



For the children of Atlanta
and for all children who are
hungry, suffer and live in
fear.

Mrs Frances Schoon-Newspaper Room
University of Oregon Library
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Citizen coalition forms, while police demonstrate

Representatives of minority organizations met Wednesday evening to take the first steps toward forming a community coalition to investigate police/community relations. Convened by Raul Solo-Seelig, chairman of the Hispanic Political Action Committee, at the request of the Black United Front and others, the group

agreed to pursue the potential of a city-wide coalition.

Among the possible issues of study are: administration, training, civilian review board, employment. The issues will be further identified, then each participant will obtain the endorsement of his organization. The issues selected will become the basis for forming a community-wide coalition. The plan - expressed by

Armando LaGuardia, chairman of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission - is to create an organization that can study the issues, obtain factual information, make recommendations to the City, and gain public support for its recommendations, in a manner similar to the Community Coalition for School Integration.

In the meantime, the Portland Police Association is planning a march on Friday morning to demonstrate support for Officers Craig Ward and Jim Gallaway, who were terminated for their participation in the "possum incident". Stan Peters, union president, said the incident was unacceptable and required discipline but that termination was "excessive and inap-

propriate".

Initially threatening to sue on behalf of the officers, Peters has announced that he will seek binding arbitration so that an outside arbitrator will determine whether the terminations were justified.

Commissioner Charles Jordan announced last Friday that the two officers would be terminated, that six officers have been cleared and

that the investigation of the remaining two officers continues.

Jordan denies racist intent in the incident, saying that police harassment is also directed at white citizens in other parts of the city. He said that because of the unique power the police have to stop, detain and arrest citizens and to carry guns, such harassment cannot be tolerated.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

USPS 959-680-855

April 2, 1981
Volume XI Number 24
25¢ per copy

City HCD proposal draws fire

Citizens again fired complaints against the City's Housing and Community Development proposal at Wednesday's City Council meeting. Most disagreements concerned citizens participation, withdrawal of neighborhoods now served, and funding of "self-help" projects.

Presenting the proposal to the Council, HCD director Chuck Olson said reduction of approximately \$2 million will cause reductions in staffing and in funding of projects. In assessing needs, his staff has determined that middle income neighborhoods are achieving their rehabilitation goals but low income neighborhoods need help and "we need to recognize this factor."

The response is to limit funding to low-income areas, to increase assistance to rental property, to fund economic development projects and to consider non-profit self help projects. He proposed removing Piedmont, Woodlawn and parts of Sabin, Foster-Powell, Concordia and St. Johns from the HCD program. Also the home security locks program, sidewalk ramps for the handicapped and street trees would be discontinued. Preston-Kennelworth and a part of Foster-Powell would be added.

The Community Economic Development Task Force - a coalition of community and neighborhood organizations including the Black United Front, COSSPO, Urban Indian Council, PACT, Northwest District Association - called on the City to produce a manual to inform citizens about HCD and to develop a citizens board. They asked that assistance to rental units require

protection of current tenants, that HCD money not be used to sustain public works, and that a process be developed for non-profit agencies to apply for funding for self-help projects.

The League of Women Voters recommended funding for rehabilitation and development of downtown housing sponsored by non-profit groups.

The Sabin and Piedmont neighborhood associations objected to being removed from HCD funding. Piedmont asked to be designated as an "inner Northeast" neighborhood rather than "outer Northeast". Sabin objected to having its area split, with part no longer eligible, when funds could be directed at the needy through income regulations.

Sharon McCormack, speaking for the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, asked that HCD give proper notification prior to removing neighborhoods and that Piedmont and Sabin be retained. Other suggestions were: retain locks program, retain handicapped ramps and lighting, provide better information for neighborhoods. Mrs.

McCormack said a clear definition of "economic development" and a policy as to what services can be provided by HCD are needed. "Citizen participation is hampered because we don't know the policies."

Linda Johnson of the Black Committee for Economic Development recommended an advisory board made up of persons elected by affected neighborhoods and that first source agreements be required of assisted businesses.

Steve Rudman of RAIN explained that local government will bear more of the responsibility of dealing with social and economic problems and should be a "provider for" rather than a "provider to". The role of local government should be to assist citizens to develop volunteer programs to help themselves, and to provide technical assistance and seed money.

With the anticipated loss of other federal funds, HCD money - which has been used mainly for single family housing rehabilitation and public works - is seen as one of the few remaining sources for neighborhood development.

March against racism

The Black United Front will hold a March Against Racism on April 4th, the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Beginning at noon in Alberta Park, 19th and Alberta, the march will conclude with a rally at King Neighborhood Facility.

The march will be held in con-

junction with the National Black United Front and chapters across the nation to protest the continued and increasing racism. Reverend Herbert Daughtry, national president of BUF, said in Portland last week that the march will address three main sources of violence -- abuse of police power, terrorism and mass killings - as well as the more subtle variety.



Making up for the WIZ fascinates Nia Gay, who found her way to "The Tinman's" dressing room during Portland performance.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Little joins law profession

By Fungai Kumbula

It would be quite accurate to say that lawyers run this country. A cursory look will reveal that a good percentage of the Senators and Representatives are former practicing attorneys or have some legal background. Then there are the judges that interpret the laws and punish offenders. In industry, corporate lawyers are becoming the most powerful new elite. As the country tilts towards more and more litigation, the legal profession assumes greater and greater significance in our daily lives.

The legal profession is like every other segment of American life in the sense that it too has very little minority representation especially in the private sector. In the public sector, minority representation is slightly higher due to state and federal requirements for the hiring of minorities. The private sector has no such obligations and there is, in the entire state, probably one Black male who would fit into the accepted concept of the "downtown law



MONICA LITTLE

partner." There are no Black females. Even in the public sector, there are only a handful of Blacks.

It was this realization that drove Monica Little to school after she had graduated with a degree in public administration. She realized

the ever-growing importance of law in this society and how inadequately we were represented and decided to do something about it. She went back to Lewis and Clark Law School and spent four years of some very rigorous studying.

"It was very hard going back to school with all of my household responsibilities. The attitude of the professors was something else; something like TV's 'Paper Chase.' Law school assumes incompetence on the part of the student. I had been working for several years, I was an adult and I knew I was a competent professional woman but I had to sit and endure for four years of being told my head was full of mush! (my husband) Bill was very supportive, however, both financially and morally."

Monica graduated from Lewis and Clark in June of last year but even then her problems were far from over. She sat for the Oregon Bar Association exam so she could be licensed to practice in Oregon. That was an experience in itself. In (Please turn to Page 4 Col 1)



Rose Marie Davis spends a sunny Spring day in the RUNT garden. RUNT provides training and demonstration projects in home energy alternatives.

(Photo: Richard Brown)