

Rule by committee threatens elective process

As the nation prepares once again to pause on Independence Day to reflect on the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, the people of Portland have learned that a committee of the city's power brokers and their representatives will "screen" candidates for the School Board to insure that those elected perpetuate the philosophies and policies befitting the nation's "most liveable city."

A committee of politicians and former School Board members is being formed to screen, sponsor and finance candidates for the School Board are being organized. A similar committee -- The City School Committee -- promoted the "best candidates" for school board

service for twenty years, disbanding in 1968. The influence of this committee was able to insure that proper persons were elected to promote the corporate interest.

After the demise of the previous screening committee, less desirable individuals - namely Wally Priestley and Steve Buel - were elected to the Board and they played a decisive role in the appointment of Herb Cawthorne and Sarah Newhall.

Although the current recall movement against Board members Cawthorne, Priestley, Buel and Newhall was organized in protest of their vote to fire Superintendent Robert Blanchard, that issue is dying away and the charges are being directed at "incompetence,

bickering, etc." of the Board.

In the eyes of many observers, the real reason elements of Portland's business community are eager to recall the four Board members is that they have acted independently and have not furthered the programs and policies created by the previous boards with the guidance of the power structure. Many of those who support the recall do so because the current Board has tended to follow the open meeting law and discuss its business and make its decisions at public meetings rather than arriving at meetings with decisions already made as its predecessors have done. This along with a media created image of confusion and bickering,

has influenced many citizens who do not attend meetings or follow the business of the school district.

According to its chairman, Robert Ridgley, the New Committee for Good School Board Candidates is not a part of the recall movement although some of the members including himself favor the recall. The committee will interview, screen, sponsor and finance candidates for appointment if the recall is successful. Otherwise, it will have its candidates for the spring election.

At the press conference announcing the committee's formation, Ridgley was flanked by Paul Howe and Evie Crowell, former Board members who were defeated by Priestley and Buel.

Individuals who helped organize the committee include:

• Ridgley, who is an attorney, was a member of the School Board from 1966 to 1978 when he resigned in June of 1978, his position was filled by Joe Rieke, son of former School Board member, Mary Rieke.

• Circuit Court Judge John C. Beatty, Jr., was appointed to the School Board in 1964 and served until 1970. Subsequently he was appointed to a judgeship.

• Lloyd Anderson is executive director of the Port of Portland and a former City Commissioner. His wife, Pauline, was an unsuccessful candidate for appointment to the School Board in 1979.

• Rick Gustafson, executive direc-

tor of the Metropolitan Service District, is a former state legislator.

• Dr. John R. Howard, president of Lewis and Clark College, has been greatly criticized for his close ties to the South African government.

• Dr. Howard Cherry was a member of the Portland School Board from 1956 to 1968 and is a member of the ESD (Educational Services District) board, the Portland Community College board, and the state legislature.

• Jonathan Newman, an attorney, served on the Board from 1968 to 1979 and is credited with the designing of much of the district's desegregation policy. Opposition to (Please turn to P 8 Col 3)

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Peninsula Park's wading pool is just the place for youngster to beat the heat.

(Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

INED Council plans image

The public information committee of the Inner Northeast Development Council presented its proposed public relations package to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations Monday evening.

Ben Webb, chairman of the committee, explained that the council is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop a logo, motto, and promotional materials to help sell a "new image of the area." The council is charged with identifying sites for business and industrial location in the target area.

The public information committee had identified real and imagined negative and positive characteristics of the area. Using these they want to create a media campaign that will highlight positives and improve the public concepts about the area. The

approval will be "emotional," not educational.

Bob Nelson, representing the Concordia Neighborhood Association, called the plan an "intellectual exercise in nothing" that will not fool anybody. The best way to improve the community's image is through active, involved people who are doing something - real community involvement. Community involvement in the eyes of most committees is "usually processes for meetings."

Webb reiterated that the effort is to provide a positive image to encourage investors and businesses to consider the area. Many people know nothing about the area and receiving brochures and packets will interest them in locating in the area.

John Hills said decisions about commercial and industrial develop-

ment should be made by neighborhoods. "We don't want to give the impression that we are wide open for anything."

