

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Middle school best for Adams

The School Board will soon determine the future use of the John Adams High School building. Some of the most frequently discussed options are: reopening the building as a neighborhood high school with a vocational emphasis; using it for Columbia/Whitaker Middle School; leasing it to Portland Community College; renting it or leasing it for non-school use.

Adams is by far the district's best building and is considered by many to be one of the finest school buildings in the nation. It must be retained for public school use.

Portland Community College continues to express interest in acquiring the building, promising to expand and enhance vocational programs now housed at the Cascade campus. There is no doubt that John Adams HS would provide beautiful facilities for PCC, but we believe that the current Cascade Campus can accommodate facilities for their new program. Also, there is a serious question regarding the commitment to the former Model Cities community made when the college accepted nearly three-quarters of a million dollars to establish the Cascade Campus. This money was given at great sacrifice to other programs and projects with the belief that the vocational programs to be provided by a community college would be an asset to the community's young people.

There has been much discussion over the years about how well that commitment has

been kept. The general consensus of community and students alike is that it has not—that Cascade has been the orphan of the PCC system. Hopefully, with a new president, that trend has been reversed. But the commitment to offer quality educational programs for Model Cities residents and to be a positive influence in the community should be carried out at the existing campus.

The best use for the Adams building is to house Columbia/Whitaker Middle School. This school is now located at two campuses, both in dangerous, industrial areas far from the children's homes. Placing the schools at Adams would allow most children to walk to school, would eliminate high transportation costs, would avoid the shuttling of staff from one campus to the other, and would provide an excellent facility for the middle school students.

This building, with its shapes, auditorium, playing fields and adjoining park would be the perfect site for Columbia/Whitaker—a middle school that has been neglected. With a facility like Adams available children should not have to go to school amid trains, trucks and industrial plants.

Whether the building will ever be used as a high school again is pure speculation, but the need for facilities for Columbia/Whitaker is real and immediate.

Athletes sacrifice for liberation

Much ado is being made about the South African athletes currently visiting Oregon State University wrestling coach Dale Thomas.

South Africa is barred from all recognized amateur sport and any athlete that competes with a South African is barred from amateur competition for life. Thomas, as a representative of our state and of OSU, has repeatedly insulted all of us by his relationship with South Africa.

Now that some South African athletes are visiting Thomas, there is great sympathy expressed for the black athletes. Now that blacks are allowed to participate on some teams, they are being punished along with the white players. First barred by apartheid in their own

country and now by a United Nations rule, they seem to get it both ways. The fact that young people cannot be allowed to compete fully is a sad commentary on society.

The answer is not to lift the ban against South African participation, however. As long as apartheid is the law in that nation the rest of the world must find every way possible to protest. The ban on athletic competition is an important protest.

Those black South African athletes who find themselves in the middle must sacrifice the joys of international competition but their sacrifice is small when compared to the sacrifice of those in South Africa and throughout the world who give their lives for freedom and justice.

Letters to the Editor

Jewish group opposes Lebanon invasion

To the editor:

As a local chapter of a national Jewish progressive organization, Portland New Jewish Agenda wishes to respond publicly to the new crisis in the Middle East. We wish to add our voice to those calling for a comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The following statement was adopted at the chapter's last general meeting, June 27th.

We are uncompromisingly committed to the survival and flourishing of the Jewish State of Israel and believe that all fair-minded people must support its existence and security. We believe that a just peace in the Middle East can be possible only with the mutual recognition of Israeli and Palestinian national rights and the co-existence of the Jewish State and a Palestinian Arab State. No less than Israel, the Palestinian people has the right to self-determination and an independent national existence.

We think the invasion of Lebanon and the continued aggression in and around Beirut lessens the prospects by strengthening those on both sides who believe a negotiated Israeli-Palestinian peace is neither possible nor desirable. We do not condone terrorist acts against Israelis, but such

actions in no way justify the current Israeli response. The terrifying toll of this massive invasion in lives and suffering will perpetuate the cycle of mutual mistrust and violence, adding obstacles to a negotiated peace settlement.

Although the short-term security of Israel has no doubt been enhanced by the destruction of PLO centers in Lebanon and the partial destruction of the Syrian air force, we see this invasion as contradictory to the long-term security of Israel. The long-range repercussion of these acts will mean greater hostility towards Israel, the continuation of a catastrophic arms race between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries, and the prolongation of tension and a disastrous economy that have made life in Israel so difficult in recent years. Although Israel's desire for safe and secure borders is understandable, a truly secure border cannot be attained through military means, but only through the establishment of peaceful relationships with neighboring states and the Palestinian people. Even the strongest and most advanced of armies cannot deter a people questing for a homeland.

