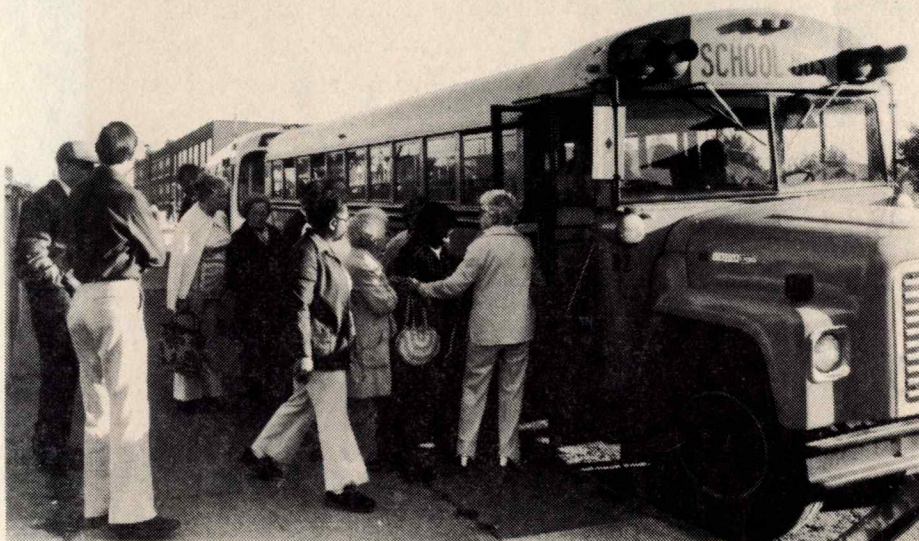


# URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

## *Newsletter*

FALL, 1980

## Center helps seniors remain independent



Photograph/Tana Williams

"I must go down to the sea again." A group of seniors are up bright and early to meet outside Urban League's Senior Adult Service Center and board busses bound for the coast.

The goal of the Urban League Senior Adult Service Center is to help people aged 60 and over remain independent and active. The center, located in the King Neighborhood Facility at 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue, provides many useful resources and services to older citizens.

Lack of transportation is one of the most critical problems facing older people and may account for the tremendous popularity of the bus trips provided them through the center.

There is a real sense of joy and excitement when the big busses pull up outside the center and are boarded by fifty to a hundred people who are all well acquainted from previous activities.

During her first year as Director of the center, Barbara Bivens has helped the center through many changes. The center has moved to larger quarters than they had at the facility on N.E. Union. A drop-in center has been established with a comfortable area where people can relax with a cup of coffee and chat, play the piano, or watch television. Crochet and ceramics classes are available. There are monthly pot-luck get togethers, residential displacement counseling, health screening, house-keeping aid and other programs aimed at reducing social isolation.

A monthly newsletter, "The Star", is compiled by staff members of the center.

circulated to over 1000 people to advise them of activities and services available to them. "The Star" also contains information regarding energy assistance, benefits such as social security, Medicare and health reminders.

On Thursday, Sept. 25th, ninety-six seniors departed on two busses for a day at the ocean. In Seaside, they browsed in the shops, had lunch in various restaurants and looked for shells and driftwood on the beach. The day was warm and sunny, and though the trip was tiring, it was a happy, memorable occasion for all. October 16, approximately 50 people met at the center and departed for Kah-Nee-Ta for a mineral bath, lunch and exploring.

Irene Cranford is in charge of scheduling and coordinating activities for the center. A senior citizen herself, having retired in 1976 after 30 years with the City of Portland in the mail department, she has a special understanding of the needs of "her seniors" as she calls them.

Betty Campbell, also out of retirement, works from the center providing telephone reassurance. Each day, she calls up to 50 people from a rotating list of about 250, just to say hello and make sure they are all right.



