

OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Where Were They, The So-Called Leaders?

Does anybody remember Kent Ford? Is there anybody in this community who remembers those lonely activist years Kent inherited and met the challenge as guardian of basic human and civil rights? Does anybody know what Ron Herndon, Herb Cawthorne, Margaret Carter, Ollie Smith and Albert (Skip) Collier were doing when Kent Ford was going to jail for the very programs and offices they now hold?

If you, the people of this community, don't know what Herb, Ron, Margaret, Ollie and Albert were doing during those years, then it is understandable as to how anyone can claim responsibility for leadership over you and this community, for you are not informed.

Are you aware that Harold Williams should have been your candidate for office for State Representative for District 18 and not Margaret Carter? Mr. Williams was tricked into a jury-rigged contest and bludgeoned to death by what is now known as the Black Leadership Conference who had influences on the media. The Black Leadership Conference had chosen Representative Carter as their choice before the meeting began. Harold was clearly the front runner and the community's choice. Mr. Williams' agreeing to participate in the candidate-choosing with the Black Leadership Conference was his fatal mistake that doomed his candidacy. Mr. Williams had no access to the press. The Black Leadership Conference simply painted him as sour grapes and a sore loser when, in fact, he had won. I will bet

that you, the community, did not know that. Well it is too late for Mr. Williams. We are sorry. We did not know.

Kent Ford knew, of course. Kent Ford always knows. He is informed about the irresponsible acts of the so-called Black leadership.

Did you know that Herb, Ron, Rep. Carter and George Hendrix met with the Willamette Weekly for an interview to discuss their views as supposed leaders of our community and disallowed the involvement of the African American press? Nor did they attempt to share a prospective with the press in the very community they propose to represent. Kent Ford knows. Of course, Kent Ford always knows. He is informed about the irresponsible acts of the so-called Black leaders. But we, the community, are all sorry that happened. We just did not know.

Did you know that Ron Herndon inherited all of the fruits of Kent Ford's labor? Of course, when Kent was laboring, the fruit was on Union Avenue for evidence. I have no idea where Ron stores his fruit.

Did you know that Kent was indicted, picked up and locked up the same morning that Ron proclaimed himself our community leader?

Did you know that just recently, Rev. Jessie Jackson was brought to town by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon? Did you know that the community endorsed and voted for Governor Goldschmidt, Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy and City Councilman Bob Koch, while the Black Lead-

ership Conference endorsed and recommended it's own agenda? Kent noticed.

Did you know that none of our self-appointed leadership represents business interests of our community? You should ask why. It has been my understanding of our system that when a community has operating businesses owned by and invested in by community members employing and training community people, it no longer needs lip service from self-appointed leadership that can be paid to be vocal or to shut up.

The day has come where we in this community can no longer stand on the outside of reality and proclaim innocence on the grounds of ignorance. "I did not know", will not work for us anymore! We, as a community, must become accountable and responsible for our own development as a community. The community is allowing the present state of disarray perpetuated by individual community members posing as leaders without responsibility or accountability.

We live in a free enterprise system where others are allowed to capitalize on one's weaknesses. I submit to you that we are all born with enough weaknesses to last a lifetime; therefore, we do not need any manufactured weaknesses in the form of front leaders strategically placed to misinform or not inform us in our media.

A Native Oregonian  
Joyce L. Brown

Quotes From Ray Hanson On Northeast Politics

Who runs the Steering Committee?

"The N.E. Housing and Community Development (HCD) Steering Committee is illegitimate. It is a political farce. Ron Herndon and the Mayor have stacked the deck. Charles Bedford, Chairman of the committee, is a puppet on a string. The Mayor holds one end of the string and Ron Herndon holds the other end. When the Mayor and Herndon pull the string, Bedford jumps. Bedford don't ask how high, he just jumps. Herndon votes to give CDC the money. The Mayor says, 'Why not?' Commissioner Bogle sits on the sidelines and laughs. The big question is, 'Will Commissioner Koch enjoy Bogle's sense of humor?' These are federal funds to fix up poor (HCD) neighborhoods. Koch lives in an HCD neighborhood. Bogle and Herndon do not. Will Bob Koch allow these funds to be wasted on a political pork barrel?"

Which man do you trust?

"Ron Herndon does not represent one square inch of Portland. He was never elected by anybody. He don't represent Blacks. He don't represent whites. He don't represent Northeast Portland. He only represents a handful of agencies and a small click of people. He sure don't represent my neighborhood. There is only one agency that represents my neighborhood, and that is the Sabin Community Association. My president is James Hall, not Ron Herndon. James Hall was elected by the people. Ron Herndon was selected by the Mayor. Which man do you trust?"

Number one ambulance chaser

"Ambulance chasers are attracted by problems and money. They show up at the scene of an incident and holler until they get paid off. Can't anyone find Ron Herndon a legitimate job? Can't we elect him to office and send him to Washington? I wish Ron would cry wolf for the last time, pick up the money and leave town."

Million Dollar Man

"Why does Mayor Clark and Commissioner Bogle want to give Ron

Herndon a million dollars? This is nothing but a political slush fund. Herndon says the people of Northeast Portland voted to give it to him. That is a lie. The King Center Committee was a stacked deck. Most people in Northeast Portland don't even know what is going on."

Showdown at Sabin

"Sabin has been a divided community for years. Fifteenth Street is like a railroad track. It separates rich from poor, Black from white. It is like an iron curtain or the Great Wall of China. Even the federal government uses Fifteenth Street to draw the line on poverty. If you live east of Fifteenth, you are OK. If you live west of Fifteenth, you are condemned to despair. You may be eligible for poverty funds, but what you get is poverty pimps. Instead of getting ripped off once, you get ripped off twice. . . The last time Blacks rose up in anger, Mayor Clark said divide the neighborhood. This time the people, Black and white, are saying 'No!' We want Sabin to be one neighborhood, with united leadership and no political corruption. We don't need apartheid in Portland. Come to Sabin School February 23 and vote for justice."

Beech Street Bonanza

"The problem at Beech Street is not what to do, but who is going to do it. Mayor Clark, Commissioner Bogle and Commissioner Strachan picked Ron Herndon for the job. Sabin Community Association was not consulted. Our old president was a friend of Commissioner Strachan. That's why the old Sabin board rubber stamped Herndon and CDC. Herndon was paid off for campaigning for Margaret Strachan in the last election. But this is a new ball game now. James Hall is Sabin's new President. Bob Koch is our new commissioner. We have minority contractors who can build the houses. We don't need Pacific Rim and we sure don't need Ron Herndon's political machine."

Right wing, left wing and rudder

"Did you know that James Hall, Dick Bogle, Bob Koch and Ray Hanson

are all members of Maranatha Church? Maranatha is a community church, with a vision of justice and peace for all people. We believe in both faith and works. As the Bible says, "Faith without works is dead." Maranatha Church, therefore, is like a dove of peace with two wings. One wing is called "faith" and the other wing is called "works". It takes both wings to fly. Bogle is the right wing of faith. Koch is the left wing of works. James Hall is the rudder of righteousness that keeps the ship going straight."

Neighborhood Motto: "If you love Portland, you will love Sabin." "Care for your community, and your community will care for you."

The two articles on this page, "Open Letter to the Community" and "Quotes From Ray Hanson on Northeast Politics" were submitted by citizens of this community, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Portland Observer.

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