

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

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# Black voters to picket Senator McCoy residence

Community reaction to the McCoy Amendment adopted by the Senate Committee on Government Operations was sharp and angry. The amendment changes the reapportionment plan adopted by the House, to dilute the Black voting strength in the district designated by the House as District 18. This district, as adopted by the House, would have a population 44 per cent Black.

The district as redrawn by Senator William McCoy, Jr. divides the Albina community at Fremont and decreases the percentage of Black residents in the resulting district.

McCoy lives in St. Johns and his

current Senate district includes the predominately white St. Johns and a portion of the Black community roughly north of Fremont and west of Union, with some sections extending as far east as 15th. Including the new House District 18 within his district would increase the percentage of Black in his district and this is the reason seen for his move to change the House plan.

Ronnie Herndon, co-chairman of the Black United Front, called for a picket of McCoy's home on Sunday, June 14th at 2:00 p.m. Herndon said McCoy's move sets a historical precedent. "You will not find an historical example of groups

dividing themselves to gain power." "Divide and conquer" techniques have been used to oppress ethnic minorities but "the oppressed never use this against themselves." All minority groups recognize that they have to unite to consolidate their power.

An example recently cited by William Rasberry in his syndicated column carried by the *Oregonian* is that of Senator Doug Wilder, the only Black member of the Virginia State Senate, who is fighting to prevent gerrymandering attempts in his state. The NAACP and the ACLU are challenging a plan that would divide areas with predominately Black populations

and add them to largely white districts "making it almost impossible difficult for blacks to increase their current representation . . . in the state house."

The plan adopted by the Oregon House was the result of community participation. At a forum sponsored by the *Observer* and numerous community organizations, four plans were presented and discussed. At the request of Lucious Hicks, president of the NAACP, Portland Branch, the House Committee on Elections and Reapportionment held a formal hearing in King Neighborhood Facility.

Hicks, who said his organization had not studied the issue enough to

make a recommendation, said they would testify at the hearing and would support community opinion.

Overwhelming support was expressed by individuals and organizations who testified at the House hearing. The NAACP did not offer testimony and submitted no written testimony to the House or the Senate. Members of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs have indicated that McCoy claimed the support of the NAACP for his plan. Hicks is out of town and unavailable for comment, but members of the Executive Board indicate there has been no discussion of the plan.

Senator McCoy did not attend the

public forum or the House hearing in the community. "I suggest he visit the Black community to see what the people want," Herndon said, pointing out that although the BUF has held weekly community meetings on a variety of serious issues for the past three years, McCoy has never been in attendance.

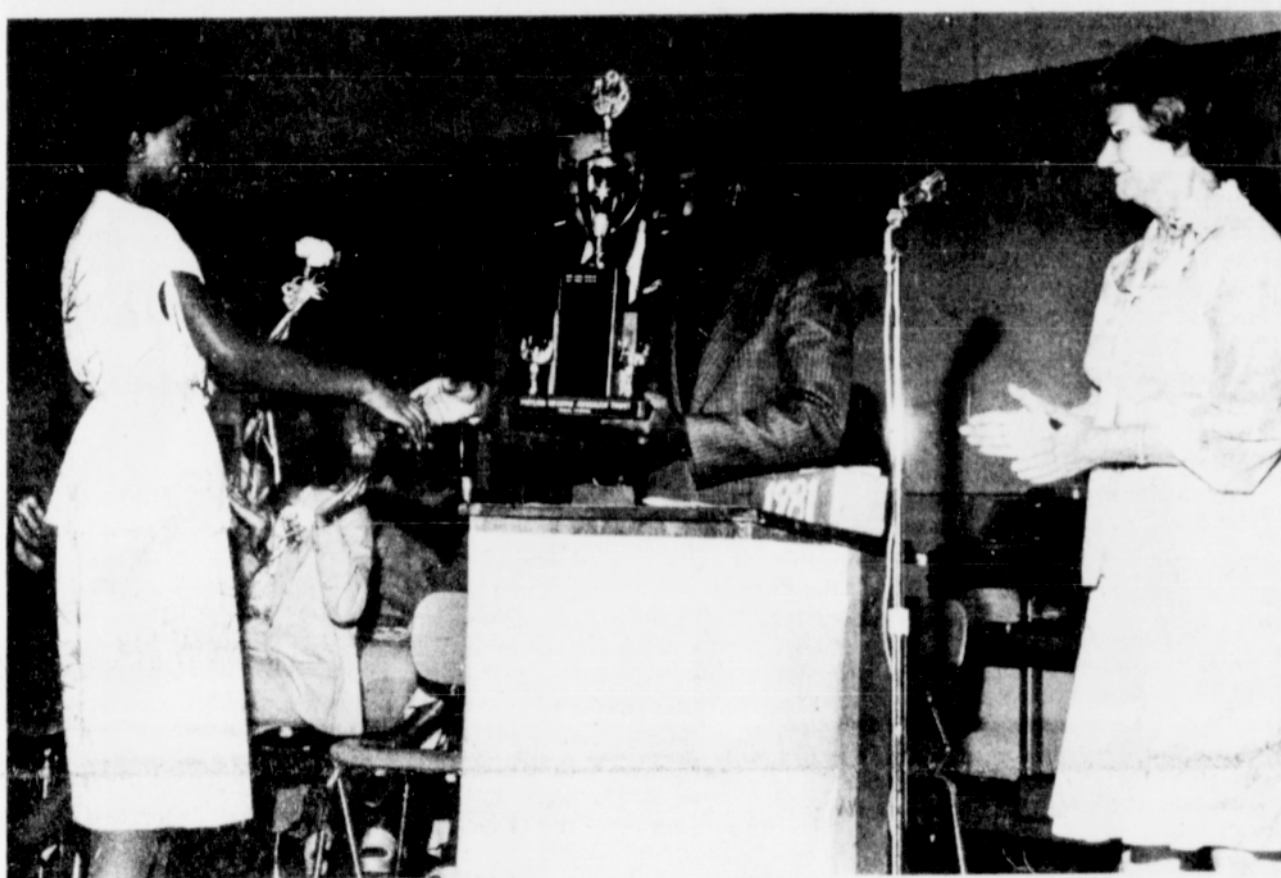
"This charade has gone on long enough," he said. "McCoy does not represent the Black community; he doesn't represent the interests of the Black community."

