

Black History Month



A 1960s photo of Black Panther chairman Bobby Seale (left), wearing a Colt .45 pistol, and Huey Newton, the militant organization's defense minister, with a bandoleer and shotgun.

Ex-Panthers Work to Preserve Legacy

(AP)—The sleek leather jacket, black beret and .45-caliber pistol Bobby Seale packed in the 1960s are gone now.

In their place, the former Black Panther Party chairman sports a denim shirt and, over his graying hair, a baseball cap emblazoned with "Bobbyqueseale.com"—the Web address for his barbecue cookbook. Now 66 and back in the city where the Panthers got their start, Seale still speaks passionately about the social revolution the group espoused.

And he's trying hard to influence how the Panthers—who captured the imagination of young blacks and scared many white Americans—are remembered by a new generation. But that's just one

of his projects.

If young people "really took a close look" at the Panthers' record, Seale says, "they'll be able to understand how they have to stand against all forms of discrimination."

The Panthers, founded by Seale and Huey Newton amid the turmoil of the 1960s, were a dramatic counterpoint to nonviolent civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. The rifle-toting group sparked fear and controversy when it began monitoring police brutality in mostly black neighborhoods by "patrolling the pigs."

The Panthers are often remembered for their gun fights with police, resulting in casualties among

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Northeast Displacement Stirs Passion



A Town Hall meeting follows the screening of "Northwest Passage," a story about housing issues in north and northeast Portland.



Michael Broussard says good jobs is key to keeping local residents from being displaced by high housing costs.

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But during the 90s the gang scare cooled down and rising costs elsewhere in Portland pushed first-time homeowners and young professionals into inner north and northeast neighborhoods.

"Gentrification is a reasonable and logical economic process," Millner said.

City Councilman Erik Sten reiterated the point that while the process may cause costs to rise, the negative effect of multiple vacancies and abandoned houses will wreak havoc on any neighborhood.

"You need people to move in and live in those houses," Sten said.

But as homeowners moved in and slumlords were pushed out,

the cost of housing rose.

Neighborhood groups like the Boise Neighborhood Association realized the importance of establishing low income and affordable housing.

The group was an advocate for renters and supported housing for the low-income market. But the policy presented another kind of problem. Some of the new housing developments led to increased drug dealing and gang activity.

The neighborhood association then changed direction, deciding to favor home ownership.

Panelist Sheila Holden said it was clear in the 80s that northeast Portland was "a diamond in the rough."

"It just needed to be polished as one of the gems of the city," she said.

Holden said displacement could

be offset by home ownership.

"That's where we need to get to," she said.

But Holden added that a lack of understanding or appreciation for the people that have called this community home for decades is undermining the potential for development without forced removal.

"We need to find the language and tools to manage development effectively," she said.

Audience members took it one step further to say that even before ownership in the community can be considered jobs must be secure.

Don Strong was laid off from his school district position as a custodian. He also came to the event to speak up in defense of secure employment as a means to home ownership.

"Where are our living wage jobs going?" he asked.

Strong had to sell his home in St. Johns after being laid off. He now rents in an area notorious for gang and drug activity.

Local resident Michael Broussard also showed up to say that without jobs home ownership is downright impossible.

"We need shelter," Broussard said. "It's up to the people of this city."

Even filmmaker Cornelius Swart said when he started making the film he thought the simple answer was to build more affordable housing.

"I soon realized that it's a lot more complicated than that," he said.

'Northeast Passage' will be re-played on Portland Cable Access Channel 30 on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. and on Monday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Budget Ax May Chop Commissions on Women, Minorities

continued ▲ from Front

co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

His committee will be the

first hurdle the commissions will face in next month's budget process.

Sen. Avel Gordly, one of the committee's 20 members, is a long-

time supporter of the four commissions. An African-American, she said the groups are largely misunderstood.

But even Gordly, D-Portland,

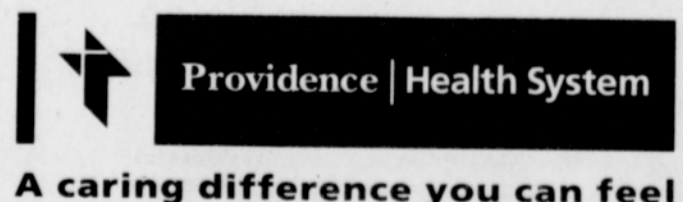
said she's prepared to dismantle the commissions if it comes down to choosing between them and medicine or housing for the very needy.

Dr. Ben Carson is the world-renowned director of pediatric neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, Maryland. He has pioneered techniques for separating conjoined twins and for stopping intractable seizures. • As NASA's first African American female astronaut, Dr. Mae Jemison helped conduct life science experiments aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour that were designed to help prepare humans for long-term space ventures. • In 1998, Dr. David Satcher became only the second person in history to hold simultaneously the positions of U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. • Dr. Samuel L. Kountz, Jr., developed a crucial technique for detecting and treating the body's rejection of transplanted kidneys. • A pioneer in cardiac surgery, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the first open-heart surgery in 1893 when he removed a knife from the heart of a stabbing victim. He also helped found a training school for nurses. • Dr. Louis T. Wright gained national acclaim as both a premier surgeon and a champion of equal rights. In 1919, he became the

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We salute the countless contributions that African Americans have made toward healthier lives for us all.

first African American doctor appointed to the staff of a municipal hospital in New York City. • Dr. Charles R. Drew's pioneering work in blood plasma research and in blood banking was responsible for saving innumerable lives during World War II. • Dr. Alexia Irene Canada became the first African American woman to be certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery. She has taught at several distinguished institutions. • One of America's most eminent biologists of the 20th century, Dr. Ernest E. Just wrote a book titled "The Biology of the Cell Surface" that contributed important insights into germ cells....



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