Eddie Moss complained that committees are continually researching the needs, identifying what the people want, but nothing happens and information is not provided to the community. "What can we do to develop the economic base in the community?" He feels the city has marketing and development information that could help Black business if it were shared.

Two consultants will be heard by the committee - one to be paid \$5,000 to develop a media and public relations package; the other to be paid \$6,000 to do an economic study.

Herndon elected secretary

National United Front organizes

Amiri Baraka explained the necessity for the organization of a national Black United Front: "Because a Black United Front composed of all those forces in the Black nation and oppressed nationally, willing to fight against Black oppression and fight for Black self-determination -- such a front is necessary for Black liberation."

Ronnie Herndon, who along with Caroline Murray and Caroline Easterly, attended the organizing conference of the national Black United Front in New York, told the *Observer* that seeing grassroot organizers from diverse political beliefs come together to form a United Front was an inspirational experience.

Demonstrating the diversity of those participating were: *Haki Mubhabuti* (Don L. Lee, Author, Publisher, Editor); *Dr. Bobby Wright*, psychiatrist of Chicago; *Amiri Obadeli*, The Republic of New Africa; *Skip Robinson*, United League of Mississippi; *Reverend Charles Koen* of BUF, Cario, Illinois; *John Henry Clarke* of Freedomways; *Ossie Davis*; Author

John O. Killens; *Queen Mother Moore*; *Prince Ahsiel Ben Israel* of the Hebrew Israelites of Israel; *New York State Assemblyman Al Vann*; *Dr. Maleek Rashadeen*, California at Los Angeles; *Bob Chrisman* of Black Scholar.

"For the first time in ten years Blacks from different backgrounds, who are organizing the grassroots, have created a national vehicle that will be created from the grassroots upward. Everyone was committed to building a national organization and were able to suppress their individual beliefs and in order to create unity.

"It was thrilling to watch people from all walks of life, from all parts of the country, work together, share ideas and hammer out resolutions. There were many prominent people there who were just participants like everyone else."

All participants attended at their own expense, with everyone - even the speakers and workshop leaders - paying a \$5 registration fee.

The conference proved, Herndon explained, that there can be an organization that works at the grassroots level, that takes positions on local and national issues, and

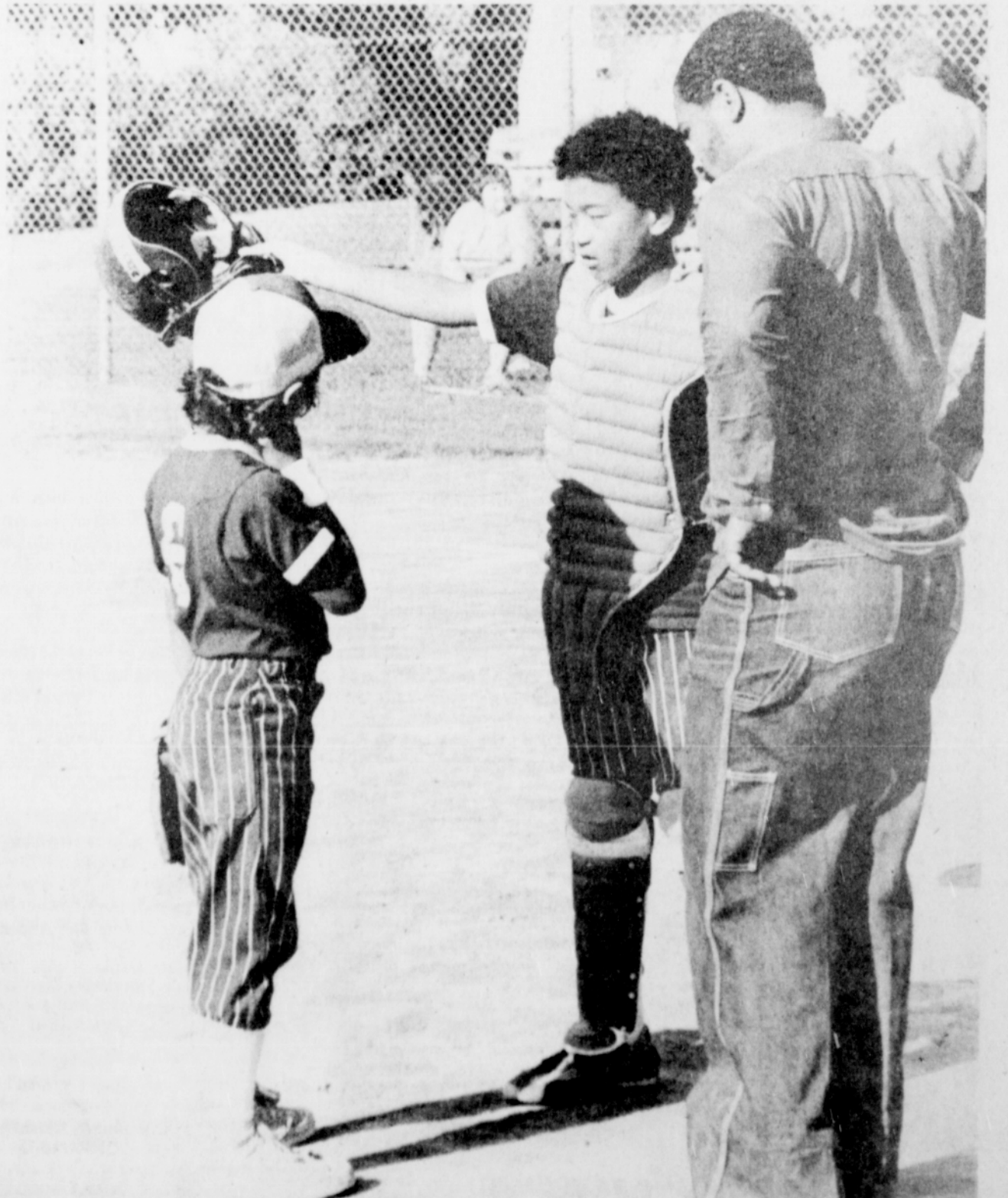
that does not have to consider what is best for its funding sources.

