

# Dissatisfied homeowner sues PDC, HUD

Mrs. Annie Whitlow, who was the recipient of a housing rehabilitation grant from the Portland Development Commission (funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs), has obtained permission to file a class action suit in the United States District Court. The suit charges PDC and its employee Ray Wilson, HUD, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, and contractor Dwight Morris with racial discrimination.

Mrs. Whitlow received a grant in 1973 to rehabilitate her Albina home, following two years of application and delay. Mrs. Whitlow was not satisfied with the work done by Dwight Morris, owner of Morris Construction Company, and which was judged inadequate by several observers. Mrs. Whitlow complained to PDC staff members and to the local HUD office but received no assistance. Mrs. Whitlow stated that she was told by a staff

member of PDC that if she did not sign the forms so the contractor could be paid, the contractor might sue and take her home. Following a story and pictures of the work in the *Observer* and the interceding of the Albina Contractor's Association, Morris went back to the home and made some repairs to his work. However, Mrs. Whitlow said the repairs he did were not acceptable. Further efforts with PDC and HUD proved

futile. The suit was filed on behalf of all Black, low-income, elderly and widows who were recipients of prospective rehabilitation loans or grants and Blacks who were potential building trade employees but who were illegally discriminated against by white contractors holding PDC contracts. Mrs. Whitlow charges that PDC, HUD and the Human Relations Commission held common and

parallel attitudes of discrimination in that each was extremely negligent and tardy in processing complaints. She charges that although they knew of discrimination and unconstitutional acts of others and of each other, they delayed the complaint procedure so long that her constitutional rights were not guaranteed. The suit also charges racial discrimination in the allocation of construction work to Black workers.

Mrs. Whitlow asks that the court enjoin the defendants from maintaining a policy, practice, custom or usage that denies her and others of her class equal opportunity in grants and rehabilitation programs. She also asks for monetary relief for herself and others who have been injured by the defendants. District Court Judge Burns appointed attorneys Sam Sewol and David Wiener to represent Mrs. Whitlow.



Giant spruce trees silhouetted against the evening sky bring a peaceful mood to the Oregon Coast.

1st Place  
Community Service  
ONPA 1973

1st Place  
Best Ad Results  
ONPA 1973

5th Place  
Best Editorial  
NNA 1973

Honorable Mention  
Herriek Editorial Award  
NNA 1973

DAILY

**TV**

Directory

PORTLAND  
**OBSERVER**

Volume 4, No. 41 Portland, Oregon Thursday, August 8, 1974 10c per copy

## Resignation coming!

AN EDITORIAL

As the *Observer* goes to press the resignation of the President is imminent, according to sources close to the White House. By the time this paper hits the streets it might be all over for Richard Nixon -- or he might hold on a few more hours or a few more days, hoping for a miracle that could save him. The Black people of the nation will feel no remorse for we suffered at the hands of Richard Nixon long before his corruption and his thirst for power became public knowledge.

The Nixon administration is clearly the most corrupt in American history, but beyond that it has been a sad era for Blacks and for those who support constitutional guarantees and equal justice for all people. Richard Nixon used his office to work to deprive minorities and the poor of their rightful places in American life.

We would prefer that Mr. Nixon stand trial, for surely he would be found guilty. We would prefer that all the evidence be revealed, that all doubts be laid to rest.

But perhaps it is better that it end quickly so that a new president can get on with the nation's business. We can only hope that Mr. Nixon has enough regard for his country that he will assist in a smooth transfer of government to the new president.

Richard Nixon wanted to make history -- he has made history. We did not elect Mr. Nixon; we did not participate in his administration; and we are not sorry to see him go!



Thara Memory directs the Community Jazz Band at the recent Block Party sponsored by the Albina Expansion Arts Festival. The Jazz Band will soon be featured at the World's Fair. (Photo by Rosemary Allen)

## Portland artists visit Expo '74

A troupe of performing artists from Portland's Black community will be leaving this Friday headed for Expo '74 World's Fair in Spokane, Washington. The delegation, representing Portland, will participate in the "Afro-American Heritage Festival"

presented by the Afro-American Pavilion, August 9-11, 1974. O.B. Hill, Coordinator of the Project and Director of the Albina Expansion Arts Festival, a special summer youth program, believes this is a significant event in

terms of generating a greater interest in expanding the Arts in Albina. "We are honored that our community was asked to participate and will be represented. Especially at a time when much effort has been channeled (Please turn to pg. 4, col. 7)

## Rangel discusses Detroit Decision

Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, expressed his dismay at the Supreme Court decision prohibiting city-suburb busing except in specific instances. "I am disappointed by the Court's ruling that a child's right to an equal education stops at the city line," said Rangel. "I share

