics, and the majority of the technical things," she said. "But every day I teach myself and continue to educate myself on different techniques and ways to create designs."

Now, four years since her graduation from American Inter-Continental University, she is working on her third fashions collection, which has made it very clear, the risk was worth taking.

"I have been to shows during New York Fashion Week, but I have never shown there," said Page. "This is a first, and really a dream-come true."

In 2010, she was awarded as the emerging designer of the year at Charleston Fashion Week for her collection Miami Beach-Circa 1950, which was her first showing of her original work.

"No matter what obstacles you feel are in your way, you need to

pursue whatever it is that is your dream," said Page. "I believe that when you pursue whatever your dream is, opportunities arrive."

Currently, she is working on her third collection Spring Breeze, which will be shown in New York on Sept. 10. Her inspiration for her new work, she said, comes from the feeling you get when spring finally arrives.

"It is a beautiful feeling," she said. "The sky is beautiful and there are so many wonderful aromas."

Being raised as an African American and in Portland, she said, has also played a pivotal role in the growing success and inspiration of her brand.

"Growing up in Portland, where everything is so free-spirited, definitely affected my designs because I use an editing eye, where everything is very modest, wearable, fashion forward and body flattering," she said.

According to Page, some challenges surround the belief by people within society that fashion is only

coming from those with a certain ethnicity or background. "It is just a fact that there are not a lot of African Americans in the fashion industry making a big name for themselves," she said. "In some ways you don't necessarily have the same opportunities."

She said, however, this doesn't hold her back.

"Growing up in Portland definitely instilled the confidence in me to know my race is no different from any other race," she said. "So I go for the same opportunities anyone is presented with in order to pursue my dreams."

This Saturday, Aug. 6, Page invites the public to attend a cocktail event to help raise funds to send her team to go to fashion week in New York.

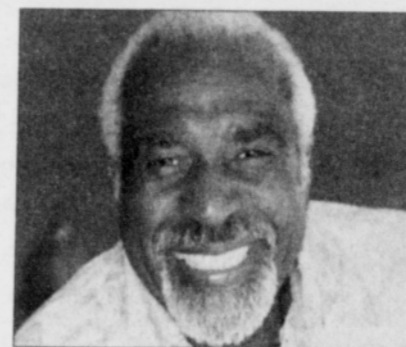
"With Portland behind me, it really pushes me to continue and see that this brand succeed," she said. "When you do try to pursue to do whatever you want to do, opportunities will find you, and doors will open."

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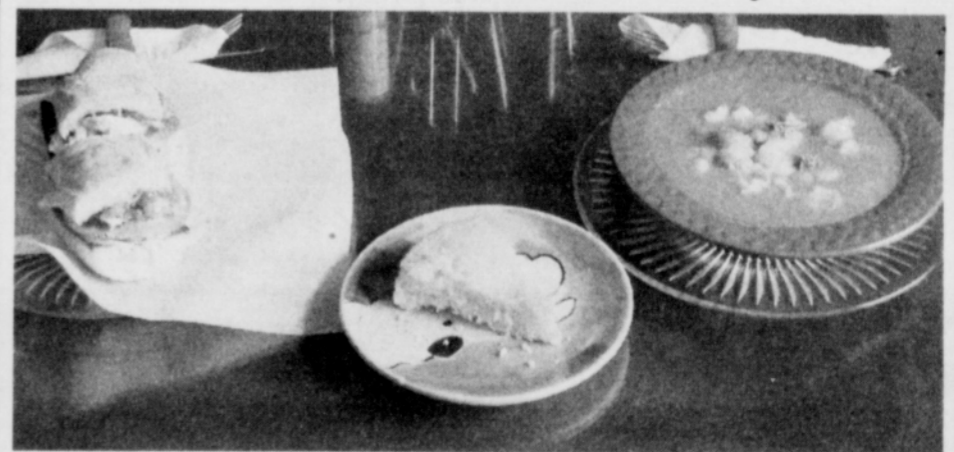
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