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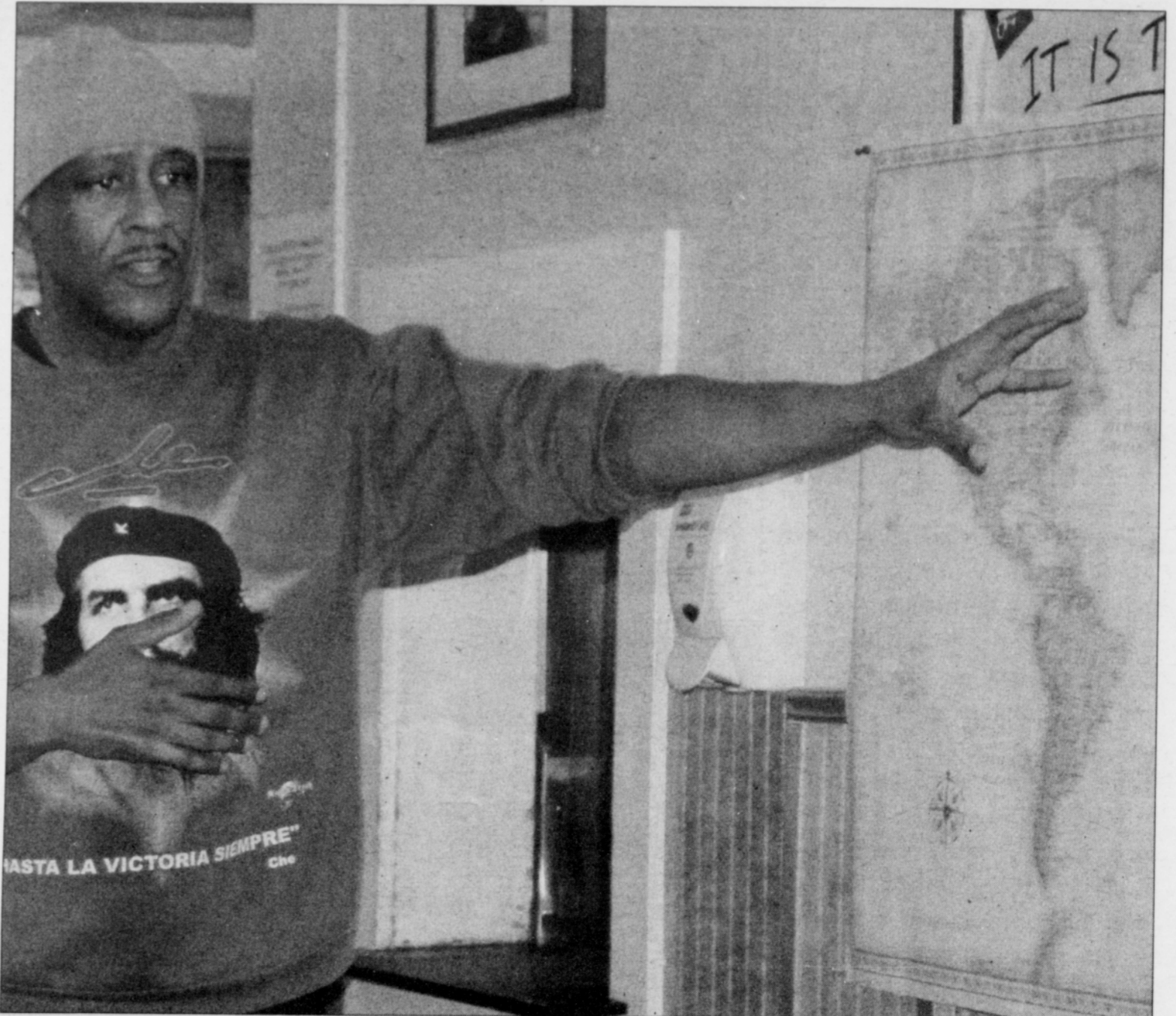
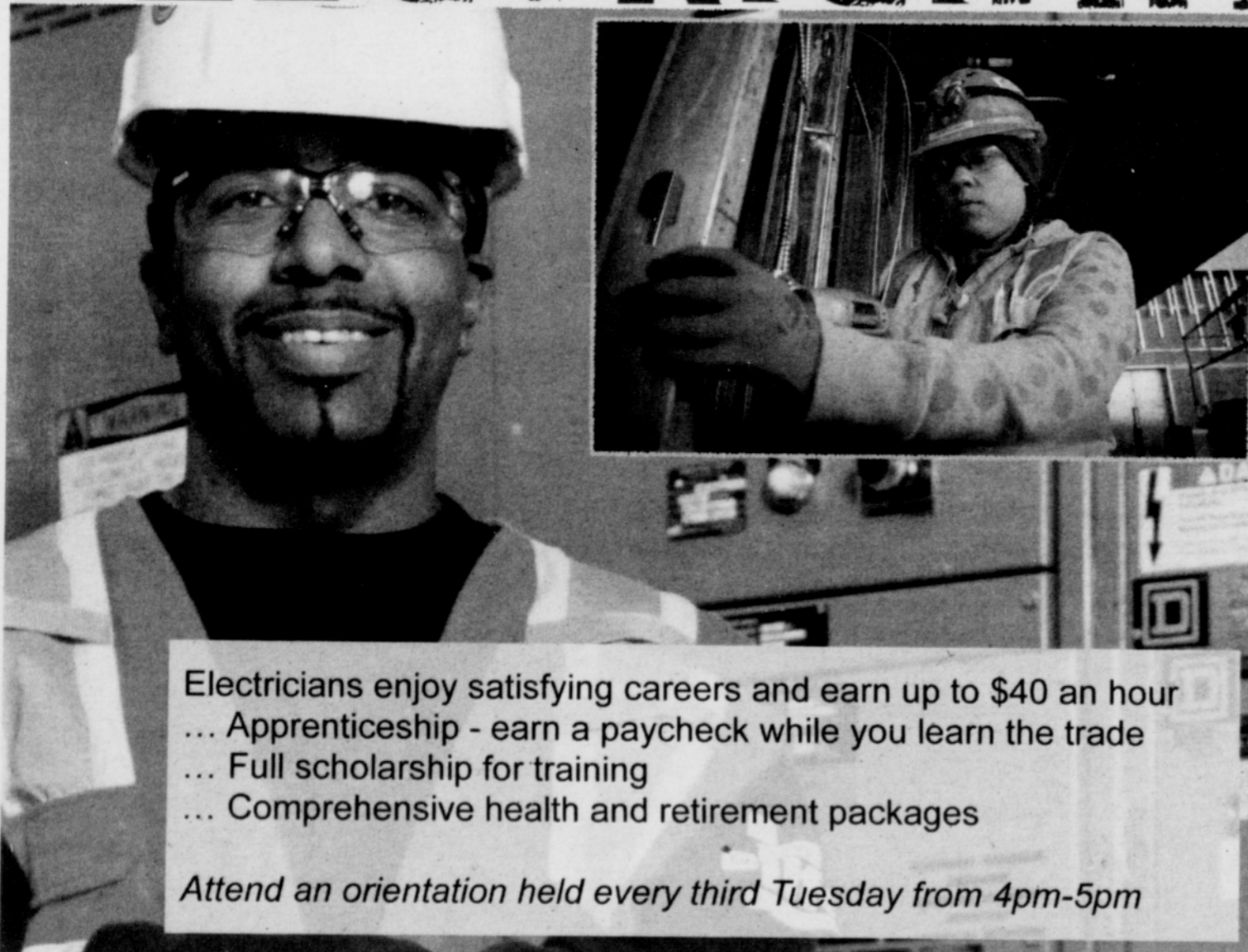


