

BUF chairman calls for Blanchard resignation

"Dr. Blanchard should make a humanitarian gesture by resigning," Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, told the *Observer*. "He is being asked to reverse the decisions he made over the past ten years. It is ridiculous to think he can put into effect a program which he philosophically opposed in the past. The Board needs to get a Superintendent who does not philosophically oppose what it is trying to do."

"Dr. Blanchard has repeatedly said white kids will not be bussed to the Black community. He instituted and maintained a one-way busing policy. Now we are asking him to do something that runs contrary to that policy."

"Black people don't have any faith that he or the administrators he has hired can develop a plan that is in our best interest. There have been too many years of deception; people have been misled. They have been provided no information and when they have asked they have been told no information was available."

"We need someone who is more sensitive to the needs of Black children. If you get him out, then those who remain would understand that they have to be responsible to a community that wants constructive change and not to the Superintendent who built his reputation on creating an inequitable program for Black children."

Herndon states that nothing has happened since the boycott was deferred except that a few children were enabled to return to the neighborhood schools.

The Black United Front has no confidence in the Administration's commitment to change, he said. The same problems historically experienced by Black students remain. "There are still insensitive and hostile administrators; teachers hold the same attitudes. The curriculum does not address the cultural and educational needs of Black children. Children are cursed at by bus drivers, left at the wrong stops, missed altogether."

Herndon described the BUF at-

tempts to monitor the district's adherence to the short term policies. "We sent a letter to the area superintendents enclosing a list of questions we sent to principals. When we contacted the principals, many said they were told to refer all questions to Clint Thomas. The area superintendents said they didn't ask the principals to reply because they did not recognize the signature on the letter."

"The letter clearly stated that it was from the Front and they made no effort to verify it. I accept the responsibility because I should have signed the letter myself, but I can't consider this as an indication that the district is willing to cooperate with us. Frank McNamara told me that he

gave the order for all inquiries to be referred to Thomas."

McNamara, as Chairman of the School Board, sent a letter to several groups asking them to participate on a monitoring committee. According to Herndon, the NAACP and the Urban League responded, naming representatives to the committee. Nothing more was heard from McNamara. When Herndon inquired about the status of the committee, McNamara said he would ask Dr. Blanchard to convene it.

"At that point, I said no. We will organize the monitoring committee and include those who want to help. This committee needs to look at the schools, the treatment of children,

receive complaints and act as an ombudsman for children and parents."

"I have thought all along -- and Reverend Jackson has stated it publicly -- that the Superintendent who caused the confusion and injustice we are now trying to correct must go before legitimate changes can be made. Now I am even more convinced."

"With Dr. Blanchard developing the plan or providing the information needed to develop it, Black people will continue to look on it with suspicion. The plan will not be adequate and will not receive the support it needs to be successful. I am calling on Dr. Blanchard to resign."

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Title VII committee protests information lack

The Portland School District has requested a \$100,000 federal planning grant to enhance its desegregation planning process.

The grant would be divided into three strategies, to develop statistics necessary to design a plan, to gather public input, and to provide a public information process during the development and implementation of the plan.

According to the proposal, \$18,000 would go to consultants to conduct a study, analyze enrollment data, facilities and organizational patterns and to prepare recommendations of possible school clustering. "To achieve the development of a comprehensive plan, there is need to secure accurate up-to-date information and to have that information analyzed and presented in useable format so that the Board and its staff can prepare appropriate strategies

Advisory Committee, who have the responsibility to plan, monitor and evaluate use of federal desegregation funds, complained to the School Board Monday night that they were left out of the planning process. Mrs. O. J. Gates, who is not a member of the ESAA committee, advised the Board that its procedure was illegal since federal regulations require that the committee be involved in all phases of the proposal. She advised that this lack of attention to regulations could prevent funding.

Costella McCullough, a long time Title VII Advisory Committee member, chastized the Board for failing to provide the committee with the rules and regulations it is to operate under and failing to advise it of its rights and responsibilities.

Stating that the committee has done some good work in the past in spite and recommendations to address

issues that arise."

Additional personnel to be employed under the grant are a Citizens Involvement Coordinator who will manage and coordinate citizen volunteers who can provide a network for providing information to the public. This person will also facilitate opportunities for citizens to visit other desegregation programs. A Public Information Coordinator will clarify and disseminate information to the public.

Charles Clemens, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, advised the Board's desegregation/integration committee that the district should be notified in a week or so if proposal is funded. The committee is to present its first draft of the completed plan on November 21st.

Members of the Title VII Advisory Committee, now called the ESAA of the lack of information, she em-

phasized repeatedly that the committee has not been adequately informed by the staff. Stating that most of their information on new regulations was provided by Mrs. Gates rather than the staff, Mrs. McCullough asked the Board to accept more responsibility for keeping the committee informed and involved.

The Title VII committee has met with criticism from the community due to its seeming inattention to the severe problems facing Black students in the schools. The committee was not aware of many of the inequities identified by the Community Coalition for School Integration and other studies, and according to several of the members, was not aware of or involved in the three findings of non-compliance by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare which made the district (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

CODA money, commitment questioned

by Donald M. Fuller

CODA has not been forthcoming on their proposed drug treatment program. Now the community is asking where did the money go?

Public funds are involved, and even though CODA is a non-profit agency, the use of these funds entitles the King Neighborhood Association to inquire...where did the money go?

The funds (over one million dollars) was a grant by the state Mental Health Division to CODA on the basis of a proposal which would have put a measly \$170,000 in Northeast Portland.

