

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Directing economic development

On March 18th the Economic Development Advisory Committee to the Mayor and to City Council approved the concept of economic development targeting and recommended that the inner northeast between NE Interstate Avenue and NE 42nd Avenue from the Banfield Freeway to the Columbia River, and specifically, the King, Boise and Eliot neighborhoods, be targeted for the City's concentrated economic development efforts.

As approved, the target area concept differed from previous City involvement in that "In the past, while technical assistance and planning were provided in specific areas, City economic development projects and investments were not concentrated, but were instead broadly focused city-wide. The focus of the Investment Strategy is to use planning work already provided and convert it into a series of projects with resources and responsibility assigned."

In selecting the inner northeast as its first target area for resources and policy commitments, the area's general economic stability were analyzed. The targeted neighborhoods of King, Boise and Eliot were selected, in part, because of the following conditions:

1. Population Out-migration: 17% vs 6% city-wide.
2. Poverty Households: 29% vs 17% city-wide.
3. Housing Vacancy Rate: 13% vs. 6% city-wide.
4. Unemployment 1979: 13% vs. 7% city-wide.
5. Minority Population: 75% with 66% Black.

These figures provide only some of the supporting data for selecting these neighborhoods as the City's first targeted area for economic development.

In view of the recommendation of the Mayor's advisory committee and the Mayor's statements that the City will "concentrate and coordinate" its development resources in these areas, the northeast community should ask whether the Mayor's proposed reorganization structure can or will carry out his stated intentions and promise. Specific questions might include:

- Who will develop the City's Investment Strategy for inner northeast?

- What role will citizens of this area, or future targeted areas in the City, have in recommending projects or programs and appropriate resources designed to enhance their community's economic well-being?
- Will the Mayor and City Council relinquish their authority and responsibility to PDC for planning and allocating City resources in economic development?

We believe that residents of our City should have a greater role in recommending the programs, projects and resources designed to improve the economic status of residents and neighborhoods.

Additionally, however appropriate it is for the Portland Development Commission to play a role in economic development, we do not believe the Mayor and City Council should relinquish their authority and responsibility for developing policy and assigning resources associated with ensuring the economic health and well-being of the citizens and neighborhoods of the City.

We urge the Mayor not to eliminate the Economic Planning Office from the budget nor to assign it to the control of the Portland Development Commission.

In view of his stated commitment, but lack of direction from the Mayor, the following is proposed for the Mayor's, the Council's and the community's consideration.

1. The Mayor should retain the Economic Planning Office for area targeting in City Hall.
2. A citizen advisory committee should be established for the target area made up of elected representatives from organizations in that area with a commitment and involvement in economic development.

City Council will be hearing the budget for economic development, including PDC, on Tuesday, April 21st starting at 9:00 a.m., in Council Chambers of City Hall. Community groups and northeast area residents are urged to attend.

Protect voter's rights

Ten years ago Secretary of State Clay Myer divided the community into four House and four Senate districts. His theory was that a little influence on four Representatives is better than a deciding influence on one Representative! That is the theory being used by many of the Democratic legislators who are now making the decision to again divide this community.

The benefit of the "one district" as opposed to the "multiple district" theory can best be determined by looking at the legislator persons whose legislative districts now include part of this community.

Representatives whose districts lie, in part, the inner northeast - Eliot, Boise, Humboldt, Piedmont, Woodlawn, Vernon, Sabin, King, Irvington and Concordia - are Jane Cease, Gretchen Kafoury, Dr. Howard Cherry, Wally Priestley. Senators are Jim Gardner, Frank Roberts, Bill McCoy and Rod Monroe.

Now comes the important question: This community has been involved in many serious issues in the last few years - school desegregation, police problems, welfare cuts, unemployment, et cetera. Yet how many times have you seen these Senators and Representatives at any community meeting; participating in any social or business organization; or just roaming around the neighborhood? How many have you seen at a meeting at the King Facility, or a your local school or church, or dropping in to a meeting of the Black United Front or the NAACP to see what's happening?

Question Number 2: If each of these representatives serves a large, diverse area and maybe from 10 to 15 percent of the constituents are Black, how much attention are they able to spend on issues of special importance to the Black community?

The alternative is a district including the major part of the neighborhoods of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods - a natural community with common interests. This district would include a business district and neighborhoods that have worked together formally for twenty years or more. A Representative elected in this district would have to be representative of and responsive to the residents of the district.

This district would not assure the election of a Black Representative; it would give Blacks a genuine opportunity to compete because they would not be separated from the majority of their supporters by artificial lines. It would also insure that a person identified with the area - not one who lives miles away in a gerrymandered district - can be elected.

This decision will be made in the next few weeks. A public meeting, sponsored by community groups with legislators invited to attend, will address the question. The meeting will be held on April 21st, 7:30 p.m., at King Neighborhood Facility. The legislative hearing is on Friday, April 24th, at the State Capitol in Salem.

