



Black United Front pickets the Walnut Park Theatre every Saturday to protest "porno" fair. The protest is scheduled to continue until the theatre's absentee owners agree to provide better class of production. (Photo: Richard Brown)

## Community protests 'Porno'

Grassroot News, N.W. - The Black United Front is among the political organizations in the forefront of devising solutions to many of the problems faced by the Black community. Currently, the Black United Front is picketing a theatre which shows pornography in the residential district.

Amidst cries of "close it down, take it back across town," The Walnut Park Theater located on Union and Alberta, finds itself being picketed by a community organization. This is not the first time that community complaints have been voiced at Walnut Park for the type of movies that is being shown and the neighborhood that they are being shown in.

Ronnie Herdon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, gave the following reasons for picketing. "We think that this is one of the worst examples of the way the Black community is being exploited. The theatre shows the kind of movies on a main street we don't need. The theatre is just using this community for its own selfish purposes. We say the format of the theatre ought to be changed to show movies that are positive and those films that positively reflect on the Black community." Herdon responded to a question regarding the Front skipping of here and there on issues. "That would be true if we weren't still working on all those other

issues. Now the community has a middle school. Before the Front got involved there was no middle school and forced one-way bussing. In the area of the police, because of a suit filed last year, the Portland Police Department will certainly be found guilty of discrimination. We are still providing a police hotline and getting people in touch with lawyers. Now remember all those areas still need work and we are still working on them. Just because you are involved in other issues, doesn't mean that you can't question a wrong, because we as a community, are exploited by many different people in many different ways."

Jeff Crapo, an employee of the Walnut Park Theatre stated that the Front's activities have hurt business. "When they're here, we get 2 or 3 people an hour, whereas before we could get 5 to 20 people an hour, depending on the night. The picketers have asked the customers whether or not they approve of the movies we show. The reply is yes, I can put it in my living room and save the \$4.50."

The theatre shows films like, "Just pick up your phone and hear your wildest erotic fantasies come to life on HOTLINE, it's always the right number." A member of the Portland Police Vice Squad, who said he just happened to be passing by, said the movies shown inside the Walnut Park Theatre are legal. "It's

a Supreme Court kind of thing. About the only things that's illegal are child pornography, displaying sexual acts between animals and people, and the infamous bondage where pain is inflicted."

When asked what they expected to achieve, the reply was, "First and foremost, we would like to see the end of all X-rated movies shown in this community, and its not just the Front who wants this, but the entire Black and N.E. community. Beyond that, we want the theatre to become an establishment that the community can use in total."

An admirable goal, and one if achieved, would certainly enhance the entertainment outlook for Portland's Black community. So when you drive by and see the Black United Front picketing, honk your horn if you support its cause. If not, then we know that you don't give a toot!

## Ceta trains firemen

Portland City Commissioner Mildred Schwad has announced that a new Affirmative Action program has been established by the Portland Fire Bureau in cooperation with Portland Community College and Portland CETA. The program is based on intensive preparation of selected candidates for the regular Fire Bureau entrance examinations.

Goal of the program is to place at least 90 percent of the 14 qualified minority group candidates within the hireable range of the next Portland Fire Bureau entrance examination which is scheduled to occur in September, 1981.

The program which started on February 16th and the academic classes which started on March 10th, involve a balanced mixture of professional academic training in the area of fire science and related courses at Portland Community College's Southeast Center, and an on-the-job field experience component in a regular Portland Fire Bureau Company.

Approximately 40 percent (16 hours per week) of the participants' time is dedicated to academic training which includes job related disciplines (English, mathematics, psychology, physical education) as well as courses in the area of fire science. Sixty percent (24 hours per week) of the participants' time is spent in a supervised field experience setting that operates under the supervision of a company officer who evaluates pre-determined learning objectives that have been co-developed with the participants, the counselor and the officer. Candidates who are classified as a fire fighter intern, are stipended at the rate of \$4.17 per hour and placed on the payroll of Portland Community College as a regular employee.

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The oldest man ever to be President of the U.S., was Dwight Eisenhower who was 70 when he left the White House to set the record.



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