

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Extend "new vision" to N.E.

The Central City Plan—Commissioner Margaret Strachan, and her "pre-planning" committee, say it will create a vision of central Portland for the next century. Her fellow commissioners apparently agreed and approved a process for developing the plan last week.

But the City Council did much more last week than simply approve a planning process. The council provided city residents and the business with a new definition of central Portland will be seen as the appropriate area for during the planning process was approved, as was a physical boundary within which the impact of development schemes on those issues is to be examined. This newly defined central Portland will be seen as the appropriate area for focusing city-wide resources on development efforts of all types—economic, cultural, environmental and so on.

Representatives of two Portland neighborhoods want to be sure they are left out of the Central City Plan boundaries. Meanwhile, community activists and business interests along the Union Avenue corridor want their area included. The Council should take a closer look at why the boundaries are so important for these people.

The neighborhoods, Southwest's Lair Hill and Northeast's Elliot, both have a long history of inclusion in city-wide development plans—a

history in which increased development pressures have altered, forever, their unique identities. They see inclusion in the plan as simply accelerating these pressures and don't want to be considered part of central Portland.

Northeast Portland, especially the Union Avenue corridor, where the City's Black population is concentrated, has not been a major focus of public and private investment. The few projects and business loans which have been channeled to the area have not been enough to alleviate the basic underdevelopment of the area relative to downtown and other booming districts.

Significant progress has been made, though, to improve the business image of inner-Northeast, and initial successes point to greater things to come. Inclusion of the Union Avenue corridor within the bounds of the Central City Plan would send strong signals to development interests of the area's viability and its importance for Portland.

The process approved last week allows for modifications of the planning boundaries, and we urge the inclusion of at least part of the Union Avenue corridor within them. In creating a "new vision" for Portland, the Central City Plan could, and should, help change the way all of inner-city Portland is perceived.

B.U.F. deserves our support

The National Black United Front took a look at themselves during their national convention July 19th thru 22nd, in Chicago, Illinois. It is time for us to take a look at them. The Portland chapter has been at the cutting edge of change by using progressive, confrontational tactics. Their actions have produced a reaction that put Portland on the map.

In 1979, the BUF emerged as the voice for little Black children who were bussed to an unknown neighborhood to attend an unfamiliar school. The Front ate away at the status quo which left Blacks and low-income people powerless. They forced other so-called leaders to put-up or shut up. When a wrong is done, the Black United Front has positioned themselves on the front line to right it.

What Jesse Jackson meant politically to millions, the BUF means the same to thousands in Oregon. With pride and direct action the BUF has improved the quality of life by:

1. Stopping a bussing program which burdens Black children unfairly;

2. Demanding a middle school in the community, more Black teachers and Black history to be taught and not just talked about.

3. Addressing the issue of police brutality head on by supporting and organizing marches to educate the City of Roses when she does not live up to her image.

4. Utilizing economic boycotts to redistribute the wealth of the Pacific Northwest.

5. Providing a communication link to those caught inbetween the fallacies of the system and the realities of it.

6. Actively worked on creating District #18 and the victory of its first real candidate while nationally adding their color to the Rainbow Coalition.

By no means is this list complete, but the gist is clear. As Portland matures, the action of the BUF paves a foundation for a better life for our children. The members and supporters of the Front need to be commended for a job well done. And they need to be supported for jobs yet to be started.

Zimbabwe marshalls resources

Many Zimbabweans, although faced with severe drought, are marshalling their resources through projects such as new water wells and building of bridge dams, an American Friends Service Committee staff couple pointed out today. Patricia and James Seawell are on home leave after five years' technical assistance work in southern Africa.

"Zimbabwe is one of 31 African countries being ravaged by drought, but many of its people are determined to act on plans for their own livelihood such as the wells and dams, in addition to increasing food yields, granary storage, and correcting soil erosion," James Seawell

said. The Seawells, based in Harare, have worked in the Mhondoro District, a former tribal trust land, 60 miles south of the capital city. James Seawell has made several visits to neighboring Mozambique to determine the needs there caused by the worst drought in 50 years. Thousands of Mozambicans have fled to Zimbabwe in search of food, further taxing the economy there. AFSC is sending some emergency aid to those refugees as well as to people in Mozambique.

"The community projects in Zimbabwe are based on maximizing people participation at the grassroots level," Patricia Seawell

declared. "Many are good examples of cooperation between whites and Blacks. In some cases, the projects focus on the critical need of water conservation. Women and men work together in digging wells."

Mozambique, which in some regions has also been hit by disastrous floods, is due to receive a shipment of maize, sorghum and possibly bean seeds being assembled by AFSC. A total of 800 pounds of vegetable seeds has been received from the Quaker organization by the Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture, and another AFSC shipment of clothing, medical supplies and gardening equipment is scheduled to be sent in September.



Oregon faces continued jobs loss

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

many of their neighbors." The quality of the jobs in the state also effects the ability of state government to fund needed social services. Over 70 percent of the general fund is financed through personal income taxes, and these decrease with decreasing wages earned. Oregon Employment Division projections are cited by the report as

indicating "that the shift from Manufacturing to non-manufacturing, from good to poor jobs, will continue unabated. The report calls the trend a "structural deficiency within the economy." Senator Mae Yih, (D-Albany), noted the report's implication that even within the high-technology firms, the "pay scales are not very high," for most employees. Cort-

right added, the higher paid high-tech engineers come from both within and outside of the state. Employment statistics show the "recovery" is not sufficiently strong to revive lagging industries nationwide either, according to *Economic Notes* magazine. The table presented below shows that Oregon is not alone in suffering from the flagging economy.

NBUF convention

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

Avel Mayfield attended the workshop on African women organizing. "We examined the role of women in the struggle. Whether it should be two steps in front of the man, two steps behind, or next to him. What I heard is that it's beside him. We balance one another out." She said the highlight for her was the acceptance speech by Bishop's

mother. "She talked about the need to continue the movement. Also, being around so many brothers and sisters actively involved in trying to improve the quality of life for Black people in their community." In 1983, NBUF held their convention in Portland and next year, it will be held in Houston, Texas. Those from Portland, attending, left feeling refreshed and ready to continue their successful work here.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Last week, Miss America made national headlines. The Street Beat team asked, "How do you feel about the Miss America incident?"

Valerie Stokes Currie
Student/Housewife
"Looking at the nature of those photos, even if it did happen in her past, it's best that she stepped down."

Rosemary Huntington
Unemployed
"The Miss America officials were stupid. That whole thing is passe. I see no reason for them to ask for her crown. She could have kept it."

Alfred Fisher
Security Officer
"Those pictures were taken when she was 19 years old. They were taken in confidence which was violated."

Glen Williams
Corrections
"It could have been handled better. If she had not been Miss America, they would not have been published. I heard the other woman is suing. I hope she wins."

Michelle Rogers
Mother
"I don't think it was fair printing them without consulting her. The pictures were not that bad."

Kirby Weedon
P.E. Teacher
"They were taken before she was Miss America. The pageant did what they had to do. I feel badly for her. Maybe she will come out on top in the long run."

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