Why Cuba?

Twenty years ago this week, the U.S., launched the unsuccessful "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba. Intelligence sources expected the people of Cuba to rise up and overthrow their government. But they were wrong. Neighbors and school children joined the poorly equipped militia to defeat the invaders in 72 hours.

Twenty years later Cuba, through still underdeveloped and poor, serves as an inspiration for the people of Central and South America who are still fighting for their freedom. Why Cuba? One of the areas in which Cuba serves as a beacon of hope to the people of underdeveloped nations is that of health care.

Lack of medical care is critical in Latin America. Eight percent of the babies die in their first year; of those that survive, 25 percent don't develop normally. Guatemala's infant mortality rate is 80-100 for every 1000 live births and 50 percent of all deaths are children under five. Bolivia's infant mortality rate is 157 for every 1,000 and in rural areas is as high as 300. Paraguay's infant mortality rate is 94.3; Uruguay's, 48.6; Argentina's, 68; Honduras, 103; Peru's, 72.4; Columbia's 98; Brazil's, 214 (310 in the Amazon region).

In Peru seven children under two die every hour. In Columbia, 69 percent of the population does not have access to health care.

The World Health Organization says that Latin America averages six doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, but Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala have only two and Ecuador has three. Columbia, Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay have four doctors per 10,000, but most are in the cities.

Haiti is the most tragic example. In a country that exports blood bought from slum dwellers and sells corpses to U.S., medical schools and laboratories, there is less than one doctor per 10,000 inhabitants.

Cuba, on the other hand, has made great strides in the past twenty years. With one doctor per 626 residents, Cuba provides free health care for all its residents. Cuba has lifted its life expectancy from 50 years to 70.4 years, and has achieved the highest health level in Latin America, eliminating polio, malaria, tubercular meningitis, diphtheria and rabies.

Guatemala is expected to be the next Central

American nation to become involved in revolution. It's health statistics are compared to Cuba's below:

- Infant mortality: Guatemala 80.7, Cuba 19.3.
- Child Mortality: (1-4 years): Guatemala 24.5, Cuba 1.0.
- Life expectancy: Guatemala 55.7 years, Cuba 70.4 years.
- Deaths for tuberculosis: Guatemala 18.3 per 10,000 Cuba 1.8.
- Death from measles: Guatemala 79.9 per 10,000, Cuba .1.
- Malaria: Guatemala, 9,616 reported cases; Cuba none.
- Infections and parasitic disease: Guatemala, 62.5 percent of deaths, Cuba 2.1 percent.

Cuba exports doctors, sending doctors, dentists and teachers to eighteen underdeveloped nations and training student doctors from Third World nations in its medical schools and universities.

The U.S. exports guns and imports doctors. According to WHO nearly 30,000 doctors from Latin America and Caribbean countries are practicing in the U.S. Under the 1964 U.S. Immigration Act, 125,000 immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean can be admitted to the U.S. every year and the law provides that the applicants' professional, technical and educational level be considered. Thus the "brain drain" becomes institutionalized. The effect is devastating. In 1972, 93 percent of the Haitian doctors in the U.S., (10 percent of the nation's total) left behind 20 million inhabitants with no medical care.

Those who live under oppressive military dictatorships supported in large part by U.S. aid, without even the basic necessities for life, share a common heritage with the people of Cuba. The tremendous progress the Cuban people have made since their 1959 revolution provides an inspiration for those whose revolutions are yet to come.

No amount of U.S., sabre rattling, no "Bay of Pigs" and no Green Berets will prevent their struggle for a better life. The U.S., should withdraw its guns and assist in the battle for better health, education and standard of living.



Zimbabwe Anniversary

By Fungai Kumbula

At the stroke of midnight April 17-18, 1980, Comrades Mugabe and Canaan Banana, Prime Minister and President, stood at attention as Zimbabwe's green, yellow, red and Black striped flag was raised to replace the British flag. In the background, the band played "Ishe Komborera Africa," the new national anthem which was also replacing "God Save The Queen," the British anthem. Dignitaries from more than 100 countries were on hand to witness the unthinkable: the birth of this new nation called Zimbabwe.

True to their tradition, Prime Minister Mugabe and his government have over the past twelve months continued to amaze and astound critics, skeptics and supporters alike as they steadily steer Zimbabwe towards being one of the world's greatest success stories.

Before the elections that brought Mugabe to power, the whites, blindly following Ian Smith as always, were threatening: "If Mugabe wins, we are leaving." Now they have done a 180 degree turn and are saying: "If anything happens to Mugabe, we are leaving! We have the most intelligent leader in the world." In the past twelve months, Prime Minister Mugabe and his government have taken a country that for nearly ninety years was wracked by racism; for fifteen years plagued by international sanctions and ostracism and for another fifteen years, by a debilitating civil war and turned it into one of the most enviable democracies of modern times. This is akin to someone taking the Black Panthers, MOVE, NAACP, Liberals,

Democrats, Republicans, Communists, neo-Nazis and the KKK and getting them to work together for the common good.

