

Black History Issue: Black Music and Entertainers

Minority absence endangers Public Service Bldg.

City Commissioner Charles Jordan announced at a Council meeting last week that he will defer support of future construction payments to Pavarini/Hoffman Construction Companies until MBE guidelines are met.

As of February 19, 1981, the City Council has authorized construction

requisitions totaling approximately \$4.4 million dollars. Thus, the MBE utilization should approximate \$440,000 given the level of construction completed to date. However, to date, that level of participation approximates \$27,000.

Due to that small amount of MBE participation to date, and the ab-

sence of information from a joint venture by Pavarini/Hoffman as to how and when it will ensure the required participation, Commissioner Jordan indicated at the City Council's session that Pavarini/Hoffman's response regarding MBE participation was inadequate, and he would not support further payment to the contrac-

tor until it complies with MBE guidelines.

Section 12 in the Instructions to Bidders contained in the Public Service Building contract indicates the \$22 million (plus) project shall be subject to all Minority Business Utilization requirements established by City Ordinance No. 147629.

This ordinance, among other things, requires a designation of 10% MBE participation on capital improvement projects with an estimated value in excess of \$100,000. Thus, the 10% MBE utilization goal on the Public Service Building should approximate \$2.2 million dollars.

Commissioner Jordan is currently

investigating potential remedies available to the City should the contractor elect not to comply with these guidelines.

All minority business enterprises interested in participating on this project are encouraged to initiate contact with the contractor to make known their capability and interest.

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WATCHING THE WATCHERS: Bariki Stephens considers her roots while viewing Charles Tatum's sculpture at Black History Week exhibit in Federal Building. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Nigerian Legislative staff visits Salem

By Fungai Kumbula

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country gained independence from Britain in 1960. After experimenting with a British style parliamentary system for her first 19 years, she switched on October 1, 1979 to a U.S. style constitution.

The country was divided into 19 states, each with its own governor and state government while the Federal government in Lagos is in charge of the whole country. The change-over, adopted after a national referendum, has necessitated a complete re-orientation of Nigeria's entire legislative machinery.

Three legislative staff members they insisted that they were not legislators or politicians, spent the past two weeks studying the workings of the Oregon Legislature. Jude Eferive, a lawyer from the Imo state House of Assembly where he is the parliamentary clerk and Fati

Iman, from the Sokoto State House of Assembly talked with *Portland Observer* African Affairs Editor, Fungai Kumbula in Salem this past weekend. Rufus Faba, Ondo State Governor Liaison Officer had left earlier.

"The trip was sponsored by the State Legislative Leadership Foundation in Denver, Colorado and the purpose of the trip was for us to see the American system of government at work," explains Fati as she scans her schedule.

"There were 38 of us in the original group and we went to Denver and Lincoln, Nebraska, before splitting up into smaller groups. We visited Nebraska because it is the only state in the U.S. that has a unicameral legislature. All of Nigeria's states are unicameral. The Federal government, though, is bicameral."

Jude then joined in to explain that after visiting Nebraska, the Nigerian delegation split into 18 groups to

visit the 18 states that had agreed to sponsor their visit. Jude, Fati and Rufus chose and were able to get Oregon.

Their two week stay in Oregon has been quite hectic, to say the least. They met with Governor Victor Atiyeh and state Senator Bill McCoy and Representative Jim Chrest. Both Portland Democrats had visited Nigeria: McCoy in 1977 and Chrest in 1979. Also hosting the Nigerian delegation were Ken Otto of the Oregon Legislative Administrative and Alan Green.

They have attended sessions of the Senate, House of Representatives, met with the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Majority and Minority Leaders, Secretary of State, and the Chief Clerk of Assembly. To watch the government at work, they visited such government agencies as local government, Chamber of Commerce, Financial Unit, State (Please turn to Page 4 Col 3)

Wacker: Asset or Liability

"Two visionaries changed some business and vocational training concepts in Portland, Oregon, and may have started a trend for education delivery that could provide a unique approach for community college training nationwide... For Goldschmidt (Mayor Neil) the vision contained a specific goal: an economic development program that would inject some new life into the economy of the City. DeBernardis (Dr. Amo) pushed the idea to test the college's philosophy of having the flexibility to meet specific needs of the community in general, industry in particular." So stated a Portland Community College news release.

