

PORTLAND OBSERVER

You Can Make A Difference!

by Professor McKinley Burt

That was the title of a community 'Crack' seminar held Saturday at Allen Temple Methodist Church, N.E. Eighth at Skidmore. The all-day enclave was well attended and featured speakers from a cross section of organizations dedicated to the 'fight against drugs and related crime in the Near Northeast'.

Observers were "very impressed" with the caliber and range of the facilitators who led critical discussions of the crucial problems facing the area. There were over twenty speakers, making it impossible to cite them all, but we are able to say that among the organizations represented were the NAACP (Robert Phillips), The Ministry (Reverend Philip Nelson, Allen Temple), Congress (Honorable Ronald Wyden), Portland Police, Crime Prevention Unit (Tom Potter), City Commissioners (Bob Koch), House of Umoja (Lorenzo Poe), CODA (Dennis Donin), Northeast Health Resource Center (Aleem Shabazz), The Muslim Community (Iman Mikal Shabazz).

The topic explored by Representative Wyden was "Plans/Commitment for the Future," and the audience framed their questions within this context. He recited his continued and expanded support for PIVOT, the family training and support program that Wyden was instrumental in securing for Portland this summer (The acronym is for Partners In Vocational Opportunity Training).

The Project is a Job Corp format, with such partners as the Department of Labor (\$250,000), and the Portland School District. Ms. Anna Street, formerly with the City of Portland, heads the new program. The program is directed toward the preservation and enhancement of the family structure, providing viable skills for parent-couples. On-site childcare is furnished.

Overall sponsorship was by the "Portland Crack Task Force". The well organized format of the conference greatly facilitated the development of clearly defined issues, enabling the participants to gain precise input needed to structure their responses to critical situations. Speakers were generous with time allotted for the exchange of questions and answers, and participants seemed well satisfied with the information and orientation they received.

Key topics addressed by the panel included Recognition of the Addict, Legal Issues, Infant Addiction, Peer Pressure and Drug Use, The Black Family, Where Do We Go From Here, Crack History and Treatment, Plans/Commitment for the Future, AIDS, and so forth. A very useful package of relevant materials was given to each participant, while time and material support was received from grocers and other vendors and individuals as well.



Congressman Ron Wyden

SAY NO TO DRUGS!



Charles Jordan was very definitive at his Friday press conference held at the downtown Tom McCall restaurant. The audience numbered about thirty press, TV, city employees and friends. He fielded the many questions with aplomb, decisiveness, and humor.

Mr. Jordan was adept at returning his interviewers to the matter at hand (city parks) when the questions were designed to generate speculation somewhat far afield: "I'm staying with my own priorities -- I'm not concerned with the problems of other bureaus." The expected questions about the possible length of his tenure in the role of Park Commissioner brought quick and frank responses; "I can't say that it is unconditional I won't run for Mayor next time around, and further, "I believe in maintaining one's marketability -- every five years or so I conduct a job search toward that end."

Among those "priorities," Jordan pledged to make Portland's parks the very best in the country, seeking corporate support to supplement tax-generated revenues. In this context he cited a need for \$90 million to fund deferred maintenance, restoration projects, and much needed safety measures. A firm, continuing interest was expressed in the important Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (his support was a key factor in the formation of this complex).

Throughout the interview Mr. Jordan was extremely upbeat, expressing a firm commitment to park projects, and introducing a number of new ideas. "It is a lot more than fun and games. It is about recreation and health. It is about economics, and about making the city parks a safe and enjoyable place for the public to enjoy -- with emphasis on the youth and the elderly. I plan to accomplish these things with an efficient expenditure of funds."

Urban League of Portland Appoints Search Committee

The Urban League of Portland Board of Directors has appointed a Search Committee to recruit its next Chief Executive.

"We are fortunate to have the expertise of individuals, who combined have more than 40 years of personnel experience, to lead our efforts in the search process," commented Lou Boston, Chair of the Urban Board of Directors.

Committee members include Linda Torrence, Chair and Vice President of Marketing Communications for The Private Industry Council, Samuel Brooks, President of S. Brooks and Associates, Inc., a Portland-based Employment Recruiting and Search firm and committee co-chair, Harry Glickman, President of Portland Trailblazers, Tom Kelley, Human Resources Director for Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan, and Donnie Griffin, Community Affairs/Corporate Communications Director for U.S. West Communications. All except Sam Brooks are Urban League of Portland board members.

According to Mr. Boston, the Board's goal is to have a CEO in place by late-January.

The committee will conduct a national search and strongly encourage local interested individuals to apply. Inquires and applications should be sent to 3575 N.E. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97232, (503) 284-7930.

Three Renowned Individuals To Be At National Urban League's Equal Opportunity Day Dinner

A proponent in the research for AIDS and cancer, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, and the founder of the National Urban League Guild will be honored Wednesday, November 8 at 6 p.m. at the League's Equal Opportunity Day Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton Hotel in New York City.

The dinner, the League's major fundraising event, honors citizens who are -- in Lincoln's words -- "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" and who have made significant accomplishments toward making that goal a reality.

Dr. Mathilde Krim, founder and co-chair of the American Foundation for AIDS Research; Edgar M. Bronfman, Sr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons; and Mollie Moon, President of the National Urban League Guild, are the honorees at the dinner.

