

METROPOLITAN

New mayor visits Eliot neighborhood



Portland's new mayor, Bud Clark, joined Eliot neighborhood residents and activists last week at the Matt Dishman Center for a potluck dinner with entertainment provided by the Eliot Break-a-Trons.

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)

by Robert Lothian

Dressed natively in knickers and knee-socks, Portland's spunky prospective mayor took a tour of Eliot neighborhood on a blustery day last week.

Bud Clark was invited on the tour by the board of the Eliot Neighborhood Development Association. The association wanted to get an early start in familiarizing the mayor-nominee with inner Northeast problems.

"This is the neglected area of the city, and we felt that by getting him out here right away, we could make some inroads," said Michelann Ortloff, chairwoman of the association.

Clark and neighborhood residents, traveling by van and by foot, discussed absentee landlords, business encroachment into residential areas, problems with park use, and abandoned and renovated buildings. The list of concerns also included crime, jobs and economic development.

Neighborhood resident and architect Dennis Hadley pointed out the contrast between period architecture from the late 1800s and cheaply constructed "infill" apartments often owned by absentee landlords. Hadley told Clark that ticky-tacky housing fragments the neighborhood.

"We feel that there should be a review process to make sure that new housing is compatible with what we have," said Hadley.

The group next viewed the Unthank development on N.E. Williams, which includes a senior citizens center and brick townhouses designed with the help of the

neighborhood association to fit in with the neighborhood. They also took a look at the building where Urban League has its offices, recently renovated with public development money.

Walking around the corner to Lillis-Albina Park, Clark was told that neighborhood children are often kept from using the park by soccer teams. Tyrone Hines, past-president of the neighborhood association, said more playgrounds are needed for inner-Northeast. "We're looking to develop the neighborhood so we'll have more space for children," he said.

Sabrina Poe, 13, expressed her concerns about prostitution. "I think we should get the prostitutes off the corners because that's a bad influence on kids," she told Clark.

At Union Square, Clark talked with Larry Willson, owner of the award-winning Convenient Foods, and LaRue Martin, Jr., manager of the Nike outlet store. Pimps causing traffic problems and harassing customers were among business owners' concerns, Willson told Clark.

Clark said he didn't have definite plans for inner-Northeast neighborhood projects emanating from City Hall, but that his office is working on a set of goals. He agreed with neighborhood leaders on many points, often comparing the problems of inner-Northeast with those of his Northwest neighborhood. Clark has been active in the Northwest District Association and founded a community newspaper, *The Neighbor*.

After a private reception with neighborhood leaders, Clark attended a neighborhood fair and potluck dinner at Matt Dishman Center with entertainment provided by the Eliot Break-a-Trons and door prizes provided by Nike.

Herndon talks of future hopes

Ron Herndon, co-chairman of Oregon's chapter of the National Black United Front, will speak at Portland State University, Thursday, November 15 at 12 noon in Smith Memorial Center, Room 338.

Herndon's topic will be "Where do we go from here."

Herndon's theme will be a general overview of the meaning of the national, state and local elections in regards to minorities in the greater

Portland area.

Herndon has actively pursued solutions to a wide range of discriminatory policies in Portland, such as a fair and equitable representation for minorities in the public school system, a representation in employment that better reflect the minority composition of the city, and a kind of law enforcement that better reflect a diverse populace. He has also served as co-chair of Oregon's Rain-

bow Coalition.

In addition, Herndon was a delegate to the 1984 National Democratic Convention in San Francisco, and he represented the National BUF at the International Preparatory Committee that was held in Tripoli, Libya, recently.

Herndon's speech is free and open to the general public.

Third world gifts sale

The annual International Gift Festival featuring traditional crafts from third world countries will be held at the Portland Mennonite Church, S.E. 35th and Main, on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10.

The International Gift Festival is a unique and intriguing experience. Few events offer quality crafts from around the world at such reasonable prices. For the shopper, the functional and decorative items make excellent gifts. For the artists and craftspeople of developing countries, the event is an opportunity to make a living through their traditional crafts.

Because Self Help Crafts takes no profits from the sale of these handicrafts through churches, it is possible to give the craftspeople fair prices for their traditional crafts. All proceeds are returned to third world artisans and their families. Last year, the Festival raised more than \$20,000 in supplemental income for over 30,000 families.

The wood carvers of Haiti, needlework artists of the Israeli West Bank, and the homespun toy-makers of Appalachia, have joined with others of many countries to bring an exciting variety of gifts to Portland this year. The Portland Mennonite and Peace Mennonite Churches have joined together to make these items available to the people of Portland. Join in the pleasure associated with giving and receiving. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, November 9; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 10. As expressed by one participant, "This is a joy. I can get simple or elegant gifts for family and friends while helping third world craftspeople... all at the same time."

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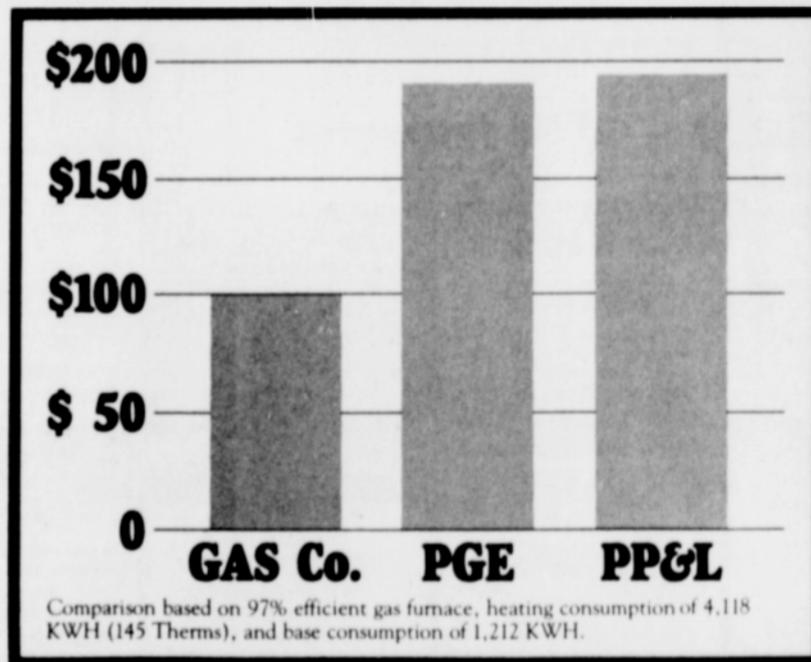
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