

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Programs for the poor?

A year or so ago the City of Portland took over control of its CETA programs that had previously been sub-contracted to various organizations. Among the reasons for this move was to more fully control the enrollment procedures to insure that the target populations are served - the poor, minorities, educationally disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed.

This week the Observer received a press release from Portland Community College describing a concentrated course for 35 selected CETA students to learn word processing. The purpose of the course is to move the students into a permanent, paying career. Word processing is in demand, so the successful students should be able to step into secure jobs. The students get tuition, books and \$3.10 an hour while they are in the course.

Among the students is a young man who "entered the program with top math skills: he was a competitor in two state high school math contests in California and is now a third year student at Reed College." The young

man looks at the training as an opportunity to learn a skill for summer jobs. "He's looking ahead to many years of college to attain a long-term goal: a doctorate degree from Cal Tech in nuclear physics."

CETA was designed to make the unemployable employable, to train those without adequate education or skills, to provide jobs for those who will never make it in the private sector. Surely with a 9 percent rate of unemployment in Oregon, there are some people out there who could use this program to gain skills for long term employment. There must be welfare mothers who jump at the chance to learn a lucrative trade - or young people who will never have the opportunity to go to college but who will have to support themselves.

This misuse of money intended for the poor not only causes the taxpayers to rebel against paying for rip-offs but it deepens the resentment in those who were promised the opportunity they never received.

Loan fund grants more loans

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cluding engineering, legal, grading, testing, site mapping, and related costs associated with the acquisition and preparation of land;

"B. Building costs, including real estate, engineering, architectural, legal, and related costs associated with acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of building."

Minority Representative to Loan Committee

The Minority Task Force, established in response to the suit, recommended that a minority member, nominated by the minority communities, be added to the Revolving Loan Committee, which was made up of bankers and PDC commissioners. The Task Force also recommended an oversight Subcommittee of EDAC to oversee minority concerns.

The Oversight Committee designed criteria for the selection of a minority member, contacted community organizations and the plaintiffs to the suit, and accepted nominations. Four persons who had been nominated were interviewed by Matthew Akom (Black), Louis Alvarez (Spanish speaking) and Dave Hunt, Director of PDC. Broussard was their first choice for selection, Humberto Reyna was second. The PDC chairman created another position on the committee and named both.

In July Broussard and Reyna wrote letters to the Oversight Committee stating concern with the loan process and with loans being granted. They appeared before that committee, and at their suggestion Broussard spoke before the EDAC board.

In response to Broussard and Reyna's concerns, John Wight presented a new proposal to EDAC and to the City Council, which would create a non-profit corporation to take the place of the loan committee. The five directors of the corporation would replace the current members of the loan committee.

Bourbon Street Loan

The only minority loan presented to the Loan Review Committee was a \$225,000 (city share) loan for Bourbon Street restaurant and lounge.

Broussard opposed this loan on the basis that pay-off of the long term equipment lease was not a good business decision and was un-

necessary, and that management of the business needed to be improved to guarantee its success. The loan was denied, with the intention that it would be resubmitted. The Bourbon Street owners received notification from the Bureau of Economic Development that the loan had been rejected but were not notified that they were to resubmit.

Later the creditors met and it became evident that the loan would not have been sufficient to pay the debts and retain enough working capital to continue the business. In other words, had the loan been made, the money would have been gone and the business still would not have survived.

In spite of the financial condition of this business, the Bureau had approved and submitted it to the Loan Committee, with Broussard the only member of the Loan Committee to object. The owners of the business had been assured by some City employees that the loan had been approved.

"It is my personal opinion that this is a 'political loan,' that it would have taken the one-third supposedly reserved for minorities, and that its failure would have allowed the write-off of the minority community," Broussard told the Observer. "This loan, plus the two long term loans that were to follow would have cleaned out the fund."

TWO MAJOR LOANS

Since Broussard and Reyna asked that a moratorium on new loans be called, two major loans have been granted.

A loan application was submitted by developer, William Heintz, of Clackamas, Oregon, owner of W.R. Heintz and Son Construction, Co. He is the son and heir of the late R.A. Heintz, the developer of a 145 acre industrial park where the property is located.

Heintz leases a building to the Eaton Yale & Towne Company which sells and service lift trucks and leases industrial trucks. The purpose of this \$129,000 loan (10 years) is to provide additional space for the tenant. The loan has been approved.

