

Northeast neighborhoods challenge City proposal

Northeast neighborhoods plan to challenge the findings of the City's Housing and Community Development report on expenditure of HCD funds in Portland from 1975 to 1980 and the options the study proposes.

Contrary to popular belief that Northeast neighborhoods have benefited most from the program, Southeast has received more funds for housing rehabilitation and North more for public works.

Among the options proposed by the study are: emphasizing the lowest income neighborhoods rather than those that are in early stages of decline; including multi-family dwellings - both development and rehabilitation; attention to exterior appearance in order to upgrade neighborhoods; providing technical assistance; emphasizing economic development in neighborhoods; dealing with "district councils" rather than neighborhood associations.

Sharon McCormack, a resident of Piedmont, said her neighborhood association will challenge several assumptions of the report. "Each year the neighborhoods submit needs reports which are prioritized by the City. Some of the needs are funded, but the neighborhoods are not assisted with finding other resources for those that are not. This has been a consistent complaint." The neighborhood also questions removing Sabin, Piedmont and Concordia from the HCD

area. "Withdrawal of neighborhoods has been a problem," she explained. "There never has been a process to determine whether the needs of the neighborhood have been met or to let people know the program is being phased out."

Twenty percent of the funds can be used for social services, and Northeast neighborhoods have always wanted it used that way, but the City has refused. Now the study

presents that option. The economic development mentioned is not defined and a figure of \$100,000 for another feasibility study for King, Eliot, Boise, Vernon and Sabin has been mentioned.

If neighborhoods are removed, will they still be eligible for the crime prevention free locks program that is targeted at HCD areas? Is the purpose of selecting only the lowest income areas, that have little citizen organization, a ploy so that if rehabilitation efforts fail industrial-

ization can begin?

If efforts are confined to lowest income areas - Boise, Eliot, etc. - and the new effort is multi-family dwellings, will these neighborhoods have an unfair burden? Or should multi-family housing be distributed among the less unfortunate neighborhoods?

These are some of the questions that will be asked at the city-wide hearing to be held February 17th at 7:00 p.m. at 621 S.W. Alder.

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Ngai Friday tries computerized spelling lesson at open house for the new Reading Achievement Center Northeast directed by Ms Jeanne Hartzog.

Ngai is assisted by Berry Flower of the program. The Center is located at 4300 NE Fremont, Room 230. (Photo: Richard Brown)

Grant awarded Cultural Center

By Nyewusi Askari

The City of Portland has been awarded a \$420,000 federal rehab grant by the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) matched by \$180,000 City (HUD) dollars to convert an abandoned firehouse located at 5340 N. Interstate Street to a Community Cultural Center.

The primary objective of the Cultural Center will be to provide recreational, artistic and cultural programming especially geared to the interests of minorities, senior citizens and the handicapped. Activities currently planned for the Center include Art, Physical Fitness, Drama, Crafts, Dance, Music, Photography, Social and Cultural programs.

Primary mover behind the Cultural Center is Commissioner Charles Jordan. "After numerous requests from local talent for a cultural enrichment center, I was driven to find a place where citizens of all cultures would have an opportunity to cultivate, develop and share their talents and interests," Commissioner Jordan explained.

The Cultural Center will operate on a self-sustaining basis and participants will contract for time and space to defray the Center's general operating expenses.

Federal regulations will not allow

the Center to house any group on a permanent basis and use of the facility will be determined by an Executive Board appointed by Commissioner Jordan.

The Executive Board will set policy and advise Jordan in the operation of the facility. These members will be appointed with consent by the City Council. They will be chosen for their commitment to and support of the Center as well as their ability to solicit donations and contributions to ensure long-term viability of the facility. In addition, there will be a Community Advisory Committee.

Day-to-day operations and maintenance of the Center will be the responsibility of the full-time Center Director. The Director will be expected to have experience as a program manager, skills in business administration and a sensitivity to the arts and cultural diversities.

Portland is rapidly becoming a culturally diverse city with citizens of Black, Native American, Hispanic, Asian and Indochinese heritages that have a need to preserve their cultures, expand upon their talents and educate other ethnic groups.

