

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## The great sugar rip-off

The Reagan Administration has promised the Caribbean nations a "mini-Marshall Plan" to help build their economies. This aid is to be in the form of minimal assistance to private business, opportunities for investment for U.S. corporations, and some duty exemptions for Caribbean products.

The minimal benefits of the token aid program will be wiped out by the Administration's new sugar quota.

The U.S. government has already taken steps to limit sugar imports. Earlier this spring duties charged on imported sugar were increased, which directly decreased the payment to the exporting country. This action crippled already suffering sugar industries of many Caribbean countries. Although world sugar prices are low, often lower than the cost of production, the added duty raised the delivered cost to above that required by the government subsidized U.S. sugar producers, enabling U.S. producers to under-bid foreign producers.

Now the Administration wants to cut imports

from 4.6 million tons to 2.8 million tons this year. Unfortunately many of those nations that the U.S. has targeted for aid are the same countries that will be hard-hit by the loss of a market for their major crop.

A prime example is the Dominican Republic, already in deep economic trouble. A large percentage of their sugar mills will be forced to close, with devastating effects.

The Central American countries, Brazil, and the Philippines, traditional suppliers of the U.S. market, will be especially hard hit since they have been producing and selling sugar at a loss for years, requiring huge government subsidies that cannot be increased or maintained.

The drop in U.S. imports will harm all sugar producing nations since the excess dumped on the world market will lower prices.

A single stroke of the pen will bring starvation to many Third World people. Will the American consumers reap the benefits of this market manipulation? No. Look for an increase in the cost of the sugar on your table.

## Another try for District 18

Representatives of the black community are attempting to organize to elect a black person to represent District 18 in the Legislature.

In the Primary Election, five black candidates filed and all were outrun by Ed Leek, a white. In a smaller field, a black might well have won.

In an attempt to find and promote a candidate, the community is in danger of recreating the same situation. Two groups have organized to begin the process but, unfortunately, neither group had discussed plans with the other.

The Northeast Community Congress is supporting Reverend John Jackson, who is a Democrat. Law requires that to be placed on the ballot, a person registered as a Democrat must be nominated by a different party. He cannot run as an Independent. Jimmy "Bang

Bang" Walker has taken the initial steps to form a new party, but he wants an open convention — not one where the candidate is already chosen.

An open convention could serve to unite — not to separate — the community, but it would have to be a convention in which all registered voters can participate in the selection of the nominee. The campaign of candidates to become the nominee would form the ground work for the organization and public awareness that would be needed to win in November.

We have no doubt that Reverend Jackson could win the nomination and that this would make him a stronger candidate in the real election — the General Election in November.

Starting behind, running on a "third party" or on a write-in campaign, is not easy. It can only be achieved through unity and hard work.

## Join the Rose Festival

The Rose Festival is here again. The Queen has been selected; the ships have arrived. Fifty events — including the Grand Floral Parade — beckon.

Black people are scarce in the Rose Festival — the suspicions and atmosphere of discrimination linger. Past experiences and current slights fade slowly.

But the Rose Festival is here to stay; next year it will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. Black people should share in the economic and social benefits the festival provides.

Participation at all levels should be sought,

from policy making to concessioniers. The only way the benefits can be reaped by the black community is from within. The only way black youngsters will be encouraged to participate — the court, the drivers, the musicians, etc. — is if black parents are on the committees and boards that make the decisions.

The Rose Festival should include a major event of special interest to blacks; it should bring a fine black band to the parade. This will happen when the community gets involved and asks for a piece of the action.



