

**Vancouver Branch
NAACP
African American
Rites of Passage
Summer Academy
July 10– August 5,
2005**



Lamont Powers a.k.a Mercy, local rap artist.



Charles Simmons and Obed Norman



Sponsored by:
Vancouver NAACP Branch #1139
USDA Coalition of Minority Employees
Clark College
City of Vancouver
National Science Foundation
Grant REC 023110— Dr. Obed Norman,
Principal Investor
Gifford Pinchot Nat'l Forest Service
Washington State University,
Vancouver

**“Never let blackness be your problem, but
 somebody else’s problem.”
 -Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.**



Scooter Safety Day at Vancouver Mall



History & Purpose

The Vancouver African American Rites of Passage Summer Academy is an intense four-week program designed to address the academic, cultural, career, and social needs of middle and high school students in Clark County. This academy is crafted in a cultural framework for the purpose of connecting African American and Multi-racial students of African descent with the history, traditions, literature and folklore of African people in western civilization.

The 2005 Academy marks the second year of operation for this program. The Academy provided academic and cultural enrichment experiences and opportunities for 15 students in grades 6 through 12.

Curriculum

The Academy's primary goal is to assist each student in the development of cultural, academic and social skills critical for success in school and life. The academic coursework is designed to support each student in the achievement of this primary goal. Coursework is divided into four specific areas:

- **African American History Week 1** is a course designed to introduce students to the great African American men and women whose contributions have served to enhance and enrich our nation and world.
- **African American Literature Week 2** is a course designed to expose students to the depth and richness of the poetry and prose of African American writers, artists and musicians.
- **Empowerment & Life Skills Training Week 3** is a course designed to assist students in the development of critical life and career management skills needed for success.
- **Environmental Justice/Urban Forestry Week 4** is a course designed to introduce students to the concepts of environmental and social justice, environmental sciences and urban forestry.

Physical Education Instruction is designed to assist students in the development of physical and mental discipline and focus. This component will be integrated throughout the four week program.



Swan Ricketts presents book to Pat Jollata, Historian & Vancouver City Council member. Jollata spoke on African American History in Southwest Washington



In addition to serving as the host college, Clark President Wayne Branch, Phd. also spoke to the ROP participants during Empowerment & Life Skills Week.



The Vancouver Police Department returned for the second year. This is an important effort to build bridges with the African American Community.



Ralph Stevens, Vice President, Business Relations of Clark County Bank joined the ROP as a presenter this year. Ralph's presentation on financial management was well received.