Justice Marshall's dissenting view that this decision marks a giant step backwards in our fight for equal justice under law. "But the Court did not close all the doors to integration," Rangel continued. "Although anti-integrationists will try to portray this as a Constitutional mandate to deny Black stu-

dents the right to quality education, I believe we can in many cases meet the Court's requirements and institute busing across city lines to satisfy the Constitutional guarantee of equal education. "In numerous cities ringed by white suburbs, Black students are bused to maintain school segregation. And often, officials use housing and zoning laws to trap Blacks in the poor, ineffective schools. The phenomenon of predominantly-Black inner-city schools encircled by white suburban schools must end if we are to fulfill the demands of the Constitution as stated in *Brown vs. Board of Education* twenty years ago. I believe integration should be a state concern, not merely a local one, and that district lines should not hinder establishment of integrated, effective schools. "The Court disagrees. But we must not be discouraged," Rangel stated. "We must work harder now to meet the standards set by the Court and to pursue the Constitutionally-mandated goal of integration by other means. Court allowed busing must continue. In addition, all citizens concerned about civil rights and education will need to act together to solve the complex problem of Black isolation in our nation's cities. We simply cannot survive as a society if we

**T/D Account**

The Telephone Deposit transfers excess money from checking to your Benj. Franklin savings account where it can earn 5 1/4% interest until you need it. Insured for safety. Telephone transfers work both ways... for deposits or withdrawals. For more information on the T/D Account, call 248-1362.

**Benj. Franklin**

Home Office: Franklin Bldg., Portland, Oregon 97204  
Robert H. Hazen, Pres. • 26 Offices • Phone 248-1234

## Boost opens Albina center Wright addresses delegates

A community drop-in center for persons who want to find out ways to finish their educations has moved into new offices in the Albina area -- 3620 N. Vancouver Avenue.

Persons interested in finding out about financial aid and educational programs available to help them complete high school, college or vocational training programs are encouraged to stop by the BOOST center or to phone 280-6619 weekdays. Services are free and open to the public.

BOOST (Bettering Oregon's Opportunity for Saving Talent) is a federal program operated by the State System of Higher Education to assist persons who need extra financial aid, tutoring, counseling or encouragement to complete their education. In its seven years of existence, BOOST has helped more than 3,000 persons.

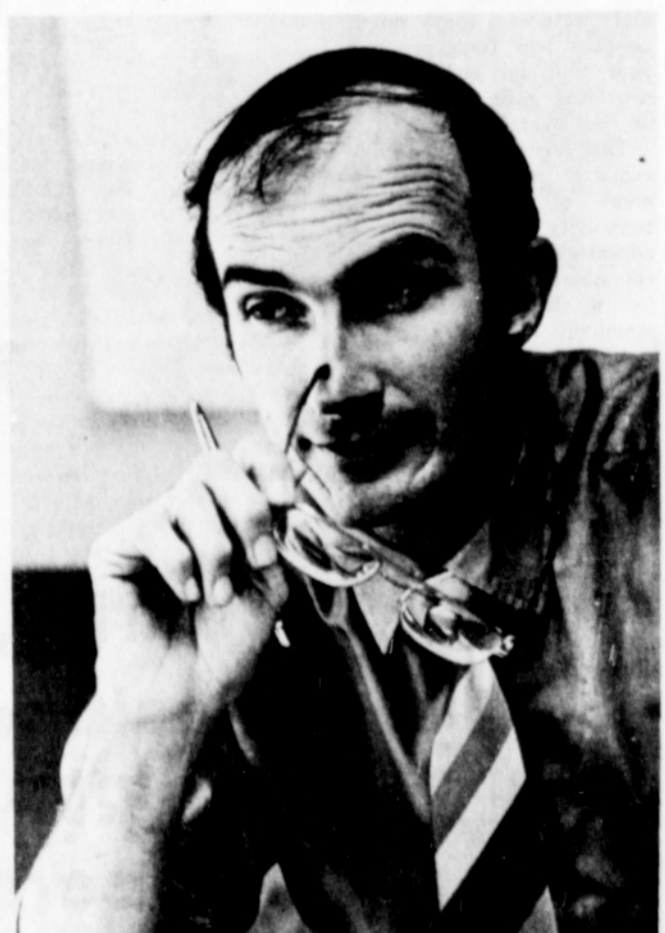
Basically, according to Ken Marshall, BOOST director, the program helps those who have special problems that prevent them from obtaining an education -- low-income persons, minority members, Model Cities residents, young veterans, ex-convicts, dropouts and others. However, BOOST can also assist higher income persons by referring them to program and financial aid sources. BOOST helps participants

obtain financial aid, if needed, and enroll in high school equivalency programs or special educational programs set up at all the state's public colleges and universities, community colleges, and many private colleges and vocational schools. "A big part of BOOST's job is matching the right student with the right program," said Marshall. "If we have a student with a reading handicap, we get him in the school with the best reading program."

