

Private agencies aid development

by Chuck Goodmacher

During the past four weeks, the **Portland Observer** has covered major public and private economic development efforts with an eye toward their impact on residents and businesses of inner-Northeast. This week we look at some of the job and economic development efforts centered in the community itself.

Inner-Northeast Portland has all the key ingredients for an excellent business location: easy access to major transportation routes (the interstate freeways, the Port of Portland, and the Portland International Airport); a large labor force; proximity to downtown Portland; and, plenty of available land. Unfortunately, the business world does not always behave rationally. The area remains vastly underdeveloped by contrast with neighboring Lloyd Center and downtown Portland.

Much of the limited development taking place in the area is the result of special assistance programs of the Portland Development Commission (PDC). Many residents feel these particular development programs do little to benefit the community though (see last week's *Observer*), and are taking the matter into their own hands. Some local activists advocate for community interests during the creation and implementation of city policy through participation in the neighborhood associations. Northeast Economic Development Task Force (NEED) and others, seek direct means for enhancing the economic viability of the area by providing assistance themselves.

POIC

The Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center is one of 140 community-based schools using the "whole-person" approach to training and education which focuses on the development of skills

as well as on the development of a positive self-concept and attitude toward work. A special "Educational clinic" opened in January 1983, to provide a variety of individual skills and career path courses. A unique feature of POIC's career clerical courses is the "office practicum" giving job site experience for four weeks. Most graduates of this program are hired by the participating employer and those who aren't get assistance from POIC's employment specialist.

Urban League

The Urban League provides a full service employment center for area residents and businesses seeking employees from the area. Job seekers are provided with comprehensive job assistance to match their skills with available openings. A comfortable space for businesses to conduct interviews in the community is also currently provided at N.E. Union.

The Urban League also has official status as a civil service office where job applications can be obtained and returned, and tests taken.

PCC Incubator

Portland Community College offers area residents an opportunity to establish a small business and grow in a supportive environment through its "incubator program". PCC Program Coordinator, Art Dickson, says applicants are currently being screened and workshops are offered to assist people who've never been in business before.

The program provides office and light manufacturing space within a 60,000-square-foot building on the PCC Cascade Campus. Assistance will come in many forms under this program, including:

- below-market rate rents;
- secretarial and janitorial services;
- accounting and payroll services;
- legal and insurance consultation; and,
- computer services.

Tenants will also enroll in a three-year management training program. For more information, contact Dickson at 283-2541, ext.548.

River East

River East Progress, Incorporated (REPI) is a Small Business Development Administration (SBA) 503 certified development company providing business assistance. Although REPI is located at the corner of Alberta and Albina, only eight of 25 businesses assisted by it during the past year are located in inner-Northeast: the other businesses assisted by REPI are located throughout the tri-county area.

REPI received \$25,000 from the PDC as part of the Northeast Target Area Strategy and was awarded \$10,000 by the Oregon Economic Action Council as part of U.S. Bank's "Are You With Us?" promotion. According to REPI's 1983 annual report, PDC also "provided support staff, office space and the use of office equipment."

REPI provides federally funded loans for fixed-assets to profitable small businesses covering up to 50 percent of a total loan package. Banks usually loan 40 percent, and the applicant, 10 percent.

NBC

"Our purpose," says the Northeast Business Center, "is to provide services for the expansion and creation of business opportunities within the private sector for minority, women and the disadvantaged business community." The Black-owned Business Center offers the following services for a \$200 membership fee:

- bonding information;
- loan packaging;
- small business start-up counseling;
- resume service;
- construction plan center and bid preparation.



Ronnie Herndon, Co-Chairman of the Black United Front, speaks to award ceremony at Humboldt Early Childhood Education Center. Awards

were presented to students who made specific progress in various areas.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

NAACP fights rights commission funding

New York—Benjamin L. Hooks, Director of the NAACP, said recently that the 75-year old civil rights organization will "lead a national effort to 'defund' the U.S. Civil Rights Commission."

He said: "We will not stand by and allow the spending of millions of dollars by this commission that is functioning to destroy all the gains we have made in civil rights during recent years."

The Commission's budget for the current fiscal year is \$11.8-million and it is subject to the approval of Congress every year.

Mr. Hooks, also chairman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, said, "the situation is so bad that we would be better off not having the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights at this time because of its new direction."

The newly reconstituted U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, voted by a 6 to 2 margin, during their first meeting, to disallow the use of quotas in assisting minorities to gain

greater access to job and other opportunities through affirmative action.

The previous commission had supported the use of quotas.

