

Dr. Frankenstein
Brady

Page 4

New Yam
Festival

Page 5

Farm workers'
boycott

Page 2

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV, Number 34
June 26, 1985
25¢ Copy

Two Sections

USPS 985-060
© Est. Publishing Co., Inc. 1984

Discrimination seen

by Robert Lothian

A Dallas reporter who made an exhaustive study of discrimination in federally-subsidized public housing projects reports conditions that are "a throwback to the days of the antebellum South."

Craig Flournoy, a reporter with the *Dallas Morning News*, spent 14 months investigating projects in 47 cities, including Chicago, Milwaukee, Seattle and Los Angeles.

Flournoy, whose investigation resulted in a series for the *Dallas Morning News*, spoke at the third annual Fair Housing Conference at the downtown Red Lion Inn in Portland.

In virtually every city visited, Flournoy said he found a consistent pattern of "separate and unequal" federal housing.

White projects are superior to minority projects in location, service, accommodations and amenities, according to Flournoy. Elderly white tenants are given housing before minority families, and suburban communities fight to keep out federal housing projects as a way to keep their communities all white," he said.

Flournoy said he found white projects that are like country clubs, with boat launching facilities, central air conditioning, computerized emergency systems, interest free loans, counseling and libraries. "Just like heaven" is how one elderly white tenant described her building, he said.

Projects in Black neighborhoods, however, Flournoy said, are often rat-infested and crime-ridden fire-traps.

Residents of the all-Black Nicker-son Arms project in Watts feel like prisoners, according to Flournoy. The security system there, he said, is a 12-foot high, grease-coated fence topped by spikes pointing inward. "They think we're animals so they fence us in," one resident told him, said Flournoy.

"We're still segregated; it isn't equal and it's not by choice," he was told by an elderly Black resident of a project in Bakersfield.

Flournoy said he "did not find a single locality in which federal rent subsidy housing was fully integrated or in which services or amenities were equal for whites and minority tenants in separate projects." Even though officials confirmed his findings, the government under five administrations has refused to enforce fair housing laws, he said.

Flournoy did not investigate conditions in Portland. Thelma Johnson, director of rentals for the Housing Authority of Portland, said her agency has received only one discrimination complaint "in the last year or so." She said that HAP racially balances local housing projects.

Other speakers addressed the history of fair housing legislation and offered "ammunition" for winning settlements in housing discrimination cases. Fifty people, many representing local public agencies, attended the conference.

H. J. Belton Hamilton, administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration, set the tone for the day. He described the difference between the "melting pot" and the "power pot": Minorities are included in the myth of the melting pot, he said, while they are left out of the power pot.

Hamilton was instrumental in drafting and passing Oregon's first fair housing law as assistant state attorney general in the late 50s. He is a past president of the Urban League of Portland.

Rachel Susz, a Washington, D.C., attorney specializing in fair housing cases, said that several landmark decisions since the 1968 Fair Housing Act was passed have established the right of complainants to injury damages when they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, religion or national origin.

Decisions average \$10,000 for humiliation and \$15,000 for punitive damages, according to Susz, who said a New York jury recently awarded \$545,000 in a housing discrimination case.

Her partner, Avery Friedman, has tried nearly 500 fair housing and other civil rights cases, winning

over \$330,000 for his clients. He is considered an authority on fair housing laws.

Friedman said the Title 8 Fair Housing Act rocketed through Congress in just one week after Martin Luther King was assassinated in April, 1968. It was written by Jacob Javits and Walter Mondale.

The law traces back to the Civil Rights Act of 1866, written under the provisions of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery and gave newly freed slaves property rights. "The fair housing law is an anti-slavery law," said Friedman.

According to Friedman, the real estate industry fosters racist housing patterns, and the National Association of Realtors, one of the most powerful Congressional lobbies, has fought fair housing legislation consistently.

For instance, a mortgage loan form used widely has special boxes for "American, mixed and other," he said. In addition, McNulty's Guide, the Bible of real estate appraisers, lists Swedish people first on a scale of one to ten, Blacks nine and Mexicans ten, in a rating system of "effects of skin pigment on soil characteristics," said Friedman.

He told the story of a Harvard lawyer and apartment owner who discriminated against a bi-racial couple and suggested that Blacks should return to Africa. It cost him \$10,000, said Friedman.

