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Commissioner Charles Jordan puts some muscle to the task as Commissioner Mike Lindberg watches. Union Square is expected to open by August.

City officials break ground

by Charles Goodmacher

Union Avenue businesses and residents received a tremendous boost as construction began Friday, May 27, on the Union Square mini-mall. The project is the first major new development within the black community of Northeast Portland in several years. Several trees will be planted on Union Avenue and off-street parking provided.

Expected to be open the first or second week of August, the project includes a majority of black-owned and/or operated businesses. The largest store in Union Square will be the Convenient Food Mart owned by partners Larry Wilson and Steve Fletcher. The Flower King, which features a drive-up window, is owned by Alvin Manus. Operator of the Sunshine Pizza restaurant is Tom Devlin and Mr. Mazzick runs Ronaldo's Ice Cream.

An outdoor patio is to be attached to Sunshine Pizza on the south side of the building. Several trees will be planted on Union Avenue and off-street parking provided.

City Councilman Charles Jordan commended the efforts of all involved in bringing the project toward completion, which he said represents a "very strong partnership" between the private and public sector. Union Square, said Jordan, proves that "Union Avenue

does have a middle."

Other politicians on hand for the construction ceremony at Union Square were City Commissioners Mike Lindberg and Margaret Strachan, and Mayor Frank Ivancie. Ivancie, saying, "I used to shop here," when a Kienow's store was at the location, called the project "the beginning of a big change for Union Avenue."

Opening the ceremony was Portland Development Commission Executive Director Patrick LaCrosse. "This level of investment shows a real confidence in Northeast Portland. The area is one of our major economic development priorities," LaCrosse stated.

The Portland Development Commission participated in the project financing through a \$128,000 Economic Development Revolving Loan and a \$47,000 Investor Rehabilitation Loan. Private financing was provided by the Office and Professional Employees Union #11, represented by Capital Consultants, Inc., and construction financing by Securities Intermountain, Inc. (SIMCO).

Jane and Howard Glazer are developers of the project. Mr. Glazer is a registered architect with The Architects Forum and has developed over \$2 million of projects since 1970. Mrs. Glazer is currently a teacher at Catlin Gabel School.

Boise Elementary closes doors

Boise Elementary School, Northeast Portland's only remaining K-8 school, will close its doors this month and reopen two years later as an Early Childhood Center.

Principal David McCrea said much community effort has gone into the planning for the Boise building and the \$2.7 million renovation plan is a composite of ideas of parents and community members.

Important in the plans are a large multi-purpose room with a stage on the first floor and a library media center with a mezzanine. Each floor will have "commons" or open areas as well as classrooms and special purpose rooms.

Where the asphalt playground now is, there will be grass, trees and landscaping along with an asphalt

play area. A sand pit and soft play area will be installed, with a covered play area planned for the future.

While the school is being remodeled, the students will attend school elsewhere. Boise's Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children, about 90 students, will go to the Whitaker building at 5135 N.E. Columbia, along with the students now at Eliot School. Betty Campbell, principal of Eliot, will accompany the students.

McCrea will take Boise's first through fifth graders to the Columbia building, 716 N.E. Marine Drive (the Columbia/Whitaker Middle School students will have gone to the Adams High School building).

Boise's 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders will attend Whitaker Middle School, now in the Adams building. Boise's

students will eventually be assigned to Tubman Middle School (relocated at Eliot) but the students who go temporarily to Whitaker will have the option to remain there.

McCrea regrets that all of Boise's students cannot remain together until they can go to the new schools, because there is no empty building that can accommodate them. Boise is to be ready for occupation in September of 1984 but it is likely that work delays will mean the children are in temporary housing for one and one-half to two school years.

Most of Boise's staff will accompany the students. The only problem in staffing is locating positions for all of the aides, since Whitaker does not use aides. Currently five aides, a physical education teacher and one secretary have not been

placed.

