



On the beat in the Bay Area

Watch next week's *Portland Observer* for on-the-scene coverage of the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco by *Observer* reporters Lanita Duke, Charles Goodmacher, Gina Wood and photographer Richard J. Brown.

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The KMJK Breakers entertained an enthusiastic crowd of over 800 people Friday night at the grand

opening celebration of Union Square. See related stories on page 3. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Jackson demands action

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — As we approach the start of the 1984 National Democratic Convention, the Rainbow Coalition has issued its minority report on issues they want absorbed into and acted upon by the Democratic majority in San Francisco.

At a press conference Friday, July 6th, at the King Neighborhood Facility, Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of Portland's Jesse Jackson for President Committee and the only Oregon delegate for Jackson, released the report to the press.

The minority report was developed during the Rainbow Coalition Convention in Chicago, Illinois, June 29-30. In the report, Jesse Jackson's constituency defined themselves as the "progressive" element within the Democratic party.

The progressives stated that they want self-determination, development and an end to America's corporate involvement in South Africa. They want the military budget cut by 20 percent over a five-year period along with a "no first use" of nuclear weapons.

In addressing the issue of affirmative action, the progressives said they understand that, "Serious social policy and political participation demands quotas of all types to make up for past discrimination," and an elimination of rules which impede the right to vote—"One person, one vote."

Herndon said the mistake the Democratic party is making is trying to find the least offensive position to take. "People are looking for something different and Jesse Jackson has offered that by speaking to issues that strike a responsive cord across America. If Jackson had the money, the organization and, certainly, if he had been white, he would be the nominee at the convention."

Convention savvy

Besides issuing its minority report, the Rainbow Coalition, during its convention June 29-30, also instructed its delegates on the who-what-when-where-whys-and-hows of the National Democratic Convention, said Alma Hill, co-chair of the Portland Jesse Jackson for President

Committee.

She, along with Mike Roach, Steering Committee Member, Pam Smith, Chair of the voter registration drive and Debra Cook from the Jackson campaign in Eugene, Oregon, were among the 300 delegates, campaign workers and supporters attending the convention.

Still beaming with excitement and pride, Hill said the Rainbow Coalition distributed information on how to lobby Hart and Mondale delegates to vote on items in their minority report.

In retrospect, Hill said, certain rules within the Democratic party

limited the number of delegates for Jackson. A threshold rate required Jackson to get "X" amount of the popular vote before he was allocated any delegates. "Jackson has received a certain percentage of the popular (20 percent) but has received only nine percent of the delegates. The problem is delegates are not being awarded according to the percentage of the vote that Jackson received."

Herndon said Jackson rejects the proposition of waiting until 1988 for the rules to change. "Jackson has stated if you work in January, you can't expect to get paid in July. Why (Please turn to Page 11, Column 5)



(l-r) Pam Smith, Ron Herndon and Mike Roach discuss plans for the Democratic Convention following the Rainbow Coalition convention in Chicago last week. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Longshoremen's union marks "Bloody Thursday"

by Chuck Goodmacher

More than 2,000 marchers participated in a parade, Thursday, marking the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Thursday"—July 5th, 1934—when longshoremen died in violent clashes at several West Coast ports.

The strike is considered one of the most important in our nation's labor history as it culminated in the recognition, by employers, of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). Bloody Thursday, said 83-year old Robert Potticary, "formed our union, united us against waterfront employers."

Reverend Frank Sievers, speaking at a memorial service following the march, said the strike brought public recognition of the ideals the union movement still struggles for: "Ideals like safe working conditions, fair pay, and a union free of discrimination and corruption." The independent ILWU is considered one of the most democratic unions in the country.

The movement of ships through all West Coast ports, from Bellingham, Washington, to San Diego, California, is halted when the union commemorates the strike every July 5th.

Several unions besides the ILWU (Please turn to Page 11, Column 3)

Results unclear in PCC union bid

by Catherine Siegner

Results of a union election among part-time instructors, tutors and counselors at Portland Community College remain unclear after mail ballots were counted Tuesday in Salem.

Of the approximately 600 employees eligible to vote, 174 opted for representation by the Oregon Federation of Teachers (OFT); 192 voted for affiliation with the Oregon Education Association (OEA), and 175 checked "no representation."

