

## United Black Front poll

# Black community supports school boycott

The Black United Front announced overwhelming support for its boycott of the Portland Public Schools, based on a poll of parents attending the first in a series of community meetings held to discuss the philosophy and logistics of the boycott.

"Due to the negative impact Portland Public Schools Desegregation Plan has had on their children, 97% of the Black parents are willing to boycott Portland schools this fall, according to a parents survey conducted by the Black United Front and reported on last Thursday at its

community forum," Ronnie Herndon, chairman of BUF told a press conference Wednesday.

In addition, 98.5% of those who responded to the poll expressed overall dissatisfaction with the District's desegregation program.

"These figures are significant in that they reflect a view that is very different from that which Portland Public Schools has been projecting. These figures represent overwhelming Black disenchantment with the policies and practices of the District. They also indicate that Black parents

have reached the limits of tolerance with respect to the control that the District exerts over their lives—especially since that control is not in the best interest of those who have willfully abrogated some of their authority in good faith.

"The fact that 85% of the parents with children in the District's program feel that their children are being discriminated against significantly reflects that the good faith shown by Black parents has been betrayed.

"The use of the word 'betrayed' is very appropriate because 24% of the

parents surveyed actually requested that their children become a part of the District's administrative transfer program. Another 29% agreed to do so after being convinced by the District that it would be in the best interest of their children and, in the long run, society."

The survey demonstrates that 89.8% feel their children's achievement has not improved or has gotten worse and 82.3% believe the quality of their children's education has not improved or has gotten worse.

The negative effects of scattering

Black children to numerous schools is apparent by the fact that 93.7% of the parents feel their children's cultural identity has not improved or has suffered.

"For all Dr. Blanchard's protestations to the contrary, we believe that it is very clear that Black parents are dissatisfied with a program that has created more problems for Black children than it has solutions," Herndon said.

"The ultimate indignity is that the Federal Government has done nothing, and apparently will do nothing, al-

though it acknowledges that the District's program is discriminatory.

"It is now up to Black parents to find solutions for themselves... become more involved and take a more active role in the education of our children.

"Dr. Blanchard attempts to have the community believe that a boycott of Portland Public Schools would be damaging to our children. His brand of education and social policies are evils which Black children need to be protected against."

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## PORTLAND OBSERVER

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When temperatures reach 100 degrees, everyone goes to the park. Eric Owens tries out a caterpillar at the Peninsula Park playground.

### US Bank cuts South Africa tie

The U.S. National Bank has announced that it will divest itself of its financial interest in South Africa.

Bank officials have determined to sell their holdings in the Private Export Funding Corporation (PEFCO), which is the ninth largest lender to South Africa.

The decision to sell was prompted by lobbying and demonstrations by the People for South African Freedom. The organization picketed U.S. National banks and asked

customers to close their savings and checking accounts.

The bank lost an estimated \$300,000 in deposits because of the campaign.

In a letter to People for Southern African Freedom, bank president Robert Mitchell said, "U.S. Bank does not intend to make any loans to or in South Africa so long as conditions in that country remain unchanged." The bank has informed PEFCO of the decision and asked assistance in selling the stock.

### Black woman charges brutality

Mrs. Mary Young and her sister were driving down Fremont last Wednesday afternoon on their way to the hospital to visit their brother—"As we crossed Williams Avenue the light was green, then it turned yellow and red as we went through the intersection."

Mrs. Young saw a police car approaching from Vancouver, pass by and make a u-turn behind her. When the police came up behind to pull her over, she drove down Vancouver, looking for a place to stop. She knew better than to stop in the first block where there is no parking. Her son, James, and his girlfriend were stopped on Vancouver Avenue—by the same officer who stopped Mrs. Young—and the girl was so startled by the siren that she pulled over into a no parking area. She never was given a driving ticket but the car was ticketed for parking and towed away, and the girl taken to jail.

