

Portland Police Bureau faces brutality suit

Persons who claim to have been harassed or abused by Portland police officers are organizing to file a class action suit against the City of Portland.

Ernest Owens told the *Observer* that he and others are planning a suit in U.S. District Court that is intended to bring about a federal in-

vestigation of the Portland Police Bureau.

"I have talked at length with legal counsel and we will soon be ready to file. I've been very surprised by the number of people who have called me since the story about how police officers abused and falsely arrested me appeared in the *Observer* last

week," he said. "Many, many people have had similar experiences with the police. Elderly women say they are stopped and asked for ID while walking to church. Children say they have been pulled off their bicycles and questioned. Any woman on the street can be accosted and accused of being a prostitute."

Owens said several of his friends have told him that they had been harassed but they had never reported the incidents.

"It's very frustrating. People are afraid to complain and when they do nothing happens. Chief Baker and Commissioner Jordan say it isn't happening. Either they don't believe

it or they can't do anything about it. When we take them into court and prove it -- then they will believe it."

Owens wants police officers who intimidate, harass or abuse citizens removed from the force. "The police are necessary -- they have a job to do. In may work with the Juvenile Court and the City Park Bureau I

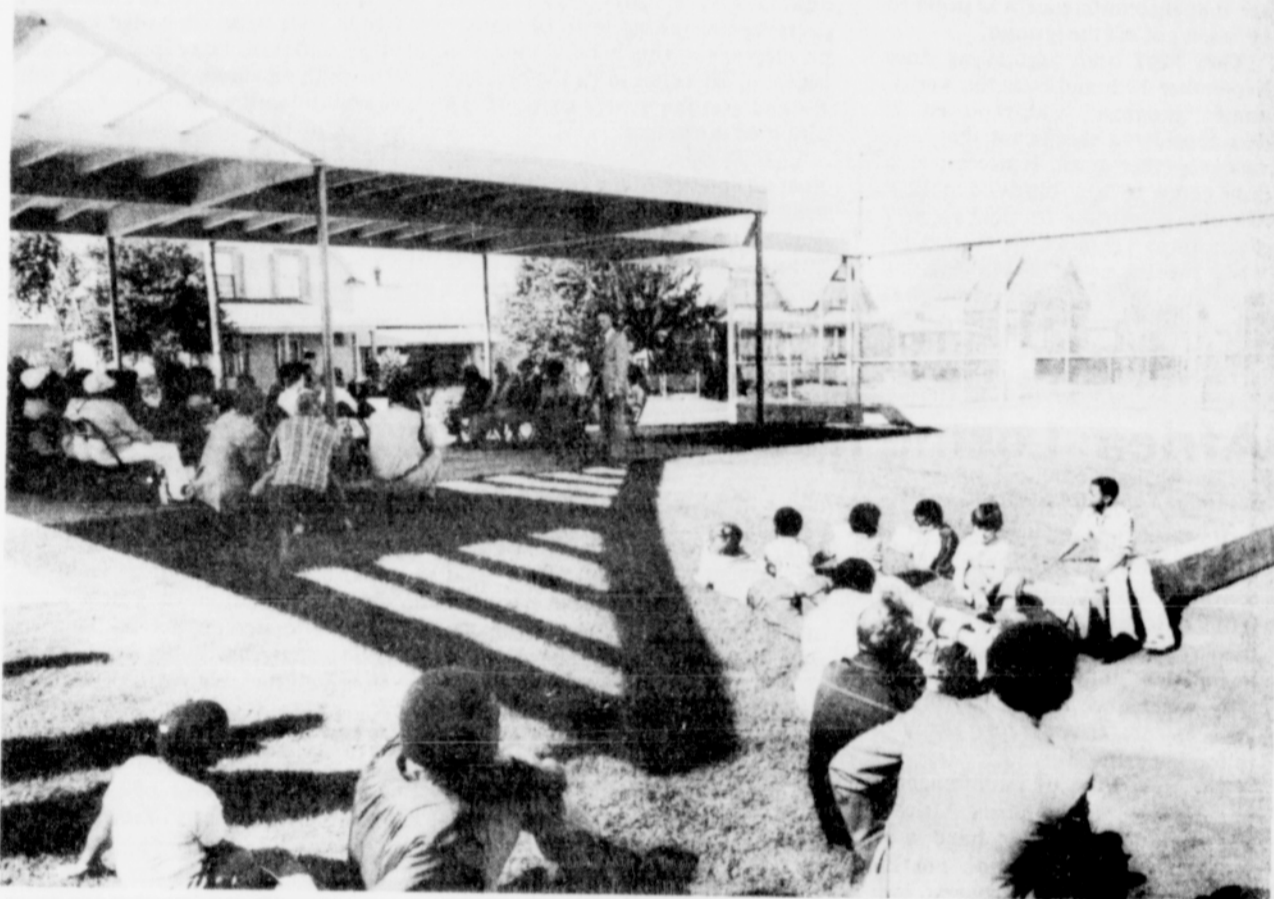
work closely with many police officers and they are trying to help young people. But those who are bothering and beating innocent people need to go."