This loan would not qualify under current requirements. The Loan Fund is not to be used for speculative purposes defined as, the acquisition of land or buildings, but with no on-site, long-term jobs

created or retained directly by the borrower.

The loan carries no First Source Agreement as required, and anticipates the addition by Eaton, Yale and Towne of four to eight employees. Current requirements are that each \$10,000 of City money generate one job -- or 13 jobs for the loan. This loan is personally guaranteed by William Heintz. Broussard and Reyna voted against it.

On July 18th, the *Oregonian* reported that Nel-Tech planned to move from Tualatin to Union Avenue and Tillamook, and that Larry Jackson, chairman of the Inner Northeast Economic Council, expected Nel-Tech to receive a \$250,000 low interest loan. This business, 75% owned by John Gray, is projected to gross \$2.5 million in 1980.

At the time this report appeared in the *Oregonian*, the loan package had not gone to the Loan Committee. Subsequently, it was presented and was granted.

The company projects the addition of 20 jobs when the plant opens, and 72 by the end of 1982. There is no First Source Agreement as required. The 10 year loan is personally guaranteed by John Gray. The vote was 2 to 2, with Broussard and Reyna voting against.

This is not a proper use of the Revolving Loan Fund," Broussard said. "Rather than being offered a revolving loan that is for small and minority businesses, Gray should have been insured an industrial loan to make him an anchor in an industrial park."

"Tecktronix, Floating Point and other large companies should be pursued so they -- along with the smaller minority businesses - would create jobs and housing in the community. Instead, we have a band-aid approach to Union Avenue."

The loans made therefore do not fit the City Council's goal "to provide a Revolving Loan Fund to help eliminate the special barriers that face businesses which are women- and minority- owned."

"There are qualified minority businesses that could utilize this money to expand job opportunities in the Northeast area if the Bureau would approach them with the same enthusiasm it has the large white businesses."



This affirmative action

by N. Fungai Kumbula

Jeff lives on Jump Street. Jeff is ten years old. Jeff is Black. Like most Black children at his age, he is beginning to take a very serious look at the world. To say what he sees is disillusioning would be the understatement of the decade.

At the moment he is walking around bleary-eyed because he could not sleep again last night. Matter of fact, he cannot remember the last time he had a restful night's sleep. Police sirens and screeching tires scream past his door every hour on the hour twenty four hours a day. The police virtually live in this neighborhood; this must be the most "policed" neighborhood in the world, he thinks to himself as he nods on the park bench.

Jeff comes from a solid home. Mom and dad have instilled in him all the values of this "Civilized" society. They are both working, honest and upstanding citizens. Above all, they have tried to instill in him a love of and faith in the educational system. "Get an education, son, and you can be anything you want to be." Jeff would like to believe this as he would like to believe everything else his parents tell him. The problem though is that he has begun to look around, to stop, think, question and analyze. This is what he sees.

Both mom and dad work 9 to 5 everyday. They work hard to try and maintain a family and to keep their heads above water. Anybody looking, however, can see that they are barely making it. The money crunch has hit and hit hard. Down the street lives Slick, who has all the things that Jeff's little black and white TV tells him anybody who's "making it" has got to have. The thing though is that Slick does not work; at least not at your ordinary nine-to-five.

Slick has some shady scheme going; whether it's pimping or dealing in dope no one is quite sure. He has been in and out of the pen a few times but he always seems to get right back to his high style of living. Jeff remembers all too well the day he was invited to see the inside of the pad; place had everything and his little eyes were almost popping out of their sockets.

Immediately, of course, his little mind begins to question society's whole value system: Mom and dad work so hard and what do they have to show for it except bills, bills and more bills? This "cat" here has never worked a day in his life but look at him! At school Jeff is trying very hard to learn but he gets very little help from old and tired Miss Sloe. She has been teaching for a long time; so long in fact that, far from the pleasure that it should be, teaching has become a chore and a boring one at that. She will, therefore, wade through each schoolday doing as little as possible and only waiting for the time when she can knock off and go tutor her two little daughters.

"Get an education, son, and you can be anything you want to be." How can I get an education when there is not only no one to teach me but also no one to turn to for help? Asking himself this question reminds him of the time he went to Oregon State Penitentiary to visit Uncle Jack. Jack was his favorite of all the adults he knew. He was more like a big little friend, actually.

One day, the police had come bursting into their house with guns drawn and taken Uncle Jack away. Jeff had never been so terrified. He was crying as the police threw Jack to the ground, stuck a big foot on his back, pointed four enormous guns at him and threatened to blow

his brains if he should make the slightest move.