According to Richard Schwartz, field representative for OFT Local 2277, "the results are indeterminate, because you must have a majority of ballots cast to win."

He said 60-some of the ballots were challenged, most by the employer (PCC), a few by the OEA, and the rest by the Employment Relations Board (ERB), a body of three members appointed by the governor which administers state collective bargaining laws.

Schwartz said the ERB is scheduling an informal conference to be held in two weeks to resolve some of the ballot challenges. Those not resolved at that time will be considered during a more formal process later one, he added.

The struggle to achieve union representation for PCC's part-time employees has gone on for "almost three years," said Natasha Beck, a women's studies instructor at the Sylvania campus. She said part-time PCC employees received two letters from College President John H. Anthony, in recent weeks, regarding the union election.

"He said we should vote for no representation because our pay has increased 40% since 1980, PCC has established a grievance procedure, and strengthened its affirmative action goals," Beck said.

She said the part-time employees of PCC are defined as those teaching four or fewer classes per quarter, and that full-time and classified staff (secretaries, janitors,

etc.) at PCC are represented by the OFT.

"Lane Community College has representation for their part-time people, and Mt. Hood Community College's part-time employees are represented by the OEA," Beck added.

Dian Chute, chair of the PCC part-time faculty federation steering committee and composition instructor, went to Salem to observe the ballot counting Tuesday. She said the ERB will make the final decision on the challenge votes, and that PCC had been expected to challenge some of the ballots.

"PCC is saying some of the faculty are not qualified to vote," she said.

Schwartz, of the OFT, said after the ballot challenges are cleared up, there "has to be a run-off election between the two ballot choices with the most votes."

He said it was unclear at this point which two choices PCC employees would face during the run-off.

River Indians remain despite fishing disputes, broken promises

by Robert Lothian

FIRST IN A SERIES

David Sohappi leans out of the wind and points toward a grass-covered knoll that juts into the Columbia River. "My grandmother was born there," he said.

Sohappi is a Yakima Indian salmon fisherman. He, his family and relatives live in a weather-worn collection of small houses and trailers just feet from the river at the traditional Indian fishing site of Cook's Landing, Washington, about 60 miles east of Portland.

He remembers when he was a boy learning to fish from a dugout canoe using a spear. His grandmother taught him the Indian tongue, which is all he spoke until age seven.

Sohappi reaches into the back of his pickup and pulls out a handful

of camas root bulbs from the Yakima Indian reservation near Mt. Adams. For thousands of years, camas was a staple of the Northwest Indian diet. The bulbs are for planting nearby, he said. At his feet lie freshly peeled lodgepole pine teepee poles which he is preparing for a celebration.

Cook's Landing has spiritual significance for local Indians, says Sohappi. The Indians have fished there for generations for the salmon that is their food, their religion and their wealth. Groups of 30-40 gather there now to hear Sohappi lead religious ceremonies of the seven drum religion. He points to a burial ground up the hill behind the smokehouse.

A handful of communities like Cook's Landing and Celilo near The Dalles are all that remain of the once



Yakima fisherman, David Sohappi reflects on his life.

(Photo: Barbara Dilla)

rich and thriving Columbia salmon culture. Once, Indians from all over the Northwest gathered at the sacred Celilo Falls each spring for fishing, bartering, religious ceremonies and dancing.

But a 200-year train of abuses, including a small pox brought by the white man, takeovers of traditional lands, forced migrations to barren reservations, dams that kill off the salmon and flood villages and fishing sites, and freeways through ancient village sites, has almost wiped out this culture. The Indians along the Columbia, like the salmon that is their way of life, are an endangered species.

Sohappi and a few others persevere. Although spears and canoes have given way to gillnets and power boats, they live off the land and the river as much like their ancestors

and as independent of the white man's culture as they can. They are one of a small and dwindling number of Indian communities that still live according to what Sohappi calls "the old ways."

The old ways continue to be threatened, he said, by a collection of government jurisdictions threatened by and insensitive to Indian culture. The government, he says, is on an offensive to restrict the Indians' treaty-granted fishing rights and push them off the tiny amount of traditional land they still occupy along the Columbia—to push them off their land and back to the reservations.

Cook's landing and Celilo and three other fishing sites are all that remain of about 40 traditional fishing sites, camps and villages (Please turn to Page 11, Column 5)