

Where Are The Street Sweepers For North/Northeast?

The streets of North and Northeast are not maintained and kept as clean as they are in Northwest, Southwest Portland.

In North and the Northeast part of the city, you can see some of the streets appear as though they have not been cleaned for months. There are old abandoned cars sitting on the streets and debris is scattered around indicating that these cars have been sitting abandoned for quite some time.

The police will drive by as though they do not see these old abandoned cars and trucks parked. Shouldn't they make an effort to call the parking patrol and report these incidents while they are patrolling these areas? Many people in the community think that they should and others think that they don't care because most of them probably don't live in the North and Northeast community. What do you think? You be

the judge of this situation.

It is inexcusable to allow this kind of thing to go on in our area. The property, and homeowners in these areas pay property taxes as do the people living in Southeast and Southwest, Portland. But, they do not seem to get the same services. Why is it that certain areas of our city are better maintained than others? Are not North and Northeast Portland part of the Rose City?

I have talked with several property owners, one in particular, about how often his street is cleaned by the sweeper. He stated that he has not seen the street sweeper since March of this year, six months, and it is now the middle of November. Summer has ended. I wonder how many times his street will be cleaned before the end of the year. How many times has your street been cleaned this year?

Would this be allowed to occur,

if this was a property owner in Northwest or Southwest Portland? I think not.

A City Ordinance passed some time ago that was suppose to take care of problems such as this. But, to this day the problems still exist. Why does it still exist. You be the judge once again.

The homeowners in North and Northeast Portland pay more property taxes than the people in the suburbs. Did you know this? I wonder why this is? According to research, this is going on all over the country in the inter cities.

Residents and citizens of North and Northeast Portland need to get involved in their communities. First, we need to ensure that we are doing everything to keep our own property maintained and that of our neighbors. Next call the Mayor's office and make her office aware of the conditions in your community. You will have to follow up on your complaint once it is filed to ensure that the problem is resolved.

If we work together in the com-

munity, we will be able to get this problem and other problems that may exist solved. There are laws or legislation's on the books that give us the same rights to expect the same services as John or Jane Doe in Northwest, or Southwest Portland. It is up to each of us to get involved in what is going on around us. Things do not change by themselves, people make things happen or can be the ones to bring about change. The law is on your side, so use it to make things better in your community.

If our street is subjected to cars traveling at high rates of speed, you can put a stop to this. You don't have to be bothered with this kind of nuisance. Contact the City about putting speed bumps on your streets which are meant to cause cars to slow down.

If you have a complaint regarding a nuisance in your community, write and let me know what it is (i.e. excess noise, street lights, traffic problems etc.). I will see if I can find out who you should talk to in order to get this problem solved.



by Omari Kenyatta J.D.

Fred Meyer's Strike Shows Grocers' True Colors

BY JAMES POSEY

I don't know if anyone else noticed but, during this recently concluded grocers' strike, Blacks seemed to have worked the cash registers at the checkout stands more than ever. From my observation from an outsider's point of view, Blacks, along with other minorities, worked as replacements in a number of positions dominated by white workers. You have to wonder where have all these Blacks been. Are they the same folks who grocers have historically contended they could not find? Are these the same Black workers who were previously identified as unqualified and unable to past the most basic skills test? Gee golly, what gives?

This strike makes it very clear that some employers can find qualified, capable African-American workers when it critically suits their purposes. Unfortunately, as a result of these crisis-inspired relationships, more than not, Blacks end up being used and abused in the process. For example, Black replacement workers are generally not able to get per-

manent jobs with benefits. To my understanding, they are now working at rates barely above the minimum wage with absolutely no benefits. That is just one of the negative consequences for the African-American community as a whole.

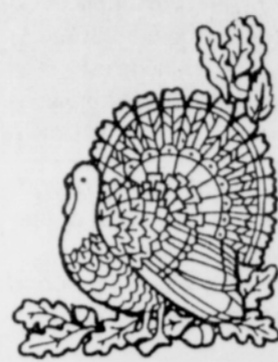
Sometimes I scare myself when I think so cynically. But the fact remains that this predicament of hiring Blacks as 'scabs' to replace primarily white workers is an old slave-era tactic designed to keep Blacks and poor whites at odds and in check. In the case of the strike, you would hope that in 1994, in a progressive city like Portland, this ain't happening. No way could the strike be sending the message of, "OK, if you white workers don't behave and get back in line, I'll replace you with those niggers."

No way, you say, could the strike be further heightening the fear that Blacks are trying to take white jobs, while projecting Blacks as the perpetual enemy. Some observers are sure this tactic is being used in other employment arenas like construction and in production-oriented manufacturing plants. Is it any wonder that

Blacks have become the permanent scapegoats for every imaginable evil present in our society, as in the recent child killing case in South Carolina.

To its credit before the strike, Fred Meyer seemed to be doing a much better job than its competitors in hiring representative numbers of Blacks in the stores located in and around the African-American community. Now that the strike is over, both union and management factions need to ensure that they don't return to the ridiculous under-representation of Blacks and other minorities. Besides silencing the cynics, this would help to reduce the chronic Black unemployment situation, which has always contributed to the high rate of crime. If for no other reason then the realization that crime adds to their security costs and lessens their profit margins. In other words, it makes damn good business sense to retain good numbers of Blacks in the work force. At the end of this strike, let's hope the grocers show "all colors."

