

King Neighborhood Facility seeks new space

The Portland School Board is considering requesting the return of five classrooms in the King Elementary School building for use as school space as part of its intention to provide space for Black students who want to return to King. The space is currently used by the King Neighborhood Facility.

This year King has 710 students in space that should provide for 525. Science, math, curriculum labs, a teachers' workroom and two general curriculum rooms have been converted to classrooms.

The four classrooms have been leased to KNF for twenty years, ending in 1995. The rooms are used

by the Northeast Mediation Center, Project BOOST, the Urban League, the YMCA Extended Day Center, and Highland Adult Program.

James Loving, director of King Neighborhood Facility, explained that the Facility was built by the City with federal Model Cities funds on property belonging to the

School District. As part of the package, the Facility is provided the five rooms, use of the cafeterium, and the School District is the operating agency. "If the classrooms withdrawn, besides removing space we need, the Facility would no longer be self-supporting. We rent space to cover expenses,

and without this space, the city and the school district would have to put in \$15,000."

Loving suggests -- and has suggested before -- that the city and school district build an extension to the facility. "A two story extension would provide a large meeting room with a kitchen on the first floor, and offices upstairs. This would give the

senior citizens, youth groups and other organizations space for large meetings and would have cooking facilities. We constantly have requests for office space and are not able to serve the community as we should.

"As far as I'm concerned, if they will build us the space we need, they can have the classrooms."

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Portland organizations support rights suit

The Black United Front, the NAACP, Portland Branch, and the Urban League of Portland, Tuesday endorsed and supported the civil rights suit filed by Myra Willard against the University of Oregon.

Mrs. Willard, at that time Affirmative Action Officer for the University, filed a class action suit in U.S. District Court in July of 1978, charging that the defendants obstructed her in the performance of her duties by intentionally failing to and refraining from implementing an affirmative action program developed and adopted for the purpose of eliminating prohibited discrimination.

She also alleged that the defendants harassed and psychologically abused her in the performance of her duties as affirmative action and Title IX officer, with the intent to terminate her employment. She was denied tenure.

A 1979 on-site review by the

LEAA checks Portland Police

On December 13, 1979 the Black United Front requested that the Office of Revenue Sharing and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) investigate Portland police department for violation of federal regulations because of racial discrimination in hiring Black officers. A reply has been received from the Office of Revenue Sharing stating that it is gathering information regarding the complaint. We expect to hear quickly from LEAA.

The complaint was filed because only eleven Portland police officers are Black out of a force of approximately 670 officers. Portland was suppose to hire 30 new officers, only one or two of whom would have been Black. No Black officers are in command positions.

The BUF learned that the Chicago and Los Angeles police departments have had federal money cut off because of racial discrimination in hiring and that the Black police officers in New York City are suing for the same reason. The Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department has filed a Friend of the Court Brief in support of the Black officers in New York.

The Black United Front police hot line, 288-9160, is still open for people who have been harassed or brutalized by the police.

Special thanks to the Urban League for making their numbers available for the hot line and to the NAACP for putting the information flyers about the police in their newsletter.

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Eugene branch, NAACP, revealed that only 4.1 per cent of the graduate students at the University in 1978 were minorities, including .8 per cent Black. When the suit was filed, the University had only 11 per cent women and .4 per cent Black on its full-time tenured faculty.

Speaking for the Black United Front, co-chairman Ronnie Herndon said, "We are painfully aware of the discrimination that Black people face in Oregon's educational system. From grade school to graduate school, institutional racism is a daily experience for Black people. It is excusable for a state and federally supported educational institution such as the

University of Oregon to have such a miniscule number of tenured Black faculty members. It is pitiful that the University of Oregon recruits Black athletes with more vigor than it recruits and maintains Black faculty."

Freddye Pette, executive director of the Urban League of Portland, said, "Educational institutions are central to any Black child's dream of escaping the problems of poverty. In many instances, education and affirmative action plans generate the only hope for the unemployed individual. But reality at most institutions shows that faith may be misplaced. Even after earning degrees, university doors, as

well as others, are often not open. Discrimination based on sex and ethnic background keep those doors tightly closed."

Lucious Hicks, president of the Portland Branch, NAACP, explained that the NAACP National Convention supported Mrs. Willard's case last summer. He added the Portland Branch's support. "For the first time, an affirmative action officer, a Black woman, squarely placed the blame for discrimination where it belongs: with those institutions and top officials that neglect to implement the mandate of the United States Congress for equal employment opportunity."

Third generation attends PSU

Three generations of the McClendon family of Northeast Portland gathered recently at Multnomah County Library in downtown Portland to celebrate the holiday visit of daughter Ida Alice McClendon, Jr., as she prefers to be known--and to note what all three share in common: past or current enrollment at Portland State University as well as past or current employment with the county library.

Mrs. Ida A. McClendon (right) received a BS degree in Humanities at PSU in 1957. She has worked in the Multnomah County Library system ever since, except for periods spent in Seattle while obtaining a Master's degree in librarianship at the University of Washington. Currently Mrs. McClendon serves as head of the popular library at the county library's central branch. Mrs. McClendon's husband, William H. McClendon, Sr., teaches part-time in PSU's Department of Black Studies. His full-time position is Deputy Director of Affirmative Action in Oregon; Governor Victor Atiyeh's office.

Like her mother, Ida Alice McClendon, Jr., (left) majored in humanities at PSU and was graduated with a BS in 1966. During her years at PSU she worked as a page in Stack Services at the county library, progressing to a director's clerk in the Social Sciences section. She now works in Berkeley as a communications analyst in the Communications Planning Office of the president at University of California's system-wide administrative offices.

