



Rappress Gaylene Bickman, 8th grader at Tubman Middle School, raps to a youthful audience on the ills of teen pregnancy and prostitution during "Help Yourself", a youth sponsored community information presentation held at the King Neighborhood Facility Tuesday, May 6th. Other topics covered by both youthful and adult speakers were crime, drugs, success and employment.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Boycott The By-Pass

HCD Strategy, by Ray Hanson

King Center is the heart of our community. It is our "city hall." We may have problems, but our community heart is pumping strong. One thing we don't need is by-pass surgery.

Every big city needs a ghetto, and for Portland we are it. Unemployment, low wages, high rent, deterioration, business failures, we got it. Our people are hurting, but our community is strong. King Center is pulling us together so that we may lift ourselves up.

We have no choice. If we do not lift ourselves, who will? Federal funds are drying up. Portland just spent \$100 million on federal Housing and Community Development (HCD) funds. Where did it go? This money was for jobs, housing, day care, parks and economic development. It was for the poor, not the rich. Northeast Portland was supposed to get about 1/3, or \$33 million. Instead, we only got \$18 million, or so they say. Where did it go? One thing for sure, it did not pass through King Center.

This year, we said to the city, let's do it different. You have \$12 million to divide up. The Portland Development Commission wants \$8 million. That leaves \$4 million for the rest of us. Let's make a deal. We'll let City agencies spend the money, if you will let us set the policy. All we ask is that the City spend Northeast's share (about \$4 million) in Northeast and give us \$250,000 (2%) to set up a Northeast PCD policy board. To prove we are honest, we will let the Mayor appoint the policy board.

It took many meetings at King Center, with City agencies, to work out this plan. But before the plan could get to City Council for a vote, city doctors started working on it. They cut here and cut there. But the deepest cut of all is the open-heart surgery they are doing now. It is by-pass surgery. What they are trying to by-pass is King Center, which is our community heart. City of-

ficials do not want the \$250,000 to go through King Center. They are going door-to-door throughout the community trying to find any agency that will betray the HCD policy board (monitoring committee) and by-pass King Center. They offer money, favors and special deals. Instead of support the right of local citizens, which is guaranteed by federal law, to set policy for our community, these city doctors by-pass the plan and destroy the heart. They caused one neighborhood to withdraw and have created a new neighborhood association within the boundary of another. They have incited so much conflict-of-interest, that many agencies who worked on the plan can no longer sit around the same table. What started as an inter-agency effort to develop policy best for the whole community has degenerated into a dog-fight over money and position.

But all is not lost. Most of this money business was done by low-level bureaucrats without knowledge or approval of the Mayor and City Council. Even though the Northeast HCD plan got butchered up in some respects, it still has the monitoring committee intact. The sooner the Mayor appoints this committee, the sooner the fight will be over. And the sooner the HCD budget and programs can be brought back under control.

But the Mayor needs our support. We will never get three votes out of City Council as long as we are divided and afraid someone is going around King Center, for an end-run. We must unite once more and pledge not to go around the monitoring committee. We should not jump off-sides every time the city dangles a few dollars. We must be willing to boycott the city, and any local agency, that wants to by-pass King Center. "Boycott the By-Pass!" That is the bottom line, and it needs to be drawn in concrete.

Portland Neighborhoods Up For Grabs

by Ray Hanson

The City of Portland just spent over \$100 million in Housing and Community Development (HCD) funds. The purpose of HCD programs is to bring poor neighborhoods up to city standards. Yet poverty in Northeast Portland, which contains the city's ghetto, is getting worse, and the ghetto is spreading.

Most of the \$100 million was spent by the Portland Development Commission (PDC). This is federal money; for jobs, housing, day care, parks and economic development.

Neighborhood associations in Northeast Portland recently discovered that Northeast got only \$18 million of the \$100 million city total. Many of us believe Northeast's fair share should have been 1/3, or \$33 million. We would like to see more of this money pass through neighborhood associations. Instead, almost all of it went through PDC and City bureaus, with small amounts here and there to private agencies.

The program is about to end. Portland does have, however, about \$12 million to divide up this year. What should we spend it for? In whose neighborhood? City Council votes next week.

Northeast Portland submitted its plan last January. Most local agencies supported the plan, even though it was different. This year, we said to the city: you spend the money, we set the policy. We agreed to let PDC have \$8 million and City bureaus the rest. All we asked for was \$250,000 to set up a policy board (monitoring committee). The monitoring committee would hire a small staff, conduct pilot projects and evaluate HCD programs in Northeast, including about \$4 million worth of program operated by PDC.

Needless to say, PDC did not like this plan. They want to set policy and monitor us. They do not want us to set policy and monitor them.

This debate has put the Mayor and City Council on a hot seat. The Mayor supervises PDC. Nobody wants to look back, asking where the \$100 million went. Nobody wants to tell PDC to change policy. PDC is a multi-million sacred cow in Portland. They need money for buildings downtown, to annex East Portland and finish industrial parks. They do not worry about unemployment in the Ghetto, or crime, dope and prostitution sitting on the doorsteps of Northeast residents, who are beginning to say, "We need jobs, not jails."

