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"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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Jackson Campaign Calls For Volunteers

by Avel Gordly

Forty-five enthusiastic Jesse Jackson supporters turned out for a Jackson Campaign volunteer meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, at the King Neighborhood Facility. Ron Herndon, Oregon Chair for the Jackson Campaign, opened the meeting by reminding the crowd that Jesse Jackson is the front-runner in several national polls, and that he can win if his candidacy is supported.

Herndon, who was a Jackson delegate at the 1984 Democratic Convention, noted that in the 1984 Presidential election, Jackson captured 11% of the Oregon vote. This was highly significant in a state where Blacks make up only 2% of the population, and clearly demonstrated Jackson's broad appeal at the time, an appeal which has grown substantially, according to Herndon. "Activity in the state of Oregon reflects the momentum building around the country. People support Jackson because he's clear on the issues that matter to the average person. He is also the one candidate who inspires young

people all across this country. What we have to do now is get out the vote," said Herndon.

Jackson supporters share common concerns

In another presentation at the volunteer meeting, Marty Hart-Landsberg, professor at Lewis and Clark College and Political Education Chair of the Oregon Labor for Jackson Steering Committee, outlined several campaign issues. He emphasized that Jackson can win with the support of a powerful broad base of the American people who share common and linked concerns. Hart-Landsberg said, "These are people who are concerned about getting a decent economy that will lead to jobs; concerned about questions of peace and justice, such as racism and sexism, which are used to keep people divided; and they are people concerned about questions of U.S. foreign policy, a policy which is directed at U.S. domination of the third world."

Hart-Landsberg argued that the issues of bringing about a decent economy, questions of peace and



Ron Herndon, Oregon Chair of the Jackson Campaign, greets Jackson supporters at the first volunteers' meeting held Tuesday, December 8th, at the King Neighborhood Facility.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

justice, and questions of U.S. foreign policy are all linked, but that people have a tendency to deal separately with these issues, which

not only keep them divided but keep them from winning victories for social justice.

"Spending on the arms race and

the military buildup is robbing us of money to fund social programs and the ability to modernize our infrastructure," he said. "U.S. domina-

tion of the third world, which is what U.S. foreign policy is all about, has created a context for U.S. Capital to run away from this country. When the U.S. auto industry closes plants in Detroit and opens them in Korea, there is a connection. When U.S. steel closes down production of steel imports from South Korea, there is a connection. This means that our jobs and economic base is going elsewhere . . . the companies say they'd like to stay but need to go where the wages are lower; thus, the U.S. labor movement is also under assault. We need to stop the arms race."

Hart-Landsberg ended by saying that Jesse Jackson is the only candidate who understands the need to build a movement of people who want to work for peace and justice, who want to work for a just economy, and who want to work to eradicate racism and sexism.

Volunteers needed for local campaign

As the Oregon Jackson Cam-

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Oregon Medicaid Organ Transplant Services Explained

Beginning in approximately January 1985, Adult and Family Services (AFS) began to experience a significant increase in the number of organ transplant requests. This was due to advances in medical technology as well as the availability of new antirejection drugs.

Prior to January 1985, AFS had only received three requests for transplants. In the six month period from January to June 1985, five requests were received.

Effective January 1, 1987, Section 9507 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) imposes explicit requirements on state Medicaid programs as a condition for receiving federal matching funds for organ transplant services. In order to comply with this change in the law, Oregon submitted standards to the Health Care Financing Administration specifically covering heart, liver, bone marrow, kidney and cornea transplants.

Because of the growing impact of transplants on its budget, AFS presented information on the transplant program to the 1987 Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. The data presented showed that AFS expected to pay for 19 transplants in the 1985-87 Biennium at a cost of \$1.2 million and was projecting costs of \$2.2 million for 34 transplants in the 1987-89 Biennium. Costs were expected to double again in the 1989-91 Biennium.

AFS's position was that at some point it must clearly face the question of continuing transplant coverage, or investing in more basic types of health care which would potentially benefit a much larger number of people.