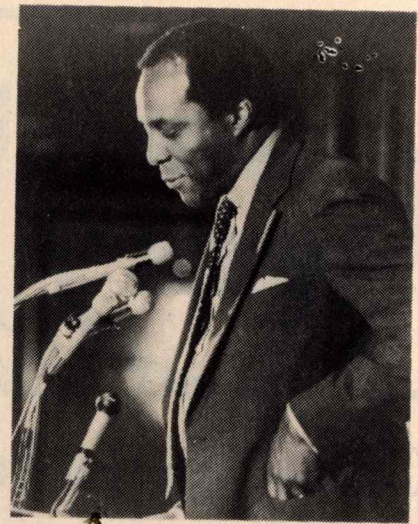
# My Opinion

I suppose most people have had a close brush with death at one time or another. Mine came on May 29, when someone shot me in the back. That's why I have spent the last three months getting a patient's-eye view of the hospital system.

Since returning to work, the most appropriate word I can think of is "thanks". I want to thank everyone who boosted my spirits and helped me pull through by way of their cards, letters, thoughts and prayers. I never knew so many people cared. I never knew so many people appreciated my work and my ideas. I've always stressed how selfish and hard-hearted our society has become. I think it's also important to stress how many good people there are in America; people who understood that the bullet that hit me was also aimed at the principles of free speech and a more democratic society.

Violence should have no place in our society. Anyone concerned with the preservation of freedom should be worried by the rise of groups like the Klan, the Nazis and others who preach racism and favor violence. Subtle racism among so-called "respectable" people is used by others as justification for resort to violence. No one is safe. People in leadership positions have to live with the knowledge that someone who disagrees with their ideas may try to kill them. It's happened before. It happened to me.

But one lesson those gunslingers have to learn is that they cannot stop ideas or movements with bullets. If they silence one leader, others will take his place. The man who killed Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't stop the drive for civil rights. The man who shot me didn't stop the Urban League Movement -- it went right on providing services and advocacy for poor and black Americans without missing a beat. And he didn't stop me either. I will continue to fight for what I believe in with all the resources at my command. And the civil rights movement will go on with full vigor until equality is won, no matter what happens to any of its leaders.



Vernon E. Jordan  
National Urban League President

Photograph/Oregonian Staff

## Senior Adult Service Center

Cont. from previous page

Urban Noise Counselor, Ruth McNeal, assists people with problems relating to disturbing noises, such as barking dogs, street noise, and loud appliances.

Other members of the Senior Adult Service Center staff are Sherri Bentley, secretary; Rebecca Marks, supervising counselor; Rosalee Batiste, information and referral specialist; Joe Peyton, counselor, and Carolyn Phillips, counselor. More about them later. . .



Irene Cranford  
Activities Coordinator



Ruth McNeal  
Urban Noise Counselor



Betty Campbell  
Telephone Reassurance

Photographs/Tana Williams



# Atiyeh appoints Norm Monroe to board



Photography/Tana Williams

Deputy Director of Urban League of Portland, Norm Monroe, was accompanied by daughter Tamiko and son Kevin on recent trip to Salem to attend swearing in ceremony. They are shown here on steps of State Capitol Building after ceremony.

Norm Monroe, deputy director of the Urban League of Portland was appointed by Governor Vic Atiyeh to serve a two year term on the State Advisory Board on Community Corrections.

The CCA program is designed to maintain the state prison population at the lowest possible level. Also, the program will attempt to reduce the potential of offender's involvement with the

criminal justice system.

Class "C" felons are the primary target of CCA, with a 50% reduction in Class "C" felony commitments one of the program's goals.

Other goals are to establish evaluation and treatment services in the community for those with mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse problems.

These goals are achieved by establishing an educational program for all correction clients, and particularly adult basic education and job related training.

Focus is on establishing a sentencing alternative for the courts for dealing with non-violent offenders who require a well structured living environment, but do not require county jail or state institution confinement. This enhances the employment stability and the fiscal responsibility of clients.

## Urban League Guild invites members and friends to tea



By Nina Crowell  
Urban League Staff

The Urban League Guild has been a helping hand to the Urban League, supporting our programs and goals. Through the years, the Guild has been an aid to the League's budget through fund raising events such as the Annual Guild Membership Tea, Mad Hatter's Ball and luncheon parties.