Job, and help for small business, is what the Northeast Plan calls for. It is just the opposite of PDC. PDC policy benefits landlords. The Northeast Plan benefits the poor. It cost us \$20,000 to

produce the Northeast Plan. Many meetings were held at King Center over a period of many months. For the first time in the history of Portland, local residents, through neighborhood associations, have proposed a local public agency with administrative authority for economic and community development.

This would be a precedent. A real breakthrough. PDC is a public agency serving all Portland. We would be public serving Northeast only. We would set policy for Northeast and administer those parts of the HCD program which are best handled at the local level.

We hear a lot of talk these days about local citizens assuming responsibility for local affairs. The Northeast HCD plan would create a vehicle that would operate under community-wide, public control. The policy board would be locally elected and appointed by the Mayor, the same as the PDC board is appointed. It would have full public administrative powers, the same as PDC. It would not be just another task force, advisory council or helpless planning body. It would have power to both develop and enforce a local comprehensive plan.

This is where the rub comes in. Neither PDC or City Council wants to allow Northeast to control funds or programs. For many years all the control has been downtown. Every Northeast neighborhood has several private agencies hand picked by PDC and City Commissioners, not based on community loyalty, but on loyalty to political interests downtown. Why change the system now?

Neighborhood associations are beginning to see the light. They are beginning to want some say-so and control over local affairs. We asked all the private agencies seeking funds from the Northeast HCD Plan to agree not to bypass the plan. We asked them to pledge not to by-pass King Center and the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods. Most of them took the pledge. PDC however, refused to take the pledge and has been actively trying to find local agencies who will betray the pledge and by-pass the monitoring committee proposed in the Northeast Plan.

Evidence has appeared in the city budget that PDC has found a local agency willing to eliminate the monitoring committee and contract through PDC. No one seems to know who the local agency is. Rumor has it that the Mayor has met with several local private agencies. One of them

must have agreed to by-pass the Northeast Plan or the Mayor would not have allowed his staff to publicly recommend PDC to administer Northeast HCD funds.

The issues are more complex than meets the eye. According to City Ordinance neighborhood associations, and the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, are not a part of city government. They are private agencies. They have no public administrative authority. They do not represent one square inch of Portland, let alone a neighborhood. They represent membership only, not territory. They cannot create or enforce public policy, yet they are the only vehicle in our community that can represent the Northeast Plan to City Council in order to meet federal laws of

citizen participation.

For this reason, the Northeast Plan, which recommends a public agency, has no local advocate. The Northeast Coalition, which is private, and other local private agencies, do not want to bite the hand that feeds them. They are all held hostage to City Council and PDC, upon whose funds they depend.

The first public testimony on the Northeast Plan is scheduled for 9 a.m., Thursday, April 17th. It will be interesting to hear lip-service from Northeast leaders and watch to see Northwest agency line-up to receive the money. Chances are PDC is still in the drivers seat. The Northeast Plan will go up in smoke like the \$20,000 that was wasted to produce it. I hope I am wrong.

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Older Women's League to Meet Sat. June 7, 1986, 10:00 a.m.

The Portland Chapter of Older Women's League (O.W.L.) will meet in Providence Hall Social Room, Providence Medical Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan St. Hear OASIS coordinator Gerry Newhall describe this innovative, new program for older adults which is co-sponsored by Multnomah County Aging Services Division and Meier and Frank, and located on the 10th floor of downtown Meier and Frank. Ample parking is available in structure and has Tri-Met access. No charge. Call 245-4271 or 231-7509 for information about O.W.L. (Membership open to men and women of all ages).

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Summer Time Fun Time

Soon school will be out for the summer, a mixed blessing to working parents and to kids. Sure, everybody welcomes a vacation, but for a lot of children a summer without exciting or stimulating things to do becomes boring. For working parents, summer becomes a problem — what to do with the kids.

At The Columbia Academy summer-time is the time for field trips, camping, outdoor sports, gymnastics, crafts, and pleasure reading programs. It's the time for summer school. Lots of fun and educational activities to keep children occupied and stimulated during the summer. They will learn new skills and make new friends.

A hands-on approach to learning is stressed. If the children are learning about tools and wood, they will make something. Children have their own garden plots and grow things during the summer. A geography lesson about the Columbia Gorge would include a trip to Multnomah Falls, or some other hiking trail. Children come home suntanned, alert, and happy.

Last year kids took an overnight trip to Silver Falls where they helped to prepare their own food and made craft projects from the pine cones they collected.

For the slower learner, or student who is experiencing study trouble during the academic year, The Columbia Academy offers tutoring in math, reading, grammar, or study skills. Enrollment is on a weekly or monthly basis, or for the entire summer session.

Summer school begins June 9th and continues through August 29th for children ages three to ten. Early enrollment is suggested.

For kids this is a real opportunity to have an enjoyable and educational summer. For parents it's a great solution to the age old problem of what to do with the kids this summer.

For more information, call The Columbia Academy at 233-1315.



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"When I found her, she was sitting on the kitchen floor, holding one of those bottles. And acting mighty sick. I called the doctor over in Corvallis, but just kept on getting a busy signal.

"So I did the only thing I could think of. I called the operator. She just took over and cut in on the line and asked if the doctor was in, and he was. She put him on. And just that quick he told me what to do.

"These days, of course, the doctors all have something called 'Call Waiting,' so they know if you're trying to get through. Why they can even check your vital signs, right over the phone.

"But whatever miracles the phone company comes up with next, I'll always be grateful for that operator."

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