

Payback

BY LEE PERLMAN

Corporations in the northeast Enterprise Zone have contributed \$3.4 million toward job training and workforce development.

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The money comes from "giveback" fund contributed by four firms - Wacker Siltronics, Oregon Steel, Northwest Pipe and the ANI America - that have located new facilities in the zone and have benefited from its property tax abatement provisions. In exchange for being excused from paying property taxes on the improvements they have made on their property, the four contribute funds to technical assistance for small businesses plus workforce development.

The city's Workforce Development Board will use the money award contracts to service providers to carry out job training and employment programs. The Northeast Jobs Committee and the North-Northeast Economic Development Alliance have proposed criteria for such contracts.

A key provision would give priority to "community-based organizations who give direct workforce development services to residents of North-northeast Portland, especially to residents of the Albina area neighborhoods." Jennie Portis, director of the Northeast Workforce Center and chair of the Jobs Committee, told a recent meeting of that group that in the past the phrase "northeast" had been used loosely to cover a wider-than-intended geographic area.

"I don't have anything against the people of Parkrose, but these funds were intended to deal with the problems of this community," she said.

She said she also felt that the funds

should go to groups located in and answerable to people in the service area, rather than large institutions.

Other provisions call for funds to "remain in the community," to be designed to "create or retain quality jobs," that contracts be "performance-based," and that they include provisions for "tracking" clients served over long periods of time.

The proposal also called for "multiple outreach methods" for recruiting clients. "This is the most culturally diverse community in the state," Portis said, and in terms of locating people looking for employment related help, "One size doesn't fit all. Believe me, the people are out there, they aren't working, and they're doing things that we'd probably prefer they weren't doing."

Yet another guideline called for "strong employer involvement in recruitment design and implementation."

In a related development, consultants Marcia Douglas Mary Schutten personnel look only at a resume, they might not consider an entry-level candidate with who line managers are willing to work."

"The concern is that if HR personnel look only at a resume, they might not consider an entry-level candidate with who line managers are willing to work."

Education For A New Century: Blacks Technology And Immigration IV

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

I follow on with my recital of the many innovative, curriculum-level technology resources that were developed by northeast Portland citizens in an effort to turn-around the tragic excuse for an education being received by their children - but were ignored or quickly abandoned by a racist school district cabal when it was discovered that these programs worked, and well!

As I continue listing these benchmarks which span a period of almost thirty years, keep in mind that I recited them all before a group of Beaverton businessmen last month - all of them members of my industry organization, "AOI" (Associated Oregon Industries).

Until now, they have heard only one side of the story, but there was general shock - and, at first, almost a palpable air of disbelief. However, my background is in industry as well as academia, so I speak their language. Well enough that two of

them not only gave me a ride home, but spent a couple of hours selecting and photo copying documentation. You know me, I've got three decades of education materials. We will see what, if anything, comes of this.

We closed last week with a description of "BEEP" (Boise Environmental Education Project), a wonderful combination of science, learning and motivation conceived and operated by two African American teachers. Written up in Ebony Magazine were Mrs Bobbie Nunn and Ms Claudia McDuffie. I had the privilege of serving on the board (1971).

The next technological benchmark I would mention is when in the early 1970's, I utilized my U.S. Forest Service contract (Affirmative Action) to lease Greyhound buses to take Northeast children and their parents for a two-day visit to the Wind River, Wn. Tree Nursery; the world's largest for Douglas firs.

I had ads run in the Portland Observer citing the opportunity for a free trip to a science and

environment-connected operation that would greatly enhance a young person's appreciation for both. The huge operation, vital to the forest industry of the Pacific Northwest, was supervised by a black horticulturist from famed Tuskegee University.

One would have thought that any school district in its right mind - and with a terrible record of educating black children - would have leaped at a chance to interact with a program that had hundreds of thousands of dollars in supporting resources. And, moreover, had demonstrated itself to be a tremendous motivating factor for both children and older youth.

New windows of opportunity were opened, all of which required an enlarged vision of skills and education required. Working at it part time from my faculty position at PSU. I had a real community - builder going - but not for this school district which always seemed to have the posture, "such stuff is for white kids". How many young black

minds have withered? how many unmotivated black bodies have lain in the streets? Who are the murderers?

But we need not go back 25 years to see this psyche-crushing machine at work; lets talk about page c 4 of the 2/25/98 edition of the Portland Observer (Black History Month). A full half-page highlights Benson High School graduate, Thomas (Don) Rutherford, P.E.; "Engineering The Spruce Goose."

Not a word of recognition from his school for the man who designed the engine controls for the most publicized plane in aviation history (My neighbor says, "and there was none from our daily newspaper"). At a parent's meeting a mother rose to declare, "if he'd been a white graduate of Benson's class of '32 they'd have his name ringing like a bell. The school district would be in the act."

Additional material will be presented next week. This is more than a pattern, it is a racist process.

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Portland's University Park Neighborhood in conflict over Expanding Institution

CONTINUED FROM METRO school's growth boundary further into the residential neighborhood, and permission to install a new parking facility on North Portsmouth Street.

Kuffner says that four years of operation have shown where the plan isn't working, and needs updating.

In addition to the matter of the neighborhood plan, Butman fears that other issues will be ignored by what she sees as a single-issue board with only short-term interest in the community. Kirchmeier says he has been active in the neighborhood for some time, and participated in tree plantings and the Lombard Revitalization project. However, Butman says that Kirchmeier's first submission to Neighbors Between the Rivers, the peninsula-wide neighborhood newsletter, has been three public relations articles about U.P.

Kuffner says he acted in part because he saw the association's energy level dropping, with board vacancies unfilled. "I remember thinking, 'This thing is ready to dissolve,'" he says. Butman vehemently denies this, saying that there were alternate candidates for ev-

ery seat U.P. won.

The one point on which all agree is that the takeover, by itself, will not determine the fate of the proposed amendments. Neighborhood coordinator Tom Griffin-Vilade says, "It calls into question the veracity of the neighborhood association if its board is so heavily weighted in favor of a single interest."

Salvo adds, "If your neigh-

borhood isn't really functional anymore, you don't really need it and can go around it."

All very well, Solos says, but neighborhood associations get official notice of hearings and city activities, funds for printing and mailing, and free appeals of local land use decisions; all of this, he says, is controlled by U.P.

Butman says, "We could take (the association) back, we could from another group and compete for city recognition, but you know what? I'm tired. I've really worked hard for eight years and we're right back where we started. Most of us will find some other sandbox to play in."



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