When Jeff went to visit him in the pen, he was so heart-broken. His big little friend was a broken man; moody, irritable, sickly and a little mean too. He also had this big ugly gash above his left eye and he refused to say how he got it. Jack had been accused of robbing a convenience store and, for six months, he languished in OSP. It was later discovered that he had been falsely accused. He was released but promptly left the state in bitterness.

Apart from the shock of seeing so many people penned in like animals, the one other lasting impression the place left him with was that it was the only place he had ever been that seemed populated exclusively by black folk. He heard one of the inmates say, "This is the only place where they so aggressively pursue affirmative action. This affirmative action we can do without."

Jeff is learning but it is a bitter lesson. Already his analytical little mind is telling him that he will have a rougher struggle making it than his father did fifteen years before. If the trend continues, his son will have it even rougher. The number of Black folks sliding into poverty has been increasing rather than decreasing. The number of opportunities open to Blacks have also been dwindling. At the same time, though, it's an election year and there are promises galore.

As he sits there thinking, another police car cruises by and his tired eyes are drawn to the legend on the door: "To protect and to serve." He laughs rather mirthlessly. In this neighborhood, I know a lot of people who think that legend should be changed to "To occupy and to repress," he thinks as the police cruiser circles the block.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety

"You and several of your friends are among a crowd of 50 or more in the park. You notice peace officers approaching and all heads turn. The officers proceed through the crowd and make a gambling arrest that you (the crowd) feel is unnecessary."

"The arrestee screams to you (the crowd) for help while resisting arrest. To secure the arrest, force is used and you (the crowd) decide to come to that person's aid."

"In anger, you curse, spit and throw bottles toward the officers. More police units arrive. More arrests are made."

This scenario is one that has been repeated recently in our parks, namely Alberta Park. It is difficult to know all the elements that spark such responses but this is an appeal to youth and parents of youth who might be involved.

When an arrest is made, you are not made privy to the basis for that arrest. You only see what appears to be the basis for that arrest whether it is positive or negative. For instance, in the above scenario, although gambling was one offense, you may not have known that a greater charge such as the sale of drugs was another.

Most calls made to the Bureau are from Black citizens demanding that something be done about the drugs, the gambling and the traffic condition at the park. Instead of cooperation to eliminate many of their concerns, park residents have met with much opposition from young adults who frequent the parks.

The young frequent the parks more than the adults and my concern is that those who are not involved in the gambling and drugs, are exposed to it. I cannot allow those activities to continue because they are not acceptable.

I often ask why it is that we allow so few to perpetrate such negative images and behavior? Most prejudices are based upon these same negative connotations and are derived from such negative encounters regardless whether they are physical, visual, verbal, direct and indirect. Gambling and the use and sale of drugs in the park in the full view of others, all tend to create a

set of negative values that the majority of us have been trying to counteract. There is a critical need for us to speak out against those who exhibit such behavior who attempt to destroy what has taken years for most of us to build. If there ever was a time when you were needed, it is now. Our youth not only need to hear you but they need role models -- they need to see you.

There is only one way that I, as Police Commissioner can eliminate the negatives, the undesirables and that is to police the parks on a continuous basis. Of course that does not have a lasting effect and that is why we need to come together. I am not asking you to enforce the law because that is my responsibility, but I am asking that you speak out and that you speak to your young who frequent the parks and participate in anti-social activities.

For many reasons I am opposed to policing the park on a continuous basis because such an approach is

also a negative. In my opinion, continuous policing is visual proof that there is something wrong with the health of a community. I want to maintain our neighborhood livability and preserve the parks for use by all citizens, should they desire.

This situation is a "no-win" situation for me. Many citizens are saying that I would not tolerate these activities if they were in other neighborhoods and still others say that I am harassing them. A decision has to be made at some point and I've made mine. With or without a victory, I will be satisfied to know that the majority who have expressed concern will feel safe in their parks, their homes and feel good about their neighborhoods.

I, and I also speak for the Police Bureau can only be as effective as the community will allow us. No matter what the challenge is, community support always make the tasks easier to overcome.

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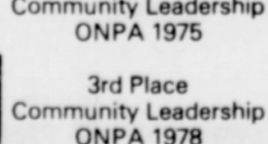
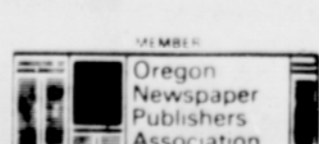
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