The legislature weighed the options of increased payments for transplants vs increased access to basic health care for more Oregon-

ians. It chose to fund basic health care. Oregon's Medicaid program was expanded to provide access to basic health care for more pregnant women and children. Eligibility for the Medically Needy Program was expanded. Medical coverage under the UDC-UN program was increased from 8 to 10 months per year. These changes will provide access to basic medical care for approximately 24,000 people at a cost of \$18.1 million. Coverage for transplants (except kidney and cornea) was ended July 17, 1987. All requests received prior to that date have been approved and all approved transplants will be paid regardless of when the surgery occurs.

The following information outlines the transplants covered by Adult and Family Services:

Bone Marrow: 1 child (2 transplants) and 9 adults; approximate cost per transplant: \$75,000; Current status: 4 out of 10 are still living.

Heart: 4 adults; approximate cost per transplant: \$45,000; current status: 3 out of 4 are still living.

Liver: 2 children; approximate cost per transplant: \$92,000; current status: None are still living.

Pancreas: 2 adults; approximate cost per transplant: \$35,000; current status: 2 out of 2 are still living.

The above information is based on 19 transplants performed between July 1985 and the present. Of the 9 living transplant recipients since July 1985, 3 were done within the last six months.

The following delineates the transplant requests denied since policy changes came into effect in July 1987:

Pancreas: 1 request; Heart: 1 request; Bone marrow: 1 request; Liver: 2 requests. An additional 3 inquiries have been made without official requests.

Racial Incidents Discussed at Cleveland High School

by Nyewusi Askari

Last week's meeting to address complaints of racial incidents at Cleveland High School raised more questions than it answered.

While school administrators insist that the complaints do not constitute a problem, Black parents continue to maintain that racial incidents at the school are on the rise.

Several parents expressed disappointment at the school's inability to identify racial problems before they occur. Others said they felt that school administrators at Cleveland did a poor job of effectively communicating with Black parents about racial conditions at the school.

School administrators disagreed. Cleveland Principal, Robert O'Neil, said that Cleveland is no different than any other school when it comes to racial incidents. His claim was endorsed by three Cleveland students who said that the school's climate was not "potentially explosive" as reported by the news media. Strangely, no Black students were present to give their perceptions of the situation.

Gregory Gudger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Committee, said, "We're glad that this meeting is taking place so that the different perceptions of parents, teacher, in-school administrators, and out-of-school administrators can be heard. I agree with the parent who said that we would have been a little more informed if a cross-section of students had been invited to participate."

"I think it's really clear that several steps need to be taken in order to ensure proper reporting of racial in-



Millie Glover (2nd from L), whose daughter is a student at Cleveland H.S., asks questions of Robert O'Neil, Principal at Cleveland, concerning racial incidents. Photo by Richard J. Brown

idents or racial problems. An in-house reporting system should be implemented throughout the school building to each teacher. Portland Public Schools should consider establishing a similar system for administrators, so that they will be able to monitor these situations as they occur. A reporting system should be clearly spelled out and communicated throughout the system, and the system should involve both parents and the community at-large. This will let everyone know what the nature of the conflicts and disputes are before they reach an explosive level," Gudger

concluded. Parents were informed that the present reporting system requires that complaints first be reported to the Integration Specialist. If a parent is unable to resolve the problem there, he or she can take the problem to the school's principal. If no resolution is arrived at, parents can then contact Ms. Edith Wilson at Lewis Elementary School (280-5768). Ms. Wilson says her job is to supervise Cleveland High School as well as other feeder schools in the community.

By the time the meeting ended, parents and school administrators

agreed that it had produced some positive results. Principal O'Neil said, "I thought it was a good meeting. I really appreciated hearing what parents and community people had to say. I think that one of the things I learned is I need to go back and take a look at some of our programs. We may be doing some isolation where we should be doing more cross-cultural types of things. I think I heard that loud and clear. And we will begin to assess some of those situations as early as tomorrow. anytime I can sit and listen to parents in this kind of setting, it's a good setting."