

Boycott planned

School Board rejects parent participation

The Portland School Board adjourned its Tuesday night meeting without adopting parent participation procedures, making a boycott by Black children almost inevitable. Although the Board had arrived at the meeting armed with procedures supported by a majority of the Board and considered acceptable to the Black United Front and other parent groups, the Board left with nothing.

The unresolved question is whether the parent review process should apply to all teachers trans-

ferring into a school, or whether it should apply only to teachers seeking voluntary transfers.

Board members Herb Cawthorne, Sarah Newhall and Wally Peistley voted for the procedures outlined by Superintendent Jim Fenwick. Steve Buel voted against these procedures because he wanted assurance that teachers who were transferred mandatorily (had been removed from their former schools because of decrease in staff, etc) would not be included, although he likes the procedures.

Joe Rieke, Bill Scott and Frank McNamara voted against the procedures.

The procedure designed by Dr. Fenwick, using suggestions from organizations and Board members, and community testimony, follows:

A) The local school citizen advisory committee shall be invited to prepare and review annually criteria deemed appropriate for the selection of teachers to fill specified positions in that school; these criteria shall not be construed as exhaustive and may be modified by

other citizen input;

B) The criteria actually utilized, the interview questions, related discussion and advice given with respect to the assignment of teacher candidates to a local school shall be consistent with published procedures and criteria of the District (including confidentially and other policies and contractual agreements) pertaining to initial assignments or transfers to schools;

C) A committee of three to five parents shall be formed to interview candidates for regular teacher

vacancies;

D) The principal shall at a meeting with wide participation from the parent community inform parents regarding committee procedures and conduct an election of the parent committee members;

E) Committee members shall serve one year terms but shall be eligible for re-election not to exceed two consecutive terms;

F) Committee meetings shall be convened and conducted by the principal;

G) Committee members shall

receive special training to assist them in responsibly carrying out their screening/advisory roles;

H) Recommendations of parents regarding teacher candidates shall be considered as advisory in nature and shall not be binding upon the final decision of the principal, Area and/or District administrators;

I) New teacher hires and teachers who are being considered for transfer to announced vacancies are covered by this regulation. However, contractual and legal (Please turn to Page 9 Col 5)

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Mrs. Addie Lastie reviews Smithsonian Institution's exhibit "Black Woman: Achievement Against the Odds" currently showing in Portland during special open house for Senior Citizens. Please see Page 3.

(Photo by: Richard Brown)

Rahsaan charges discrimination

Halim Rahsaan, a Counselor I the Comprehensive Options for Drug Abuse (CODA) has filed a complaint with the Civil Rights Bureau charging racial discrimination in promotion and harassment. CODA was a State agency until December of 1978 when it became a non-profit corporation.

Rahsaan, who has held various teaching, supervisory and administrative positions at Portland Community College for the past five years, began his work for CODA as a volunteer at Alpha House. He spent approximately three days a week at Alpha House, a residential drug treatment center, interviewing clients who were near release, providing educational resources, job development and placement.

After volunteering for over a year he was hired as a Human Resource Aid. His duties included group therapy sessions, intake of potential clients at local jails, and carrying a caseload of clients.

Rahsaan's problems began in 1976 when he was charged with having sexual relations with a female client and sharing confiden-

tial information about the program and other clients with her. Rahsaan said he was asked to resign and when he refused he was suspended for three months without a hearing. When he fought this action, an investigation committee was formed which eventually determined that the charges were not true.

"I never met Jim Robbins, the CODA director. He never sat down and discussed this issue with me. After the committee acted, I received a letter telling me when to come back to work - but no apology."

In 1979, Rahsaan opposed the establishment of a methadone clinic in the Black community. He advised the community - the Black United Front and the King Neighborhood Association - about CODA plans. The King Neighborhood Association made their opposition known - both because of their questions about the advisability of having a methadone clinic in the neighborhood and because CODA had not followed proper procedure in coming to KNA with their plans.

"CODA decided not to push for

the program, but this proved very embarrassing because the building had been leased, the telephones put in and the furniture was being moved in," Rahsaan explained.

Soon after the incident, Rahsaan was notified that his pay would be reduced by \$200 a week based on his insubordination and lack of loyalty to the program. This information was received in a telephone call from Robbins followed by a letter.

Rahsaan went to the Board, which ordered Robbins to refrain from making the pay cut and to apologize to Rahsaan. The Board also asked Rahsaan to submit a report to the personnel committee outlining the many activities he did on behalf of the program, for which he was not being paid, and listing savings to the program from these activities. They indicated that his job should be re-classified.

"The Board also found that the information on the old charges was still in my personal file and ordered it removed."

The list of activities was submitted in August and updated in October (Please turn to Page 10 Col 1)

Zimbabwe leader visits UN

By N. Fungai Kumbula

"Let us fight and rebuild Zimbabwe": this was the motto of Zimbabwe's recently and successful concluded War of Independence. Former principal guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe's current trip to the United States is the first step towards the rebuilding of Zimbabwe. After 131 days in office, the Prime Minister is here to address the General Assembly of the United Nations where Zimbabwe is to be admitted as the world body's 153rd member.

Few countries in the world have attracted as much attention as Zimbabwe has. Far from being seen as the struggle against oppression, suppression and repression that it was, the Western media, furthering its own selfish ends, instead portrayed it as a racial conflict, as a conflict between East and West and as a struggle between capitalism and communism. Among his thousand and one other tasks, Prime Minister Mugabe will also be explaining to a misinformed America what Zimbabwe is all about.