After a summer recess, the Guild has once again come together to begin the 1980-81 year. We are now in the process of planning our Membership Tea.

We welcome all members and their friends to join us on the second Wednesday of each month, at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th, to assist us in planning activities for the year.

**Come join us! Bring your friends. Become an active Urban League member through the Guild...**

For more information regarding the Guild, call Nina Crowell, 249-1077

### Annual Guild Membership Tea

Sunday, Nov. 30  
1 to 5 p.m.

Matt Dishman  
Center

77 N.E. Knott  
Portland





# Learning from mistakes in a positive way

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

By Carol Schulz  
Northeast Youth Service  
Center Counselor

### WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM?

This program is offered, along with other services, to youths referred to the Northeast Youth Service Center by the Juvenile Court and the police for misdemeanor offenses. By participating in the program, the youths demonstrate responsibility for their actions and provide a positive contribution to the community.

The youths provide up to three hours of work, under adult supervision, to a needy agency or senior citizen.

The youth also participates in an educational discussion/presentation. This gives him the opportunity to share experiences with other youths and to talk with and learn from an adult who is or has been involved with the justice system.

### DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?

The Community Service Program is voluntary. However, we strongly urge you to support participation. The program allows the youth to "make good" for a mistake in a positive way, a way which allows the youth to learn from his mistake and feel good about himself.

### IN SHOPLIFTING CASES, WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS PROGRAM AND THE FINE THE STORE MAY DEMAND?

The store makes a decision to fine an individual as allowed by Oregon law, independently of the Northeast Youth Service Center. This means that you may still receive a demand letter from the store even if your child partici-

pates in the Community Service Program. Ask the counselor working with your child for more information on the law in this regard and your alternatives if you receive a demand letter from the store.

If you so request, the counselor or Community Service Program coordinator will advocate to have the fine dropped if your child participates in the Community Service Program. However, we have no control over the store's final decision in this matter.

### IF MY CHILD PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, WHAT WILL HE ACTUALLY DO?

He will spend up to three hours working at a community agency, a park, church or for a senior citizen. Usually he will be working with a group of young people. Sites are arranged for the groups in advance. Work might include yard work, distributing flyers, helping in cleanup, or other duties. An adult will supervise.

The counselor will arrange the date and time with you. When the Community Service Program coordinator calls to remind you of the date, you can ask what the assignment will be on your date.

He will participate in an educational discussion/presentation not more than an hour in length with the youth also participating in the program, a Youth Service Center facilitator, and a guest speaker with experience in the justice system. If a speaker isn't available, an appropriate film may be shown.

He will meet with his assigned counselor in the week following participation to discuss the experience and evaluate it (about an hour).

The youth's time commitment is about four to five hours total.

If you have further questions, concerns, or suggestions, ask your child's counselor.

## Help with schoolwork available

Whitney M. Young Learning Center, located at St. Andrew's Parish, 4919 N.E. 9th Avenue, has opened its doors to students in grades 7 through 12 who have limited difficulties in math, social studies, English, reading, and science.

The tutoring program, previously called "Success Enhanced" operated for 2 1/2 years with considerable success. This school year, the program is under the sponsorship of the Urban League of Portland.

Program hours are from 3 to 9 P.M., Monday through Thurs-

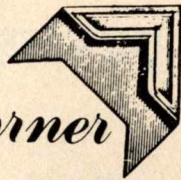
day. Two tutors will be on hand to provide a quiet place to study and help with homework problems.

Whitney M. Young was voted Executive Director of the National Urban League in 1961 and served until his death in a drowning incident, March 11, 1971, at the age of 49.

In 1961, he was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Johnson. He wrote two books, "Beyond Racism", and "To Be Equal", also a widely read syndicated column, "To Be Equal".



# The Family Corner



By Tana Williams

When Vernon V. and Fannie Chatman arrived in this area from Shreveport, Louisiana with their two small children in 1943, there were signs in restaurants that advised blacks that they would be refused service.

