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Jeannine Patrick gives Damaschas Menefee, 3, and Zawdie Jenkins, 5, a ride at Immaculate Heart Festival.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Forum discusses MHRC

The *Portland Observer* and the Ad Hoc Citizens Advocacy Committee will present a community forum on Saturday, May 21st, to discuss the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's recent budget and staff cuts.

Commissioner Margaret Strachan, the City Council's liaison to MHRC, said this action strengthens MHRC. The purpose of the forum is to hear the public's view.

MHRC Commissioners, including Chairman Armando LaGuardia, Vince Deguc, Donny Adair and Sho Dozono, will give an overview of

MHRC's role and activities and explain the events through which MHRC was stripped of its staff and programs.

The MHRC budget can be restored by the City Council any time prior to its final vote on the budget late in June. The Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee was the first to call for a reversal of the budget decision.

The meeting will be held at the Bonneville Power Administration Building, 1002 NE Holladay (small cafeteria) at 10:00 a.m.

Strachan, MHRC clash

In a heated meeting of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Tuesday, City Commissioner Margaret Strachan attempted to justify her attempt to emasculate MHRC by transferring three of its programs to other bureaus and trimming the remaining staff to two. The City Council returned the disabled program to MHRC and retained a staff of three.

Commissioner Strachan gave the MHRC commissioners an "Open Letter" explaining her position and stating, "In fact, I believe we have strengthened our ability to provide for effective advocacy and service," and advised that the budget action should bring a comprehensive review of human relations objectives and strategies.

Stating that in the twenty years since MHRC was established the laws and conditions have changed, she advised the Commission to reassess their role. She suggested the role be discussed, that MHRC seek a higher profile, and that it seek wider public support.

Praising the Commission's recent studies on multi-ethnic training of teachers and on minority youth un-

employment, she said that they did not lobby for action. "I assumed that was what the Commission is about, but I see no action."

The Commission needs to ask itself: who are they; what is their role; who do they serve; are they advocates?

Having been advised of the Commission's action on those issues, Commissioner Strachan responded, "Do you perceive your role as advocacy? Maybe I don't have all the information on your commission."

The MHRC commissioners displayed no indecision about their role. "You come in and act like we don't know what we are doing, we don't know our role, that we have no direction," Armando LaGuardia, MHRC chairman, said angrily. "This discussion should have taken place two or three months ago, before the budget action," he said.

Sho Dozono, chairman of the MHRC education committee, said he makes regular reports on his activities to the MHRC and Commissioner Strachan's representative. "We do advocate," he said. "Per-

sonally, being a businessman, I have rather limited time and I would rather spend time on activities, not lobbying the commissioners. If you are committed, you should find us."

Sid Lezak said the budget cut "resulted in a change in MHRC without adequate discussion or study." There was "no opportunity to have an adequate discussion." He added that without such a discussion and with a background of personnel problems, the motive for the cuts "was not entirely based on a reasonable perception of role." He is deeply concerned that the functions of MHRC cannot be performed well. John Hefflin denied there is an identity crisis. "We have a good sense of what these bodies do." He called the discussion of role a "smokescreen" to cover "emasculatation" of MHRC to solve personnel problems.

Vince Deguc said, "You are mixing tactics and role.... We know our role; the tactics depend on the situation." Regarding the Commission's relationship to the community, "If we, as citizen volunteers are not the community, what the

hell are we? It is a mistake to say that somehow we have become government and we need to get the community to do something."

Prisoners protest

For the past three days, black prisoners at Oregon State Penitentiary have been protesting prison conditions through silence. The men are keeping complete silence in the cafeteria which reportedly is unnerving to the staff, used to a high level of noise.

Blacks now make up approximately 20 per cent of the prison population. The protest, a show of solidarity, is directed at lack of blacks in administrative positions, lack of employment opportunities for black inmates, discrimination in sanctions in the security unit. They also want access to tape recorders so they can play black music which is seldom available on the radio.

The attitude of correction officers who are not used to dealing with blacks in large numbers is another topic of protest.

Namibian official speaks here

H. Asheeje, Namibia's Deputy Observer to the United Nations, will speak on "Namibia: A Struggle for Freedom and Independence" at Portland State University Friday, May 20th. The talk, sponsored by the Association of African Students, will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Cramer Hall, Room 53.

David Groff, Reed College professor, will speak on apartheid at 1:00 p.m. at 75 Lincoln Hall. A series of films: "Namibia," "South Africa Belongs to Us," and "Nuclear Fire" will be shown from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Goode wins

W. Wilson Goode strengthened his bid for the position of Mayor of Philadelphia by defeating ex-Mayor Frank Rizzo in the Democratic primary election Tuesday.

Goode won more than 53 percent of the vote to Rizzo's 46 percent.

Rizzo came under heavy fire during his terms of office, with charges of corruption and police brutality.

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State development future cloudy

by Charles Goodmacher

Oregon's legislature is still struggling after more than five months to deliver on their individual and collective commitments to economic development. More than 50 bills pertaining to economic development have been introduced in this session of the Legislature.

The House of Representatives last week finally moved forward by unanimously passing one bill, HB 2002, to create a statewide Community Development Finance Corporation. The measure is now assigned to the Joint Legislative Committee on Trade and Economic Development.

HB 2002 and a companion measure HJR 27 are currently designed to create a "broadly representative" Board of Directors of a Community Development Finance Corporation. The board, aided by staff members of the Oregon Economic Development Department, will use several means for lowering costs to local governments of infrastructure development. Representative Ed Leek (D-Portland) is the

primary House sponsor.