So Mrs. Young stopped on the left side of Vancouver, near Cook. Two policemen jumped out of the car—one going to each side of her car. She asked officer Scott Anderson, "What do you want?" She said Anderson asked for her driver's license so she handed it to him. He then asked for her address and she said it was on the license. "He said I had to tell him my address so he

could mail the ticket and told me anything I said could be held against me."

After a few more minutes had passed, Mrs. Young said she decided that she had done nothing wrong, and they had not given her a ticket, so she would leave. She told Anderson she was going to leave and started the car.

"Officer Anderson reached through the window and grabbed my wrists and twisted them against the door until he could get the door unlocked. Then he pulled me out of the car and twisted my left arm up behind my back in a hammer lock."

He reached in the car and took the keys, but left the motor running, she said.

"He stood there talking to me telling me he was going to take me to jail for resisting arrest. I told him to take me."

Mrs. Young said when Anderson pulled her out of the car, Officer Greg Clark came around the car and Anderson handed him the keys, which he put in his pocket.

"While Anderson kept talking about taking me to jail, Clark snatched my purse from the car and took it behind the car and went all through it. When he got through he threw it in the back seat and everything fell out. Even my coin purse fell out and because he had opened it, the money

## Black United Front Boycott Demands

No retribution against any individual participating in this expression.

Acknowledgement of inequities and discrimination which lead to poor quality education for Black students.

Willingness to create comprehensive plans in relationship to these objectives and to discuss the plans with the community.

### QUALITY EDUCATION

1. Strengthen general academic programs at both Jefferson and Adams, and insure that neither school is closed.
2. Establish the per cent of minority students 20% as the per cent goal for minority hiring for teachers and all other staff in the district.
  - A. Establish specific timeframe to accomplish this with yearly milestones.
  - B. Establish goal for administrative staff at 20% minority.
3. Establish a mandatory teacher training program in multi-ethnic education, Black history and culture, etc., for all teachers and staff employed in integrated school settings.
4. Establish a plan for teacher placement that addresses current inequities and discrimination against minority teachers.
5. Establish annual achievement improvement goals for each school involved in the desegregation program, and demonstrate to the public progressive improvement in achievement scores.
6. Include better, more representative teaching of minority cultures, particularly Black culture, in the curriculum.

### EQUITABLE BUSING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Reduce scattering and isolation of Black students.
2. Minimum minority enrollment of 40% in schools engaged in transfers for desegregation.
3. Two-way transfer system must be used to achieve the minimum minority enrollment in desegregated schools.
4. Early Childhood Education program should be maintained provided every Black child in neighborhood wanting to attend can, and all white children transferring in remain in the ECE's feeder patterns.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. Establish a plan to correct inequities in disciplinary procedures for Black students.
2. Implement immediately the Coalition's recommendations on discipline categories.
3. Implement uniform and consistent rules/regulations for conduct on buses. No student should be put off the bus until their destination is reached.
4. Establish goals to reduce the disproportionate per cent of Black students suspended and expelled and demonstrate progressive improvement in this area by reporting quarterly to the public.

### ESTABLISH MIDDLE SCHOOLS—BLACK COMMUNITY

Establish a minimum of two middle schools from among the schools in the Black community.

## Some thoughts on the problem

by W. H. McClendon\*

### PART I

Representatives of the Black United Front in their press conference July 18th presented in more specific detail the concerns of the truly responsible Black population over the sinister and blatant racist determinations made relative to the

is planned.

Since 1949 (30 years) there has been a running record of unconscionable and capricious disregard for the academic needs of the Black child in this school district. Many of the school district people who give support to and collaborate in these practices have been around a substantial portion of those years. Often there have been added extraneous bits and brands of racism to compound the problems which beset Black students. At issue this time is the matter that the school superintendent and the Department of Health, Education & Welfare have in usual racist fashion agreed that the victims (Blacks) are and must remain responsible for their victimization. This of course perpetuates the humiliations and embarrassments the Black parents endure as they try

desperately to acquire equitable education and treatment for their children. The point has now been reached that Black people are demanding that policy changes and practices in the physical dispersals of Black children be brought into compliance with principles of fairness and justice. On this point the Black United Front is determined not to compromise.