BOOST can pick up a student at any level. If he hasn't completed high school, high school equivalency programs are available. College programs are available to students who need special academic help, as well as for students prepared for college.

The BOOST offices were previously located on the Portland State University campus, but were moved to Albina in August so they would be more accessible to potential students and their parents.

The new offices are located next door to the Albina Branch of the Multnomah County Library and the Tradewell More-4-Less Grocery. The office formerly housed the Siekle Cell Anemia Foundation, which has moved to new facilities.



R.P. "JOE" SMITH

## Smith pursues Senate

R.P. "Joe" Smith has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate. Smith, a former Umatilla County District Attorney, is practicing law in Portland. Smith challenged Lee Johnson in 1972 in a close race for the office of State

Attorney General. In announcing his desire to receive the nomination, Smith, who has long been an admirer of the late Senator Wayne Morse, said he seeks the "unique privilege of succeeding Senator Wayne Morse." (Please turn to pg. 2, col. 5)

## Demos choose Senate candidate

Richard Celsi, Chairman of the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee, announced that the Central Committee will meet Thursday night, August 8th, to select its candidate for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate.

In a message to members of the Central Committee, Celsi said "The sudden untimely death of Senator Wayne Morse has left a gap in Oregon's political scene that can never be filled. This loss is especially tragic to the Democratic Party, which has benefitted im-

measurably from his courageous leadership. Whatever efforts are made to choose a successor in the race for the United States Senate must not only honor the memory of Wayne Morse, but must conform to the principles for which he fought so long and valiantly."

Candidates for the nomination have been invited to speak and to be questioned by members of the Central Committee, after which a vote will be taken. Celsi and Vice Chairperson Haroldine Miller, who will represent Multnomah County on the State Central Com-

mittee, have committed themselves to vote for the individual selected by the Thursday night vote. According to Oregon statute, the State Central Committee will meet to select the candidate to oppose Republican incumbent Robert Packwood in the general election in November.

Announced candidates for the nomination are Attorney R.P. "Joe" Smith, State Senate President Jason Boe, State Senator Betty Roberts, and Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, Richard Eyman.

## A Stake in Afro-American Heritage

by J.M. Gates

(Part I discussed the oppression of slavery, the disruption of slave sales, and the legacy of challenge by courageous reformers.)

The legacy of challenge is linked with commitment; tangible and intangible risks are significant stakes of Afro-American heritage. Consider the individuals and institutions with a long-time genuine interest. What is the assessment of slavery by them? Does it reveal a "new look" of humanitarian conditions regarding slavery and the consequences of same? Does the assessment question the impossible value of material provisions without a human Bill of Rights?

The current issue of *Freedomways* (the literary quarterly) discredits the validity of *Time on the Cross* and categorizes the authors as "ignoramuses". *Freedom-*

ways also reports that Kenneth Clark debated the authors on the "Today Show". Other scholarly disagreement is also cited. The *Journal of Negro History* (October, 1973) includes a controversial review of *The Slave Community* and a relevant reference to Kenneth Stamps' earlier conclusions regarding slavery.

More than a century ago, attempts were also made to reveal a "new look". A Mrs. Eastman wrote a column, "Aunt Phillis' Cabin", as the southern answer to Mrs. Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mrs. Stowe provided a documentary addenda in 1853 with her *Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which used legal trials, slave codes, etc. One biographer of Harriet Beecher Stowe cites her July 9, 1851 letter to Frederick Douglass expressing a request to interview someone who had actually labored

on a cotton plantation. That letter for an authentic source was written while she was still working on the manuscript for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The conclusion in *Dortmund's* article that "slave sales considered the continuity of the family or individual maturity" is inconsistent with the published statements of the 19th century. Because of an unwillingness to return to slavery, an exodus to Canada occurred after the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Douglass *Narrative* describes the anxiety in Rochester and the difficulties deciding whether to remain in Rochester or leave the United States. Carter Woodson cites how the impact of slave insurrection resulted in repression of the Independent Black Church. Woodson states

that North Carolina Negroes, preaching by Prohibited, and Alabama in 1833 prohibited slaves or free Negroes from preaching unless five respectable slaveholders were present and there was authorization by a local religious organization. According to Woodson, Georgia's 1834 requirement limited audiences of free Negroes or slaves to seven; preaching in larger audiences necessitated a special license. Whereas the Charleston, S.C. church of the Reverend Morris Brown had 3,000 members in 1822, repression forced him to move north.

Stowe relates the recurring plight of the Edmonson family (the father free and the mother a slave). Financial intervention by Reverend Henry Ward Beecher and Plymouth Church prevented two of the daughters (Please turn to pg. 2, col. 3)