The Chatmans went first to Vancouver, Washington where Mr. Chatman participated in the World War II effort by doing "essential war work", in the Kaiser Shipyard as a shipfitter. Mrs. Chatman taught kindergarten in the Vancouver Common School, and their two children attended day care in the same school where their mother taught.

There were very few blacks living in Vancouver. During the first year that Mrs. Chatman taught there, she was the only black teacher, and for that matter, the only black person that many of her associates had ever known. According to her, the only knowledge her co-workers had of blacks was what they had read, and much of what they had read was unfavorable. However, she says she had little trouble making friends, and people treated her well.

In 1943, there were approximately 2000 blacks living in the Portland/Vancouver area. Opportunities for them were extremely limited. Mostly they held menial jobs with the railroad as porters, red caps, laying track or doing low paying janitorial jobs. There was little or no chance of advancement. Blacks, especially men, had very little chance of achieving a rewarding career, regardless of how well educated they were. Racial discrimi-

nation was just as prevalent in this region as it had been in Louisiana, according to Vern, "it was just more subtle."

The shipyards in Vancouver and Portland ran three shifts, 24 hours a day during the war, and recruited nationwide for workers. A substantial number of blacks came to this area during that time. After the war ended, there were roughly 36,000 blacks in the Portland/Vancouver area.

Although the Chatmans had always planned to go back to Louisiana after the war, they settled here in Portland. Vern had already become active in the Urban League. He was among the original 35 or 40 people, black and white, who organized the Urban League of Portland in 1945.

The original group assured the National Urban League that there was a need in this area, and support. The needs included housing, employment, education and aid against discrimination. "The same as today," says Vern, "only more severe." He went

on to say, "The difference now is that more blacks have access to improved employment, and more involvement in education." "The Urban League played a role, but it was the concerted effort of many that made the changes."

In 1947, the Oregon Civil Rights Statute was passed. League members impacted the legislature on issues that affected minorities. Through the years, the Urban League of Portland provided resources and referrals, and provided employers with minority employees and workshops to prepare for smooth entry of minorities into employment situations where very few or none had been before.

In 1968, Mr. Chatman became a member of the Urban League of Portland staff, as Director of Education, a position he holds to this day. During the years he has seen a number of changes in Urban League programs. Originally, programs dealt primarily with employment, and to a limited degree, housing and education. Now he sees much more emphasis on education

Cont. next page



Vern and Fannie Chatman proudly display some of the numerous plaques and awards that he has been given during his years of service with the Urban League of Portland. Among these are one from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; National Conference of Christians and Jews, "How Big is One" Award; the Jefferson Award, and University of Portland Athletic Department Award.



Cont. from previous page

on all levels, from referral to day care and kindergartens to aiding students in elementary and secondary education. At this point, Vern Chatman has already obtained \$1,000,000 in scholarships and loans for disadvantaged students.

Today, Vern and Fannie Chatman live alone in a beautiful, spacious home with a mountain of plaques and awards that Vern has accumulated through the years. If Vern's shirts look immaculate, it's because he's been sending them out for years. Fannie didn't have time to do them during the 25 years that she taught elementary grades in the Portland Public School system, and she's not about to start doing them now. They have been married for 45 years. Their daughter, Jean Stevenson, is a teacher in the Portland Public Schools and their son, Vernon V. Chatman III, (the V. is for Valtin) is a Senior Planner for I.B.M. in San Jose, California. They have four grandchildren, Jolanda, Rachel, Danny, and Vernon V. Chatman IV.

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"The Family Corner" is the outgrowth of an idea submitted to me by George Rankins, director of Employment and Economic Development.

If there is someone you would like to see featured in this column, or if you have ideas for making our newsletter informative, entertaining, and timely, contact me, Tana Williams. Your suggestions are much appreciated.