THE MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

N.E. First & Schuyler • 284-1954



John H. Jackson, Minister, M.Ed., M.D.
9:30 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M. Congregational Worship
5:00 P.M. Vesper Service
10:00 A.M. Baptism Fourth Sunday
11:00 Communion Each First Sunday

The American Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches of Oregon; Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention; National, Oregon, Portland Ecumenical Ministries, American Bible Society, M.&M. Board.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SAVE ON YOUR FOOD BILL?

We offer savings of up to 40% and more on fine quality wonder and Hostess products, plus large discounts on other baked goods. Besides our everyday low prices, we feature in-store specials daily. Just look for the "bargain" signs on the displays in our store. Discover for yourself what thousands of smart shoppers in the area have found.



You'll be amazed at the savings you make at our Wonder Thrift Shop!

Food stamps gladly accepted

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

You must be completely satisfied with every purchase or we will cheerfully refund your purchase price.

WONDER-HOТЕSS THRIFTSHOP

115 N. Cook St.
Corner of Vancouver & Cook St., Portland, Oregon
Open Mon thru Sat — 9am-6pm — Closed Sundays

Angela Davis on the history of racism

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

The urgent chore now, she said, is to defeat Reagan. "Can you imagine what Ronald Reagan might do in the next four years when he doesn't have to face the voters? This is serious business for the vast majority of the people in this country, especially for racially and nationally oppressed people, youth, women, seniors, (and the) disabled. It will be a difficult time for all working people of whatever background."

An understanding of racism is absolutely essential to understanding current trends, Davis said. Racism is a part of the history of this country and must be understood. "Then when you look at the attack on Affirmative Action today, when you see the rise of the Ku Klux Klan today, you can understand what is happening in a historical context."

Racism is a tremendous problem that affects most of higher education and not only racially oppressed people suffer, Davis said. Since the history of Blacks in the U.S. is not available in the usual history and literature books, Black Studies programs are essential; but they have decreased in number in

recent years.

In the years since the Bakke decision, Black enrollment in graduate and professional schools have declined. White schools no longer reach out to Black communities, she said. "There are those who still attempt to convince us that somehow Affirmative Action is bringing in people who don't deserve it—they are treated that way so there is a high attrition rate—they are compelled to fail."

It is necessary to eliminate the myth that the victories won by Black people only benefit Black people and the myth that when Black people achieve or gain, this brings a decline for whites.

The potential of young people is

not allowed to develop. "Young people graduate from high schools not designed to teach, and look for jobs that don't exist. All that is left is a lot of drugs, cops and the military. . . This is the future handed to young racially oppressed people."

Instead of realizing the tremendous needs, Reagan is putting billions into the creation of the weapons of devastation—taking us to the edge of a nuclear conflagration.

"The military-industrial complex forces us to pick bombs before education, to risk the end of human history in order to acquire profits. We have reached the point where it is necessary to fight for the right to

education and the right to be free from racist and sexist discrimination; we must understand that whatever we do, we must all guarantee that we don't move toward nuclear conflagration."

The way to buy change is through unity and mass movements. "Get involved in the Jesse Jackson Campaign or in the campaign of other progressive candidates. For, if Mondale goes to the Democratic Convention unopposed, the Democratic Party will move to the right."

This is a time for unity to fight against racism and sexism, Davis said, "to fight economic injustice, to guarantee that our future and our children's futures are not consumed in a nuclear holocaust."

Jackson rally

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

Jackson offers us a platform to stand on. He is the freedom train pulling out from that station on the way to realizing the American dream."

He also answered the question, "Can Jesse win?": "When you are excluded you have to define for yourself what winning is. Jackson has already won because he has brought people together."

Daughtry called Jackson's campaign a shifting of leadership in America. He said, "Now people will see who has been living out of who's pocket." He also attributed Jackson to building a mass movement. "A movement that will make a president, but a movement that a president can never make."

He concluded his address by filling the audience with the spirit of Jesse Jackson by saying, "Here in Portland, let the world know that you are about the business of completing the American dream. And on center stage is Jesse Lewis Jackson!"



The right time, the right place. You've waited a long time for the right time to borrow money for

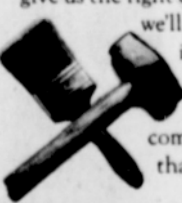
that major purchase. Now come to the right bank for your loan. First Interstate Bank of Oregon.

The right flexibility. We're lending money for any worthwhile purpose. Anything from car loans to home equity loans. And we've got more ways to say yes to you than any other bank.

Our interest rates are really competitive, our terms amazingly flexible. Borrow a little or a lot. Pay it back quickly or take a little longer.

The right answer. Call or visit First Interstate Bank this week. Our loan officers will work hard to find the right terms for you. In fact, if you give us the right credit information, we'll give you an answer in just one day.

And if you're like most people who come in to see us, that answer will be yes.



Official Sponsor of the 1984 Olympics



Loans from First Interstate Bank