Part of that money went into a lease agreement Director Jim Robbins made before he got the advise of his board and before he had sent his

underlings to grease the community skids for approval of the local methadone dispensing clinic. That was stopped but...WHERE is the money?

Contacted by the *Observer*, Jim Robbins, CODA's director, declined the opportunity to clarify his agencies plans and budgets.

The King Neighborhood Association sent a written response to Mrs Robbins, who chose to appear before the Northwest Coalition of Neighborhoods weeks ago at the invitation of that group but also chose to ignore the reasonable requests of King Association to respond in writing to that body, again showing his classically racist style of administration. But beyond the question of style, the need for a drug-free treatment program is real,

and was clearly welcome within the stipulations of respect, and cooperation King Association identified. So...WHERE IS THE MONEY, Jim Robbins?

Analysis

Is mis-appropriation of funds now to be added to the list of administrative blunders? How long will CODA Board of Directors, allow such sloppy management of public relations and public monies to be perpetrated by its staff?

The community has been restrained in the face of arrogance, disrespect and tom foolery, designed in a slap dash, harm-scarem ap-

proach to planning by CODA. We have been patient too, when confronted with efforts to stampe and circumvent community processes and input into a potentially volatile enterprise. CODA has been viewed as attempting to impose its will for its purpose on the community, while exploiting the high concentration of minority population, in the community, for economic gain.

Now we ask...where is the community liaison to develop an acceptable program? Where is the effort to develop an advisory board from the community? Where is the statement and acts of commitment to follow through on the proposal before the next funding cycle? Where is the schedule for this urgently needed program? and...WHERE DID THE (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)



A FAMILY AFFAIR

Ms. Brenda Bryant gets a hand from daughter Angela melting butter during a Portland Community College bread making class at Grant High School.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

BUF holds police discussion

The Black United Front will hold a public meeting to discuss police harassment and brutality on Thursday, March 8th. The BUF is receiving numerous complaints of harassment, brutality, profanity and other abuses from all segments of the community. Complaints are coming from "people who don't fit the common description of those who have problems with the police --

people with successful jobs, who pay taxes and own homes," Ron Herndon, co-chairman of the BUF explained.

The BUF will facilitate a public discussion of procedures and plans that can be used to bring an end to the abuses and to recommend policy or procedural changes.

The meeting will be held at King Neighborhood Facility at 7:00 p.m.

New commissioner pushes affirmative action



MIKE LINDBERG

by Tafadzwa Chibanguza

The City of Portland has not done a good job as it should on the affirmative action issue, said Mike Lindberg, Commissioner of Public Works, Fire Bureau and the Emergency Communication Center.

"Each manager should be responsible in achieving certain goals in terms of affirmative action. I suggest a review to be done of how well a manager achieves certain goals in terms of affirmative action," he said.

Lindberg, who filled in the vacant seat left by Connie McCready on October 26th, said the City has enough resources to solve minority unemployment which has doubled in several ways:

- Use Man Power Training money (CETA) to train for jobs in private sectors that will exist.
- Encourage the training of our own citizens.
- Make available enough land for small businesses to employ more people.
- Continue the present practice of housing people, encourage better transportation services, build more recreation areas and facilities, maintain clean streets and make education better for all people.

In response to the debate in Congress that local governments should be responsible for paying the heating bills of the poor people Lind-

berg said this is the job for the federal government.

He added, "This is should be done on a federal or state government level in terms of taxes. The city government cannot afford it."

When asked what actions the City will take should the proposal pass he said, "We will fight it until Congress hears our side of the problem."

Lindberg does not seem to agree with some of the procedures undertaken by the City Council such as the present way a person gets appointed to the Council.

"I think the people in the community should elect the candidates, even in an emergency situation like mine."

He feels the city does not pay much attention to community input in decision making.

"I think the City should give the citizens a chance to respond to decisions we reach," he said.

An Oregonian by birth Lindberg is the father of three children. He received his degree in Economics at the University of Oregon. For eight years he worked for the Bell Telephone system and from there he was employed as assistant to the City Council.

He became director of Public Works for the city for three years and was also director of Planning and Development for same period of time before taking up his present occupation.

Minorities study law careers

The sensitization and recruitment of minority students into the legal profession will be the subject of the first Minority Law Day Conference to be held in Portland November 10.

Deiz speaks

Judge Mercedes Deiz will be a guest speaker at a Career Day Seminar sponsored by the Urban League of Portland on November 3rd at the University of Portland at 9:00 a.m.

This is the sixth consecutive year for this seminar and more than two hundred high school students have pre-registered for all-day workshops.

Thirty-one representatives from business, industry, education, health care and social work will interact with the students. Father Bernard, Vice President of the University, will welcome the group.

The Jefferson High School band will entertain during lunch.

Attorneys, law school administrators and minority law students will join the Honorable Jack E. Tanner of the US District Court, Ninth Circuit (Tacoma, Wash), and the Honorable Belton Hamilton, Administrative Law Judge (Portland), during the full day of exchange and discussion, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

Sponsors of the conference include the Oregon State Bar, which offers the only bar run Affirmative Action program for law students in the country, and the Minority Law Student's Association from each of Oregon's three law schools.

The event, for which there is no charge, will take place on the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth, Portland. Lunch will be provided.

Further information on registration may be obtained from Angel Lopez, Director of Affirmative Action for the bar, 224-4280 or 800-452-8260.