In the summer of 1980, Wacker Siltronic opened the world's most advanced silicon facility. Wacker Siltronic's parent company is Wacker-Chemie of Munich, Germany, owned by the Wacker family and Hoeschst AG.

Wacker Siltronic produces hyper-pure single silicon crystals and polished wafers for the computer industry.

A few years ago a simple computer weighed three tons and filled a large room. Now that computer can be held in the hand. The replacement of vacuum tubes with transistor, and then with integrated circuits, made the expansion of the mini-computer industry possible.

Because the speed and direction of electricity through silicon can be

regulated by charging the atomic structure, silicon wafers are used to carry integrated circuits. Integrated circuits are fabricated on and within silicon wafers, which are from three to four inches across and .020 inches thick. Following fabrication, the wafers are cut into hundreds of "chips" - each with thousands of circuit functions, transistors, decodes and resistors.

The company was highly recruited by the City of Portland, as a labor-intensive, non-pollutive industry that would bring jobs to the city. In April, 1979, the bargain was struck.

The Portland Development Commission pledged the following benefits to Wacker:

1. Portland Development Commission would carry out an urban renewal program in an area where "the conditions have prevented proper development in a suitable manner." - "the Northwest Front Avenue Industrial Renewal Project." The project would be financed through the sale of \$15 million worth of bonds.
2. PDC would acquire the site and sell it to Wacker for \$14,000 per acre by July 15, 1978.
3. PDC would acquire necessary land and build an access street from Front Avenue to the property.
4. PDC would improve access to the site from St. Helen's Road by signaling the Front Avenue intersection and paving Front Avenue.

5. PDC would construct storm sewers to provide adequate drainage.

6. PDC would be responsible for site preparation by preloading an area 500 feet by 800 feet, at the cost of \$217,500. This work would be done by Wacker and subtracted from the purchase price.

7. PDC would relocate the gas line located on the site and terminate the gas line easement.

8. PDC would vacate the portion of Front Avenue located on the site.

9. PDC would provide Wacker the right to construct a pipeline along the portion of Front Avenue extending through the Burlington-Northern rail lines and to the Pen-nwalt property line.

10. PDC would acquire all interests in the rock quarry located across St. Helens Road and terminate all quarry activities.

The City of Portland made the following agreements:

1. The City would assist PDC in carrying out the proposed Northwest Front Avenue Industrial Renewal Project.
2. The City would provide manpower recruiting and training for Wacker.
3. The City would send employees to Germany to advise Wacker on building code requirements at City expense.
4. The City would agree that its inspections of the Wacker plant would be limited to "need to know" (Please turn to Page 2 Col 3)

Ivancie welcomes EDAC board

Welcoming the members of the recognized Economic Development Committee Wednesday, Mayor Frank Ivancie asked the committee to be independent. "Economic development is a high priority in the world," he said, and the City needs to watch the national scene. There are bills in the Legislature that bear watching, he said, urging the committee to take independent positions on issues and to lobby them in Salem if they desire.

"The economic climate in Portland sets the pace for the State," he added, and the City must demonstrate responsibility to the State. Don't be dependent on the bureaucracy," he cautioned them. "I want to hear from you."

Louis Growney selected Chairman at the meeting, responded by asking the committee to oppose HB 2550 - the plant closure bill - which he called "very definitely anti-business." The bill, which was introduced at the request of the AFL-CIO, requires employers with more than 50 employees to provide employees and the community a one-year notification of interest to close a plant or significantly reduce the work force.

Stating that Oregon does not have a good work climate (social and political factors affecting industry), Growney said the committee should work on the business climate. He called this bill so bad that business would not come to Portland.