Why did McCoy request that the district be changed? "He is afraid of Black people. He is afraid of what an organized Black community will (Please turn to page 10 col. 1)

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Boise Student Cindy Jackson is presented the Portland Observer Journalism Trophy, awarded each year to the outstanding member of the staff of the school newspaper, Boise Speaks. Presenting the trophy is Cleo Franklin of the Observer,

while Principal Dave McCrea and newspaper advisor Beth Nance watched with pride. The award is based on academic excellence, participation and service.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Dedication to education of youth

By Herb Cawthorne

(Editor's Note: The following is the full text of a speech by Herb Cawthorne, delivered at The Annual Dinner of The Urban League of Portland, "In Honor of Vern Chatman," Director of Education and Youth Incentives, The Urban League of Portland.)

The spiritually uplifting Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois wrote in 1914 words which can be said to have set the background for the life's work of the man whom we honor this evening. Du Bois wrote, "...We must carefully understand the age in which we live; above all, we must realize that this is an age of tremendous activity; that today no race which is not prepared to put forth the full might of its carefully developed powers can hope to maintain itself as a world power. On one point, therefore, there can be no question - no hesitation: unless we develop our full capabilities, we cannot survive."

Our quest to develop our full capabilities depends on leadership with vision, spirit, and commitment to education. These words fit Vern Chatman like a perfectly tailored suit.

Vern Chatman has a devotion to a vision. It is his perception of Black potential and worth that is the driving force behind his tireless activities over these many years. Vern's vision is deepened by an appreciation of a history full of in-

credible hardships and amazing triumph. His clear eyes discover daily the beauty of that which Dr. Du Bois offered as truth long ago:

"...For three long centuries white people lynched Negroes who dared to be brave, raped Black women who dared to be virtuous, crushed dark-hued youth who dared to be ambitious, and encouraged and made to flourish servility and lewdness and apathy. But not even this was able to crush all the manhood and chastity and aspiration from Black folk. A saving remnant continually survives and persists, continually aspires, continually shows itself in thrift and ability and character. Exceptional it is to be sure, but this is the promise; it shows the capability of Negro blood, the promise of Black men and women."

To this vision of triumph, Vern adds a venerable spirit. Vern has an essential, pervading quality which excites, rouses, encourages, and motivates all those with whom he comes in contact. The Chatman spirit knows no time; it knows no sex; it knows no age; it knows no color; it knows no handicap. He is the bridge of the soul. As such, Vern Chatman links the old with the new. The wisdom of the years is merged with the youthful challenge of today and, through Vern Chatman, our young people have absorbed without fanfare the solidness of the past and the excitement of the future. The Chatman spirit speaks --



VERN CHATMAN

it needs no references; it needs no loud music; it needs no slide show; it needs no preaching. He stands before the young and, before he speaks, they understand his spirit. They accept him as history. His graceful toughness challenges them. They seek his counsel. And they believe him when he tells them over (Please turn to Page 10 Col 1)

## An Open Letter to the community

By Ronald R. Still  
Chief of Police

I am writing this as an open letter to the citizens of Portland but also more specifically citizens of the Black community of Portland. Since my appointment as Chief of Police on June 1, 1981, there has been a great deal of speculation about my concerns for problems in the Albina community.

I would like to begin by telling you a little bit about myself. I was born in Portland, attended Benson High School. I am married and have three children. I spent three years in the U.S. Coast Guard and after joining the Portland Police Bureau in 1954, I have attended Portland Community College and received both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Portland in the Administration of Criminal Justice.

Since my appointment as a police officer, working as a uniform patrolman, detective, sergeant, and then as a commander of various divisions within the Police Bureau, I have spent much time in the Albina community. One of the major concerns that we have in our current administration is re-establishing good communications and relations with the community living in Albina. I intend to work hard at doing this by talking but more importantly listening to the community.

