

Who should interpret America's Neighborhoods?

BY PROFESSOR. MCKINLEY BURT

It is all very well to say that such inquiries should be made by those most qualified to make such assessments. But isn't that quite like trying to justify the exploitation and enslavement of much of mankind by invoking that old expression of Darwin, "The Survival of the Fittest"?

Thoughts like these arise when you get rewarding responses from articles like last week's, "How Do You Measure Our Quality of Life?". Certainly, there was agreement across the board that "The quality of life (in a neighborhood) cannot be extrapolated from the U.S. Census or any marketing surveys. It lies in the reality and goodness of the people."

But inspired to move on to the

next step, detailing how these progressive citizens consistently are able to maintain a decent and rewarding way of life in spite of urban trauma and duress, I found myself reaching for a meaningful context for expressing neighborhood realities—as opposed to the standards and models by which the establishment demands we interpret our lives.

Most immediately, I am reminded of a situation at Portland State University when a black female student in a class of mine approached me with deep, wrenching sobs that would have moved the hardest heart-except one. It seems that her sociology professor, a man driven and possessed by the inner-city three-times—demanding a spin that would enable him to make the ethnic interpreta-

tions he wished his book the point is these circumstances are not uncommon across the land.

So it was this week that I was going to follow on that 'quality' assessment of the neighborhood citizens with a definite analysis of just how so many are able to achieve against the odds.

My approach was to be (and will be) to develop an innovative model which would indicate that those who are aware realize that there are more kinds of "capital" and resources available than the purely financial; there is social capital, education capital, and information capital, all of which can be put to productive use right here in the neighborhoods.

Because of spacial limitations, we may have to begin this phase next

week.

That is not all bad for I would further emphasize that there are two fundamentally different approaches to the analysis and assessment of America's Urban environs—the rural areas as well, but here we are interested in the establishment's evaluation structure of the so-called ghettos and boroughs. Let me begin by citing a book, "Interesting Environments" by Robert Musgeraver. If ever you suspected that there were two Americas, this book will validate your judgement.

Readers may remember my 4-part series on "Light Rail" that got attention beyond Portland. Some of my research involved the Urban Studies School of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a corre-

spondent there cited this book which details the actual philosophical and spiritual concepts that underwrote the colonialization of America. "Throughout the 15th and 16th century people believed that the time had come to renew the Christian World...America was to be the scene where the church would complete its work and Christ's second coming would occur."

Neither the Indian, the buffalo, or the harsh but profitable institution of African slavery was to be allowed to impede the development of this agrarian paradise with its theologically informed economy and politics.

As George Washington wrote to Lafayette about bringing in more Europeans, "Increase and multiply...

we have opened the fertile plains of the Ohio to the poor, the needy and the oppressed of the earth, anyone"?)

But already by the middle of the 19th century men like the renowned urbanologist, Frederick Law Olmstead who "... belonged to a group of liberal Protestant leaders who were in the forefront of the movement from formal religion to secular doctrine...urban reform," These were the new urban planners, "the landscape no longer recalls God through his creation".

The very unspiritual process of Urban Renewal is close at hand, an urban hierarchy is developing the structure for control of a powerless metropolitan mass. "American nature is seen...in the context of 'Manifest Destiny', of Europeans.

Portland roses in bloom

Spring sunshine brings tourists to Rose City

May is a splendid time to visit Portland's favorite tourist destinations.

From Forest Park to The Grotto, from Lake Oswego to the Columbia River, the city is ablaze with bloom. You'll see some of the most outstanding public gardens in the Northwest as well as hundreds of well-tended residential gardens.

Don't forget the camera. Begin your sightseeing with a drive through Portland's finest residential neighborhoods that sprawl across the slopes west of downtown. Handsome old homes with mature landscaping perch on winding streets that wrap around the hillsides.

In addition to seeing masses of rhododendrons and azaleas, you'll have commanding views of the city below, the Willamette River and snow-capped Mount Hood to the east.

Once you get the overall picture, focus on some of the city's public parks. Washington Park on Southwest Canyon Drive is the home of the zoo (known for its large breeding herd of Asian elephants), World Forestry Center and two of the city's finest public floral displays—the International Rose Test and Japanese gardens.

Rose Gardens

Dating to 1917, the Rose Test Garden—with more than 10,000 plants spread out over four acres of terraced hillside—is one of 23 All-America Rose Selection Testing Grounds. There are two smaller gardens—one honoring the Rose Festival's Royal Rosarians, the other containing roses of particular merit selected by the gardens.

Along Queen's Walk are the names of annual Rose Festival queens dating back to 1907, the first year of what has become the city's biggest annual event. This year's dates are May 29 to June 22. Directly above the rose gardens is the Japanese Garden, a masterpiece of traditional Japanese landscaping. Exquisite sculptures of sand, rock and water, plantings reflected in still ponds, arched bridges and pagodalike structures delight the

eye wherever you turn.

The garden is really five gardens in one; each has its own theme and mood. There's a flat garden, a sand and stone garden, a strolling pond garden replete with waterfalls and pools, a natural garden, and a tea garden with tile-roofed teahouse. With the slightest breeze, the sound of windbells accompanies your stroll.