So highly is the Mugabe administration regarded in the international community now that, at the international donors' conference held in Zimbabwe recently at which Zimbabwe was appealing for reconstruction aid, she was able to get every single penny she asked for: all \$1.8 billion. This is at a time of severe economic constraints the world over and also not just to a so-called Third World country but to one led by a man who just 13 months ago the Western press had dubbed the "incorrigible Marxist." The accomplishments of this young government during the past year have been nothing short of phenomenal. She has been able to achieve more than she promised; when was the last time you saw a politician accomplish this feat?

All has not been smooth sailing, however. There have been sporadic strikes and reports of fighting among the former guerrillas who fought together to topple the erstwhile Ian Smith regime. Even this adversity, the Mugabe government handled with a finesse and diplomacy that surprised even two hundred year old democracies. The strikes were quickly settled to the satisfaction of both the workers and government. The internecine violence was quelled by government troops who showed once and for all that the armed forces will from now on owe allegiance to Zimbabwe rather than to a particular political leader or affiliation.

As Zimbabwe embarks on her second year, the doubting Thomases

have been silenced; the skeptics won over. Zimbabweans of all shades (of opinion and colour) heave of sigh of relief realizing that the rule of law and the respect for law and order have finally returned to Zimbabwe after nine decades of capricious and bigoted maladministration. The lessons to be learned from all these good tidings are that if it can happen in Zimbabwe, it can also happen in South Africa, in Namibia, in El Salvador, Palestine and any other place plagued by human strife. When the people are given the opportunity to make decisions, they can create their very own Zimbabwe.

In these times of budget woes, world economic stagnation and burgeoning unrest, it is most soothing and encouraging to pause and ponder, congratulate and rejoice for this oasis of sanity in an increasingly confused and confused world. Prime Minister Mugabe and his government are to be commended for making Zimbabwe such a glittering success.

Happy Birthday, Zimbabwe! And many, many more! **Note:** Due to personal budget cuts, time constraints and other such silly considerations, it has been necessary to postpone the Zimbabwe Independence Party until June 18. However, on Friday, April 17, the Association of African Students at Portland State University, will present a short observance of this important day in SMC 329 at noon. There will be speakers, including Fungai Kumbula, participating in a discussion: "Zimbabwe's First." There will also be music from Zimbabwe and other parts of Africa. See you there!

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The opossum incident is now a matter of record which will follow its course through the legal steps available to the police. However, the position that must be made clear is that Commissioner Jordan, acting in his capacity as Commissioner in charge of the Police Bureau, also had to follow a legally negotiated contract that prescribes a process he was bound to honor. Had he been inclined to discipline the officers immediately, he had to follow the procedure outlined and agreed to in the contract nevertheless.

It is unfortunate that Commissioner Jordan was placed in a "no win" situation, with groups and citizens polarized on either side. Understandably, the Black community, as well as citizens generally, was scandalized by the immature behavior displayed by seasoned officers and, additionally, by the dastardly nature of the act! This incident is a source of shame to decent people everywhere.

The time for recrimination is past. Let us resolve to lend our support to Commissioner Jordan as he endeavors to address the concerns which are symptomatic of a very serious conflict in our community. He needs our support, not our condemnation.

Sincerely,
Gladys McCoy
Multnomah County Commissioner



Reapportionment Meeting

April 21, 7:30 p.m.
King Neighborhood Facility

Sponsors include: Portland Observer; NAACP, Portland Branch; Sabin Community Association; Humboldt Neighborhood Improvement Association; Eliot Neighborhood Association; Urban League of Portland; Boise Neighborhood Improvement Association; Union Avenue Boosters; National Association of Black Social Workers, Portland Chapter; Greater Northeast Police Precinct Council; Woodlawn Improvement Association; Piedmont Neighborhood Association.



Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher



Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year in Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

The Portland Observer was founded in October of 1970 by Alfred Lee Henderson.

The Portland Observer is a champion of justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social evils; a thorough analyst and critic of discriminatory practices and policies; a sentinel to warn of impending and existing racist trends and practices; and a defender against persecution and oppression.

The real problems of the minority population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in the context of their exploitation and manipulation by the colonial nations, including the United States, and their relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

283-2486

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York

1st Place
Community Service
ONPA 1973

1st Place
Best Ad Result
ONPA 1973

5th Place
Best Editorial
ONPA 1973

Honorable Mention
Herrick Editorial Award
NNA 1973

2nd Place
Best Editorial
3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1975

3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1978

3rd Place
In depth coverage
ONPA 1979

