



A beautiful spring day brought Mrs. Mary Howard and her son Elzie Howard, Jr. out into the sun to dig for fishing worms. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## From coons to 'possums

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are submitted to him he will make a decision regarding discipline.

Jordan said that although the possum incident is under investigation there will be no investigation of the other acts of harassment. As for the racial motive, Jordan said he could not call this "racial harassment." "Racial harassment is hard to prove," he said. "I can't get in someone's head and find out what motivated him."

Police spokesmen have said that the investigation report will be given to Powe and that they cannot prevent him from releasing the names. Powe does not feel he should have to make that decision, which could lead to further harassment.

Powe resents the implications being made by the press that police fingered his business establishment because it is a "headquarters for dope." He says that there is drug dealing in the area, but that he does not allow any dealing in the restaurant. "I can't search people when they come in; I don't know if they have anything on them. But if I ever saw anyone trying to deal in my place, I would put them out. People know that and don't try it. They have enough respect for me not to try to do business in my restaurant."

Powe explains that drug dealing is common. "I saw a \$20,000 sale at the \_\_\_\_\_ not long ago. Anywhere you go you can see it. The people that hang around Union Avenue can't make a \$20,000 or a \$300,000 buy. They have to get

it a little at a time and they have to steal to buy it. That makes them vulnerable. The people who spend big money are not on the spot - they don't get caught."

Powe added that there has never been a drug arrest in his restaurant.

Commissioner Jordan said Wednesday that the investigation report will not be completed until the first of next week. The delay is to enable the bureau to investigate the participation of eight officers who were present, in addition to the two who have confessed.

After he receives the investigation report and recommendations, Jordan will determine disciplinary measures, which will be announced.

Powe recently made news when he lost his \$85,000 home - paid for - over a \$176.00 bill. According to Powe, his son was injured and had a \$7,000 hospital bill. Eventually he collected his insurance and paid the bill. In the meantime, Bob's Messenger Service (Bob Harris) was hired to serve papers on the bill, and the messenger service was charged to the son, unknown to him.

Recently Powe went to pay the property taxes on six pieces of property, but had not received a tax statement on his home. When he went to find out why, he was told that Robert Harris had claimed the house for the \$176.13 bill. Powe said he was never notified that there was a bill, that certified letters were sent by the County but were returned to them by the Post Office, that Bob's Messenger Service was hired to serve a notice of a court hearing to recover the bill. He said papers were not served, he did not attend the hearing, and a Judge gave the house to Harris for the \$176.13.

(The dealings of Harris with various political figures are currently being investigated by the State Attorney General and the Legislators' Ethics Commission.)

After Harris received the property, Powe did not receive the required notice that would have given him an opportunity to recover the home. Now, not only has Powe lost his home over a bill that was not even his, but Harris has borrowed

\$35,000 against the property, further complicating the situation. Powe has heard from two additional persons who lost their homes to Harris under similar circumstances - both Black.

"I work hard, pay my bills on time, have money in the bank. I can't understand how any Judge could take an \$85,000 home for \$176.13 and not attempt to look into what was happening."

# Register and Vote March 31

## School Board - City Council Elections

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### *From the Front Door*

From the Front Door, I witnessed a most interesting situation Monday night March 9, 1981, at the Hansen Building Auditorium 12240 NE Gilsan. The meeting was billed as a "Public work session on the County budget."

The meeting and discussion centered around a potential (6) million dollar cut in revenue to provide services in Multnomah County.

The meeting was well publicized by the County, but the strange thing was that most Agencies, Businesses and citizens located in the Black community who will be greatly affected by the Potential Budget cuts were not present at the meeting. As compared to the agencies, Businesses and Citizens who are less dependent directly upon County funds were present in full force.

The Black community was represented by the House of Exodus (Staff and Clients), and by a larger number of members from the Sharon Seventh Day Adventist Church, including their pastor.

Point blank, I will be happy to see the day when our Black citizens find the time to participate "on time" in Socio-political processes, as opposed to showing up "Late after the fact" complaining and criticizing the results of a political exercise.

Many Blacks will be affected by Federal, State, County and City Budget Cuts, many are already affected by Welfare cuts. Now is the time to plan and find productive alternatives to our community's economics, much of which will depend upon whether we function on time in Socio-political processes.

Horse races, dog races, booze and dope has a negative effect on the Black community and the results of such indulgence benefit the Bureaucratic system far more than it does Black employment or the Black community in general. Yet, there are Black citizens spending just about all of their extra dollars on horse races, dog races, booze and street dope. Black citizens will show up in numbers and on time at the races, in line at the booze store, some even use taxi cabs for transportation, and will be on time for the dope man.

We as Black citizens need to learn what is **FIRST** and what is **NEXT**. This is called prioritizing.

1. (Priority number one) should be the security and welfare of your immediate family.
2. (Priority number two) should be the condition of our community, the livability of our neighborhood.
3. (Priority number three) can be our personalized sports and pleasures.

Let me say again, you can't spend your time or money for a better purpose; join with the Exodus Youth Mental Health Offensive, building our community into a better and safer place to live and raise our children.

Join with me and make our family and community, priority (**NUMBER ONE**).

Brought to you as a public service by House of Exodus

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Member: Revenue



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