

Perspectives



by McKinley Burt

Today's article will end the current series on education. Next week, October 5, the Portland Observer will feature **Minority Business and Economic Development** in the Northeast community.

From reader response we gather that few were aware of the very early on apprehensions concerning the quality of instruction in the Portland School District (1960's and 1970's protests). Fewer yet were aware of poorly-supported attempts to bring legal actions as a remedy to an intolerable situation, vis a vis last week's description of the successful **Hobson vs board of Education** suit fled in Washington, D.C. On the other hand, many had lavish praise for such alternative education institutions as the **Black Education Center**, a group that has significantly and positively affected the local educational process.

I follow on here some notes abstracted from an essay I am preparing for an education journal. There is no particular organization here, just items the reader may find of interest.

A basic truth that has been forcibly brought to my attention is that, almost without exception, an urban school reflects the leadership role furnished by the principal. This applies to the learning process as well as to the disciplinary mode. I found this to be true not only in Portland, but in most of the many scores of elementary and high schools I visited across the country during the 1970's and early 1980's. Where schools are seen to range from exemplary models to absolute disasters, one always finds leadership or a lack of it to be the fulcrum upon which the process turns.

I am reminded here of the time when I was active in the area of **Affirmative Action**, both as a university instructor in the field and as an activist. With many affirmative action officers in my classes—from both the public and private sectors. I soon learned that the level of implementation in these institutions depended almost entirely upon the commitment of those in charge (as with a school principal). effective leadership is the key. Further reinforcement to this opinion has come through my interaction with that group of educators selected as the **top twenty five principals in the nation** (The Partners in Excellence organization initiated by Ron Herndon).

I would also make the point that despite frequent critical analysis and evaluations, I am not unaware of the social and economic changes that have occurred in the urban population since World War II. Truly, teacher/pupil/parent interaction has oftentimes become a traumatic experience ("combat pay", armed guards). But the problem is here and we have to deal with it-effectively—there is no choice. And as I have revealed here the past weeks, there is really no dearth of proven working models, methodologies or community know how. The only question is, will it be used, and is there leadership?

Portland Marathon
by Danny Bell

The 18th annual Portland Marathon was dominated by two individual inexperienced runners in the men and women divisions.

The winner of the Mens' division was Tusuquis Sadakata, 25 of Oita Japan. He was running in just his second marathon. The winner of the womens' division was Debbie Myra 27 of Beaverton, Oregon. Ms. Myra was a former track and field standout at Portland State University. Sadakata completed the race in 2 hours 18 minutes, and 45 seconds—52 seconds off the record. Myra completed the course in 2:44:09—three minutes ahead of her nearest competitor, Heather Tolford.

In addition, to the 26.2 mile race, the Portland Marathon sponsored several other events in order to encourage participation from a broader segment of athletes, and the health conscious. Other events included the 26.2 mile Sidewalk Marathon Challenge, the five mile run, the five mile Mayors Walk, and the two mile kids fun run.

Approximately 4,000 people participated in the marathon, which has become among the top 15 marathon runs in the country.

Daily Journal of Commerce and American Contractor in joint venture

(Reprinted with permission from the Daily Journal of Commerce)

The American Contractor newspaper will join the Daily Journal of Commerce and the local Associated General Contractors chapter's News Update next week to expand its reach to disadvantaged businesses and prime contractors across the state.

Bruce Broussard, publisher of the American Contractor, said the newspaper hoped to be a vehicle to focus attention on minority- and women-owned businesses.

"There is a need, and there's a cry a cry from those prime contractors and agencies out there asking, 'where are the minority and women subcontractors who can perform on the job,'" Broussard said. "Our plan is to communicate with these people. And we're going to offer the private sector a chance to communicate with the women- and minority-owned businesses out there."

The newspaper will be published each Monday beginning Oct. 2. Content will include information about disadvantaged businesses, job leads and articles on ways to improve work and business for small companies in both construction and the general market.

Broussard and his wife, Norma, who is co-publisher and editor, will operate the news paper. It will be

published by the Daily Journal of Commerce and distributed as part of the DJC's regular Monday 8 edition.

