

# How Much Capital In Our Neighborhoods?

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Last week we posed the question, "Who Should Interpret America's Neighborhoods?" But at the same time it was pretty well demonstrated that from the very beginning, America's Urban 'landscape' has been shaped by forces and philosophies far beyond the knowledge and understanding of most who would come to inhabit the metropolitan areas.

And we expressed doubt that these culture-Shaping forces could be, or would ever be objectively concerned with the "Quality of Life" of the residents, as opposed to their own power dynamic.

We saw that these compelling

influences began with the "Spiritual Concepts" of Europe's earliest colonizers, then moved to the "agrarian paradise" envisioned by America's Founding Fathers. And then as village became hamlet, become city, became neighborhoods (and ghetto), there arose the very secular doctrine of Urban Reform" (Olmstead, Robert Moses, et. al). The traumatic dislocations of Urban Renewal were to come.

The "landscape no longer recalls God through his creation", says professor of Urban Studies, R. Mugerauer (interpreting Environments, 1996). What has happened? Landscape has become Real Estate' to alternately developed, abandoned,

paved-over, or used to warehouse the "disadvantaged" our euphemism for racial minorities, mostly Black, hispanic.

The reader might very well inquire, "under these circumstances how can you introduce this concept of ordinary neighborhood people possessing 'capital', which is to say power?" I suggest that many of us blind ourselves to opportunity by becoming enslaved to establishment definitions.

Please note that in my May 7 article, "How Do You Measure The Quality of Life", I refer to specific areas where "we have "beautiful people doing things to enrich our less-than-wealthy existence." And

consider, now, Webster's definition of 'capital', "a stock of accumulated goods [or money] in contrast to income or wages received over a period of time; or accumulated goods devoted to the production of other goods" (according to Kart Marx or Stock Exchange).

Now the question becomes much more specific. How does the poorer ("disadvantaged") citizen find economic opportunity in a system where the conventional idea of capital is the 'financial' means of creating wealth -- usually by buying goods for one amount and selling them at a higher price, or by hiring employees to service clients who will be billed accordingly?

I strongly insist that the inner city resident whom we've come to know through these pages has much more than in terms of "capital" that can produce economic wealth and opportunity: Informational, educational, social and spiritual assets. This is the 'human capital' that can make a city, community or neighborhood work. So who, indeed, should be assigned the task of "interpreting America's Neighborhoods"?

Many of us believe - and have demonstrated - that with such capital in hand, we inner city dwellers need not be the economic captives of the establishment politicians and bureaucrats who seldom play to the

traditional strengths of the black community. We have notable examples of the economic leverage provided by "Information Capital". And that is all around us if we would but heed.

Now that we have identified the actors and the play in progress on an urban stage often called "The Geography of Nowhere", we can devote our attention to proven models of such citizen's capital being used every day by Northeast residents. Next week we continue with the 'Information' category, exploring an economy as rich and diversified as the community itself: grass roots. Rainbow, student, senior, caretaker and the cared-for, parent and grandparent.

## Police News:

### Police Investigate Homicide

On Tuesday, May 20, 1997, at approximately 9:40 a.m., Portland Police responded to the 5000 block on N.E. 26th Avenue regarding a shooting. Police arrived to discover Lonnie Gaston, male, black, 27 years of age, shot several times and lying on the sidewalk in front of a neighbors house. Gaston was transported to Emanuel Hospital where he was pronounced dead just prior to 12:00 noon today.

It is believed that the suspect, driving a blue American-made vehicle, drove up to the victim and called to him by name. The victim, who was standing outside of a residence, approached the suspects vehicle and was shot several times by a handgun. The suspect and vehicle departed southbound from the scene. The suspect is a black male. Investigators believe this shooting is gang-related.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to call Investigative-Sergeants Derek Anderson or Cheryl Kanzler, at 823-0400.

