

Portland, Oregon

PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

"THE EYES AND EARS OF THE COMMUNITY"

OCTOBER 19, 1989



INTERNATIONAL AWARD for the Inner Northeast Smoke Detector Program is displayed by City Commissioner Dick Bogle (left), Fire Bureau Public Education Office Jim Crawford, and Community activist LaNita Duke. The program was recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs as the best fire prevention program in the world. Bogle is commissioner-in-charge of the Fire Bureau, Crawford spearheaded the smoke detector program, and Duke enlisted 120 citizen volunteers to aid in the effort. The area where smoke detectors were installed houses 5 percent of Portland's population, but accounted for 26 percent of the city's fire fatalities. There have been no fire deaths in the 18 months since the program started.

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP FOR NEW HOUSING PROGRAM

About \$1.5 million dollars of federal funds will flow into the Portland area over the next five years for "Operation Bootstrap," a new federal program designed to help unemployed and underemployed people gain economic independence. In one of the first new Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs under Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) was awarded 50 Section 8 certificates for housing subsidies--approximately one-third of total allocated to Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Operation Bootstrap targets families unable to achieve self-sufficiency due to family problems such as a lack of housing or employment or alcohol and drug dependence. The program will link qualified families with services to help them overcome those obstacles. While HAP provides the funds for a stable housing situation, the Private Industry Council, Portland Community College, and Mount Hood Community College will involve the families in job training and counseling programs and offer job referrals. Operation Bootstrap will be instrumental in helping to break the cycle of homelessness, as homeless families and those with special needs will be referred to the program through helping agencies such as Portland Impact, Bradley Angle House, and Human Solutions. The local program will be coordinated by the Neighborhood Revitalization Management Panel, which will appoint a task force to develop a detailed action plan to implement the services. HAP's partners at the Multnomah County Community Development Division will provide staff support to Operation Bootstrap to enable the program to serve needy families in East Multnomah County.

"Operation Bootstrap provides a "whole person" approach to solving the problem of poverty," HAP Executive Director Don Clark says. "It pulls together all the partners in our community to work as one in helping people break out of the cycle and succeed." The imagination and creativity of HAP, the local HUD office, and the Operation Bootstrap partners played a large role in the success of the application. Nationally, this new program is still evolving, and HUD is looking to the local housing agencies to help develop the structure needed to build on the program for the next funding year. (For more information on Operation Bootstrap or any HAP housing program, please call Public Affairs Coordinator Carol Jelinek at 249-5514.)

ECCLESIA CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY

October 14 marked the first anniversary of the tragic death of 8-year-old Dayna Broussard. On that evening one year ago, Children's Services Division took 53 children into protective custody and sheltered many of them temporarily at Hillcrest and MacLaren Schools while recruiting additional foster homes. Of the 53 children, 40 still remain in foster homes. Their ages range from 1-15. Eleven children have been placed with relatives in California and two were reunited with their parents. Of the 40 children we continue to care for in foster placements, 6 children may be placed with relatives outside Oregon. We have 20 foster homes in four counties caring for the children. The total cost for their care was approximately \$545,000 as of July, 1989.

So far, the Clackamas Juvenile Court has conducted hearings on 15 families and 45 children. The court has found that all of the children need the protection of the state. Judge Robert Morgan will finish the hearing in late October. Judge Morgan will oversee the juvenile court proceedings for all 18 Ecclesia families. In addition, five adults affiliated with Ecclesia have been convicted of manslaughter or criminal mistreatment.

The children in CSD's custody attend public schools and have participated in a wide range of activities during the past year. Judge Morgan has required Children's Services Division to make monthly unsupervised group visits available for all of the children and families. Two of these group visits have taken place.

Some of the children continue to need mental health assistance. A prominent Portland child psychiatrist specializing in post-traumatic stress syndrome has volunteered to work with CSD staff supervising the care of the children.

Planning for the Ecclesia children remains focused at reuniting children and parents whenever possible, as soon as possible. Some progress has been made. Since late summer, parents have begun efforts to find work and establish households.



Commentary

New Leadership Needed in Portland

A funny thing happened to Portland on the way to this city being declared one of the "nation's most livable in the 1980's." Bud Clark was elected mayor in 1984. Portland's experiment with a tavern keeper as C.E.O. of a major metropolitan has developed flaws too numerous to count.

Considering his judgment on the city problems of budget, drugs, gangs, economic development and neighborhood revitalization, one could say Mayor Clark pours a very good mug of beer.

Webster's new word Thesaurus defines leadership as administration, effectiveness initiative, foresight and influence, among others. In evaluating the role the mayor has played in regards to the aforementioned, one could easily conclude that this city needs new leadership.

