



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

The week of Oct. 2-8 has been dedicated Minority Enterprise Development Week by President Reagan. It is an important gesture which signifies at least the realization by the administration that development of minority businesses is vital to the social and economic health of the nation.

The proclamation honors the nation's 600,000 minority-owned businesses and the large companies and trade associations which have significantly assisted minority-owned small firms.

Although a week of praise for the achievements of minority business is well warranted, it unfortunately cannot make up for the administration's neglect of the needs of these very same businesses.

As Congressman Parren Mitchell (D-Md.), the Chairman of the

House Small Business Committee, said when he visited Portland in July, the Reagan administration has acted "unconscionably" in carrying out policies designed to aid small and minority businesses.

For example, the SBA's Direct Loan Program has been neglected. Half the funds that have been earmarked for this program have not been dispersed. Several SBA district representatives have said they have no knowledge of it or that there is no money left in the program.

The same is true of the SBA's guaranteed bank loan program for small businesses. Less than half the funds for that program have been put to use.

There has been some good news on the minority small business horizon. The Surface Transportation Act of 1982 provided some \$7.1 bil-

lion for minority contractors across the U.S. I plan to do my best to see that minority contractors in Oregon get the share they deserve.

Also, in my capacity as a member of the House Small Business Committee, I will continue to watch over the SBA and the administration to see that the intent of Congress is carried out with regard to small business programs.

I will continue to do my best to see that the goals of Minority Business Development Week, "to enhance the ability of minority Americans to participate more fully in the market economy and to achieve greater economic independence," are lived up to here in Washington.

If we can work in that spirit, Minority Business Enterprise Week will indeed be something to celebrate.

Hatch fined

(Continued from page 3)

breath. It felt like everything from my knees on down was on fire... everything went black." When he woke up, he found himself in an ambulance. "Had PP&L been notified," said the state Accident Prevention Division report, "they would have put a hold on that line." Power to the line would then have automatically tripped off once contact was made. Also, according to the report, a utility crew would have been sent to monitor the operation.

Hatch, apparently unhappy with the questions put to him by state inspectors, asked a few of his own, which they recorded. "Are you a member of a union?" he asked one inspector. "Are you paid by the union at this time?" "Are you retired from a union and receiving a pension?"

The difference between a union and a non-union job, he went on to explain to the inspectors, is that loyal non-union workers will inform him of their complete conversations with inspectors.

But Dean Wear, business manager with Local 701 of the Operating Engineers union, whose members operate cranes and other heavy equipment, had other ideas about the difference between a union and non-union job. "They're letting R.A. Hatch get away with things that a union contractor would not get by with," he said. "It was a terrible, terrible accident, and it was extremely fortunate that no one was killed."

In addition to safety violations involving the crane accident, Hatch was also cited for not providing a ladder in a trench for workers to use while getting in and out, a five foot trench was not shored and sloped, Hatch flagmen did not wear hard hats and reflecting orange safety vests, and a portable gas welder was operated next to a truck with a fuel tank mounted on its bed.



Herb Cawthorne, here as Frederick Douglass, prepares for his September 24th performance of "Agitate: Our Work Is Not Finished" at the Civic Auditorium in Las Vegas, Nevada. Written by Jeana Woolley and scored by Janice Scroggins, the oral history program on Douglass opened in Portland last May and was widely acclaimed.

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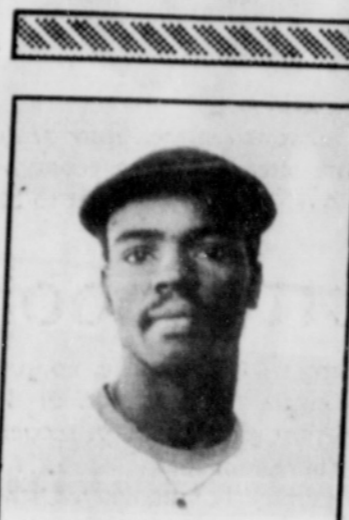
Correction

Apologies to Herb Cawthorne. In last week's Observations column Cawthorne was identified as a "former School Board member." Cawthorne is a current and very active member of the Portland School Board.

Street Beat

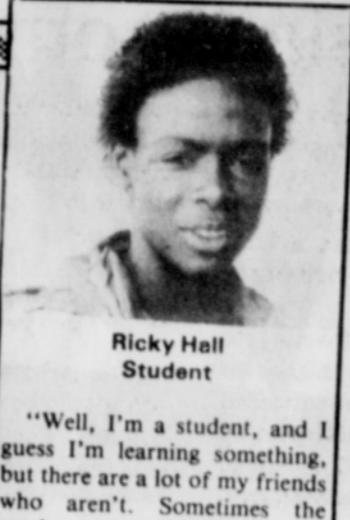
by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

With the start of the 1983/84 school year, the Street Beat team asked, "What kind of education do you expect your children to receive from the Portland Public School system?"



Wilton Merritt
Manager

"I think it's pretty good. Overall there is a lot more emphasis on science and math. So, I believe they would receive a good one."



Ricky Hall
Student

"Well, I'm a student, and I guess I'm learning something, but there are a lot of my friends who aren't. Sometimes the teacher only pays attention to one or two in the class and there are 20 students she ain't even asked about. So, I would say the quality of education is poor."



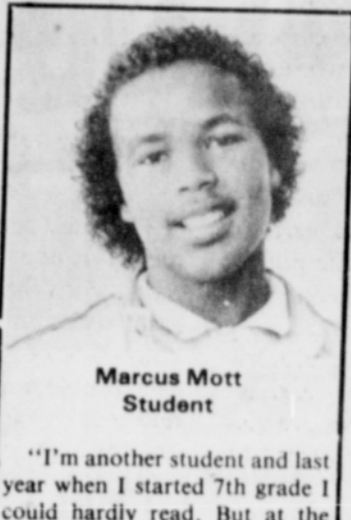
Melissa Enos
Housewife

"I think it would be poor. They are closing schools every day and soon there won't be any school left. I think the school system is really bad. We are the children of the future and if they keep closing down the schools there won't be any future."



Mary Ann LaChapelle
Secretary

"They would receive a fairly good education. People don't always realize that. I really hate watching school bond levies fail. People need to put money in their children."



Marcus Mott
Student

"I'm another student and last year when I started 7th grade I could hardly read. But at the end of the year I could. When I decided that I wanted to learn, I found people and teachers in the school who helped me."



Winfield Bermillion
Laborer

"It is good, although it changes quite a bit. They have good programs in the system and they have a good reading program."

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