Transportation to the new schools has not been finalized but McCrea hopes to have all K-5 students picked up at the Boise building. Portables would be kept open to house them in rainy or cold weather, with staff present. He plans to have an aide on the premises for at least

Plans for Boise students next year will be discussed at the meeting of the Boise Improvement Association on Monday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. at the school.

the first three months of the school year to help new students moving into the district.

He has recommended that 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders be picked up at (Please turn to page 6 col. 1)

Wilson resignation requested

NAACP national board reinstates Hooks

NAACP national board members met in New York Saturday, where they reinstated Executive Director Benjamin Hooks, who had been suspended by board chairman Margaret Bush Wilson, and requested Ms. Wilson's resignation.

The meeting, attended by 54 of the 64 board members, was called in response to Ms. Wilson's May 18th suspension of Dr. Hooks and her naming the organization's legal counsel, Thomas Atkins, acting director.

The Saturday meeting, which Ms. Bush calls "unconstitutional" was called by vice-chairman Kelly Alexander, Sr. in response to the request of 50 board members. Neither Ms. Bush nor Atkins were available to carry out the request. After the meeting had been sched-

uled, Atkins announced that a special board meeting had been set for June 1, but the 50 members considered the problem too urgent to be postponed. Ms. Bush, under pressure, had reinstated Hooks on May 26th.

The board members said the suspension of Hooks was "arbitrary, without precedent, contrary to the policies of the association, without cause, unwarranted and an abuse of discretion."

A telegram requesting Ms. Wilson's resignation, authorized by 48 of the board members, was sent to Ms. Wilson in St. Louis. There is no authority in the NAACP constitution to remove a chairman, who is elected annually, in January, by the board. Ms. Bush was first elected in 1975.

The board acted in several ways to restrict Ms. Wilson's power. They ordered that she cannot act as the organization's spokesman; ruled that she cannot give direct orders to the staff without permission of the executive director nor interfere with day-to-day operations; ordered that she cannot authorize spending without board approval or, in emergencies, by the budget committee. They also assigned the keynote address to the National Convention, always made by the chairman, to vice-chairman Alexander.

The board restored to the executive director all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the position of chief executive. They ordered that any reference to the suspension be removed from the records of the association.

Hooks' suspension was the climax of a power struggle that has existed, though often denied, since his appointment in 1977. Seven years ago, when Roy Wilkins was executive director but was elderly and ill, changes in the by-laws deleted the absolute authority the executive director had over daily operations and gave the chairman sweeping power to act in personnel, finance and other areas of administration.

When Hooks came on board, Ms. Wilson retained these powers, and conflict over the operations soon developed. Both Hooks and Ms. Wilson were "official spokesmen" although their views often conflicted and Hooks found himself backtracking in order to avoid open conflict over philosophy and policy.

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Leaders find no solutions to economic crisis

The leaders of seven "industrial democracies" met in Williamsburg, Va. last weekend to discuss their economic ills. They left with a hard-line statement on arms but little to give hope for an improved economy. The Reagan administration's first priority for 1983 is the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe and he was willing to forego conflict over economic issues in order to maintain the political unity necessary to get solid backing for his plans.

The group's strong statement on arms and especially the participation of Japan, which is not a member of NATO, in the arms statement, along with France, which attempts to maintain military independence, is considered a victory for Reagan.

In the area of economics, little progress was made but the U.S.

made minor concessions. The nations agreed to maintain "disciplined, noninflationary growth of the money supply" which is a reference to the U.S.'s enormous recent increase in money supply and its large budget deficit, which is considered by some to be a cause of high interest rates.

Reagan's line is that the U.S. is experiencing economic recovery and this will bring recovery to the world economy. Leaders of the other nations — France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada — were not so optimistic.

U.S. high interest rates are a point of great concern. High interest rates draw funds from investors abroad who are seeking a higher return on their money and deprive other nations of the investment in their own economies. This brings economic stagnation and high unemployment,

High interest rates also cause havoc with foreign governments, especially third world nations, that must borrow from U.S. banks. Although continuously discussed, this problem was not resolved.

