

Seniors seek service center funding

The Senior Adult Service Center of near Northeast Portland Task Force is kicking off a Can Donation Drive to raise money for a senior facility in the near Northeast area. Many Northeast Portland businesses are participating in the drive by allowing canisters to remain in their stores for 30 days.

According to Can Drive Chairman, Rance Spruill, "We hope we will be able to reach every person in the inner Northeast area who knows someone old or plans to grow old here in the City of Portland."

The near Northeast area is the only area in Portland without a senior facility. Senior services are presently operating out of a small office at the King Neighborhood Facility. There is no room for socializing, large gatherings for crafts or meetings.

Many of the programs that once made the Senior Adult Service Cen-

ter a national model have been eliminated because of lack of space.

The Task Force has received the help of various corporations, community groups and individuals to locate and finance a senior facility.

The City and County has earmarked a \$100,000 grant for the purchase of a building. The Task Force is raising funds to help purchase, renovate and maintain the center. The Task Force goal is \$160,000.

Over the past year the group has put on various community events to raise funds. It has also looked at several sites, in seeking the most suitable site within the \$100,000 price range.

"We are giving all Northeast residents a chance to help our Northeast senior citizens to have a place to go," said Mrs. Maude Young, Task Force Chairman.



Marie Smith, Senior Citizen Advisory Board; Rance Spruill, Can Drive Chairman; and SASC Chairman Maude Young discusses fund drive with Lloyd Center Safeway Store Manager Bill McLeod.

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Exclusive interview

To those who have not, shall be taken away

Grassroot News, N.W. - The first few years of the 1980s may be remembered as the period of attempted assassinations. From the President, to the Pope, and prior to both was Vernon Jordan, president of the National Urban League. Since his assassination attempt, Jordan has begun to pick up his pace and recently was the keynote speaker at the Tacoma Urban League's Annual Meeting. Grassroot News was there to obtain this interview.

Q. What is your opinion of the Reagan's Administration recovery plan and how will it impact the minority and poor?

A. The biblical inscription, 'To those who have, to them shall be given. To those who have not, even that which they seem to have, shall be taken away.' That is the essence of Reagan's recovery plan which takes pennies from the poor and dollars from the rich. The pennies taken from the poor are the difference between food and fuel and the dollars from the wealthy is an altered location site. The program is built on the backs of poor people because they have to bear the disproportionate burden of the budget. I do not believe the theoretical side of supply side economic addresses itself to the question of how poor people will survive. It's clear that for some it would be better to go on welfare than to work. Their safety has a hole in it.

Q. In the current 'State of the Race' report, you classified the mood of America turning mean. What brought about this change in attitudes?

A. You always get meanness when there's an upsurge of economic difficulty. The country has moved into a self-centered sense of privateness. What has kept poor whites from responding as loudly as Blacks and other minorities is because they are leaderless, forgotten and unrepresented. And they have the false sense of safety that racism will protect them from the ravages of others who are mutually situated, therefore, this program is anti-poor, and anti-working people.

Q. I take it that you don't think the private sector can pick up the slack from the divestment of the government in the economy?

A. I don't think the private sector has the responsibility to pick up the slack. The government of this country is a government for the people. It is not my view that because a given government function stops, that the private sector can and should take up the slack. If we do not get an extension on the voting rights act of 1965 that is not the responsibility of the private sector. It's a mistaken notion that in fact, if we are to get government cuts, that the private sector should come in and do what is the responsibility of the government.

Q. Do you think that the procedure to give states control over

the dissemination of funds for the poor can effectively be dispensed in the form of 'Block Grants'?

A. We are faced with this issue; the procedure of shifting federal dollars; federal responsibility and federal power to the states. This must be resisted by advocates of the poor because this will dismantle the federal government's constitutional responsibilities to promote the general welfare. In my view, this is a resurrection of the discredited notion of states rights. Black people can teach the nation a little bit about states right. We know it means separate drinking fountains, schools and unequal lives. We know it means never, no not one and segregation today, tomorrow and forever.

It's because of states rights that we have the voting rights act of 1965, because if the states had done what they should have done, we wouldn't have had to write it walking from Selma to Montgomery. So to answer your question, I don't think that the states can effectively disseminate funds, create programs or provide assistance for the poor.

Grassroot News felt it was unnecessary to question Jordan about his assassination attempt, yet we sensed a subtle difference in his attitude and temperament. He's more determined, serious and disciplined. Even though his politics avoided confrontation, the hard reality of racism hit home and almost took him out.

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Phan enters US Open

A member of the Portland Community College table tennis team won the men's national collegiate table tennis championship defeating 15 players from four-year universities throughout the country, in play Tuesday, April 28 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tung Phan, 23, a full-time student in mathematics and English at PCC and an employee of Western Abrasives Company in southeast Portland, took the national championship defeating Craig Manooch of the University of California at Berkeley, and Mike Lardon, New York Collegiate Champion, in the final round robin of play.

Phan went to the finals represent-

ing the Northwest Collegiate region. He defeated collegiate players in the regionals in Tacoma in February in order to win the Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska men's title.

Jim Scott, Phan's coach at PCC and coach of the PCC collegiate table tennis team, said Phan plans to play in the U.S. Open Table Tennis Championship June 30, in New Jersey if the school can find a sponsor for him.

Phan is a Vietnamese refugee who has been in the United States a little over a year. He attended a gymnastics college in Vietnam and played on a Vietnamese table tennis team before coming to the United States. He is married and working his way through school.

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