James Posey is a small business owner with a background in social work and community activism.



Advertise In
The
Portland
Observer
Call
503-288-0033

The Women of
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.
Will Be Hosting A Social/Gathering
On December 3, 1994
At 3:00 p.m.

ZΦB is an organization which encourages the highest standards of scholarship through scientific, literary, cultural and educational programs; promote services projects on college campuses and in the community; foster sisterhood; and exemplify the ideal of finer womanhood.

For Further Details Please Call 281-8565
(Leave Message If No Answer)

Hope to see you there.



The Carpet Man

Carpet Sales/Installation

Owner: C. Haynes Brown

Beeper: 503/721-8350

RIGHT NOW

Carpet Sales/Installation

Owner: J. Olive

Beeper: 503/248-8790

- LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED
- QUALITY WORKMANSHIP/MATERIALS
- OFFERING COMPLETE INSTALLATION SERVICE/S
- COMBINED WORK EXPERIENCE OF OVER 40 YEARS

WE REWARD OUR CUSTOMERS

Office/Showroom We're seeking

5501 N.E. 30th Ave. to serve you

Portland, OR 97211 in a timely

(503) 335-0369 manner



FINANCIAL SERVICE AND LOAN \$ - FINANCIAL - HELP?

The A.F.M. Co. can arrange financing for most client in need of home equity, business, personal and also debt consolidation.

1-800-348-5565

Visibly Committed

Kids Drink In New Exhibits At Oregon Museums

Pepsi's "Rediscover the West" Admission Drive Stirs Family Stampede

Pepsi-Cola, long known for its ad campaigns centered on light-hearted themes of youth fun and family, has announced a plan to promote admission for youth at two nationally known Oregon museums. All kid-size Pepsi fountain drinks poured in Oregon this season will be served in 20 oz. special edition coupon cups trumpeting "Rediscover the West," a message promoting the Museum at Warm Springs and the High Desert Museum, in Bend. The coupons offer kids 5-12 free admission when accompanied by an adult.

Pepsi will distribute 1.2 million "Rediscover the West" cups statewide in November and December of this year. Pepsi encourages Oregonians of every stripe to visit the museums and educate their children on Oregon's cultural and natural history at a time when concern for education is at an all-time high. The cup features a Native American dancer, a gold miner and a golden eagle, with the coupons and a description of each museum on a background of royal blue.

"We are proud to help support these Oregon non-profit institutions

that provide such a valuable experience to visitors young and old," notes Pepsi Marketing Director Pat Duval of Bend, Oregon. "Celebrating our natural and cultural heritage is an important part of society today, and the future of these museums depends in large part on admissions. Boosting attendance is a high priority for them."

"The Changing Forest," a brand-new exhibit sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service at the High Desert Museum, explores the dynamics of High Desert ecosystems and the challenges in managing them for the future. The exhibit's indoor/outdoor displays feature viewing scopes, mystery boxes and movable scrolls to create a close-up experience with life in the forest. The museum's permanent exhibits bring to life the rich heritage of the Intermountain West through live animal and living history presentations, walk-through history dioramas, Native American artifacts and interactive trailside exhibits on nature and pioneer life.

The Museum at Warm Springs displays the Joe Fedderson Collection in its changing exhibit gallery through mid-December, featuring the

works in a variety of media by 27 Native American artists of 22 indigenous nations. Over the last fifteen years, Fedderson has built arguably the most avant-garde collection of art dealing with native American themes while teaching fine arts at The Evergreen State College.

The Museum at Warm Springs displays the art and artifacts of the confederated tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation as well as other indigenous nations. Using film and interactive displays to bring the art and culture of ancient peoples to life, The Museum at Warm Springs has achieved national prominence and received numerous awards.

Pepsi has long maintained a commitment to community involvement. "Supporting these museums is something that fits extremely well with Pepsi's commitment to giving back to the consumers who support us," adds Duval.

Oregon state Pepsi bottlers, many of which are locally owned and operated, have a long-standing commitment to community involvement which is reflected in a wide variety of on-going and short-term projects.



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

GAP Helps Warm Low-Income Families

To help low-income families stay warm this winter, Northwest Natural Gas Company is soliciting donations for the Gas Assistance Program (GAP). GAP funds are distributed throughout Northwest Natural's service area in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington and are used to help low-income people pay their heating bills.

Since its inception in 1982, GAP has collected \$2,250,869 from North-

west Natural Gas customers, employees, shareholders and others. Last year 1,816 households received \$159,901 in assistance.

"Every dollar given to GAP goes to those who need help," said Robert L. Ridgley, president and chief executive officer of northwest natural Gas Company. "Because of the generous support the program has received over the years, GAP has helped more than 29,000 households stay

warm during the winter."

GAP funds are collected by the United Way and then dispersed to community action agencies. Each applicant is screened by an agency to determine eligibility. Customers should look for the red and green envelopes in this month's gas bill in which to send in their tax-deductible donations. Others can send their donations to United Way/GAP, 619 S. W. 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205.