At Hoyt Arboretum, which joins Washington Park with Forest Park, 10 miles of trails wind through the 175-acre preserve. Magnolias, flowering trees and native wildflowers put on a show through June. At the south end of the arboretum is the Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial, where a spiral walk leads up a hill past a black granite monument inscribed with the names of those who died or are missing in action.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden on Southeast 28th Avenue, across from Reed College, is ranked among the finest in the country. Within the seven-acre site are more than 2,500 rhododendrons, both species and hybrids. You'll also see firs, flowering cherries, Japanese maples, magnolias and weeping dogwood.

A bridge across the spring-fed lake leads to the Island Garden, where a cool-house building protects the more delicate species. You're apt to see recently hatched ducklings at the waterside feeding stations.

Crystal Springs is a good place to get some ideas for landscaping. Take along a notebook to write down the names of those varieties whose color and stature you like best.

Two other Portland area parks are worth a look. Lilacs will be at

their best this month at Duniway Park at Southwest Sixth and Southwest Sheridan streets.

Peninsula Park

The six-acre sunken rose garden at Peninsula Park, at North Albina Avenue and North Portland Boulevard, is the city's largest, with 14,000 bushes. Perched above the garden is a Victorian bandstand with balustraded brick stairways.

The Grotto at Northeast 85th Avenue and Sandy Boulevard is a 62-acre religious sanctuary in a tranquil forested setting open to the public. Centerpiece is Our Lady's Grotto, carved in 1925 from basalt in a 110-foot cliff wall.



Above the altar is a white marble replica of Michelangelo's Pieta. An elevator takes you to the top of the bluff for great panoramic views. Flower-lined pathways lead through the wooded grounds past reflecting ponds and more than a hundred statues and shrines. Rose beds front the handsome sandstone monastery built in 1936.

Guided tours of the grounds are available on request.

We like to stay in downtown Portland because it's a pedestrian-friendly area with a wide variety of activities. This time of year, the Willamette River, which borders the area on the east, is a lively place. Tom McCall Waterfront Park, a grassy expanse that stretches for two miles along the river, is a magnet for walkers, joggers, strollers and inline skaters all day long. Dragon boats are practicing for the big races that attract about 10,000 people and 70 teams and are a highlight of next month's Rose Festival. The 40-foot boats are built in Taiwan.

City residents have 'say' on budget cuts

Hearings give opportunity for comments

Editor's note: See related story on front page.

Mayor Vera Katz and city commissioners are providing citizens a forum to offer feedback on the mayor's proposed budget.

City Council hearings on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth, and Saturday at 10 a.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh, will give residents the opportunity to speak to the entire council.

Katz released her proposed budget last week in response to the need for cutbacks after the passage of the property tax limits imposed by Ballot Measure 47.

"Input is always crucial during every phase of a budget process," Katz said.

"We sponsored citizen forums earlier this year and the comments helped give me a sense of direction for this budget revision," Katz added. "I'm now looking forward to hearing the questions, observations or concerns residents have after seeing the proposal."

The mayor's new budget represents a required \$30 million reduction for the next fiscal year.

Among the budget reductions are a 7.3 percent cut to the police bureau, a 9.3 percent cut to the fire bureau and a 14.5 percent cut to Portland Parks and Recreation.

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Fred Meyer grows with acquisition

General merchandise retailer Fred Meyer Inc says it expects its proposed \$720 million acquisition of Smith's Food & Drug Centers Inc. will earn between \$3.12 and \$3.14 per share in 1998.

Fred Meyer chief administrative officer Ken Thrasher, also said the company will realize the majority of the \$65 million in savings it anticipates from the deal during 1998. "We expect about \$40 million in operational savings next year," he said. The savings will come mostly from the consolidation of administrative operations, he added.

Portland-based Fred Meyer, which sells food, jewelry, clothing and other items, said Monday it would buy supermarket chain Smith's in a stock deal that values Smith's shares at about \$44 each and gives the combined company 265 stores in 11 states.

Fred Meyer said it will exchange 1.5 shares of its common stock for each Smith's share in the deal. It also

said it would acquire about \$1.3 billion in Smith's debt, bringing its total debt after the deal to \$1.5 billion, according to Thrasher.

Fred Meyer expects to take an annual \$27.0 million pro forma pre-tax charge for about \$1.0 billion of Smith's goodwill, Thrasher said.

He also said that after the deal, Fred Meyer's annual tax rate will rise to between 42.0 and 42.5 percent from its current level of about 38.0 percent annually.

Robert Miller, Fred Meyer's chairman, said the company plans to upgrade Smith's non-food offering after it completes the transaction.

He also said the company has no immediate plans to close or change the names of any Smith's stores.

Both companies will continue to advertise separately in markets where they overlap, said Ronald Burkle, chief executive of Smith's and chairman of the new company. Those markets include Salt Lake City and Idaho, he said.

"Fred Meyer stores will continue to run their ads, Smith's will run their ads," Burkle said. "We really don't see any issues here."

According to Burkle, the companies do not foresee any problems obtaining regulatory approval for the transaction, which is expected to close in 90 days.

Both companies have said their boards have already approved the deal.

Arbitrage traders, however, said that much could happen in 90 days to thwart the transaction, such as the emergence of a higher bid for Smith's.

That pessimism has sent Fred Meyer's shares down 3/8 in early afternoon trading to 41-1/2.

Smith's shares, meanwhile, were up 2-5/8 at 42-5/8.

According to Thrasher, the companies will disclose in a forthcoming proxy statement to Smith's shareholders the value of a break-up fee should the deal not be completed.

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