The problem of the enormous third world debt was not dealt with, although France has called for a more realistic realignment of resources among the developed and developing nations and Canada favors aid to the third world nations because they are prospective customers.

Other issues left to solve themselves were growing protectionism, the contraction of world trade, threatening third world defaults, and volatility in foreign exchange markets. To head off France's demand for a fixed monetary exchange rate, which the U.S. opposes, the group agreed to invite

their Ministries of Finance to meet with the U.S.-controlled International Monetary Fund to consider whether a high-level conference on this topic might be helpful.

The strong U.S. dollar, inflated because of high interest rates, raises the cost of U.S. goods abroad. This not only makes importation of U.S. goods more costly, but lowers the value of foreign currency on the international money market.

Expressing concern over international debts, they agreed that the problem should be dealt with through trade, private and official financing and "effective adjustments and development policies by debtor nations." They did not call for massive aid. No attention was given to the low prices assigned to commodities produced by these nations or the high cost of imported (Please turn to page 4 column 1)

Apartheid, nuclear power and mine safety

by William Pomeroy

An incident of disaster in a South African uranium mine on April 8 provides an insight into a number of aspects of the mining industry in that apartheid country.

At the Beisa uranium mine, near Welkom in Orange Free State, an underground explosion killed 16 black miners. Protesting the lack of safety measures, the majority of black miners refused to go underground when ordered to resume work three days later. When security police at the mine sought to force them into the shaft, the Black miners rioted and destroyed nearly

\$100,000 worth of mine property.

Five of the black miners were picked out as leaders of the protest and arrested. About 500 others quit their jobs and departed from their homes in the segregated tribal Bantustans.

Such outbursts and mass walk-outs have become frequent occurrences in South African mines. They are the instinctive actions of workers who are still largely unorganized into unions, which have only begun to be accepted by white mine owners.

Unsafe conditions are one of the main incentives to organization. Among major mining countries,

South Africa has the worst record for disasters. Last year 596 miners, almost all black, were killed in mining accidents, while 15,250 were injured badly enough to have to stay out of work for at least two weeks. The fatality rate has remained at the same level, without a decline, for over two decades.

In an underground work force of 500,000, of which nearly four-fifths are black, that fatality rate is 1.25 per every 1,000 workers. It is eight times as high as the death rate on the job for Britain's 220,000 miners.

Contributing to this are the adverse circumstances in many of South Africa's mines. In many cases

they are as much as 12,000 feet deep, have very high temperatures below ground, and are driven into geological formations where seismic disturbances are common. There is a high turnover of unskilled black workers who are denied training as part of the skilled job reservation maintained by the racist white Mine Workers Union.

Despite the disaster record and the large number of miners (in all categories, below and above ground, they total 700,000), there is only one person in South Africa employed to ensure occupational safety in the mining industry.

The tragedy at the Beisa uranium

mine near Welkom on April 8 can undoubtedly be linked with the stepped-up drive to boost uranium production in South Africa and to achieve nuclear self-sufficiency before sanctions close in upon the apartheid state. South Africa has already become third among the world's uranium-producing countries. In 1982 it will produce 16,500 pounds of uranium, and this is planned to rise by about a million pounds a year until South Africa attains second place in the world by 1985, with about 18,400 pounds.

Part of this is being exported (to the Federal Republic of Germany, for example) but the bulk is going

into the apartheid state's own nuclear program, which includes the production of nuclear weapons, at least one of which has already been tested.

During the past year there has been a marked intensification of the South African nuclear drive. It was revealed in April, 1982 that 20 nuclear technicians had been lured by high pay offers to South Africa from Britain, all from the top secret British nuclear plant at Dounreay in Scotland. The vice-president of the Scottish Labor Party, Dr. Gordon Brown, protesting against this, said, "South Africa is quite clearly (Please turn to page 5 column 1)