



NEWS FLASH: County Commissioner Gladys McCoy added her name to the race for City Council today, making the total number of candidates, to date, 10.

Pill poppin' problems



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PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XIV, Number 47
September 12, 1984
25¢ Per Copy

Two Sections



School daze—The Humbolt School safety patrol sprang into action at the start of school. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

American State Bank loses funds

by Lanita Duke

On September 4, American State Bank (ASB), Oregon's only minority bank, filed a motion in U.S. District Court for a Preliminary Injunction and a Temporary Restraining Order against members of the Reagan Administration.

Named as defendants are Donald T. Regan, Secretary of the Treasury, Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Department of Energy and Peter T. Johnson, administrator for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

ASB is challenging a decision by the Treasury Department to divert BPA funds previously deposited through ASB into two of the largest banking institutions in the world: the Bank of America in San Francisco, California, and the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The treasury said the change was necessary to strengthen cash management practices within the federal government in response to the Reagan administration's Grace Commission and Reform '88 objectives. "This conversion is an example of our nationwide plan to catch up with the private sector by employing the most effective and modern

collection system available," said Bruce E. Thompson Jr., assistant secretary for legislative affairs in the Treasury Department.

On September 1, the treasury began to notify some BPA customers to send their payments to the banks in Southern California and on the East coast.

Account worth \$1.3 Billion

Since 1977, ASB has handled BPA's account. ASB deposits the funds with the Federal Reserve Bank within one day of receipt. BPA estimates its deposits for fiscal year 1983-84 at more than \$1.3 billion.

Venerable F. Booker, president of ASB, said in an affidavit, "ASB has used the BPA funds flowing through its bank to establish loans and lines of credit to small businesses that directly and indirectly resulted in over 800 jobs in the Northwest area. Those jobs resulted in substantial tax revenues to the government. Each job creates 2.2 additional jobs and resulting tax revenues. Therefore, revenues to the government exceeds any savings projected by the conversion."

At the Expense of Minority Business Enterprises

ASB obtained the BPA account

through the Minority Bank Deposit Program established by the Treasury Department to support the development of MBEs.

The program was developed and fostered to implement Executive Order 11458 and 1625. Signed by President Nixon and re-emphasized by President Carter, the order coordinated a national program to strengthen and expand minority businesses.

"The Secretary of Commerce shall coordinate ...the plans, programs and operations of the federal government which affect or may contribute to the establishment, preservation and strengthening of MBEs," the order read.

Minority banks were encouraged to market their services to the government and federal agencies were urged to establish depository relationships with eligible participants. ASB and the BPA had such a relationship.

Under the Reagan administration, the Treasury Department has re-interpreted the government's Minority Bank Deposit Program.

"The MBDP, which was created by presidential directive and not legislation, clearly places a higher priority on the effective management of cash flow than on bank selection," said assistant commissioner, Russell D. Morris.

In a memorandum opposing the Restraining Order, Thomas C. Lee, Assistant U.S. Attorney, said "Plaintiff (ASB) has no 'legitimate claim of entitlement' to have public monies deposited in it ...banks were never entitled to treat the availability of excess funds from the flow through as an asset base.

The Treasury also ignored the objections of Senators Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, and Rep. Ron Wyden who requested the Treasury to delay implementation. They noted a discrepancy in the projected savings figures and questioned whether the conversion would originate in real savings.

David Roy, attorney for ASB, said Judge James Burns informally sent word that he expects to deny the motion for a Temporary Restraining Order. Roy will continue to pursue the motion for a Preliminary Injunction.

Union fact finders examine Nicaragua

"We plan to break the Reagan blackout and distortion of the situation of Nicaragua's workers and trade unions" asserted Nita Brueggeman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers (ACTWU), Pacific NW Joint Board, at a press conference held today at the ACTWU union office. Brueggeman is one of fifteen West coast labor leaders conducting a fact-finding tour of Nicaragua next week.

"Reagan's attacks on Nicaragua are clearly aimed at overthrowing that government and may draw the U.S. into a full-scale Central American war," said Roger Auerbach, past President of the Oregon Federation of Teachers, the other delegate from Oregon. "The reasons given for this CIA-war are very questionable."