Recently a prestigious study mission to the Middle East which included Philip Kluznik, former president of the World Jewish Congress

and former B'nai Brith president, issued a report which stated: "In our view, there can only be a durable peace with a negotiated settlement, and there can only be a negotiated settlement if there is a fair compromise between the Israelis and Palestinians. A winner-take-all solution favoring the more powerful party will perpetuate conflict."

We strongly concur.

We urge both Jews and non-Jews who support a peace initiative in the Middle East to express themselves everywhere and in particular to the Israeli ambassador and the U.S. State Department calling for an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops from Lebanon and the commencement of internationally supervised negotiations toward providing a national homeland for the Palestinian people as well as security for the Jewish national homeland of Israel.

Portland New Jewish Agenda

For your information:

Ambassador Moshe Arens, Office of the Israeli Embassy, 3514 International Drive, Washington, D.C. 20008.

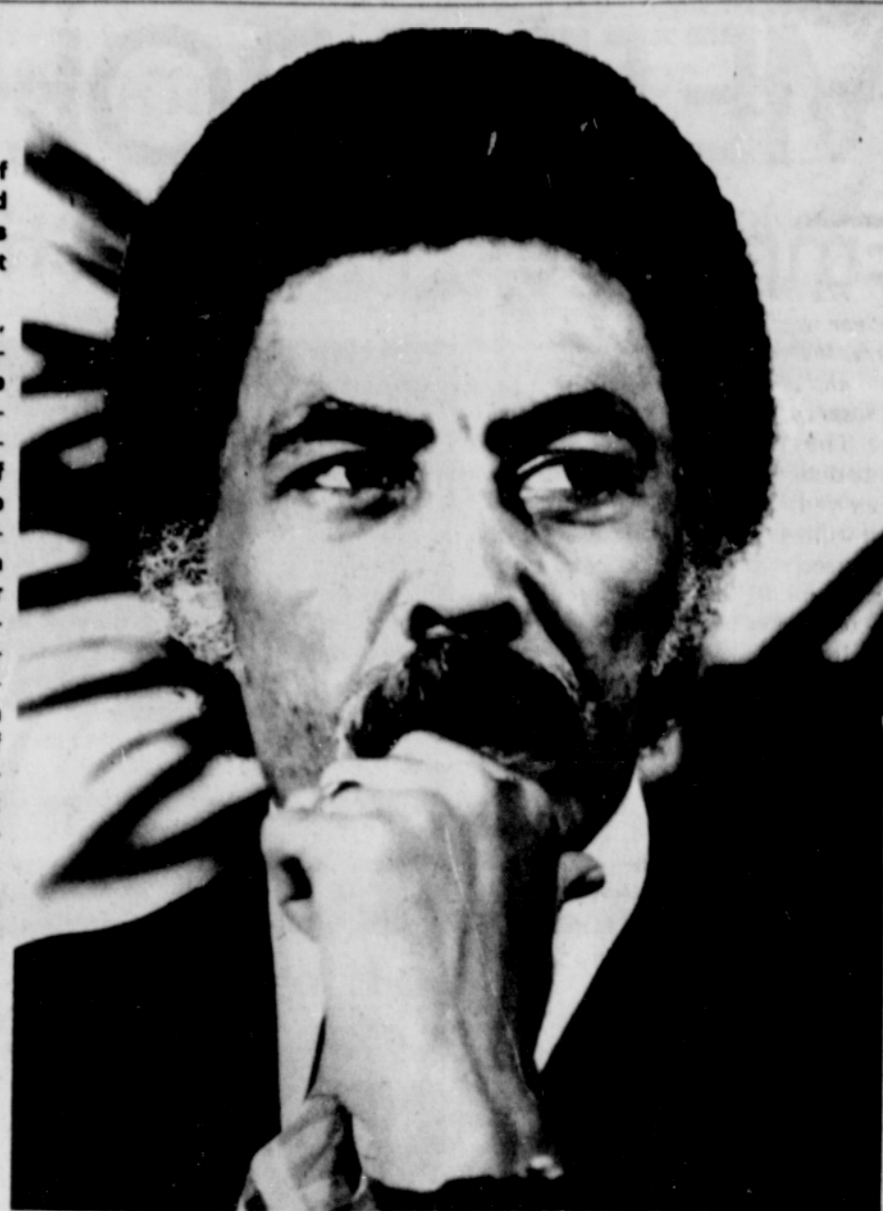
The Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 "C" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Congressman Ron Dellums of California will be the featured speaker for the *Observer's* Achievement Awards Banquet on July 18th 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.

The banquet will be held at 7:00 with no-host cocktail hour preceding.

Tickets are available at the *Observer's* office, Stevens & Sons, Meier and Frank, and House of Sound.