Persons interested in discussing the proposed suit can contact Owens at 287-1974.

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GENTLEMEN START YOUR????
Damon Harris, Jason Norris and Desmond Faison

Photo: Richard Brown

Coalition votes to continue work

The Community Coalition for School Integration voted Wednesday evening to continue its existence, although some members recommended that it either discontinue or become inactive.

The Coalition was formed in the summer of 1977 in response to attempts by the Portland School Board to further restrict the attendance of Black students in neighborhood schools. Comprised of approximately 40 organizations as well as individuals, the Coalition studied the history and effects of school desegregation in Portland. Finding discrimination against Black children and an uncoordinated, crisis oriented desegregation effort, the Coalition published its findings and recommendations as "Equity for the Eighties" and made specific recommendations to the school board in January of 1979. Although some of the fringe recommendations were adopted, at least in spirit, the central recommendation of desegregation through school pairing was rejected.

Following the school Board's rejection, small Coalition subcommittees met with school personnel around issues in the report. Dissension arose when Superintendent Robert Blanchard, in a memo to

the School Board, suggested Coalition approval of his "reduction of scattering" scheme. Coalition members claimed no knowledge of the content of the meetings and no approval of Blanchard's plan.

The Coalition reorganized, planning to research administrative response to the School Board's resolutions on their report. However, while waiting for district response to their request for information, the impetus was taken by the boycott plans of the Black United Front. The Coalition also suffered a loss of Black leadership to the BUF.

In its September meeting, the lack of Black participation was noted and the advisability of continuing to meet discussed. A determination was made to change meeting nights to avoid conflict with the Front and to further discuss plans for the future.

Three organizations that have played leading roles in the Coalition - Schools for the City, the League of Women Voters and the Ecumenical Ministries, have since petitioned the School Board for assistance in putting on a series of public forums designed to acquaint the white public with the desegregation/integration issue.

Members of Schools for the City

were the most vocal in the effort to disband the Coalition at the Wednesday meeting.

This group -- led by Julie Sterling, Bob Shoemaker and Helen Casey -- spoke for either disbanding or putting the organization on hold -- with a small executive committee that could meet at its own discretion.

Others felt the Coalition should remain organized, meet as required, and offer to assist the BUF and the School Board.

Ruth Spencer told the group that some of them want to disband the Coalition because they are unable to work within the framework established by the BUF. "Some of you are turned off by what has happened." She said, "The School Board has stated that the BUF had a right to make demands because apparently something was wrong. If the School Board can accept it, you should be able to accept it. Some of you have feelings that the Board did nothing for the Coalition but was forced to do something for the Black United Front -- that you were somehow pushed aside."

"If you were not sincere when the Coalition began, you should go home. If you were sincere, nothing (Please turn to page 11 col. 1)

Cable TV comes to Portland

by Stephanie L. Michael

Metropolitan and suburban residents will soon get a chance to have more to say about television programming in Oregon. Liberty Cable Television, 025 S.W. Sherman Street in Portland, will open five television channels strictly for public use.

Charles Atkins, Community Access Coordinator will be heading the division. He says his job will be dealing with direct programs to allow area residents, civic groups and public or private institutions to produce and televise their own programs for local cable distribution.

"I'm the fellow who will be recruiting and educating community folks to the potential uses of television. Each group or person will be allocated time for their own needs. These five open channels will be totally devoted to public-local programs," said Atkins.

"In the early and middle 1970's the Federal Communications Commission required all cable television franchises to provide a public access station. It is no longer required for cable stations to do that any more. Liberty Cable feels that the public needs a voice in Portland and the surrounding area. That's why we will

provide this service free of charge. All I want is community input, feedback and participation."

Coordinator Atkins says cable television is a quasi-sense is probably the fourth TV network. He says each franchise operates independently in programming, but all draw from each other from the same programming pool.

"Cable television is a market I feel more and more people will subscribe to. My staff and I are still identifying individuals and organizations that may want to use our production facilities. Its up to me to find these interested people and train them. The training include script writing, camera techniques, technical direction, building sets and many more things. There has always been a kind of mystique given to broadcasters and the industry in general. I think that era is finally slipping away. I believe that no longer that domain will belong solely to commercial stations and to TV journalists."

