

# PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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## Local Black Organizations Declare Boycott of Portland Public Schools

Public reacts by asking, is poor education fault of schools or families?

BY ANGELIQUE SANDERS

Black United Front's Ron Herndon is leading disadvantaged communities in a war against Portland Public Schools, using an organized boycott as ammunition.

Thirteen local black organizations joined with the United Front, complaining that—while test scores reflect improvement of minorities' education, it is still not nearly the educational equivalent of "advantaged" groups, and that occasional one-day boycotts of PPS are merited.

"If somebody tells you this is acceptable progress," said Herndon in a press conference on Monday, "then these kids don't have a chance."

A statement issued by BUF states, "The majority of students in North-Northeast Portland are currently receiving an education that will not prepare them to be competitive, productive citizens in this increasingly complex, technological world. Few will be able to read with the comprehension, or write with the skill, demanded by business, and fewer still will possess the critical math and science skills sorely needed by industries of tomorrow."

Announcer for KGW 620 radio Joe Uris on Monday said, in an interview with Herndon, said of him, "he has dropped a virtual bombshell on Portland."

But Herndon's arguments are not new. On October third of 1989, he sent a letter to Stephen Griffith of Portland's

tatives of the aforementioned thirteen community groups. Receiving no response ("I'm disappointed with the school

land's school board has still not responded.

The actual boycott dates have not yet been arranged (though are planned to commence in February), but will be discussed in a public meeting on Thursday, December 13, 7:00 p.m., at 1627 N.E. Alberta. Herndon presumes at this point that alternative sights will be set up for children, on boycott dates.

Herndon and BUF are backed by Albina Ministerial Alliance, American Friends Service Committee, Black Educational Center, Black United Fund of Oregon, Coalition of Black Men, Muslim Mosque Inc., NAACP, National Association of Blacks in the Criminal Justice System, North/Northeast Business Booster, North/Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Oregon Association of Black Entrepreneurs, Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and Urban League.

This, however, may not be enough. Public reaction has been strong, and the tide has been running against the organizations' stance. This is a crucial time for the boycott: within the next week (or as soon as the issue has been clarified, and the public delivers its decision), the movement will likely either gain momentum or be snuffed out entirely.

A reporter confronted Herndon

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Ron Herndon

Ron Herndon, boycott spokesperson, on quality of education: "If somebody can tell me the school system is good, why, I've got a bridge to sell you!...It's very predictable what's going to happen: you will see worse."

school board, requesting an informal meeting with him to discuss a twelve-point reform plan. The letter was signed by Herndon, and endorsed by represen-

board," he shrugs), Herndon eventually managed to assemble two meetings with other members of the board, presenting his reform plan. At this point, Port-

## Portland Officer Finalist For Job of Police Chief



Lt. Charles Moose

Lt. Charles Moose, the Portland Police Bureau's only black lieutenant, is one of three finalist for the job of police chief in Jackson, Mississippi.

Moose, 37, is coordinating public safety resources as part of Portland's revitalization efforts in north Precinct. He has been a member of the police bureau for 15 years.

Jean S. Shaw, operations coordinator in the Jackson Mississippi, mayor's office, said Moose and two other finalist were chosen from among 80 applicants in a nationwide search. The Jackson Police chief retired in september.

Shaw and another city official were in Portland on Monday talking with community members and city officials about Moose. Jackson officials expect to name a new chief in early January.

If Moose is selected for the position, he would be that city's first black police chief. Jackson's acting chief, however, is black.

Moose said Monday that applying for the Jackson chiefs spot was simply "a great opportunity," and did not mean that he was unhappy in the Portland Police Bureau.

Involved with Portland's efforts to phase in community policing, Moose said that same approach to law enforcement would be his "style" in Jackson.

Jackson has a population of about 208,000. The Jackson Police department has 550 members, 360 of whom are sworn officers. The department's annual budget is about \$18 million.

## Governor to Deliver Farewell Address

On Friday, December 14, Neil Goldschmidt will deliver his farewell address as Governor. The speech will be before the Portland City Club luncheon, which begins at 12:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth, in downtown Portland.

The speech will include the Governor's personal impressions of the changes Oregon has seen in the last four years, and of the choices the state faces in the 1990s.

The students and staff of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Learning Center would like to invite you and yours to a celebration of life.

Tuesday, December 18, 1990, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saint Andrew Church Gymnasium, 806 N.E. Alberta

Hosted by: Mrs. Joyce Harris and Dr. Darryl S. Tukufu

Come together as a community to give thanks and enjoy the blessing of living.

The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Learning Center is a program component of the Urban League of Portland's Education and Career Development Center.

## Commissioner Bogle Visits With Students from "I Have a Dream Foundation"



Soul Santa Claus, City Commissioner Dick Bogle, chats with students from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School about their Christmas wishes. Some of the wishes ranged from peace in the Middle East to better food in the school lunch room. The students are part of the "I Have a Dream Foundation," a program which adopted a fifth grade class and guaranteed them a college education should they finish high school. The event took place at the Meier & Frank store last weekend.

Photo by Veronica Green

## The Essays! More Attacks and Support

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

We do not necessarily end this series on a grim note. The reviews are mixed. Last week my article was seen to highlight a continuing dichotomy of reaction to the Baseline Essays within the staff of the Oregonian newspaper. We find the same situation in the "Letters from Readers" section; the same when examining eastern newspapers.

There is a wide range of reader response. One very sensible writer comments, "Not having read the Baseline Essays to which Duin [columnist] refers, I cannot attest to their veracity, or lack thereof." But he goes on to state that to which he can attest very well: "Until people like Duin are able to admit the white middle class complicity in the segregationist attitudes that tear our schools apart, the integration of ethnic perspectives for which he pleads will have no chance to become reality."

Under the heading "Essays An Insult", another writer responds, "Much of the book is based on the indefensible premise that ancient Egypt was a black nation—such supposed facts as the possession of airplanes by the ancient Egyptians." Last week we admitted that

among the noted and respected consultants employed, ONE bad penny had been allowed to enter the process. He of course is quoted, "The Egyptians used their early planes for travel, expeditions and recreation." You know, it occurs that the fellow could have been a "plant"—with an obvious mission. But, again, that does not in any way reflect adversely upon the rest.

In reference to the color/ethnicity of the Ancient Egyptians, I have only to look up at my library shelves of many scores of texts on ancient Egypt by white, established historians of international repute (I have the black scholars' too, but I am making a point): "Red Land, Black Land (Barbara Mertz), Egypt the Black Land (Paul Jorday), A History of Egypt (Breasted), Eternal Egypt, Everyday Life in Egypt (Pierre Montet), The Ancient Egyptians (Wilkinson), Black Athena (Martin Bernal), The Africans (Maruzi), Ancient Egypt (Time-Life Books), and an ad infinitum (not counting Greek testimony).

Neither the narratives or the illustrations leave any doubt that were these people IN AMERICA TODAY, they would need the following assistance to survive: VOTER'S REGISTRATION

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