

Black United Front boycotts Lloyd Center

The Black United Front has called for a boycott of Lloyd Center, beginning August 1, to protest the involvement of Robert Cameron, in the effort to recall School Board members Herb Cawthorne, Wally Priestley, Steve Buel and Sarah Newhall.

Ronnie Herndon, explaining the

BUF position, said in making the public announcement of Cameron's involvement in the recall attempt, his position with Lloyd Corporation was used to distinguish his name and give creditability. "Until Lloyd Corporation was mentioned, most people didn't have any idea who he was. The Lloyd Corporation didn't

come out immediately and disclaim their involvement; they waited until we had called a boycott before they got around to saying the Corporation is not involved.

"The Benj. Franklin did the same thing. The first recall meeting was held in their offices and their telephone number was used, but

they didn't disassociate themselves from the recall until we asked people to remove their money from Benj. Franklin."

In reply to the usual question about "free speech," Herndon explained, "Free expression is fine, but those affected by a movement that will probably harm our children

are free to express themselves, too. There is also a right to redress wrongs.

"We can't stop racism, but we don't have to reward the corporations involved. We are asking Black people not to spend their money with these companies."

Reverend John Jackson said, the BUF hopes this boycott will make other corporations more careful about using their corporate image to level credence to unjust movements.

A picket of Lloyd Center is planned for noon on Saturday, August 2nd.

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Summer Dream: Youngster watches older youth in Karate exhibit at King Neighborhood Facility.

(Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

Dekum Court gets playground

With City Council approval of playground plans a process of at least four years in nearing an end for Dekum court residents and surrounding neighbors in the Concordia Community Association, (CCA) the Housing Authority and Portland city Government. The first major event of that process was an attempt by HAP to build fifty units of housing adjacent to forty existing units at the Dekum Court public housing site.

The CCA protested saying that forty units was enough at the site and if additional units were needed they should be built elsewhere in the CCA neighborhood. HAP then sought to sell the property, at that time zoned for apartments, telling the neighborhood that when a developer purchased the property, 200 units could be built rather than fifty that HAP proposed.

The CCA then sought and gained city approval of a down zone of the property to single family houses. The CCA tenants at Dekum Court requested that play space be left with the existing apartment units.

However, when the sale occurred the tenants contacted the CCA saying that their "backyard" had

been sold. The CCA and tenants formed a task force chaired by Claudia Fisher and decided to seek City repurchase of a portion of the property using Housing and Community Development (HCD) funds. HAP later agreed to maintain the property purchased by the City with a plan to transfer title to HAP.

City Council approved in July, 1979, purchase of five of the ten lots sold or more if developer J.W. Brayson, Inc., was willing to sell all ten. However, Brayson, at that point, would only sell five lots to the City. The City had only appropriated \$80,000 for purchase and improvements at the site. The five lots were bought for \$52,000 to \$53,000 and the remaining amount of approximately \$27,000 was set aside for landscaping and play equipment purchase.

The CCA's Dekum Court Task Force, the Community Design Center, the city's Office of Planning and Development (Mr. Chuck Olson), and HAP have since been seeking consensus for the playground plans. Consensus was finally gained and an ordinance was approved unanimously by city Council July 29th transferring title of the five lots and equipment to HAP

(at no cost) upon their completion of improvements and play equipment installation to the city's satisfaction. The ordinance also states that any alterations in use or ownership of the property by HAP can take place only with city approval. The ordinance's terms are in effect for the life of the Dekum Court Project. HAP will provide maintenance for the property and equipment. It is hoped by the neighborhood and city that installation and improvements can be accomplished this summer.

The years before and after the down zone were marked with repeated conflict between the neighborhood and HAP with meetings, protest marches and a federal court suit.

The play area will be named Swan Park after Ron Swan, a former service Coordinator who was removed from his position after he attempted to aid the Dekum Court tenants' efforts to regain the play area. As a result of his civil rights suit, Swan was awarded general damages against Dr. Lyndon Musoff, recently resigned HAP Executive Director, and Director of Operations Judy Londahl, and punitive damages against Lundahl.

Tax deficit threatens programs

The State Ways and Means Committee has been meeting to prepare budget cuts for referral to a special session of the Legislature Monday. The budget cuts are an response to an estimated \$204 million deficit in the State's revenue.

Wally Priestley, Representative of District #16 in Northeast Portland and member of the House Revenue Committee. There are two main reasons for the immediate problem, but the real causes are legislative actions over the past twenty years that have shifted the tax burden from corporations to homeowners and brought about demands for property tax relief.

The \$204 million shortage is the difference between the 1979 estimate of money the state would receive in 1980-1981 and current estimates of that sum.

In Priestley's opinion the difference is not merely on error caused by the difficulty of projecting incoming revenues three years in advance, but is caused by two major trends: The State's income tax formula is becoming less and less progressive, that is, persons in high income levels are paying a smaller percent of their incomes so persons at lower incomes must pay more. Also, diminished economic activity caused by the recession has brought unemployment and therefore less income tax is being collected.