A distinguished U.S. Superior Court Justice stated many years ago in a momentous legal opinion that "Local customs, however hardened by time, are not decreed in Heaven."

Blanchard is perceived by some Blacks (those responsible to other Blacks) as a plantation overseer held over in the image of white authority as it functioned in an era of unpar-

leled national disgrace. Many facets of his Education For The Seventies proposals in their operation have been appalling abominations academically and horrendous traumas for Black children. This stands out now in bold perspective for all to see. However, this does have a negative value for the entire Black population of this nation. The Portland School situation is a proven example of what can happen when Blacks put faith in the tricky, fickle, mythical good-will of white racist educators. The loss of confidence in educational policy makers by Black people that has resulted from the district's defenses of special privileges, advantages and accommodations for white students over Black students is one of the most important political developments to take place in this decade. (Please turn to page 8 col. 1)

## Analysis

busing programs arranged for Black students in the Portland School District. At the center of this Black expression is the commitment to persist unwaveringly to end the social abuse, maltreatment and intellectual crippling of Black children who attend the Portland Public Schools. A boycott of Portland Public Schools

## Ratepayers win suit, reject deal

The Ratepayers Union and the Southwestern Oregon Community Action Committee, who successfully sued the Oregon Public Utility Commissioner to halt a utility rate hike, have turned down a compromise offered by PUC Commissioner John Lobdell.

Lobdell had granted a seven per cent rate increase to Pacific Power and Light without holding public hearings. This increase, effective June 5th, was granted by Lobdell as an alternative to full public hearings leading to a projected 11.5 per cent increase in November. Lobdell argued that the smaller, but earlier, increase would save the rate payers the cost of hearings while giving PP&L their rate increase he believed it needed.

The Ratepayers Union, arguing that Lobdell's decision was a violation of the people's right to due process and that it set a dangerous precedent, filed a suit in Marion County Circuit Court asking that the seven per cent rate increase be set aside. Last week Judge Clarke Brown ordered Lobdell to withdraw the rate increase and begin public hearings.

Lobdell then offered a compromise. He would continue the increase while the hearings were held. Then, if necessary, he would refund the overage. According to Bob Baugh, a spokesman for the Ratepayers Union, this was the same

compromise offered by PP&L a week before the suit went to court.

"After considering all the options, we decided not to accept the compromise," Baugh said. "The decision was a matter of principle, that the public hearing is an important process."

Also, the Ratepayers Union and SOCAC believe they can prove that even a seven per cent rate increase is not justified. "We believe a thorough investigation of the corporate management will show that the rates are too high now," Baugh pointed out that PP&L is one of the nation's most profitable corporations and that it is spending money on various

corporate acquisitions. He expects the intervenors in the hearings to explore not only the rate structure, but corporate management, purchases from subsidiaries, investments, cost effectiveness of nuclear power and other issues.

PP&L had originally requested a 15 per cent rate increase, and the PUC staff recommended 11.5 per cent.

The Ratepayers Union, an organization of residential energy users, advocates public ownership of utilities, utility rate structure reform, conservation and development of renewable resources and elimination of nuclear power.

## School Board selects new

The process for selection of an individual for appointment to the Portland School Board to complete the remaining two years of the unexpired term of the late Phyllis Wiener, continues this week. A total of 29 persons, including six Blacks and twenty women, applied for the position. Candidate interviews were held July 17th and 18th.

Interviews were conducted by a screening committee consisting of Jonathan Newman, Joe Rieke and Bill Scott.

The screening committee will select at least three candidates to present to the School Board for consideration. A special board meeting

will be held at noon on August 6th to announce the finalists. At that meeting additional persons can be added by a vote of three board members.

The board will meet again on August 9th, at 7:30, to interview the finalists.

Selection of the new board member will be made at that meeting, with a vote of at least four current board members.

All of the meetings will be held in the Board Auditorium at the new Education Service Center, 501 North Dixon Street. All meetings are open in accordance with the Oregon Open Meeting Law. (Please see page 3)