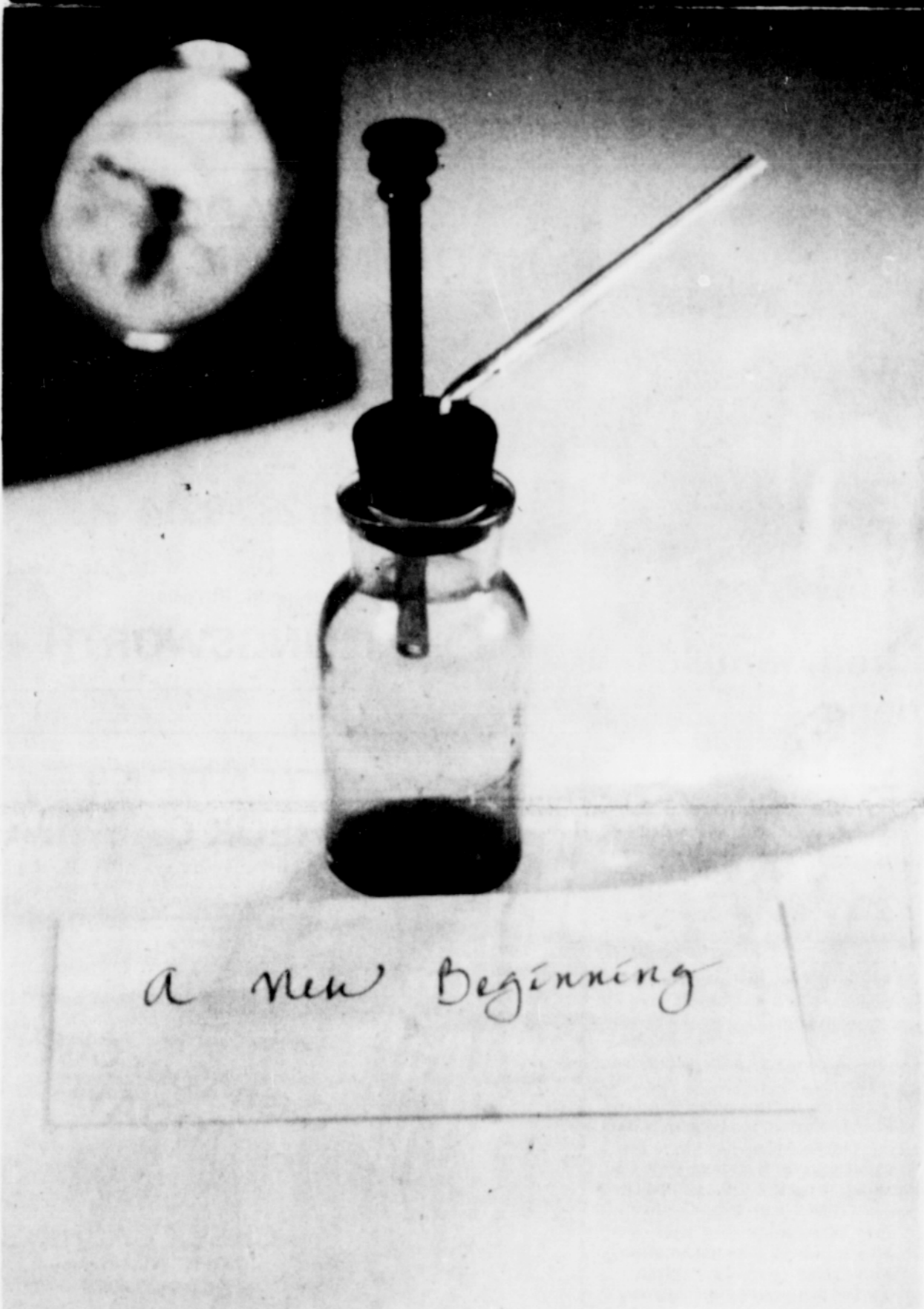
New Oregon State Board president

Alvin R. Batiste, Portland, is the new Oregon State Board of Higher Education president.

Batiste, the board's 1984-85 vice president, was elected to the position during a meeting here on June 21.

Board members elected James C. Petersen, La Grande, vice president. Joining Batiste and Petersen on the board's executive committee are Harriett J. Flanagan, Ontario, and John W. Alltucker, Veneta.

All 1985-86 offices are effective July 1.



(Photo: Ricky Booker)

It's time to put the freebase pipe down

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—In the April 3rd and 10th edition of the *Portland Observer*, we focused on the lifestyle and destructive problems associated with freebasing: the smoking of cocaine.

Currently, a number of readers requested an update and a conclusion as they watch some of their peers' lives, health, families and jobs go up in smoke.