There are a number of other factors - most of them causing pressure on the homeowner - that have added to the "tax revolt" and demands for home owner property tax relief: 1) In 1959 Georgia Pacific, which had come into the state in about 1956, asked the legislature to shift property taxes off of standing timber, Weyerhaeuser opposed the plan, but in 1961 G.P.

and Weyerhaeuser successfully proposed a compromise plan that lifted taxes from trees less than 12" in diameter. That not only shifted the tax burden to non - timber land, but was an incentive to over-cut the large old-growth and second growth trees, causing the current shortage of harvestable trees on private company land. The companies were cutting the taxable trees in order not to pay taxes. Finally in 1977, the law was changed and now the trees are measured and taxed after they are cut. This formula was designed to provide for replacement of trees, but because inflation drives up the value of logs, the companies are paying more. As available trees disappear - caused by the earlier over cutting - the tax revenue will decline and the resulting unemployment will also decrease income tax revenue.

2) In 1963 a Senior Citizens Tax Deferral Plan was passed, allowing senior citizens to defer their property tax payments until after their death when they would be paid by their estate with 8 percent interest. This law was passed as an alternative to demands for tax relief for low income people and was seldom used. In the last year it is being used by upper income seniors because the interest rate is low and it can be used as a "pay later" plan rather than the usual loan method.

This costs the State general fund \$10 million dollars each year.

3) The corporate inventory tax, which went to local governments, was removed shifting the tax burden to home owners.

4) In 1969 the Farm Use Deferral Act was passed, which allows farms in urban areas to be assessed at their value as farm property rather than at the real value. Although this

helps retain farmland, it shifts taxes to homeowners.

5) In response to demands for home property tax relief 1979 legislature has the State pay 30 percent of the homeowner's property tax, up to \$800. The \$800 payment pays 30 percent of the taxes on a house valued at \$133,000 (state average). On a house of greater value the payment is still \$800. This measure takes money from the State general fund to pay local property taxes for persons with high valued homes and is a direct cause of the current estimated budget deficit.

6) The legislature attempted to raise more highway funds through an increased gas tax, and through doubling the license tax, both measures were referred to the voters through petition efforts headed by Priestley and voted down by the people. The 1977 Legislature referred to the voters a measure which passed, which funds State police and State Parks out of the general fund instead of out of the highway fund.

7) The 1977 Legislature phased out the inheritance tax. This tax was very small since about \$150,000 of inheritance was exempted so only those who inherited more payed, and they paid little. But the phase out did provide a tax benefit for the rich.

8) The amount of federal taxes the individual pays that can be deducted on the state income tax return was raised from \$5,000 to \$7,000. This helps only those citizens who pay more than \$5,000 a year in federal taxes, but created a loss of revenue to the general fund.

In Priestley's opinion all of these tax measures have been adopted to benefit those with high incomes and/or valuable property, and business, while low and middle income (Please turn to Page 2 Col 1)

Judge Hamilton teaches pain seminar

By Stephanie Cole

Administrative law judge H. J. Belton Hamilton convened and coordinated a medical-legal education seminar held July 16-18 at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. Attending the 3 day seminar were thirty Social Security judges from five western states.

According to Judge Hamilton "the objective of the seminar was to facilitate information concerning the psychological, medical, vocational

and legal aspects of pain. "This is essential in being able to improve the judge's evaluation of pain as a disabling impairment in both general and specific situations."

Speakers for the seminar were prominent individuals from the medical and legal profession. Topics covered in the seminar included: post traumatic pain, medical treatment traits for pain behavior, pain without trauma, different strokes for different folks, a bird's eye view of pain and a view from the trenches. The highlight of the seminar was a tour of the Northwest Pain Center narrated by medical and psychological guides from the pain center.

When asked what the response of the judges were to the pain seminar, Judge Hamilton noted that "all the judges were impressed with the pain seminar and it's presentation." Several judges in their responses have expressed a desire to attend more seminars of this nature.

"Most found the seminar very useful in improving the quality of the legal evaluation of medical evidence of pain itself."

"I think the seminar served to broaden the judges knowledge concerning Social Security and disability claims."

It also provided an atmosphere allowing the Judges to interact and exchange techniques for evaluating pain in their cases.

"Many judges are now better able to evaluate the credibility of testimony concerning the existence, nature, and severity of pain."

Judge Hamilton's other involvement have included serving on: The United Way Board, Northwest Planning committee, Advisory Committee for Clackamas County Health Services, and the Advisory Committee for Dammasch Hospital. Currently Judge Hamilton is serving a re-elect term as President of the Portland Urban League.



Ms. Judy Madden, of Education of Summer Fun, explains construction of masks made by youngsters to Muhammad Rahman and Tana

Herndon during open house for "Education for Summer Fun" at King Neighborhood Facility. (Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

Seniors meet

Senior Citizens living in the near northeast area are invited to a meeting of the Task Force of the Senior Adult Service Center of Northeast Portland, Inc., to discuss potential building sites for a new center.

The meeting will be held on August 4th at 12:30 pm at the Prince Hall Masonic Hall, 116 NE Russell Street (287-3591 for information).