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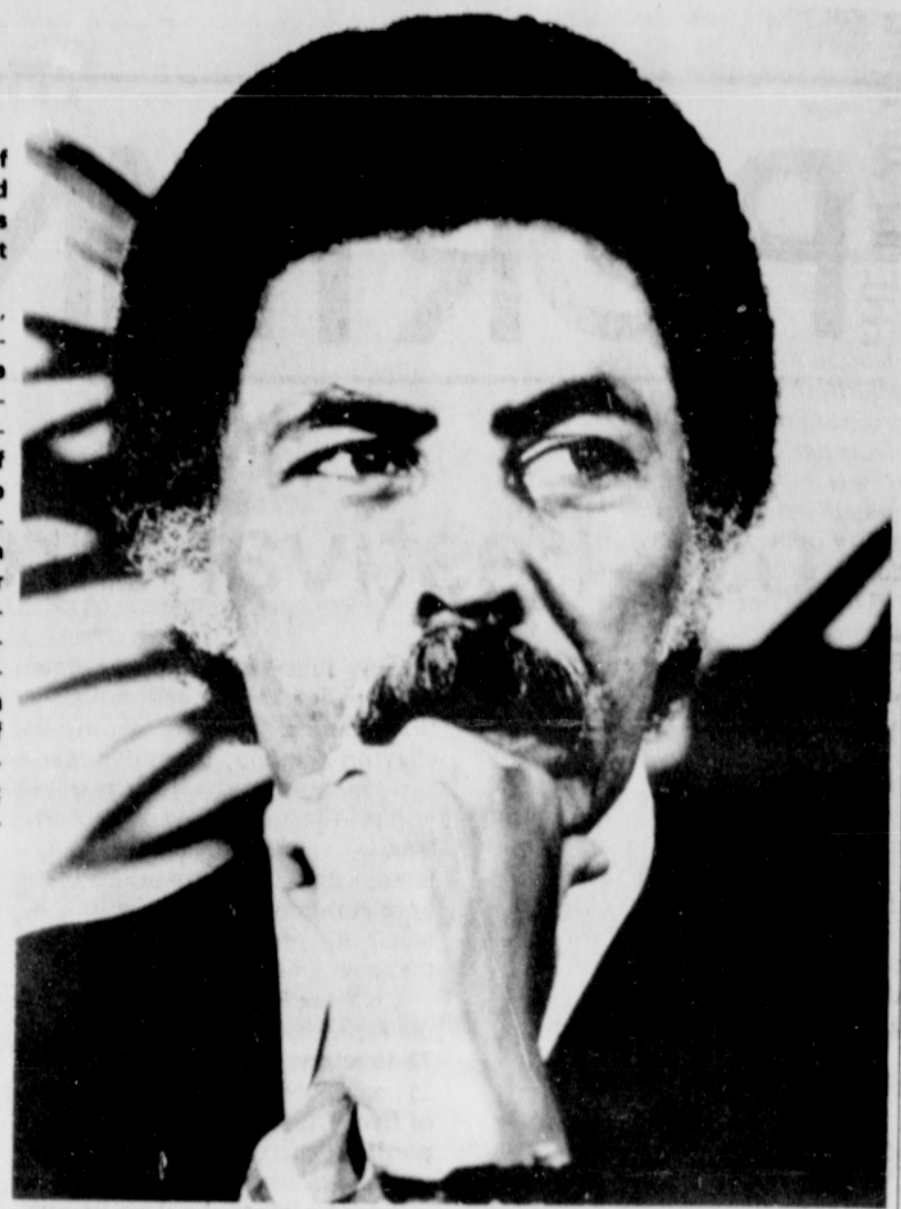
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Congressman Ron Dellums of California will be the featured speaker for the *Observer's* Achievement Awards Banquet on July 16th at the Hilton Hotel.

Honorees are: Earl Wantland, president, Tektronix; V. F. Booker, president, American State Bank; Harry Glickman, executive vice-president of the Trailblazers; Cora Smith, owner of Cora Smith Hair Design; State Representative Gretchen Kafoury; County Executive Don Clark; City Commissioner Charles Jordan; Edna Robertson, Coordinator for the Northeast District Neighborhood Office. Woman of the Year: Linda Williams, *The Oregonian*; Man of the Year, Ron Herndon, co-chairman, Black United Front; Outstanding Community Service: Ruth Haefner.



CONGRESSMAN RON DELLUMS

## Jackson: Will it secede?

by Tracy M. Smith

Members of the Jackson Education Coalition and the School District presented their case to the Multnomah County Education Service District on June 2, at Cleveland High School. What may have started to be a simple school closure has turned out to be a heated battle between the Jackson Education Coalition Committee and the Portland School Board.