Dr. Krim is being honored for her pioneering work in AIDS and for her research in cancer as well as her long-time support of the National Urban League. Mr. Bronfman will be honored in appreciation for an in recognition of his contributions to equal opportunity for all Americans.

Mrs. Moon, president of the Guild since its inception and who chairs the gala Beaux Arts Ball each year, will be honored for her lifelong commitment to the League and the Guild.

Both Dr. Krim and Mrs. Moon are also former members of the National Urban League Board of Trustees.

The dinner which is held each year on or near the actual date of the Gettysburg Address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln is chaired this year by Charles S. Sanford, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Bankers Trust Company.

Singer and actress Ethel Beatty-Barnes will be the featured guest artist at the dinner, which annually draws a cross section of corporate and business people as well as prominent individuals in the arts and the community.

Ms. Barnes, a native of New York City, is a soprano with many singing credits which includes performing with Gene Dunlap, Roy Ayers, Stephanie Mills, George Benson, Billy Ocean and Jonathan Butler.

Ms. Barnes has also appeared in the Broadway productions of "Dreamgirls," "Eubie," and the original cast of "Bubbling Brown Sugar." A popular singer on the local New York City night club circuit, Ms. Barnes is sought after as a vocalist for commercials and voice overs.

The League, founded in 1910, has as its President and chief Executive Officer, John E. Jacob. Robert C. Larson, President, The Taubman Company, Bloomfield Hills, MI is Chairman of the League's Board of Trustees.

For ticket information to the dinner, call Mildred Hall at (212) 310-9019.

Nigerian Ambassador Visits Portland



Ahaji Hamzat Ahadu

Photo: Bob Ellis/The Oregonian

His excellency Ahaji Hamzat Ahadu, Ambassador of Nigeria, West Africa's English-speaking giant of 107 million people, arrived in Portland Thursday night. His visit was under the auspices of the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department.

A reception and press conference was held Friday, 10:00 A.M., at the office of Mayor Clark who stated that he very much wanted to promote a "Sister City" relationship with Lagos, the capital of the country. Mr. Ahadu, who was accompanied by a staff of a dozen people, was very explicit in announcing the purposes of his visit: "to explore economic opportunities, to assess investment possibilities, and to establish business ties," the Ambassador is every bit that, a personable, articulate, and knowledgeable representative of his country.

Nigeria's principal cash export is crude oil, while major crops are cocoa, palm oil, peanuts, cotton and soy beans. The official language is English, and the major religious groups are Moslem (47% in north), and Christian (34% in south). Evidence of U.S. -- Nigerian economic cooperation was seen here in Portland in the fall of 1987 when two major architectural firms completed final plans for a \$28 million office complex for Gulf-Chevron in Lagos -- the local firm of Grube Hall Architects and the Nigerian firm of FMA Architects.

The Ambassador was in town until Sunday, finding time for making valuable contacts, sightseeing and a dinner in his honor. Several participants hoped that "enterprising Blacks will take him up on his offer to 'enhance trade possibilities.'"

MLK Jr. Blvd. Undergoes Clean-Up

Tons of trash, blackberry vines and worn tires were hauled from properties along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. between Lombard and Broadway, Saturday, Oct. 28, as part of a cooperative nuisance abatement effort involving public agencies, private businesses, and community volunteers.

City Commissioner Dick Bogle conceived the King Blvd. project in July when a representative of the Oregon Air National Guard called to say volunteers could be made available to help with community clean-up efforts.

Bogle contacted Margaret Mahoney, manager of the city's Bureau of Buildings, who appointed Greg Carlson, the bureau's housing services supervisor, as project manager. The idea was carried to the Northeast Coalition of Neighbors, where it met with enthusiastic approval.

David Knowles, Metro councilor

for Northeast Portland, offered to secure key services and equipment. As a result of his efforts, Riedel Waste Disposal Systems, Inc. will waive "tipping" (dumping) fees at a company-owned landfill; Waste Management, Inc. furnished 12 drop boxes, which were spaced along King Blvd., and Waste Recovery, Inc. disposed of the tires.

Gregg Holbrook, owner of two Popeye's Chicken outlets on King Blvd., agreed to furnish meals for the more than 80 volunteers drawn from the Oregon Air National Guard, the Oregon (Army) National Guard, community service groups, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Bogle said he expects the clean-up effort to make a "substantial improvement" in the appearance of King Blvd. He said the city's building inspectors have cited approximately 40 properties for nuisance violations along the 39-

block corridor.

Those properties have been posted, and their owners ordered to initiate their own clean-up efforts. Those who have failed to comply by Friday will be assessed civil penalties of \$200 each, and will pay costs involved in Saturday's project.

"We're talking mostly about trash and debris on vacant lots, overgrown vegetation, and discarded tires," Bogle said, adding that "some of the more serious contributors to visual blight will be dealt with through another, longer process."

Bogle called the clean-up of King Blvd. "vital to the spirit of livability" in inner Northeast neighborhoods.

"In the past, this street has stood for hopelessness and decay," he said. "Now, with the Convention Center nearing completion, we need to make the street stand as a symbol of hope and renewal."

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