

INSIDE

Careers for the 1980s

Task force holds hearings on Black commission

The Governor's Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs held one of a series of public hearings in Portland Tuesday in an attempt to define the need for and the potential role of a minority commission for Oregon.

The Advisory Committee was appointed by the Governor to identify concerns that are common to minorities and those unique to

specific groups; to determine an organizational structure; and to report its findings and recommendations within ninety days.

The push for a Black Commission began four years ago when the Oregon Association for Black Affairs began work on legislation to that end. The legislation was rejected by the 1977 and 1979 legislatures. Hispanic Oregonians

also have unsuccessfully sought a Hispanic commission.

According to Kay Toran, who is chairperson of the Advisory Committee, Governor Atiyeh supported legislation and is open to the idea of establishing a minority commission, or two commissions, by Executive Order.

The role of the Advisory Committee is to determine what the role of a

commission would be, how it would function, whether it is seen as useful and necessary by the Black and Hispanic communities. The next issue, if the commission or commissions have community support, will be access to funding.

One of the major issues is whether there should be one commission or two. Although there is some concern about whether it would be

easier to fund one commission and that perhaps it would be better to accept one and later separate, the general consensus is that two commissions are needed.

Nick Barnett suggested that the role of the commission be advocacy and research, since the Civil Rights Division has the enforcement function.

Dr. Bill Little felt that

establishing a commission without knowing what it will do could be dangerous. If the wrong people are on the commission it could do more harm than good. He also was concerned that little research exists on which to base action. "We don't have much information on Blacks in Oregon; we don't have data."

Bill McClendon replied that "the (Please turn to Page 6 Col 4)

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Two Sections

Hendrix represents Oregon youth

Reginald Hendrix was elected to be governor of the 1981 Beaver Boy's State by the 425 high school juniors in the American Legion sponsored educational program in government held at the University of Oregon last week.

Hendrix will represent Oregon at Boy's Nation in Washington, D.C., this year, and will preside over the 1981 session of Boy's State. Boy's State provides high school students a first-hand opportunity to learn how state government operates.

A junior at Benson High School, Hendrix is majoring in electronic engineering. He plans to take Business Administration or Electronics Engineering at an as yet unselected university.

Hendrix is involved in numerous school activities. He was secretary/treasurer of the Junior class, participated in a leadership conference, assisted the eighth grade recruitment and worked on the blood drive, candy sale and T-shirt sale.

He is a member of the Benson marching and concert bands -- second chair percussionist -- and was chosen Drum Major and President of the band for the 1980-81 school year. As a freshman he played defensive tackle for the football team and during his junior year threw the javelin, discus and shot on the varsity team, earning a letter in the events.

Hendrix is active in Junior Achievement, which teaches young people the elements of business. This year he received several awards -- Achiever Award, Junior Executive Award, \$100 Sales Club Award and 100% Attendance Award. Winning the Executive Award gave him an all-expense paid trip as a delegate to the National Junior Achievement Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

He was president of his Junior Achievement Company and was elected to the 1980-81 board of directors and vice president of the



REGINALD HENDRIX

Columbia Empire Achievers Association, which covers the area of a 30 mile radius of Portland. He won an award for being in the second best discussion group at the Oregon Management Conference and took second place in retailing at the Oregon Market Place Marathon.

Hendrix was secretary of the Jack and Jill sponsored Portland Chapter Teens in 1977 and 1978 and will be

president for 1979 and 1980. He was elected alternate to the conference in Santa Clara.

Hendrix was a delegate representing Puerto Rico at the recent Republican Mock Convention for Oregon high school students.

The busy young man also loves to ski, drive cars, meet interesting people and water movies. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hendrix.

Organized commitment

By Ben Priestley

The public education system of Portland from a Black frame of reference covering several generations is perceived as not designed or intended to be of benefit to Black children. Often it has been in collusion with and in the service of those constituencies who use custom, law and public policy as mechanisms for Black oppression. Thus public education was mandated to conform to other conditions of living for Blacks that are earmarked by a continuous stream of experience filled with injustice, cruelty, deprivation, terror, tyranny and other symbolic forms of barbarism.

This made it imperative that the Black United Front organize within its ranks a skilled corp of observers and analysts who would give close scrutiny to the indifference, insensitivity and cruelty that this school system has directed at appalling numbers of Black children and their parents over the past ten years. This was for the express purpose of having school boards and administrations acknowledge that Black children are human and educable.

The recent recall announcements are the decisions and options of those who are involved. The Black United Front in its projected recall of three school board members is not misguided nor is it a misreading of signals. It is not even a retaliation to the activities of those who at the prodding of the media, crawled out of the woodwork to announce themselves to be faithful troops in the legion of backlash. For the Black United Front or any similar group, any reaction to this would be an exercise in futility. But the Black United Front will keep before the Black population an awareness of the social and political wrong doing of those who are expected to know better.

One battle in the struggle for liberation is slowly but surely changing course. The centrifugal forces that draw Black persons to their own group are becoming more effective daily. The centrifugal forces pulling Blacks in other directions are becoming less compelling. It is increasingly more difficult now to find Blacks to lend comfort and support to racist norms, institutions, programs and values.