### Quick action saves life

On May 15, at 11:45 a.m., Multnomah County deputies were dispatched to N.E. Marine Drive and N.E. Blue Lake road. A car was in the gully and the driver had apparently suffered a heart attack. When Deputy Staton checked the driver, he could not find a pulse and the driver was not breathing. Sergeant Ingram arrived a few minutes later and both men pulled the driver from the car and began administering CPR. They were able to momentarily restore the victim's breathing and heart beat.

Deputy Stewart, a trained medical first responder, arrived on the scene at 11:50 a.m. and began using the defibrillator which some Sheriff's Deputies carry in their vehicles. He was able to restore the victim's heartbeat. Medics arrived and picked up CPR and care for the driver. Doctor's at Mt. Hood Medical credit the quick action by sheriff's deputies with saving the man's life.

Sheriff's Deputies are trained in CPR and Providence/St. Vincent Medi-

cal Foundation donated 10 portable defibrillators for our patrol vehicles. This is the first time, the MCSO has had an opportunity to use the defibrillators for a cardiac emergency.

According to Sergeant Dave Hadley, "This equipment provides us with advanced lifesaving skills which is an incredible benefit for our community. We are often the first emergency people to respond in unincorporated Multnomah County."

### Door-to-door Salesmen Scam

The Bureau of Water Works received a report of salesmen going door-to-door in the northwest Portland neighborhood of Kings Heights claiming a Water Bureau endorsement for a cleaning solvent. The salesmen told a homeowner that the Bureau included an ad or flyer in last month's water bill supporting the product. The homeowner also was concerned that the salesmen were accepting checks for merchandise to be delivered at a later time.

The Portland Water Bureau does not endorse commercial products and did not include an endorsement in its water bills for any product. We urge customers to use common sense when approached by salesmen and to consider carefully the claims made for any product.

### Shooting in Fairview

On 5/17/97 at approximately 9:00 p.m., officers responded to a shooting at 230 Lincoln St., Fairview. Upon arrival, officers found the body of Gabriel Herrera, a 17 year old. Herrera appeared to be the victim of a gunshot wound to the head.

Herrera's residence is 12209 SE Steele, Portland. The Multnomah County Major Crimes Team was activated and are investigating the events surrounding the shooting. At this time information from witnesses indicate the wound to Herrera was self-inflicted. Addition details will be available following the medical report.

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## Someone You Know Is An Oregon Lottery Winner!

Since the first Oregon Lottery ticket was sold in 1985, over \$1.3 billion in Lottery dollars have created hundreds of thousands of "winners" in communities throughout Oregon. Some of those winners are likely your friends and family. And many of them didn't even play!

It could be your neighbor who has a job at the new semiconductor plant in town. Just one of the thousands of jobs created throughout Oregon as a result of over \$150 million in Lottery funds used to create jobs and strengthen Oregon's economy.

Oregon's students - including your niece, grandchildren, or son - are getting a winning start on their future thanks to nearly \$250 million in Lottery

proceeds that are helping fund Oregon's public schools each year.

And your Aunt Rosie may be among the Oregon Lottery players who have won over \$11 billion in prizes since the Lottery began!

Take a look around. Someone you know has won with the Oregon Lottery.

Doing Good Things for Oregon

Promoted Products Internationally

Repaired Riversbanks to Protect Native Environment

Graduated

\$5,000 Winner

Expanded Business

Doubled Workforce With Business Expansion

Get Off Welfare With Job Training

Won \$1.87 Million

\$150 Winner

Won \$14,000

Expanded Client Base & Hired More Workers

Getting a Good Start With Public Education

Opened Own Business After Being Laid-off

\$1,000 Winner

Won \$10,000

Gained Research Facilities

\$10,000 Winner

Started Own Business

Studying for the Future

Won \$5,000

Received Specialized Training for New Business

Expanded Business & Doubled Number of Employees

Won \$2,500

\$7,500 Winner

Renovated Fish Hatchery

Won \$8.25 Million