 **URBAN LEAGUE  
OF PORTLAND**

NEWSLETTER

c/o Tana Williams  
4815 N.E. 7th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211

Phone (503) 249-1977

# Women enter high paying jobs

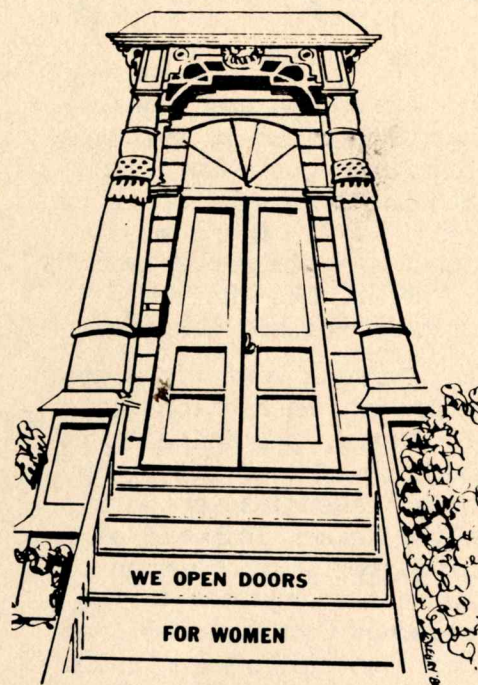
By Julia Robertson  
Women's Component Coordinator

LEAP's Women's Component opens doors for women ... In the area of employment, specifically non-traditional employment. There are times when it is necessary to use a bit of "force" to open those doors where the greatest opportunities are available, particularly as it relates to the minority woman.

Staff of the Women's Component are well informed about federal regulations governing women in the work force and utilizes this expertise in locating jobs for our constituents. We function as an advocate for women enrolled in the program, and by way of referral, can obtain assistance for those women requiring other than employment services.

Emphasis is placed on locating non-traditional jobs for women, (those jobs traditionally held by men) but through the services of the Urban League's Employment Program, headed by George Rankins, more traditional employment can be obtained.

Minority women are interested, and several are now employed in non-traditional jobs. Orientation sessions for new



enrollees are held each second and fourth Monday evening at 6:30 P.M. Women who are currently working in non-traditional capacities are available during these sessions to share information and experiences about such occupations.

If you would like to explore the challenge of non-traditional employment, or if you have such job vacancies available, please call Julia Robertson or Renee Watson at 288-9167.

We have, and will continue to open doors.

## League receives planning grant

The Urban League of Portland has received a three month Community Services Administration (CSA) grant to plan for and develop programs to provide social services in N.E. Portland beginning January 1, 1981.

An advisory committee has been established to develop programs that are needed in the community. Advisory committee members include Cleo Franklin, Sandra Lowe, Carl Towlton, Reverend John Garlington, Edna Robertson, Mabel Neal, Jeff Pittman, and Khamking Souvamlasy.

The components of the planning grant include comprehensive planning, public education and awareness, energy planning and assistance, and general administration.



# Herb Cawthorne completes oral history program "BIKO"



Photograph/Tana Williams

Entering Portland State University's Lincoln Theater, are some of the nearly 1000 Portland high school students who participated in classroom study involving Steve Biko, and who attended the oral history program matinees which were beautifully performed by Herb Cawthorne, chairman of the Portland School Board.

Portland high school students from all areas of the city were treated to an oral history program that illuminated the life of Steve Biko, the charismatic black South African student leader, and his courageous political crusade for social equality and racial justice in South Africa. with materials relating to the life and struggle of Steve Biko. Vern Chatman, director of the Urban League's Education and Youth Incentives program is credited with having conceived and initiated the idea with the school district and followed it through to completion.

As the writer of "BIKO", Jeana Woolley, researcher, writer, and community activist conducted extensive research on the history and politics of South Africa, and on Biko's life and contributions. She consulted people who had known Biko personally to test and sharpen her artistic vision of him.

The students attended matinees sponsored by the Urban League of Portland, Portland Public Schools, Portland State University and the University of Portland. All had participated previously in class-room involvement

The theory of oral history is derived from African culture. Generations of young Africans learned history and their place in the future through the age-old memories and wisdom passed on through oral communications.