After some discussion, in which Phillipa Harrison, and Bill Fast of the Marine Engineers explained that the purpose of the bill is to protect workers from unscrupulous employers, the motion to oppose passed. Greg Batiste voted against the motion and Luis Alvarez abstained.

Rather than work in economic development for the entire City, or for its lagging areas, EDAC will concentrate on the Northeast area to attempt to determine its needs and opportunities. They will work with Portland Development Commission to impact all economic programs, will work with Training and Employment Division to seek (Please turn to Page 8 Col 5)

Mercedes Deiz goes to Court

By Nyewusi Askari

(In 1969, Oregon's Governor Tom McCall appointed Mercedes F. Deiz to the position of District Judge. Four months later, she was elected overwhelmingly by voters during the primary. In the first part of an interview granted the *Observer* she talks openly and frankly about her early years, her family and the state of the nation)

Observer: For those of us who are unfamiliar with who you are, it is appropriate to ask, just who is Judge Mercedes F. Deiz?

Judge Deiz: I'm an old New Yorker, that's where I was born. I was raised in Harlem and I came West, as people know, in 1948 essentially to get a divorce, assuming that I was going back to Manhattan. Well, I didn't realize that I had to live in this town for a

whole year because there was no jurisdiction to get a divorce unless you had lived in a place for a year. I didn't know anything about things like that because I had never had a divorce.

So, I lived here, got over my home sickness, and loved it, so I stayed. Then, the important things for me happened; I met Carl Deiz, we got married, had a couple of children. The next great thing was the fact that I got a job as a Legal Secretary. A man whom I had never heard of, called me at home when Gilbert was about 9 months old and said, "Belton Hamilton told me to call you. I understand that you'd like to get back to work and you have a new baby." I said, "Yes, that's true, and I am sick and tired of staying home." He informed me that they were interested in hiring a Legal Secretary. I said, well, I don't know anything about being a Legal

Secretary, but I am a good secretary. He said, "I'll come out with my associate and visit you, so you won't have to spend money on getting a baby sitter."

I thought to myself, man what a poor guy! I'd never heard of anyone coming to you, to see if you fit their needs. So Graham Walker, the first time I had ever met him, came to my home and hired me! I was good at what I was doing in those days. He suggested after I had been working for nine months, that I ought to go to Law School, which was a thing I had wanted to do anyway. He paid for my first semester, my husband encouraged me to go, and I got really good grades. The idea was to see how I would manage it. I wasn't all that young, about 34 years old. I did very well and stayed for 4 years.

I was the only woman in this night graduating class, at Northwestern College of Law, right here in Port-

land. Aaron Brown was in my class, Mayfield Webb was in my class, so there were two Black men and myself. A couple of years before us, two Black men became lawyers in this town; Belton Hamilton (pause)...and...I can't think of the other one's name...so this state of ours had very, very little in the way of minority professionals in the legal industry.

I became a lawyer and naturally couldn't find anyplace to go to work with any firm. They weren't discriminating so much against me because I was Black; I'm positive they were discriminating at that time because they simply didn't have any women working in their firms. But, that didn't bother me. I was used to setbacks.

I opened my own practice and fellows came to me and asked could they become associates. I was in private practice for about eight

years, was a trial attorney, tried lots of cases in court and then became a Hearings Officer, which is now called an Administrative Law Judge with Workmen Compensation cases. There, you preside over cases, the same as you do in a regular courtroom, except for the area of injured workmen.

Tom McCall was the Governor by that time, and he called me in 1969, at work, early in the morning. I had known Tom McCall long before he became Governor when he used to work for KGW. He asked me if I was interested in being a District Judge and I was flattered! (smile) and honored and flabbergasted! He appointed me with the abomination that he would feel horrible to think that the citizens of this state, particularly Multnomah County, were so prejudiced that they would not elect me to the office because I (Please turn to page 4 col. 1)



MERCEDES DEIZ