Nevertheless, Rosemary Allen, Artistic Director of Portland Black Repertory Theatre expresses an early warning. "I don't have any big expectations for a Cultural Center

in Portland, unless we artists have some real input from ground one. A Cultural Center would be fantastic in our community. It could start an awakening.

"Black art has had such a powerful and exciting influence on America and the world, and one would expect Black artists to receive some reasonable amount of support and recognition. Not so, especially here in Portland. The important thing now is, to avoid past mistakes by opening communications between Commissioner Jordan, City Council and artists who are dedicated to bringing cultural enrichment to Oregon. Portland Black Repertory is on the move. Soon we'll be announcing our first resident company, and we are going to need support. We are going to ask for support. Not because we are the only Black theatre functioning in Portland, but because we are qualified and our work is important to the survival of our community.

And to have a Cultural Center located right in the heart of the Black community; a Cultural Center that will encourage, welcome, support, as well as accept input from Black artists from the jump, will be the beginning of something really beautiful," she continued.

The Cultural Center is scheduled to open in January or early February of 1982.

BUF responds to Police Union charges

Grassroots News, N.W. - The Portland Police Association's President Stan Peters, called a press conference to rebut the statements of the Black United Front, calling them, "Black United Front" lies.

"The reason why Blacks are arrested or were killed by the police out of proportion with their population is that Blacks are committing a high percentage of the crimes in the city. The six Blacks who were killed were armed and the other was an escaping felon," stated Peters. The evidence that Peters cited to confirm his statement was Police Bureau statistics from July through September of 1980.

"The Portland Police Association is presenting these figures only to dispel accusations of the Black United Front and to show that the Portland police is not discriminating against Blacks," Peters is quoted as saying. He also noted that the Black United Front represents only a small minority within Portland's Black community.

Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, responded

to Peters basic contention that 5% of the population are committing 30% to 40% of the crimes by stating, "our argument with the police is not about crime but about the way the police treat Black people regardless of whether you think someone has committed a crime or not. You don't have to beat them up, harass them, nor does it justify the police cussing at Black people or that 60% of those killed by the police within the last ten years were Black."

In dealing with the high crime rate that exists within the Black community, Herndon replied, "He does not talk about the times that were perpetrated on Black people like the crime of slavery or the fact that we are etching out our existence as a second class citizens. Discrimination causes us to deal with an inferior education and high unemployment. When you have this in any community you will find those people involved in crime. They used to say the same thing about the ghettos."

Peters said his job was not to delve into the reasons why and is quoted as saying that there is a

problem. Herndon continues, "The City's own study in 1968 showed that when the police had the discretion to either arrest or give a ticket, Black people were arrested at a much higher percentage than whites. The Police Union responded by saying those arrested had a criminal record yet they found those Blacks with no prior arrest record were arrested at a rate higher than whites who had no record. And all this proves is that the Portland Police Department is as racist as it can be and what Stan Peters said, I thought was written by the Imperial Wizard of the Klu Klux Klan."

The Black people in Portland are faced with police acts and attitudes within their community like other Black communities throughout the nation. And then tensions that always existed reach their threshold as the economics of inequality dictate an increase in crime.

In terms of frequency of crime, the percentage is a lot higher in areas other than the Northeast. Statistics can be and often are misleading. Peters cited Police (Please turn to Page 2 Col 5)

Nathaniel Scott publishes poetry

By Nyewusi Askari

When he became a staff writer for the *Observer*, he was asked, "What are your goals?" His reply: "To help paint a positive picture of the many things I have seen with my eyes as well as what I have felt with my mind. I intend to do it, composing words." At the time, he was an inmate at Oregon State Penitentiary.

Now eight months later, he is the author of two recently published books of collected poetry; "A Man and His Moods," and "The Theme Is..." The writer, Nathaniel Scott.

Enrolled at Portland Community College, he is news editor of the college newspaper, *The Bridge*, holds a position with the *Northwest Ex-offenders Association* and is fast

becoming known for his commitment to help bring about change within the state's penal institutions. "I would like to see the structure of the prisons changed from a physical aspect to a psychological aspect. I think the Iranian hostage situation points vividly to the social and psychological help needed by people in captivity," Scott said.

"A Man and His Moods," displays Scott's talent as a poet. He explains: "I can't play a musical instrument, but I have these sounds inside of my head, and poetry lets those sounds out, so they can be heard by others."