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ahjumu Umi has been working to bring the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party to Portland. A major tenant of the party is for black descendents and current residents of Africa to unite under socialism to share in the economic power from Africa's immense natural resources.

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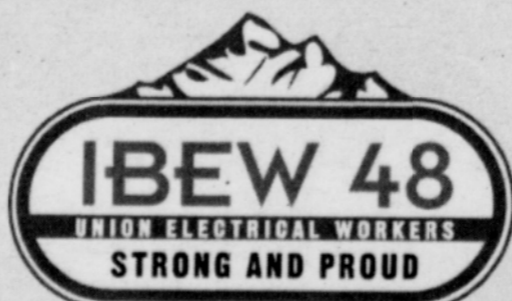
Attend an orientation held every third Tuesday from 4pm-5pm

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## Activist turns to 'Black Power' movement

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In a land where sunny days and black bodies are sparse in numbers, California-bred activist Ahjumu Umi sees 35,000 rays of opportunity. The Portland transplant is leading a civil rights campaign in his new hometown with the recruitment of members to the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party (A-APRP).

Umi was introduced to the civil rights group in the 1980s as a teenager in Los Angeles. At the time, he was fully entrenched in a turbulent gang life. An elder friend suggested he attend a lecture in the Bay Area by A-APRP front-man Kwame Ture. Umi made the journey north for the talk, but says he was left underwhelmed, mostly due to a lack of comprehension of Ture's thoughts.

Ture would return to the Bay Area in just a couple of years. But this time, Umi was living there and more receptive to the party's message. He became a member. That was some 30

years ago and to this day he continues to work at building the group's message.

The pan-Africanist party was formed in 1968 as a way to unite people of African descent all across the world and elevate them economically. The organization was known for calling out the historic injustice of the world's black people not sharing in Africa's vast natural resources.

Ture was credited with coining the phrase "Black Power." His constant arrests (a number, he says, he stopped counting at 32) and his undying desire for equality, found him adopting increasingly more militant views, diverging from Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s calls for non-violence.

Over time, Umi became good friends with Ture, coordinating most of his events in Northern California.

Though the beloved leader of the A-APRP passed in 1998, the work of the group continues in nearly every sect of the world where black people can be found, from Ghana to Haiti, to Australia, and thanks to Umi, Portland.

The recruitment process in the Rose City has been slow.

Most of the work he's doing in Portland has him setting up open

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