Gayle Cloptin, Pat Dooling, Chuck Gilbert, and Art Kayser, members of the JECC, are disappointed in the Portland School Board, to say the least. Members of the committee are in agreement that initially, at the time the Board was discussing school closures, the Board needed to save money. In their view, the School District was in a drier financial predicament. However, with a new tax base to work with this is no longer the case. Furthermore, the Coalition agrees that at the time the Board began discussing school closures Jackson was the least political of the three westside high schools. Members said this had much to do with the Board's decision to close Jackson.

Members of the Coalition make it clear that they are not seceding from the School District. In their view, the word "secession" is radical and weird. They claim that the School District chose the word. The Coalition says it speaks in terms of forming a new school district and there is a law that allows them to do so.

The Coalition has many claims against the School Board. Art Kayser says, "The School Board can't provide any justification, their numbers are self-serving and they justify after the fact. Furthermore, the Coalition claims that the School Board has been unwilling to meet with them to discuss their concerns. This disappoints them because the School Board is an elected body and

part of their job is to listen to the concerns of people in the School District.

The School District throughout the night made several references to ORS 330.535, which requires that any plan dealing with a new organization be evaluated on whether it "affords greater equalization of educational opportunities... more efficient and economical administration... and a more equitable distribution of public school revenues." The School District says the proposed school district does not meet the requirements.

The superintendent listed in his statement four problems that emanate from a new school district: educational disadvantages, inefficiencies, maldistribution of school resources, and a disastrous precedent that would be set.

Frank McNamara, vice chairperson of the Portland School Board, also represented the Board. He reminded members of the ESD Board that secession must meet the legal requirements of achieving superior equalization of educational opportunities. Furthermore, McNamara said that Jackson never fulfilled the 1200 spaces for students. Its school population has been declining for years. If the population were to grow in the Jackson area the Board may decide to reopen Jackson.

Members of the Coalition firmly believe that if Jackson is closed the Board will be bringing to a halt the most effective desegregation program in the city. At present, Jackson has approximately 150 transfer students. The Committee claims that the transfer students are very involved in extra-curricular activities and Jackson, by far, is the most preferred westside school.

Randy Fuller, a junior at Jackson, was one of the many students present at the ESD hearing. Randy said both parents and students are involved in the school closure. He said the students show their concern

in numbers, while the parents are more vocal. Randy was not sure whether Jackson should secede or not. However, he did say that if Jackson had to close it should secede to stay open. Randy is strongly opposed to finishing his senior year at Wilson.

## Analysis

Charles Ford has been a long-time parent of Jackson High School. He has three children that have graduated from Jackson.

Mr. Ford reiterated that Jackson is by far the superior school in terms of desegregation. Ford said Jackson started a series of programs when the school began desegregation. Students from the Northeast and Southwest had family exchanges to better understand the cultures. He also said there are parent groups that meet regularly to discuss the issue of race. Unmistakably, Ford says, there is a strong commitment by transfer students and parents to remain at Jackson.

If Jackson does form a new school district, will they be able to provide the advantages of the present Magnet Programs, extra-curricular activities and sports programs that exist in the schools today? The Coalition does not have any concrete projections on the advantages of a new district. Nonetheless, Pat Dooling says, the Coalition wants to continue to partake in these activities. True, the Coalition realizes that they will have to pay to take advantage of the programs in School District No. 1 but they are prepared to do so. Furthermore, "there will be an exchange of desirabilities and the Coalition will pursue to make everyone happy."

## Guardian Angels for Portland?

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

One may raise the question of the significance of the Guardian Angels. Michael Stoops says, "We are seeking a new way to fight crime in contrast to the Mayor's proposed 'War on Crime.'" Stoops, like so many others, is thinking of alternatives in the fight against crime. The Mayor's "War on Crime" offers little relief to an individual. The ordinances proposed by the Mayor, for the most part, were deemed unconstitutional by the City Attorney.

One may say that the Guardian Angels, unlike many revolutionary movements, rarely possess autonomous ideologies; they are dependent for ideological guidance and justification on the prevalent belief system of the establishment they seek to support. If so, it may be profitable

to raise questions about the fate of the Guardian Angels. For instance, are they rewarded for their services? If so, in what manner and under what circumstances? Most importantly, how do they adjust if their behavior produces a negative reaction? Undoubtedly, there are many

questions to answer.

The Guardian Angels' invitation to Portland may stem from crime-control initiated by private persons who believe the present system to be ineffectual in protecting persons and property.

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