Herb Cawthorne has now completed four such major productions; one on Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., and two programs on the great black scholar, W.E.B. DuBois. It is hoped that through these programs, black students can develop a better sense of their own past and others can better understand black culture and heritage.



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

718 W. Burnside  
Portland, Oregon 97209  
224-0151

Freddye Petett, Executive Director  
Norm Monroe, Deputy Director

## BRANCH OFFICE

4815 N.E. 7th  
Portland, Oregon 97211

## N.E. YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

4815 N.E. 7th  
Avel Mayfield, Director  
288-6708

## SENIOR ADULT SERVICE CENTER

4815 N.E. 7th  
Barbara Bivens, Director  
288-8338

## WHITNEY M. YOUNG LEARNING CENTER

4919 N.E. 9th  
David Jacobson, Coordinator  
284-1620

## BRANCH OFFICE

5329 N.E. Union  
Portland, Oregon 97211

## EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5329 N.E. Union  
George Rankins, Director  
288-6517

## LEAP, LABOR EDUCATION

Apprenticeship Program  
5329 N.E. Union  
Terry Williamson, Director  
288-9167

## LEAP, WOMEN'S COMPONENT

5329 N.E. Union  
Julia Robertson, Coordinator  
288-9167

## VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON LEAP

1305 Columbia  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
Sarah Aiken, Program Coordinator.  
(206) 699-2011

## EDUCATION & YOUTH INCENTIVES

5329 N.E. Union  
Vernon V. Chatman, Director  
288-6517



# URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

Portland, Oregon, "City of Roses", "The most liveable city in the U.S.A.", "the richest country in the world." What does all this mean to Portland's thousands of disadvantaged citizens?

What will Portland be like in twenty years? It's up to us to decide that now. Becoming a member of the Urban League is an effective way of demonstrating your support and assisting the League in making Portland a better city for all.

## APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP

Checks (tax-deductible) are payable to the Urban League of Portland. Please type or print the following.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### INDIVIDUALS

General - \$6.00

Contributing - \$25.00

Student - \$3.00

Sustaining - \$100.00

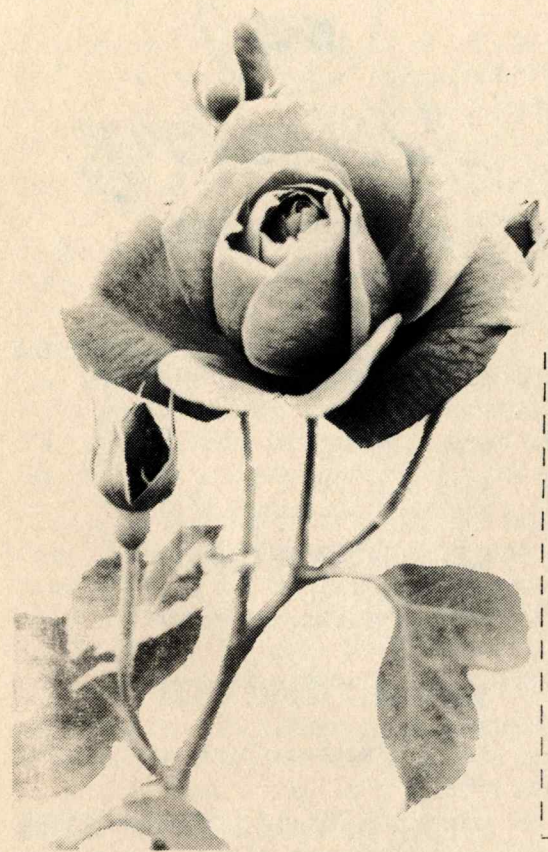
### GROUP/BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL

General - \$35.00

Sustaining - \$150.00

Contributing - \$75.00

Supporting - \$600.00



## Urban League of Portland

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

718 W. Burnside  
Portland, Oregon 97209  
224-0151



A United Way Agency