In all his meetings, news conferences, press briefings and talks, Mugabe has emphasized one theme over and over again: the theme of reconciliation. Now that the war is over, he says, it's time to join hands and build a non-racial society. It's time to bury the past and build for the future. It's time to rebuild the economy, build a nation, provide all the essential services to all Zimbabweans and, for the first time in ninety years, affirm the rule of law.

Prime Minister Mugabe held a private meeting last Saturday for students from Zimbabwe. The meeting was devoted to briefing us of some of the changes that have taken place since independence; what progress has been made; what remains to be done; what role we will be expected to play in Zimbabwe's future development; problems that have been encountered and problems that still lie ahead. There is a need for skilled personnel to come back to Zimbabwe and take over from the whites who are still fleeing the country. Asked if that was having any adverse effect on the economy as the western media has



PRIME MINISTER MUGABE

asserted, the Prime Minister responded that, even though there might be an adverse effect, it would only be short-term. In the long run Zimbabwe will be better off because these "undesirables" will no longer be around to cause problems.

On ties with South Africa, (Please turn Page 10 Col 1)

Agencies discuss cross burning

By Nyewusi Askari

Among those who are aware of the problem, the first feelings were, "it's the work of the KKK," but, now there is a growing suspicion that it is an organized effort by white racist to continuously inflict harassment until the town of Milwaukie, Oregon is minus one Black family.

Whatever the reasons, the Ray Richardson family of Milwaukie, Oregon are the victims of organized racial harassment. The patterns of this harassment are not unlike those existing today in many southern states; car windows smashed; death threats painted on their cars and home; suspicious cars cruising past their home, complete with a public address system, broadcasting racial slurs, and the burning of a five foot lawn on their front lawn.

Thus, on August 22, 1980, Norm Monroe, Deputy Director of the Urban League of Portland, coordinated a meeting to discuss the status of the investigation into the harassment of the Richardson family.

Sidney Lezak, U. S. attorney explained: "It is preferable to have violations of civil rights laws handled on a local level, but because of the history and symbolism in the South of cross burning, this case



Norm Monroe, Urban League; Sidney Lezak, U.S. Attorney; and Lt. Frank Baird, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office discuss harassment of Black family in Milwaukie.

called for immediate investigation."

According to Lezak, the Richardson family was interviewed and local law enforcement records have been reviewed. Lezak also said that a report of the case has been sent to Washington, D.C., and is being reviewed to establish whether the

F.B.I., will enter into the case.

But, inspite this symbolic gesture by the U.S. attorney, a feeling of frustration was clearly visible among the Richardsons, especially when it was revealed that there has been no clear identification of a (Please turn to Page 2 col 1)

Economic development: Opportunity for citizen participation

By Claudia Fisher

Attempts to expand industrial and commercial development in inner northeast Portland have had limited success. While community development efforts, in comparison, forge ahead in other parts of Portland and in minority areas of some other large cities, similar efforts in northeast Portland have not surmounted the economic and political climate.

The approach by government has been to separate economic and social problems, with the thought being that concentrating strictly on commercial and industrial development efforts will lead, in the long run, to improve living conditions

for all as benefits trickle out. Local business has endorsed this view. There is the belief that business development can be accomplished with governmental assistance but that broader community development goals cannot reasonably be dealt with by local government.

With regard to economic development, the process usually has been to appoint councils from the top, to make plans or recruit projects, and then go out to sell the community. Business and the community give lip service to the need for a partnership (thinking the other side will never see the light) and government attempts to make it appear that such a partnership indeed was forged when projects arise

which it hopes can succeed. Each -- government, business and the community -- believe that progress would be possible if only the other proceeded in a manner that would allow economic and social development to take place.

No genuine partnership has ever existed. A history of misplaced faith, insensitive procedure, shattered hopes and distrust of the good will (and good sense) of others pervades this area and the government institutions working within it. Each faction in the community and government attempt to reach heart-felt goals by getting around all the "roadblocks" to progress. Some believe that government attempts in this area, and in no other, to

deliberately foster dissension and community disunity. Plans and projects of the government select group are seen as limited in vision and face little prospect of implementation due to community suspicion.

Added to this dismal rerun picture is the current, justifiable Black dissatisfaction with involvement in economic development planning and with spending of federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds, pursuant to the designation of Portland in 1978 as a "CEDS City" (Comprehensive Economic Development City). The goal of the CEDS program is "...to implement a multi-... program of local

economic development initiatives with diverse public resources in order to attract major private investment, create permanent private sector jobs for City residents and strengthen the City's private revenue producing economy."

Blacks, whose economic and social miseries greatly helped the City qualify for federal funds, find little gain on their mountain of misery. In line with the goals of the CEDS program in Portland are current efforts to create a development corporation in inner northeast Portland. If such an effort is to undertaken, the proposed corporation model should be examined and compared with alternative models. The broad community needs to

become involved in this government-business venture and to ultimately decide what type (if any) development corporation will best meet the needs and desires of those living and working in this area.

The current proposal received a state charter in 1978 as a business development corporation. Current reorganizers at this point plan to apply for Small Business Administration status, operating under the SBA 502 program, as a Local Development Corporation eligible for SBA loans and technical assistance. According to Thomas Kennedy plans go ahead with the corporation were shelved by the City earlier "because the com- (Please turn to Page 5 Col 1)