One function of the Black United Front is to keep the Black com-

munity informed of the distressing circumstances for Black children in this educational environment. Continuous concerted efforts are put forth to dispel fear, remove confusion and prevent despair among students and parents. The sense of worth and dignity of the individual in the Black community has reached an unprecedented level of consciousness. This happened despite bad schools, high unemployment and a host of other externally imposed difficulties. The Black United Front has demonstrated that abuse of Black children in the schools and their parents in the outside would have not caused Black people to turn in on themselves. Black indignation is stronger, the voices of protest are more unified and will not be silenced and the spirit of resistance will not be deterred.

An indisputable adage in American life is that white racism cannot exist without oppressing the Black population. This of necessity requires the Black population to assume a posture of resistance to all human oppression. There is an eternal conflict between white racism (the system) and Black humanity (the resistance).

Front challenges recall effort

By Stephanie Cole

The Black United Front issued a press release June 22, 1980 at the King Neighborhood Facility. The press release was issued in regard to several prominent figures in the Portland Community soliciting the recall of the four School board members who voted for the termination of Portland Superintendent Robert Blanchard.

Prominent leaders in the recall campaign of Herb Cawthorne, Sarah Newhall, Wally Priestley, and Steve Buel are: Bob Hazen of Benj. Franklin, the Lloyd Corporation, Charles Davis former Public Utilities Commissioner and Bob Feurgson of the Neighborhood Schools for Kids.

In response to the recall campaign the BUF is asking the Black community and it's friends to withdraw their patronage from Benj. Franklin, and to support a possible economic boycott of Lloyd Center.

The BUF and its supporters will also begin to plan the recall of the three board members of Frank McNamara, Joe Reike, and Bill Scott, who in the BUF opinion have shown their commitment to defend white racism. When asked by the *Observer* what the Black United Front hoped to accomplish by withdrawing patronage from Benj. Franklin, Herndon stated, "We hope to show that the black community is not going to put its money into organizations aimed at hurting Black children."

Herndon further expressed that, "the black community is disappointed to see so many well known corporations involved in a racist campaign to deny Black children even the possibility of achieving a quality education. Mr. Blanchard ran an educational system that maimed the lives of thousands of Black children. Its discriminatory policies and practices are well documented. These corporations never organized to protect defenseless Black children

and their impoverished parents in their struggle to obtain a quality education."

When asked if Dr. Blanchard was fired because of pressures from the Black community Herndon stated that, "some of the media has been surprisingly inaccurate by characterizing Blanchard's termination as

a result of criticism he received from the Black community. That is one of the reasons he was fired. There were a number of other issues that were the major causes for their action."

Once again the Black United Front is depending upon the Black community to unify as one and fight to protect Black children's rights for a quality education.

Gerald heads King School

Bill Gerald will move to King Elementary School to replace LeRoy Moore, acting school superintendent James Fenwick announced. Gerald has been principal of Arleta, Mt. Tabor and Irvington Schools.

He will replace LeRoy Moore, who has been under fire from the Black United Front.

Additional changes in Albina schools are the assignment of new principals to Woodlawn and Irvington. John Chadwick, who will be principal of Irvington, is a teaching fellow at the University of

Oregon, where he is seeking his doctorate. He previously was a counselor in Elmhurst, Illinois, and a high school teacher in Cook County.

Pam Blumenaur, who is a special education director in the Gresham school district, will be assigned to Woodlawn.

Four Blacks were promoted to probationary vice principal positions. Alcena Boozer will be a vice principal at Grant; Lois Irving and A.W. "Tony" Williams at Adams; Audry Haynes at Franklin. Retiring Black vice principals are

June Key from Cleveland and Ellen Law from Franklin.

Barbara Friday, administrative assistant at Mt. Tabor, was promoted to probationary elementary principal and assigned to Mary Rieke school. Thelma Brown, Eliot unit leader will be principal of Rice.

An organizing meeting for all persons who want to take constructive action to oppose the attempted recall of School Board members will be held at King Neighborhood Facility on July 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Washington wins Japan travel

Herman A. Washington, Specialist for Social Studies with the Oregon Department of Education, is one of six recipients of the 1980 Japan Foundation Study-Tour Awards. The six-person team was selected by the National Council for the Social Studies from 135 applicants and will depart from San Francisco on July 7th for a two week visit to Japan.

Washington is a candidate for a doctorate in political science at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

In 1975 he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to travel in India to study that nation's history and culture.

The Study-Tour is sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the National Council for the Social Studies. Its purpose is to explore ways that the study of contemporary Japanese society and its culture might enhance global studies, a new area of required study for Oregon high school students.



HERMAN WASHINGTON



Dwayne Cunningham visited Portland with "Circus Vargus." From Philadelphia, Cunningham was one of 50 to be chosen from 5,000 applicants to attend clown school in Florida. He was one of 15 graduates to be hired by Ringling Brothers, four years ago, but later left to join Circus Vargus. He enjoys the freedom of a small circus and is able to do a solo performance. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)