

Hope And Hard Work

The Black United Front began its Hope and Hard Work Campaign to focus attention on community safety and quality in June of 1992. The campaign to reclaim our neighborhoods began by designating abandoned and neglected properties as "Eyesores of the Week." The fourplex located at 4941-4947 NE Garfield was targeted due to unsafe and deteriorating conditions. This property was owned by Don Robbins and the Better Housing Trust Corporation.

The Front held its first press conference in the backyard of the property. Front co-chair Ron Herndon and Richard Brown removed the doors of an old refrigerator which posed a safety threat to neighborhood children. The garage was filled with old mattresses and appeared to be structurally unsound. The Front issued an ultimatum to Robbins, remove the hazards and garbage within one week or his home would be picketed. Several days later the garage was demolished and the garbage and refrigerator were removed. Over thirty tires and uncut, littered grass remained. This prompted Front members to meet with Robbins at his home to discuss this property and Better Housing's other properties. After reviewing Better Housing's agreements with several of its tenants, the Front concluded that Robbins' group was nothing more than

a modern day sharecropping arrangement that exploited poor people. The Front contacted the State Attorney General's office and requested an investigation of Robbins' Contracts with tenants.

Today's announcement that Better Housing Trust is out of business and the properties will be turned over to the Portland Development Commission is a victory for this community. The Hope and Hard Work Campaign began with the belief that we could make a change in our community. The conditions and behavior of landlords and tenants that create a breeding ground for crime will only exist if we do nothing. We will continue to aggressively target the individuals who willfully deprive us of a safe and livable community through their deliberate neglect of property and callous disregard for the residents of Northeast Portland. Through the Hope and Hard Work Campaign we have shown that by working together with residents, police, city agencies and neighborhood groups we can get rid of abandoned cars, garbage, deteriorated and abandoned buildings...and bad landlords. The Black United Front holds weekly Hope and Hard Work meetings at 7 p.m. every Thursday at Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church located at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.

Safe Child Foundation's B.U.K.L. Program Expanded To Include All Of Oregon

The Safe Child Foundation is expanding its Buckle Up Kids for Life (B.U.K.L.) program statewide.

Successfully launched in Marion County last summer, B.U.K.L. provides low-income, pre-qualified Oregon families with gift certificates to purchase new child car safety seats at a significant discount. The program is a cooperative effort between the Safe Child Foundation, Fred Meyer, national car seat manufacturer Cosco, and state and local public health agencies. Most counties in Oregon are participating in the program.

"Car safety seats are expensive, and as a result, some low-income families perceive them as optional safety equipment," said Safe Child Foundation president James Hensel. "B.U.K.L. eases the cost burden, and we get more car seats into the low income community."

Through B.U.K.L., qualified low income families receive gift certificates enabling them to purchase \$65 Cosco car safety seats at Fred Meyer stores for \$20. The Safe Child Foundation pays the difference. The Oregon Health Division and local health departments qualify low income families based on existing

criteria. Health officials distribute the gift certificates and educate recipients in the proper use of the car seats. Hensel expects to provide 600 Oregon families with gift certificates this year. He hopes to make another 1,500 car seats available in 1993.

"Nationwide, car crashes are the leading cause of death for children under the age of four," Hensel observed. "This program is designed to save lives."

B.U.K.L. is supported in 1992 by a \$10,000 grant from the Collins Foundation and \$2,000 from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Other financial sponsors include Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oregon, Capital Health Care System, Farmers Insurance Group, First Interstate Bank Charitable Foundation, Kiwanis of Oregon and State Farm Insurance. Sponsors to date for 1993 include the Carpenter Foundation, the Jackson Foundation, the Rose E. Tucker Trust and the Portland Group, Inc.

The Safe Child Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Portland, established to provide programs and services geared at making Oregon a safer place for children.

HSCO Responds To Governor's Budget(s)

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), a statewide advocacy group made up of more than 2000 organizations and individuals, responded today to Governor Roberts budget proposals. According to John Mullin, HSCO Co-Chair: "the budget clearly demonstrates the needs for tax reform in Oregon. In submitting three separate budgets, the Governor pointed out critical problem areas. However, even the most optimistic budget scenario fails to deal with some of the major issues she has identified."

Some startling examples include:

- Within Children Services Division, 2,769 teenagers with behavior problems or who have been neglected will not be served
- 210 State Mental Health hospital beds will be eliminated. 128 of those beds will be transferred to community services programs, where existing services will be cut for 832 individuals now served
- Over 3,000 seniors and younger disabled persons will lose long term care or cash assistance; in some cases they will lose medical care as well
- 575 physically and developmentally disabled people will lose their em-

ployment

The most optimistic budget scenario is based on the legislature adopting increases in specific taxes-beer, wine, and cigarettes-initiatives which, according to HSCO, the Legislature has heretofore been unwilling to consider. And while the coalition is willing to support increases, they note that these increases are inadequate in the face of a huge revenue gap. In addition, the final piece of the "recommended" budget would be legislative and voter approval of a tax package to offset proposed cuts in education.

According to Mullin, the mandated budget-the budget based on available resources with no revenue increases, "Magnifies the stress and disorder in the social service system. Under this scenario thousands of Oregonians will be cut off from essential services in human resource, education and other vital areas."

Co-Chair Sandra J. Millius adds: "The Governor has laid the case before the citizens of Oregon and their legislative representatives. She has plainly outlined the problems and choices. It is now up to the legislature."

Creed Of The Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

*15 Shopping Days
until Christmas
&
Only two more
weeks to advertise
your stocking stuffers*



Visibly Committed



The work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America, the National Urban League, and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is essential to the communities they serve. That's why R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is committed to their continued growth. No where is this support more visible than in the R.J. Reynolds Public Service Billboard Program.

This program makes available to these organizations hundreds of high visibility locations in dozens of cities coast to coast.

As a result, more awareness is focused on the vital community development work they carry out.

This is just one of the many ways R.J. Reynolds, in cooperation with numerous billboard companies, is demonstrating its longstanding commitment to African-American progress.

A working commitment that is working for all of us.

RJ Reynolds
Tobacco Company

New Alliance Party To Hold Statewide Convention

The New Alliance party received over 92,000 votes in Oregon for its candidates--Dr. Lenora Fulani (President), Sarah Lyons (Secretary of State) and Rose Marie Borchers (Treasurer). With these results, the party exceeded the requirements to qualify for permanent ballot status and is now the only progressive independent party on Oregon's ballot.

The New Alliance Party invites everyone to come to its convention and learn more about "the ballot" that Malcolm X spoke of and to help build progressive independent politics in this state and country. The statewide convention will be held on Saturday, December 12, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth

**ANNOUNCING-
A FREE
CHRISTMAS HAIRCUT
for Boys & Girls!
Professional
Haircuts!
Monday, DEC. 21st
10:00am-3:00pm**

*** First come,
First served.**

*** Ages 16 & under**

at
**The Salvation Army
Moore St. Corps
Community Center
5430 N. Moore**

**call 282-2571
for information**



The Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.