

Inside: A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"These are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression and out of the wombs of a frail world new systems of justice and equality are being born. The shirtless and barefoot people of the land are rising up as never before. The people who have sat in darkness have seen a great light. We in the West must support these revolutions."

Martin Luther King, Jr. — 1967



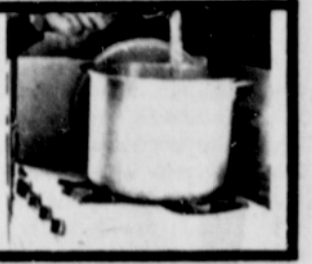
Racing fever

Page 16



Hot tomales

Page 3



PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV Number 11
January 9, 1985
25c Copy

Two Sections

USPS 950-080-855
First Publishing Co., Inc. 1984



(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

10,000 inaugurate mayor

by Robert Lothian

Bud Clark wanted to show that being mayor can be fun. He set out to prove it Friday night at the Coliseum by throwing one of the biggest parties this town has ever seen.

With rock bands playing in various corners of the cavernous hall, a light show projecting squiggly amoebas onto a huge screen, stars projected onto the ceiling, Thai, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian food, bikers, punks, people dressed in tuxedos and gowns, fairy godmother costumes and electric bow ties, Clark's Inaugural Ball drew a crowd that packed the Coliseum almost to the rafters.

"This could be the biggest crowd the Coliseum has ever seen," exclaimed celebrant. Over 10,000 tickets were sold at \$10 each to help pay off Clark's campaign debts. "I wonder what he's going to do with what's left over," pondered a woman dressed in black. "There's a lot of yuppies here," observed someone else.

At about 9:45, three hours after the bash started, ushers parted the sea of faces and Clark, stunning in a white dinner jacket with a crimson rose on his lapel, marched triumphantly down the center of the arena, led by a marine honor guard and bagpipers. He waved

and shook hand with well-wishers. The crowd went wild.

With his wife Sigrid at his right side, Clark gave a short, upbeat speech that emphasized Portland's special spirit and talents.

"We have it here in Portland and tonight we're letting the world know we have it," said Clark. "Tonight is the first message to the world that our talents, our skills, and our imagination can bring our vision of the future to fruition. Let the buds blossom," said the new mayor, in what could have been a play on words.

"Let us recognize that we and our fellow men are the greatest resource the world has ever known. With mutual respect we can create heaven on earth. . . whoop, whoop!" The crowd roared their approval.

Clark had mingled with the huge crowd for two hours, taking snapshots with his little camera. A rumor that he was going to do some break dancing proved unfounded.

But he did find time to promote Pete McCoy, son of state Senator Bill McCoy and former county commissioner Gladys McCoy, from second to first lieutenant in the Marines.

Following his remarks, Clark introduced the 18-piece rock orchestra, Billy Foodstamp and the Welfare

Ranch Rodeo, who did a number dedicated to "My Dear Mr. Mayor." There were 28 musical groups altogether, including The Jazz AllStars, Rockin' Razorbacks, Thara Memory, Billy Kennedy, Puddle City Thrillharmonic, and Atomic Breakers. Lloyd Jones Struggle delighted the crowd with "Ivancie Blues."

Taking a swipe at the former mayor, the gowned and feathered transvestite entertainer Darcelle XV told the audience about a yellow Toyota in the parking lot with its lights on. "Somebody said it belonged to Frank," she said, drawing a big laugh from a crowd that didn't have much sympathy for the former mayor.

There was no secret behind Clark's successful campaign, said campaign special events chairman Phil Thompson. "Like everything else Bud does, the campaign was open to those who cared to look. . . there were only certain people looking," said Thompson. "As far as the media were concerned, he remained nearly invisible."

Clark supporter Rose Pickett-Campbell of Northeast Portland thought the new mayor seemed "like a very down to earth person." She also thought his term in office would mean "more things for the lay people" of Portland.



Mayor Bud Clark takes time out during his Inaugural Ball to observe the promotion of Pete McCoy from Second to First Lieutenant. Pete's parents, State Senator Bill McCoy and former County Commissioner Gladys McCoy pin the silver bars on the 2 1/2-year veteran of the Marine Corps. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Oregon second in nation in Black prison inmates

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The state of Oregon is second in the nation in terms of incarceration of Afro-Americans.

This statistic only mirrors the injustice in the nation's criminal justice system. In June, 1983, the Rand Corporation released a study that stated, ". . . 18 percent of all Blacks will serve time vs. 3 percent of all whites. . . 51 percent of all Black males will be arrested at least once in their lives vs. 14 percent for whites. Minorities are more apt to be put in prison instead of jail, and with longer sentences."

On December 14, 1984, a Black Prisoners Forum was held at the King Neighborhood Facility to highlight this disproportion. A panel consisted of Warden J. E. Keeny, Minority Affairs Officer Ron Martin, Halim Rahsaan, Ronnie Herndon, Chuck Corrigo (a former public defender), Karen Alvaredo and Iman Muhammad Najieb from the American Muslim Mission.

The panel disseminated discussion as to why this disproportion existed, and it boiled down to individual and institutional racism.