"Coming from a president who specializes in union-busting and coddling big business in the U.S., we suspect Reagan of doing the

same in Central America," Brueggeman charged. The Oregon delegates claimed that the U.S.-backed "contras" seem to be trying to reimpose a "union-free" Nicaragua, a low-wage haven for runaway shops from the U.S.

"Working people bear the brunt of this war drive. They need information they can trust, from leaders who represent workers interests," said Auerbach.

Joining the labor leaders at the press conference was City Commissioner Mike Lindberg, recently returned from Nicaragua. Lindberg congratulated the delegates for supporting the Portland-Corinto sister-city campaign. The two have been authorized by several Portland-area union locals to establish sister-union ties between U.S. and Nicaraguan workers.

The delegation plans to investigate these key questions:

- How has the Nicaraguan revolution affected the working and



City Commissioner Mike Lindberg (center) encouraged Nita Brueggeman (left) and Roger Auerbach (right) in their efforts to establish sister-union ties between U.S. and Nicaraguan workers. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

living conditions of the Nicaraguan people? How are these conditions impacted by both the threat and reality of U.S. intervention?

- What is the state of democracy in Nicaragua today? What kind of democratic participation takes place among the masses of the

Nicaraguan people through the mass organizations, the electoral process, etc?

- What is the role of trade unions in Nicaragua and what rights do they have? How are trade unions defending the interests of



Brandon and Josh Black of Scappoose pose with Traf, winner of the Oregon Humane Society's "All American Mutt" show at Lloyd Center Saturday. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Portland's Black TV Channel 23 wins ACE programming award

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—"My faith in the community's desire for information is well-placed!" exclaimed producer Art Alexander when Black Community Television won a national award for excellence.

BCTV, Channel 23, received an ACE cable-TV award in the category of programming for a special audience, competing with Newark, New Jersey, for Black community programming, and with San Francisco for gay community programming. Hosted by the National Cable Television Association, the ACE awards are the cable industry's Oscars.

"Portland's Black community is concerned with a whole lot more than seeing Blacks singing and dancing," said Alexander. "I don't knock singing and dancing, but if I have a choice between a band and a speaker, I'll go with the speaker.

There aren't many instances where Black people have been stopped for singing and dancing. We are frequently stopped from expressing our points of view and reaching each other."

BCTV broadcasts the concerns of the local Black community. A daily satellite feed from Black Entertainment Television keeps Portlanders tuned-in to nationwide trends and events. When regular programming hours end, BCTV offers viewers an electronic bulletin board of enjoyable and constructive reading while they listen to KBO, a Los Angeles jazz station.

Alexander also produces a lecture series titled "Talking Books," where visiting and local Black speakers are recorded for broadcast.

To enter the competition, Alexander said he produced a tape of material that gave a "fair representation of the range of issues



Art Alexander, winner of the national ACE award for his programming of BCTV Channel 23. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

and ideas covered by BCTV." The tape included channel identifications that showed children playing, community residents walking down the street and at work, and a segment from the "Talking Book" lecture series.

"Cable offers us one of the few opportunities we're going to have to reach a whole lot of Black people, with a whole lot of information, without the heavy constrictions of turning a profit," said Alexander. "My concern with Black culture and our future was fostered and supported by many members in the Black community."

Joyce Harris, director of the Black Educational Center and consultant to the Portland Public Schools, said, "BCTV is the lifeline of our community. It shows an honest reflection of who we are and visions of who we want to become."

Hosted by the National Cable

Television Association, the ACE Awards are the cable industry's Oscars. The Rogers system was nominated for seven awards, and received three. The other two winning programs were *Video Verite* for Best in Innovative Programming, producer Ed Geis; and *Christmas at the Juniper Tavern* for Best Single Drama/Dance Program, also produced by Ed Geis.

"Only one other system in the country placed higher than ours, both in number of nominations and awards received," says Rogers' program manager Sarah Barnett, who accepted the awards for Rogers' programming department. "I think the main reason we've been able to achieve this quality of programming is that our producers care so much about their subject areas—seniors, Black community, government, and so on."