I have already begun meeting with several citizens in the community that I know personally. Some will guess that the people I know are

older and not of the current generation. I hope this, along with other speculation, will be kept in check. I intend to talk to a broad spectrum of people and hopefully develop policies and programs that will both improve policing and develop a better community as well as improve community relations. I would like to work towards reducing the long-standing concerns Albina residents have expressed towards narcotics, prostitution, burglary, and robbery. At the same time, the subject of balancing that effort with peoples' civil rights.

On June 4, 1981, I placed into effect the following policy statement. This statement is designed for the protection of the community but will be a baseline statement to all Bureau personnel during my administration. The policy statement has been read at all the Roll Calls and posted on all the bulletin boards and I have personally visited officers throughout the Bureau personally asking them to follow not only the letter but the intent of this policy.

"For many years, the mission statement of the Portland Police Bureau included our obligation to provide three types of protection: protection of persons, protection of property and protection of civil rights.

"All members are expected to maintain a sustained and dedicated effort to assure the peace and safety of everyone who lives, works in or visits our City. We must vigorously enforce the law. We must reverse the trend of rising crime and fear.

"As we strive to protect persons and their property, however, we must always balance these efforts against our duty to protect civil rights. In a free society such as ours, police actions must never be at the cost of depriving anyone of the rights guaranteed to them under the



CHIEF RON STILL

constitution. All members of the Police Bureau will be held accountable to this policy."

I hope this letter relieves some concerns whether real or speculated, on the part of the Albina community. We badly need to communicate our goals to each other. We will make every effort to do so on my part.

(Editor's Note: Chief Still will be present at the *Observer's* police/community relations forum on June 20th at Bourbon Street Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.

During the last forum, the Police Bureau was asked to present plans to improve police work in Albina. Among the complaints addressed were: excessive force, lack of training, lack of Black officers, and the complaint process.)

## BUF sponsors police legislation

The Oregon Association of Chief of Police and the Oregon Peace Officers Association have joined the Black United Front and the National Lawyers Guild in sponsoring legislation to limit the authority of police to use "deadly physical force."

Current laws allows police officers to shoot and kill felons who are fleeing from the police. This includes not only a person who is fleeing the scene of a crime, and therefore is a suspect, but a person who is jailed for a misdemeanor and escapes, thereby automatically becoming a felon.

The law allows a police officer to

shoot a person he believes to be threatening to kill or seriously injure himself (the officer) or another person.

The new law would allow an officer to shoot only to save a life. He could not shoot a fleeing felon unless that person had just committed a crime or attempted to commit a crime using or threatening to use deadly physical force, and he evidences a threat to kill or seriously injure the officer or another person. The officer would have the discretion to shoot if he believes this person's escape would cause immediate danger to others.

Currently the law allows a police

officer to shoot when a person is fleeing the scene of kidnap, arson, escape I, burglary I, or the attempt to commit one of these crimes. If a person is seen running from a home and the officer believes a robbery has been committed, he can shoot and kill. If a person steals more than \$200, he is a felon and can be shot.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Black United Front after a study of practices and policies of the Portland Police Bureau. Sixty percent of all police shootings, in the last ten years, were of Blacks.

Senate Bill 528 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## County considers emergency rule

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners has under consideration an amendment to a current ordinance that would provide penalties for disobeying an order by the Sheriff to leave an area declared closed because of an emergency situation.

Chief Charles Fessler, Operations Branch of the County, Division of Public Safety, explained that the current ordinance allows the County Executive, or in his absence, the Sheriff, to close an area in response to an emergency. This ordinance has been used sparingly, only three times in recent years; the United Airlines crash when it was necessary to keep bystanders from danger and protect the crash scene for investigators; the sniper situation at

the Ringside; and a sniper at the airport. In the latter case, the scene was closed to keep citizens out of the danger area.

The county ordinance only allows an area to be closed when an incident has happened - a natural disaster; an accident such as a wreck involving hazardous gases; a civil disorder as defined by law. It must be declared by the Executive Officer, in this case, Don Clark, and only if there is danger to persons or property. It differs from the new City of Portland ordinance that allows a police sergeant to declare an emergency if he believes a serious situation might develop.

"A police officer could not drive by a park and see people milling around, decide there might be

trouble, and close the park," Fessler explained.

The area closed is limited to the area the Sheriff believes necessary to protect persons and property, and not to limit the "observation" of the public.

The ordinance says after an emergency area has been declared, the Sheriff can: regulate movement to and from the area; limit or prohibit movement within the area; move property in the area; evacuate persons whenever and to the extent that the Sheriff finds human lives or property are endangered; enter into private property to prevent or minimize danger to lives or property. The Sheriff can barricade streets and regulate traffic. (Please turn to Page 10 Col 1)

The youth drill team, Portland Stars and Stripes, won a first place award in the Junior Rose Festival Parade. Watch for this talented group at the Grand Floral Parade on Saturday!