If passed by the Senate in its present form the CDFC program will represent the first ever attempt to develop a coordinated infrastructure policy for the state. The CDFC will advance funds and provide expertise for the selling of bonds by local governments to the state. The state, in turn, will "package" several local bond sales together for resale on the bond market. Bonds sold with the backing of the state will have a higher credit rating and lower interest rates. In short, the state will provide "up-front" costs and reduced interest payments for local infrastructure development.

Projects financed through CDFC "shall only be such as conservatively appear to the department to be not less than 70 percent self-supporting and self-liquidating from taxes and other revenues...." "Priority of consideration" for project financing "shall be given to projects located in low income areas, communities experiencing economic emergencies and economically lagging areas" under the bill as currently written.

Public debate in Oregon over the CDFC concept began in 1982 with Laurel Paulson's campaign for the House seat representing District 40 in Eugene. Paulson, a Citizens Party candidate, suggested that a CDFC be created to provide targeted financial assistance for worker and community-owned businesses. The original version of HB 2002 contained specific criteria for targeting infrastructure financing needed for small firms or businesses "owned by its employees, community members or members of a minority group."

Deletion of specific criteria for project financing is necessary according to Leek aide Bill Thomas, "in order to win acceptance" of the need to create a CDFC board for coordination of infrastructure development statewide. Thomas notes that the "most significant thing that the bill does is to create the board" which he termed "broadly representative."

Membership of the CDFC board shall be appointed by the Governor upon recommendations from asso-

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Integrated education an ongoing commitment

by Dr. Kenneth Clark

Immediately after the historic *Brown* decision to desegregate public schools in the United States, we were euphoric. We were optimistic in believing that it was just a matter of 10 or 15 years before the Constitution of the United States would be applied to all American citizens without regard to color.

We saw the tremendous momentum of the civil rights movement after *Brown*, with the nonviolent confrontational reaction against the more obvious forms of racism, which it dramatized in the late 1950s and 1960s. We thought that progress was inevitable, that it was just a matter of time before segregation in schools and other institutions in the United States would fall before justice and decency.

It is now very clear to me that American racism is more deeply rooted than an important decision could deal with.

At present we are confronted with

the residues of backlash, black separatism and what I have called "an attempt at functional repeal of *Brown*." We see that it is now fashionable for neo-conservatives (who might have had a little jolt in the last election, but who are still a force to be reckoned with) to say that these were starry-eyed dreams; that not only the civil rights movement and, specifically, the attempt to free America from the shackles of racism were superficial aspirations of adolescent liberals, but that all liberal, social programs have to be reevaluated and substantially rejected, and that the government must withdraw in seeking to help human beings in need. We have seen the attempt to interpret as a hard-nosed and practical approach to government the policy and practice of abandoning, neglecting and excluding from the promises of our society human beings who are believed to be powerless and unable to prevent their being rejected.

Interestingly enough, not all of

these casualties are black. In spite of the racist myopia which seems to permeate our society, the majority of neglected (both economically and educationally) human beings in our democratic society are white. Economic injustice in America, I repeat, is not restricted to blacks. Two-thirds of those below the poverty line in this allegedly affluent society are white Americans. The majority of those receiving welfare subsidies, including food stamps and school lunches, have been whites.

In the social science brief which a number of us prepared for the lawyers, and submitted to the United States Supreme Court as an appendix to the legal brief, we devoted a section to the effects of prejudice, discrimination and segregation on white children. This section was almost as long as the section which we wrote on the effects of prejudice, discrimination and segregation on minority children. The court accepted and referred to what

we said about the effects on black children, but did not mention this passage:

Those children who learn the prejudices of our society are being taught to gain personal status in an unrealistic and non-adaptive way. When comparing themselves to members of the minority group, they are not required to evaluate themselves in terms of the more basic standards of actual personal ability and achievement. The culture permits and at times encourages them to direct their feelings of hostility and aggression against whole groups of people the members of which are perceived as weaker than themselves. They often develop patterns of guilt feelings, rationalizations and other mechanisms which they must use in an attempt to protect themselves from recognizing the essential injustice of their unrealistic fears and hatred of minority groups.

The report indicates further

that confusion, conflict, moral cynicism and disrespect for authority may arise in the majority group children as a consequence of being taught the moral, religious and democratic principles of brotherhood of man and the importance of justice and fair play by the very same persons and institutions who, in their support of racial segregation and related practices, seem to be acting in a prejudiced and discriminatory manner. Some individuals may attempt to resolve this conflict by intensifying their hostility toward the minority group. Others may react to guilt feelings which are not necessarily reflected in more humane attitudes toward the minority groups. Still others react by developing unwholesome, rigid and uncritical idolization of all authority figures — their parents, strong political and economic leaders.

The court did not refer to that segment of our social science brief. I

have often wondered why: was it too disturbing for them to accept into their consciousness?

It came to my mind again a few weeks ago when for the first time I submitted an unsolicited article to the editors of the editorial page of *The New York Times*. I took the initiative to write a piece in reaction to the Educational Testing Service report on the discrepancy between the average S.A.T. (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores of black students and of white students. I thought maybe they would send me a rejection slip to keep me in my place. But two or three days after they got the article, they told me they would use it. They printed the article without making any changes — except to leave out one paragraph of the piece I submitted. The paragraph reads:

An important and most relevant finding in this recent College Board report reveals that other minorities in America also suffer from educational deficits, although

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