William H. McClendon, III (center) also is taking up the family's PSU academic tradition. He enrolled as a freshman last fall and currently is studying Business Administration, concentrating in the accounting field. He works as a



Ida A. McClendon, Jr.; William H. McClendon III and Ida A. McClendon -- three generations involved in Portland State University.

Stack Services page at the library which is so familiar to his aunt and grandmother.

Two other McClendon family

members also have pursued studies at PSU in past years: Andrea Lee McClendon-Sanders and William H. McClendon, Jr.



Soprano, Gail Strong, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Luther Strong Sr., recently visited Portland from Germany where she presently lives. She has performed in Germany, Vienna, Austria, and Italy where she was a winner in the Mario Del Monaco International Voice Competition.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

African playwright leads theatre workshops

The Portland Black Repertory Theatre is offering a four week experimental Black Theatre Workshop through February 3rd.

Directing the unique workshop, which will explore Black acting techniques through improvisation, dance and music, is South African actor, director and playwright Selaelo Maredi. Maredi has been involved in the theatre in South Africa since 1964. In 1971, against tremendous odds, he and some fellow Blacks formed an experimental theatre workshop, open for all races.

The group worked for two years on acting, playwrighting, technical production and directing before presenting a play. From their improvisation workshops, they produced several plays: Crossroads, Zzzip, Uhlanga, Smallboy, and the highly acclaimed production what

has toured across the US, including Portland in 1979, Survival.

While in the US, Maredi has written several new works and has co-authored with American playwrights. His play, Homelands, won the Villager Award and excited New York critics, and also won nominations for the 1979 Audelco Black Theatre Awards in New York for Best Playwriting and Best Dramatic Production.

The Experimental Black Theatre Workshop is open to all interested artists. Beginners, students and professional actors are encouraged to participate. Registration fee is \$20. per person or \$2.50 per class and can be paid at the workshop. Participants should dress in leotards and jeans or any non-restricting clothing. Call 249-2886 for information.

The stumbling giants and the present danger

By Richard Barnett

EDITORS NOTE: (The danger to world peace arising from the Soviet takeover in Afghanistan could be graver than the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, warns Richard J. Barnett, former State Department official in the Kennedy Administration. He is the author of many books including, "The Roots of War," and the forthcoming "The Lean Years, the politics of the Age of Scarcity." Barnett, in his influential study, "The Giants: Russia and America," argued that inept leadership in both superpowers paved the way for the kind of crisis we now face in the Middle East.)

As the 1980s begin the world seems closer to a major war than at any time since the 1930s. Detente

has broken down under the pressure of a new militarist foreign policy consensus in the U.S. and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. A political chain reaction is building to the point where the fragile bonds that inhibit escalation to wider war may be snapped.

The arms race in Europe is about to take a giant step forward with the decision to deploy cruise missiles and the continuing buildup of Soviet SS-20s. The Carter Administration's efforts to stop nuclear proliferation, as inadequate as they were, are being sacrificed to the "new reality." Despite its defiance of U.S. anti-proliferation policies, Pakistan will be given aid in order to punish the Russians for the invasion of Afghanistan and to deter further aggression. Quick reaction forces,

U.S. bases in the Middle East and a major rearmament program for the next decade with a \$2 trillion price tag are, it now appears, the inevitable consequences of the breakdown of detente.

The new cold war brewing is considerably more dangerous than the cold war of 20 years ago, for the rules of the game have broken down. Under the informal, implicit rules of the old cold war the U.S. conducted military interventions in Iran, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Cambodia and elsewhere and the Soviets invaded Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

These were all violations of customary international law and the UN Charter, but they did not contravene the operational code of the cold war, which was based on

shared perceptions of power. The U.S. was free to dispatch its forces around the world outside the Soviet bloc without courting a risk of nuclear war. The Soviet Union, as the Cuban Missile Crisis showed, was not. Outside the area occupied at the end of World War II by the Red Army, Soviet expansionism was contained.

With the invasion of Afghanistan the Soviets have demonstrated that the old rules no longer apply. While it is absurd to talk of a shift in the "balance of power," the willingness to send military forces outside the Soviet bloc and to brook the predictable consequences is new. And now it raises new and disturbing questions about possible further moves.

By themselves the Afghan events

as the Soviets call them, do not harbor the risk of U.S. Soviet war. But the political chain reaction already in process has been speeded up. Both superpowers are stumbling badly, and this reality, rather than the mythical Kremlin master plan, is the most ominous threat to world peace. Neither side appears able to influence the behavior of the other.

Also, the new cold war is being played out against a background of much greater global instability than was present 30 years ago. In the Third World, too, old ground rules have broken down. According to official views, populations were supposed to be passive, not afire with religious passion. The resources of the Third World were supposed to be cheap and easily available to the industrial world.

Now most of the global oil supply is controlled by shaky Third World regimes and the pricing structure is sending shock waves through the industrial world.

In reaction to the collapse of the old rules, we have the clamor for more bases, quick reaction forces and convert para-military operations. Yet military power is a hopeless instrument for solving the security problems of the 1980s. It did not deter the taking of Iranian hostages. Nor could it achieve their rescue. The massive nuclear arsenal and the airborne divisions did not keep the Russians out of Afghanistan. We can establish bases in the Middle East and show the flag. But the bases will become targets for sabotage and terrorism-- Please turn to page 3 col.