"The Theme Is..." is Scott at his best. The Theme Is, love, hate, marriage, caring. It's a movement through and around situations and relations, we are all familiar with. It

reflects, explains and gives hope to those of who believe are striving to make tomorrow a reality, instead of a wish.

His goal now is, "to be recognized by other writers as a writer and, because of my economic situation, I wouldn't mind being commercially successful either. I have written enough material to put together at least four more books of poetry, but I plan to finish a collection of short stories first."

To quote Scott from his book, *A Man and His Moods*, "...It's a race for survival..."

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of these publications can do so by contacting the *Observer* or the Sylvania Center Bookstore, Portland Community College.

Oregon Blacks and the Republican Party

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

"People complain about my Republican affiliation and then they don't go to the polls to vote," said Thomas Kennedy, manager of the Portland Development Commission's Union Avenue Program.

"I'm not ashamed of being Republican. If you look at the party historically, we have done some progressive things in the area of human and civil rights. I feel good about what I am."

Kennedy was quick to point out that the Oregon Republican party encourage equal opportunity for all Oregonians in job recruitment, hiring, promotions, pay, credit, mortgage access and housing. Equal

rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity belong to all citizens of Oregon regardless of race, creed, color, national origin or sex.

When questioned about America's swing to more conservative politics -- and how there is talk of eliminating affirmative action, cutting food stamps eligibility as well as welfare, and harsher criminal codes, Kennedy made the following comments.

"The free lunch is over," he said. "So what are you gonna do about it? You had better go out and earn your lunch. Then you have to protect that lunch because somebody will try to take it from you."

The Oregon Republican Party has

vowed to end welfare fraud and aid to the voluntarily unemployed. Although the party plans to make several key cuts that will hurt Blacks and other minorities. They do have plans to establish incentives to allow welfare recipients to become self-supporting through job and educational training.

"You can describe the predicament of Blacks in the 80's like a basketball player coming to a football game with the wrong uniform on to play. We are playing the wrong game and should learn the new one very fast. We as Blacks must start preparing ourselves because this country is becoming more competitive."

Kennedy feels that Blacks cannot

do anything as a community until they learn to control their own economic destinies.

"We as Blacks should be more responsible for each other during the 80's. We must obtain the power to hire and fire - whites have paid us with welfare and other band-aid programs. We must change that like other ethnic groups have done in the past."

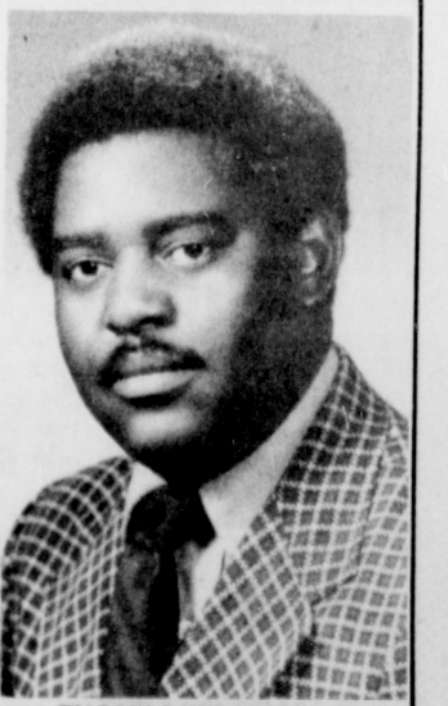
Kennedy is also an advocate of economic development in the Black community.

"The steps are simple," he said. "First we have to analyze our position in this country. Then we have to change our behavior patterns as they relate to saving money and reinvesting in our communities.

If I can earn a quarter, a nickle goes back into the community. That's my motto. I always remember where I earn my money.

"How many times does a Black person spend a dollar in his community," Kennedy asked. "They use the clubs, the barber shops, and the church. They spend the rest of their money outside of the area. I do all my business in the community over and over again."

Kennedy continued, "The Black employers do the same thing. Why go downtown to hire a public information specialist or any job for that matter, when they can get a qualified person from the Black community? We also have to focus (Please turn to page 2 col. 3)



THOMAS KENNEDY