Atkins says the five channel outlets will be providing not only a service to community residents, but also the television industry. He says the 24 hour stations will give him a chance to experiment with the arts. He feels community groups will let the artist community provide television with crafts and performing arts, much more so than commercial



CHARLES ATKINS

television. Atkins says cable television with particular reference to local organization channels (LO) will help produce better television programming in Portland as well as better news, sports and feature material.

"Public access channels in the future will help provide a source of (Please turn to page 8 col. 3)

Good Samaritan goes to jail

"I was cabling my bicycle at N.W. 17th and Glisan about eleven in the evening, intending to go into French's Tavern when I overheard two young men, Dave Reuber and Craig Austin talking with police officers", Herschel Soles, assistant to State Representative Wally Priestley, told the *Observer*.

"Dave and Craig were obviously upset about having been asked to leave the tavern without any reason given. Dave was obviously under the influence of alcohol and unwilling to accept Officer Loy Parkerson's explanation of the law." As Soles approached the tavern, he saw the officer push Reuber away from him and say, "Stop shouting in my face!" He continued pushing Reuber toward the corner "with the apparent intention of luring Dave into a physical brawl. He issued threats of arrest and jail while demanding acts of submission,

'shut up' and 'stand up against the wall.'"

Finally, after being pushed for about twenty feet, according to Soles, Reuber fell down. Soles and Austin followed to the corner. When the other officers arrived and it appeared that Reuber would be arrested, Soles offered to be a witness and asked for the officer's badge number.

Immediately he was grabbed by another officer, pushed against a squad car and handcuffed. He was told to put his head on the trunk and when he did not do it quickly enough, his head was pushed down. He asked the officers to allow him to retrieve a mirror he had dropped but his pleas were ignored.

Soles said Austin was standing by quietly watching when he was thrown to the ground and handcuffed. His fed. His glasses were lost.

At the Multnomah County Holding Facility, Soles reports, Reuber was drug along the pavement, resulting in a large scraped area on his abdomen. In the elevator he sunk to the floor. Another officer told him to put his head on the floor and when he did not, the officer placed his foot on Reuber's head, forcing it to the floor.

No charges were brought against Soles or Austin.

"It was a frightening and shocking experience - one you thought could never happen," Soles said. He wrote to Commissioner Jordan, saying, "Dave is needlessly being pulled into the legal process and burdened with the expense of legal defense because of the arko quietly watching whe Loy Parker thrown to the ground an in uniform, he would have been a candidate for arrest."

ACT-SO seeks youthful artists

The Portland Branch, NAACP, Afro-Academic Cultural Technological and Scientific Olympics Committee act-SO) is recruiting Black youth in the ninth through 12th grades to compete for local and national prizes in the 1980 ACT-SO competition.

Initiated in 1978 by Executive Director Benjamin Hooks, ACT-SO encourages excellence in academic and cultural disciplines, by providing a forum for young people to express their skills and creativity in a spirit of friendly competition with positive individual and community reinforcement.

Portland entrees fared well in last year's national competition with Carl Edwards and Anthony Nunly

placing first and third in their areas of excellence. Edwards won a gold medal and \$1,000 for his bust of King Tutenkamen; Nunly won a bronze medal and \$250 for his architectural drawings of a Washington High School addition.

High school counselors, churches and other community organizations are assisting the program by inviting young people to submit their names for application either through the high school counselors or directly to the committee.

The Portland competition will be held in May, while the national finals will take place at the 1980 NAACP National Convention in Florida in June.

Students may apply at the ACT-

SO kick-off meeting to be held on October 24th at Benson High School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Categories of competition are:
The Arts and Humanities: Painting, drawing and sculpture; Original composition of poetry, playwriting and essays; Performing Arts, acting, dancing, music.

The Sciences: Original or Duplicate Experiments in Electronics and communication; energy; other sciences.

Social Sciences: Debate, Ethnic historical study and research, ethnic contemporary study and research.

For additional information contact ACT-SO chairperson Gladys McCoy at 248-5219 or 286-8159.



Metropolitan Family Service Homemakers were awarded for five to thirteen years of service to Portland area families and the elderly. The Recognition Meeting especially honored nine women who have worked for ten years or more. They are: Ruth Brundridge, 10 years; Rosemarie Greenwood, 10 years; Lucille Thomas, 10 years; Vassie Langstaff, 13 years; Althea Harden, 10 years; Clarice Krause, 10 years; Celia Nugent, 10 years; Rosemary Durrow, 12 years. Not pictured: Lorene Thomas, 10 years.