Bruce and Norma Broussard have published the American Contractor each month since 1983. The paper focuses on issues affecting minority- and women-owned businesses.

Norma Broussard said the first issue was scheduled to be published during the year's Minority Development Week, a program geared toward disadvantaged businesses.

"This relationship is appropriate because of the focus of that week and the focus of the newspaper," she said.

The American Contractor joins the Oregon-Columbia chapter of AGC's News Update. in the Monday Edition of the DJC. The AGC news section has been published in the Daily Journal of Commerce for more than a year.

Broussard said the American Contractor, The Daily Journal of Commerce and the AGC News Update would be mailed in one package to each disadvantaged and emerging small business certified through the governor's Office of Minority and Women Affairs. It also will be sent to prime contractors, legislators and public agencies, he said.

Minority- and women-owned businesses must be certified as disadvantaged business enterprises to com-

pete for federal and state highway projects contracts. Legislators adopted the "emerging small business" concept this year as a race and gender-neutral definition to avoid legal challenges to subcontracting set-aside programs for minorities and women.

Broussard said the newspaper would target those businesses that traditionally subscribe to trade publications. Through the Daily Journal of Commerce the disadvantaged firms will find information about construction, banking, finance and bonding, he said.

The AGC News Update also provides a weekly list of jobs that minority- and women-owned firms can follow for leads, Broussard said.

"We take pride that the AGC chapter has given us this opportunity to be a part of the package," he said. "We hope to stand up to that responsibility."

ED. Note Mr. and Mrs. Broussard are African Americans. It is possible that this historic union is the first in the United States where a minority owned business has entered into such a joint venture with a major financial news medium. The New Observer salutes its fellow compatriot!

Community citizens counterattack criminals

Hundreds of N.E. residents have banded together to return their neighborhoods to the community. City votes to establish Fahtah type Umoja Houses in Portland.

By Etienne de la Plume

The community rescue squad showed off its muscle yesterday with a litany of the coordinated efforts so far implemented in order to regain control of the streets and abandoned homes that slowly had become occupied by a criminal element over the last several years.

Part of that effort was to adhere to strict code enforcement established within the building department. Commissioner Dick Bogle indicated that during the last weeks the Bureau of Buildings had surveyed more than 1,000 buildings. In one particular area that contained about 250 houses, four had been found to be abandoned and dangerous. Of these, two were already boarded up to prevent occupancy another was vacant and still another was fire damaged. Arrangements have been made to demolish these structures under guidelines provided for dangerous buildings. Additionally 14 houses were cited for serious violation of the building code and given the amount of time provided by law to make corrections. Minor violations were found in 50 other homes which were also cited, 36 of these infractions were related to outward appearance such as painting and general maintenance. Fourteen other homes were cited for nuisance violations.

It was also indicated that the state legislature has allocated \$14,000 to the neighborhood associations in the lower Northeast. This effort would provide seed money to establish at least two Umoja Houses by Mrs. Falaka Fahtah. Mrs. Fahtah visited Portland last year at which time she

acquainted the Northeast community and city officials with her 21 year success in dealing with ex-chemical abusers through the several residential halfway houses she had founded in the Philadelphia. Mrs. Fahtah was perceptive enough to recognize the many differences between problems here in the City of Roses and those that she had overcome in the City of Brotherly Love. The "Unity" house she will establish in the Portland area will be tailored specifically to address the unique parochial needs of the targeted population.

Additionally the juvenile court has identified and augmented ways in which it can service youths at risk. Their efforts are being supplemented by the Youth Gang Task Force and Outreach groups which help local lay residents to recognize drug houses, assist landlords in screening and evicting tenants who utilize their property for illegal purposes. A group of community volunteers have been trained to promote the entire thrust of the rescue plan by going from door to door within the affected enclaves to inform the vast number of law abiding citizens about the existence of a coordinated effort to rescue besieged neighborhoods and to return them to a state of tranquility once enjoyed by everyone. A full report will be made to the community in an open meeting which will be held in the King Neighborhood Facility at 7pm, Thursday, September 28, 1989. At that time the hundreds of people involved in making this effort a success will not only review what already has been accomplished, but will also take suggestions and questions from the general public.

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