As mentioned numerous times before in this publication, gangs and drugs gained prominence in Portland only after the mayor's office ignored its own police intelligence, who working in close liaison with the Los Angeles and Seattle police department, submitted a report about the potentially violent impact in Portland. But, as historically noted, because the initial impact would be in North/Northeast Portland, gangs and drugs became a low priority.

Factually speaking it took a heroic effort by several factions within the community, spearheaded by concerned parents to force the issues to be reclassified a top priority. Only then was a plan of action developed and implemented.

His neighborhood re-vitalization strategy was and remains in a complete state of shambles, and only since new life was injected into the plan by the community (spearheaded this time by Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods) do we see some resemblance of positive results.

Economic development for North/Northeast too remains a no show. If the mayor has one, it needs to be announced.

Oregon is fortunate to have a Governor who refused to succumb to hysteria and call out the National Guard as requested by Bud Clark.

His request for the military along with his lack of action on other Portland problems, point out one immediate need for this city: Portland needs new leadership!

Only then will this city be considered for its graceful role as a liveable city in the '90s.

Roy Jay/Mildred Schwab To Host Gala Benefit

Portland business entrepreneur, Roy Jay, has been tapped to host the second annual Oregon Women in Travel Fun 'N' Fund Raiser to benefit the Bradley-Angle house, a non-profit organization providing shelter and related services to battered women and their children.

The event "CASINO NIGHT" is scheduled for Saturday, November 11 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Airport/John Q. Hammon Trade Center. Donated prizes continue to flow in for the benefit from local businesses and corporations including a multitude of airline tickets from at least 3 major airlines, along with Hawaiian vacations, lodging and much more.

Mildred Schwab, former Portland city council woman, will be the co-host for the evening.

Admission is only \$15 each or \$25 for two. Tickets are available from most local travel agencies or Larry's Sports Center, Catalyst Book Store, American Express Travel Office or by writing Oregon Women in Travel, Box 8211, Portland, Oregon 97207. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Event organizers anticipate a record breaking overflow attendance at this year's event.

IFCC Seeks Black Male Actors for February Production

Director Rick Jones announces further auditions for THE MEETING, Jeff Stetson's powerful script about a fictional meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

Two black male actors between the ages of 25 and 40 are needed. Actors must be available for daytime matinees as well as evening performances. Auditions will be held at the IFCC, Monday October 23rd from 7-9 p.m. and are BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call Judy at 243-7930 to schedule a reading.

Senior Citizens and Pets - A Winning Combination

PORTLAND--Senior citizens who share their lives with pets live longer and are happier, according to a national survey.

Pets for People is a national campaign sponsored by the Ralston Purina Company, and is specifically designed to help seniors adopt pets from humane societies. The Oregon Humane Society participates in the program here in the Portland area. Pets for People covers adoption fees, initial veterinary care, a starter kit, and also pays for mandatory

spaying or neutering of the adopted animal if it has not already been sterilized. This program not only benefits people, but it puts shelter animals into loving homes.

Seniors interested in the Pets for People adoption program should contact the Oregon Humane Society at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., telephone 285-0641. The Oregon Humane Society is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Former Portland City Commissioner To Return

IT'S OFFICIAL: Charles Jordan, former Portland City Commissioner and Model Cities Director has informed Commissioner Mike Lindberg that he will accept the position of Superintendent of Portland's Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The Community and the Portland Observer welcome his return.

Monday's announcement puts an end to several weeks of speculation which arose, primarily, from uncertainty as to whether Mr. Jordan planned to run for Mayor in 1992. This issue seems to be resolved as does the question of the city's assumption of relocation costs; commissioner Dick Bogle has offered a compromise that is described as politically acceptable.

N/NE COMMUNITY CONDEMNS FIRING OF OLLIE SMITH



By Dan Bell

Friday October 12th members from N/N.E. Portland met at the King Facility to voice dissatisfaction over the abrupt firing of Oliver Smith (Ollie Smith) an aide to Mayor Bud Clark.

Smith a long time aide in the mayor's office had served as a liaison to the N/N.E. community since Clark's election in 1984.

A panel composed of citizens from various agencies within the N/N.E. community addressed the incident of Smith's dismissal with observations regarding Smith's capable facilitation of community concerns to city hall and that he participated in many community forums that addressed concerns of the residents of the inner-city.

Harold Williams, spokesperson for the Coalition of Black Men noted that as a liaison Smith helped to bridge the gap between city hall and the N/N.E. community. This gave the impression that Mayor Clark was concerned about the quality of service the city provided to the community. However with Smith's firing he concluded that this was not the case and that Clark had relied on erroneous information to make his decision.