Freebasing transcends race, sex, and class. In the 1960s, the drug was heroin and in the 70s various derivatives of amphetamines became the underground consumer drug. But the 1980s were heralded by cocaine which experienced an increase in supply and a decrease in price. Coke was snorted, injected, and now smoked.

Freebasing was popularized by freebase kits and received national attention when comedian Richard Pryor was reportedly burned while he was basing.

Freebasing is accomplished by adding a liquid base to street coke that separates the cut (additives) from the drug. A solvent is added to "free" the cocaine. This freed coke

floats to the top and is drawn off with an eyedropper, placed in an evaporation dish to dry and then crushed to a fine powder. The result? A cocaine base more powerful and purer than the original. The purified crystals are smoked and the high is as intense as it is short-lived. The maximum is two minutes and the minimum is 15 seconds.

There are a number of functional Portlanders whose lives revolve around getting high. In the vernacular of the drug culture, they are based-out or "sprung."

Freebasing evokes an enormous desire to keep on basing to achieve this superhigh. Therefore, binges replace the recreational abuse as basers pursue this rush.

But this rush, or high, subsides after a few minutes into restless irritability. The residual wired-up state is intolerable as basers become paranoid, manic and deeply depressed. Thus, with freebasing, the higher the high, the lower the lows.

The catch-22 or trick bag that basers find themselves in is the addictive compulsion to consume. One hit sets them off, they stay up through binges

and finally come down HARD because of physical or financial exhaustion.

The cycle repeats itself until basers attempt suicide, get arrested for criminal activities to support their habit or until a relative turns them in to a system of drug therapy and counseling. The real question remains: Is this counseling effective?

Freebasing and freebasers are extremely individualistic. Although there are basehouses where one can go up with someone (pull money together) to purchase a number of freebase hits, the norm is smoking the drug alone as one's health, family, income and lifestyle deteriorate from this compulsive craving.

Traditional therapy may try to reorder a person's priority, but the craving may still exist. Those with weak willpower will either substitute this abuse for another.

Therefore, a certain awareness or consciousness must exist or be taught to really give the person a chance to give up the pipe. Historically, alternative drug treatment programs have emerged from social change groups such as the Black Panthers and the

Nation of Islam. They have proven as effective, if not more effective, than their traditional counterpart.

The re-adoption of traditional drug counseling is articulated by Dr. Luther B. Weems of Morehouse College:

"Traditional methods of increasing self-awareness by psychotherapy and counseling must be supplemented by systematic instruction about the nature and acceptance of self."

In other words, Weems suggests a clear-cut procedure for the development of self-reliance: "We must recognize the service needs of the community where they (basers) live, and prepare them to fulfill those needs. . . People who know themselves, love themselves and will take excellent care of themselves."

For the baser, his or her center of universe must go beyond the pipe and themselves. He or she must reach a state of mind where they are not alone and educated that the consequences of their behavior affects others.

It takes extraordinary measures to deal with this extraordinary dependence. As long as basers stay sprung, then their individual losses are subtracted from the community and society. Before you plug a baser into a number of adequate drug counseling programs, turn them on to who they are and into what they are really smoking up: themselves and us.

If you have any suggestions or answers on how to stop basing, write: Grassroot News, 1463 N.E. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97211.

Project HELP aids N.E. Portlanders

More than 200 Northeast Portland families received home heating help last winter from Project HELP, a winter fuel assistance program initiated in the Northwest three years ago by Pacific Power & Light Company and adopted by other heating utilities as well.

Pacific Power shareholders contribute \$100,000 to the program each year as seed money to match contributions from the public. The funds are distributed to the public through social service agencies in five of the six states the company serves.

"Through the generosity of their neighbors, more than 200 Portland families in need of help were able to heat their homes this past winter," said John Reed, PP&L Portland district manager. "Project HELP is a community-based and community-run program, designed to offer temporary assistance to those in the community who need it most."

In Portland, the Salvation Army's family services division received and distributed contributions from PP&L and the public. Over \$19,000 was distributed in grants averaging \$125 each.



Batiste, a member of the board since 1978, is retired as chief of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Materials Laboratory Branch. He is a University of Portland graduate.

The 11-member board governs the state publicly-supported colleges and universities making up the Oregon State System of Higher Education. Appointments to the board are made by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate.

Batiste will succeed Louis Perry, Portland, as board president. Perry's term on the board ends June 30, and he did not seek reappointment. Petersen will succeed Batiste as board vice president. Flanagan succeeds board member Edward C. Harms, Jr., Springfield, on the board's executive committee. Harms' term ends June 30 and he is not (by state law) eligible for reappointment.