CONGRESSMAN RON DELLUMS



The debt trap

by Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

The current economic recession has become a depression for black America. Most black economists and Civil Rights leaders have attacked the Reagan Administration's austere fiscal and social policies for worsening an already terrible economic condition for blacks. The majority of this group targets one issue, *unemployment*, as the central dilemma for government action. Yet even if CETA and other job programs were restored to former levels, another major problem would still exist that undermines the stability of black, Hispanic and working class households. This underpublicized problem is *consumer debt*.

For all Americans, indebtedness has become virtually a way of life. Installment credit increased \$20 billion in 1981, to \$333 billion. When combined with home mortgages, the total personal debt is a staggering \$1.5 trillion. In growing numbers, thousands of Americans have been forced into bankruptcy courts. In 1978, 179,194 declared bankruptcy; last year, the number soared to 456,914. Current estimates for the number of persons who are in serious financial debt—on the verge of bankruptcy—have now passed 4.5 billion. Millions of others sur-

vive by "kiting credit"—borrowing from one credit card to pay off another creditor. With over 10 million Americans out of work, the immediate prospects for many more bankruptcies seem likely.

Indebtedness is a special problem for lower income people—non-unionized blue collar workers, blacks, and single women with children. Black families below the poverty level had a median annual income deficit of \$2261 in 1978, compared to median income deficit of \$1753 for poor whites. 261,000 black families owed \$3,000-\$3,999, 146,000 were in debt between \$4,000-\$4,999, and another 182,000 were behind by \$5,000 or more. For black families with related children under the age of 18 in 1978, the median income debt was almost four thousand dollars. Black families with female heads were in debt by \$2,440. 215,000 black female-headed households owed \$3,000-\$3,999, and 262,000 were in debt by at least \$4,000.

The Reagan Recession has increased the necessity for black and working class households to go into debt in order to maintain food, clothing and shelter. In the 1973-75 recession, over 75 per cent of all unemployed workers received some

kind of federal or state compensation. Under Reagan, that figure has dropped to 37 per cent.

Indebtedness has profound social costs which are seldom explored systematically by economists. Debt is probably the most significant factor in the creation of marital strife, and a prime reason for divorce. Twelve years ago, only 83 black men and women were divorced for every 1,000 who were married. By 1980, there were 151 black men and 257 black women divorcees per 1,000. According to some researchers, by the year 2,000, eight out of ten black households will be fatherless.

The short term solution to the economic crisis is not, therefore, more federal government jobs for the unemployed. The strategy must include a reorganization of priorities within the political economy and the government. All human beings should be guaranteed certain economic rights—a good job, a decent home, free public healthcare, free education. The debt trap is the means by which big corporations saddle the burden of higher prices onto the backs of American consumers. Until we have an economy that places people before profits, bankruptcies and consumer indebtedness will continue to exist.

Thanks for support

To the editor:

As an update to the community, the Jazmin Community Marching Band wishes to thank Band parents and community residents who supported and cheered us on Saturday, June 12th upon our entry into the Grand Floral Rose Parade. The Band received scores of 10-10-10-9; although not officially entered. We would like to share this with you as we are your community musical per-

forming unit. Our existence in part, is due to and rests with you. All youth who play an instrument or wish to, will find us Monday through Friday at the King Facility (4815 N.E. 7th) from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Our goal for 1983 is to bring a southern traditional band festival to the northwest. We need your donations of funds, instruments, or a number of resources that you have more than one of or

are not in immediate use.

Instruments: used, but usable. Stereo: or parts of—turntable, speakers, etc. Tape recorder: reel to reel or cassette. Sheet music: practice material for brass-woodwinds-percussion. Records: instrumentals especially. Reeds: for all woodwinds. Musical repair kit: or parts of.

Evelyn Crews

Jazmin crashes

Open letter to Rose Festival Association

Gentlemen:

The Jazmin Community Marching Band, led and directed by Mr. Thare Memory, provided a superb performance for the Rose Festival Parade. The fine music, colorful uniforms and showmanship of the band was a key ingredient in the success of the parade.

Residing in the Portland black community, I never realized such talent existed under my very nose. These are truly fine, talented and ambitious young people and I'm sure the exposure from the Rose Festival Parade will certainly gain them recognition in future events to

come in our great "City of Roses."

I would like to commend the Rose Festival Association for another overwhelming success and for the opportunity of allowing these young black people to take part in one of the nation's major celebrations. I truly enjoyed the entire parade in spite of the rain.

Again, thank you for a job well done.

Levan Johnson, Sr.

(Editor's note: The Jazmin Band was not invited to participate in the Grand Floral Parade, but "crashed.")

Subscribe today! Receive your <i>Observer</i> by mail. Only \$10 per year	Portland Observer Box 3137 Portland, OR 97208
Name _____	_____
Address _____	_____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____



MEMBER

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
Association - Founded 1885

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 the Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Portland Observer*, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Al McGilberry, Editor/Publisher

Al Williams, Advertising Manager



283-2486

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York