The conference was an opportunity to share information on conditions throughout the country. People from Georgia told of having land to which they held deeds sold out from under them and their homes bulldozed away. Blacks from Wrightsville, Georgia told of being threatened with the loss of their children and employment if they joined demonstrations.

"Many people had heard about Portland and were very impressed with what we had been able to do in a short time. There were questions about how we were able to organize - to pull together - and they want to learn from us."

A temporary constitution was adopted and temporary officers elected to serve for a year. Next July, following regional meetings, a constitution will be adopted and officers elected to a two year term.

Temporary officers are: *Reverend Herbert Dougherty*, Chairman; *Florence Walker* of Philadelphia, Treasurer; *Ronnie Herndon*, Secretary; *Jitu Weusi* of New York, National Coordinator.



Wagstaff Battery, Little league baseball team catcher Johnny Cawthorne has a talk with pitcher

Randy Schafer and the team coach.

(Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

Reading Tree opens season

By Stephanie Cole

The Reading Tree, a summer educational program will begin its summer session starting July 7th, and will run until August 8, 1980, in Irving Park. The program will be held Monday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Activities and classes offered are: individual reading, listening skill

practices, phoentics, phoentic bingo games, storytelling, singing and arts and crafts. Also free books are available to children participating in the program.

Prizes will be given to every youngster who colors the Reading Tree in this week's *Portland Observer* newspaper, and take it to the Reading Tree at Irving Park on July 7th.

Coordinators of the program are Bea Anderson, an elementary school teacher at King School and Linda McDovell.

Everyone in the community is invited to participate in the program and volunteers are always welcomed! Further information about the Reading Tree can be sought by contacting Bea Anderson at 282-3328.

Visit a volcano this summer

Now that Mt. St. Helens has blown its top, some geologists believe the other Cascade volcanoes will follow suit. If so, the time may be opportune for Northwesterners to visit their favorite mountain and find out what's going on.

OMSI will offer a series of field

trips this summer to several volcanoes in the Cascade Range of Oregon and Washington. Led by geologist Bill Burton of the University of Oregon, each trip will focus on the volcanic features of the area visited, the eruptive history of the volcano, and the possible impact on human activity should the

volcano become active in the near future.

Trips include a visit to the mudflows of Mt. Rainier; a three-day tour of Newberry Caldera and Crater Lake; two backpacking trips to the Three Sisters are; and several trips to Mt. Hood. For information call 248-5907.