Rahsaan, Herndon and Martin said the high concentration of police patrolling the Black community created the disproportion.

Martin said, "Once you look for something long enough you will find it." Rahsaan added that the small number of police of color in the bureau aggravated these racial disparities, which exist for all people of color — native Americans and those of Spanish speaking origin.

Once arrested, people of color are faced with institutional racism from the judicial system. In 1982 an independent study of the Multnomah

County Juvenile Court system, conducted by the National Council of Jewish Women, found a "disproportionately high" percentage of

children of color were institutionalized. "Forty-seven percent of the children sent to institutions for delinquency of status violations were minorities," the report said. The number of minorities in the court system was 37 percent.

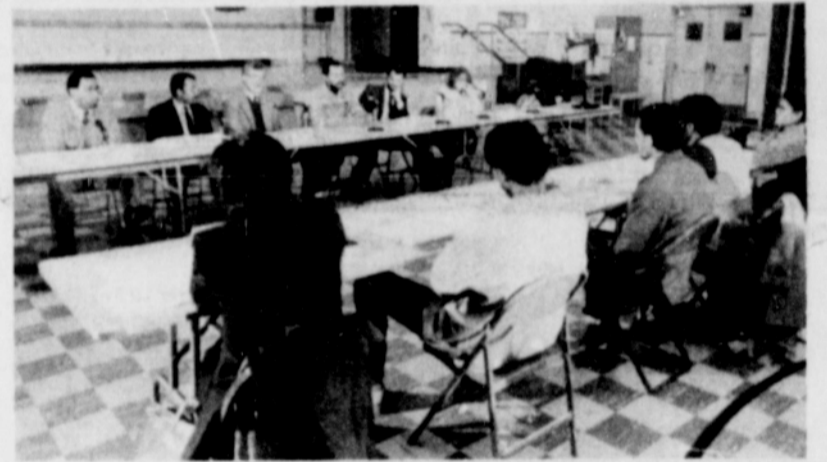
The Council also discovered that 81 percent of white children received probation vs. 68 percent for children of color.

Corrigo said for adults who end

ly and sometimes consciously to get back to a safe environment. But they hate the penitentiary. Thus, they may get a Gary Gilmore's "Death Wish," Clay said.

A solution would be a gradual re-orientation back into society in the form of Halfway Houses, but in Oregon few Halfway Houses exist.

Clay proposed an Uhuru Center, but funding for the center has never been promised or budgeted.



Members of the public were educated recently at a Black Prisoners Forum presented by inmates. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

up in the system, Blacks receive more prison time while whites go to jail. The recidivism rate for convicts of color is higher. Homer Clay, director of Uhura Sa Sa — a Black prisoners' organization — said once institutionalized a prisoner will become disoriented. "Most institutionalized men commit new crimes unconscious-

Herndon predicted a rise in the arrest rate due to the downward spiral economy in Oregon. "Society's proposal to deal with crime is to become more punitive. Unless you target specific areas and demand equal treatment, the racial disparities will only increase."

Atiyeh fails to appoint Citizen Utility Board

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Internal bickering among legislative leaders and the Governor delaying the implementation of the Citizen Utility Board (CUB)?

According to Eric Strachon, who spearheaded the passage of CUB for Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG), Gov. Victor Atiyeh's failure to appoint names given to him by the Senate president and the House majority leader is delaying CUB while utility companies are continuing to receive rate increases.

The law reads that CUB will be governed by a temporary, interim board appointed by the Governor from a list of up to five names submitted by legislative leaders. But the House majority leader and the Senate president gave Gov. Atiyeh only one name each. And Denny Miles, Atiyeh's press secretary, said the legislative leaders were making appointments — not the Governor.

Strachon said the delay highlights, "the lack of personal interest the Governor has in CUB. To the extent the Governor has any role to play in implementing CUB, he can drag his feet and benefit his friends (the utilities) to the detriment of all of us," he added.

During this delay two rate increases — Pacific Power and Light and Portland General Electric — were granted. Currently, Northwest Natural Gas has a rate increase pending.

"It seems they were punishing voters for approving CUB. The timing was very suspicious," Strachon said.

CUB will represent the interest of utility consumers before the Public Utility Commissioner, who has granted over 80 percent of all rate increases requested.

"The utilities act as if they want to get everything in before CUB gets off and running," Strachon observed.

He decried the relationship utilities have with Republican candidates running and in office. "Utilities are the most powerful special interest group in Oregon. This Governor has bent over backward to give utilities whatever they want in terms of rate increases and policy change," Strachon said.

He requested that readers call the Governor, urging CUB's appointments be made and to question the latest round of rate increases. However, Miles said the calls should go to legislative leaders to submit a list of more than one name. "One name is not a list."



Former State Representative Wally Priestly, Howard Willits, retired, and Thalia Zepatos, political organizer, are cited for trespass after being arrested for refusing to leave the office of Martin Sales, International. Martin Sales employs Calvin Van Pelt who is also the Honorary Consul to South Africa. Weekly demonstrations and arrests are planned until Van Pelt resigns as consul. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)