Reverend Joe Hardie, President of the Albina Ministerial Alliance expressed confusion over the matter saying that this type of abuse has been faced by the black community for years. "It appears that blacks are the last hired and the first fired" He also commented that Smith served the community as a role model to the

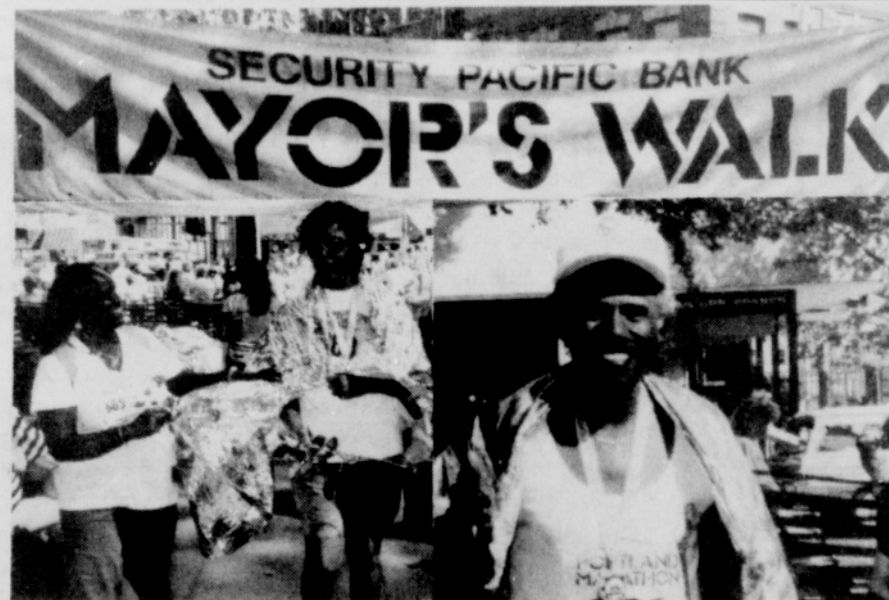
youth; That he was informative on all community issues; responded to the cry of the people without position; and he was accessible to the community on call. Reverend Hardie summarized that there were questions that needed to be answered. How will the Black community now access the mayor? What channels will be used for the black community to be heard with the same or equal representation offered by Ollie Smith? When can members in leadership roles in the N/N.E. Portland meet with the mayor concerning the plan on

restructuring and staff operations to help clarify the need for the dismissal of Ollie Smith?

The most strident criticism came from Ron Herndon, chairman of the Black United Front. Herndon directly assessed Dan Steffey, Chris Tobkin and Tim Gallagher for removing Smith. He singled out Steffey as being the prime mover in the dismissal of Steffey the Director of the Bureau of Community Development for the mayor's office. Herndon said that Steffey envisions himself as the "overseer" of the black community and that Ollie Smith refused to be an "Uncle Tom". Herndon stated further that Steffey administers an office that functions primarily on federal dollars, however there are no blacks in a decision-making position on his staff. There are over 1776 employees effected by the funds under the bureau auspices but blacks make less than 4% of the work force. Herndon said that Steffey exerts an undo amount of influence on the mayor and there was a question as to who is the real mayor in Portland. Herndon left open a suggestion that residents of N/N.E. Portland should consider withdrawing their support if present conditions persist.

According to the Oregonian Bud Clark read a prepared statement outside his office replying to the panels statements. "The accusations are so outrageous that they cannot stand uncorrected. My staff and Dan Steffey in particular were accused of promoting racism within my office. Frankly I am having a hard time understanding the motivations behind these accusations.

Tim Gallagher, Clark's executive assistant indicated to the press that Clark will not reconsider the decision to fire Smith.



Queenie Samuel (left) congratulates Geneva and Paul Knawis as they crossed the finish line doing the First Annual Mayors Walk-A-Thon held on Sunday, Sept. 24, 1989. The course covered 26.2 miles through the Greater Portland Metro Area.

New Location Portland Observer
4747 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211

NABSE National Alliance of Black School Educators 17th Annual Conference

The National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) 1989 conference will be held November 15th-19th in Portland, Oregon. The Portland Hilton will serve as the main headquarters.

NABSE currently has members in 40 states as well as Canada, Great Britain, West Germany, and the Caribbean. membership includes superintendents, administrators, curriculum specialists, and teachers who serve in institutions of learning throughout the nation. 2,000 African-American educators are expected to attend.

Dr. Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, and Dr. Ernest Hartzog, Assistant Superintendent of Portland Public Schools and former NABSE president, serve as the Honorary Chair and co-Chair of the conference.

Portland Public School's African-American Baseline Essays and the original model of Effective Schools Research formulated by the late Dr. Ron Edmonds predicate NABSE's 17th annual conference theme: African-American History and Life.