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Black Organizations Call High School Closures “Racist”

BUFF asks Community to “Challenge” School Board July 2

Ten Black Community organizations rebutted denial by Portland Public School Board officials that its expressed intention after two new board members are sworn in—to vote July 2 to close a second high school with high “minority” student concentration was racially motivated.

“If it’s not a racist move,” said Halim Rahsaan, a spokesperson for the National Business League (NBL) chapter, “then what about the population it affects?” he asked, rhetorically of the board’s decision it will close Adams high school after it replaces two members who refused to go along with the conservatives during earlier board hearings on school closures.

Following intense public hearings, preceded by a citizen committee report on school closure, a divided board voted in May to only close Washington-Monroe (W/M) high school. It had the third highest concentration of Black and other Third World students, including recent Southeast Asian refugees. District administrators said school closure is necessitated due to declining student enrollment. Three elementary school, with very low enrollments, will be closed between now and the end of the 1982 school year.

Community protest increased when the board focused high school closure only on the three high schools in the city with the first, second and third highest black student concentration: Jefferson, Adams and W/M, respectively.

“Again Black students and community are asked to carry the brunt of the board’s decisions requiring students to leave their neighborhoods,” said Ron Herndon, Co-Chairperson of the Portland Black United Front (BUFF). The BUFF has fought to prevent the board continued practice of closing schools in the Black community and thereby force Black children to attend “desegregated” schools in other schools and districts in or near the city.

Black community middle schools were either closed or converted to early childhood centers—for white parents who used the accelerated learning programs funded by federal dollars and returned their children to neighborhood schools afterwards—while Black middle school students, with no other choice, were assigned willy nilly to attend outlying white schools within the district and schools outside the district.

“We refused to tolerate putting Black kids on school buses to go all around this city helping other schools and districts get the federal dollars that follows the Black student,” said Herndon. “And this is bussing again, but this time of Black high school students.”

Besides the BUFF and the NBL, other Black community organizations who attended the joint press conference June 18, 1981, to protest the board’s recent decision were the NAACP, Portland OIC, Jefferson High School PTA, the Association of Black Social Workers, Albina Ministerial Alliance, and the N.E. Coalition of Neighborhoods.

Vesia Loving, a BUFF member who along with Herndon, urged “the Black community to come to the board meeting July 2nd and be heard” on the Adams closure.

“It’s interesting that two new board members who have not yet been sworn in have the ability to overturn a (outgoing) prior board decision without having to hold public hearings again,” Rahsaan said.

Spokespersons for the organizations attending the press conference said they agreed that community opposition to the closures should be expressed by demonstrations, court proceedings, or by civil disobedience.

Ms. Loving said she supported school board member Herb Cawthorne’s promise

(Continued on Page 2)
to seek an injunction in federal court to prevent the district from carrying out the closure vote.

Except for the BUF's efforts asking Black community residents to attend the July 2 board meeting, and saw the threat to sue, no other action was announced at the press conference.

In 1979, the BUF called off a threatened school boycott when school officials made promises of change. The promises went unfulfilled. And in May, 1981, the BUF called a successful boycott with 85% of the Black students participating. School officials had balked at returning a middle school to the city to the problems of Black citizens in Portland, instead of a mobilization of rich and poor, young and old, and Black and White, and was an aftermath of the 'reshuffling' that occurred in the Portland Police Department when the only Black Commissioner was literally told to 'go play in the park'. The action has been termed "...a slap in the face" by The Front's Co-Chair, Ron Herndon.

One's first reflection on the march is being done by The Front, problems are coming out, and along with them, many solutions. This march was not the first time that The Front mobilized the oppressed of Portland. Although the April 4 March Against Racism was distorted by the press, we know that it was a success and that it proved that we can and we will unite.

The march on City Hall brought out some 500 people (and on a rainy day, yet), with background sounds of 'call Ivancie'. Those who are in the know are aware that Jordan supported Ivancie at every turn, and persuaded many in the community to do likewise, so, a stab in the back for Commissioner Jordan is a stab in the back for all Portland Blacks who followed him in support of Ivancie. "This should show everybody that white politicians cannot be trusted", Ron told the crowd. Others murmured, "You can't trust many of the Black ones, either."

Portland's Black citizens will not be played off, or played for fools. Be it known by all that we, the people, have a friend in each other.

Adams Targeted For Closure

Because of what he termed "the worst sort of public policy-making," Portland Public School Board member Herb Canthorne sent "ALERT! WARNING! URGENT APPEAL!" letters to several people in our community to notify them that the incoming and new conservative majority on the Board of Education is ready to close Adams high school by July 1 when new board members are sworn in.

News accounts indicate the new members, who will replace Sarah Newsall, who was defeated, and Wally Priestley, who chose not to seek re-election, have conspired with Board Chairman Forrest Reike and member Bill Scott to attempt to close Adams by this summer, if, Reike was reported as saying, there would be time enough to re-route the students scheduled to attend Adams this fall.

Adams was saved from threatened closure earlier when the board was considering closing two high schools and three elementary schools. It voted to close Washington-Monroe and deferred action on the others. In later action, the board voted to close three elementary schools between now and 1982.

Organized community activity was instrumental in limiting the out-going board's school closure. Joining other community organizations, the Black United Front, parents, and students successfully prevented closure of Jefferson and Adams. "We held meetings," explained Jerri Abrams, whose children attended Jefferson and Adams, "and every week, parents and community activists go to board meeting and protest the superintendent's proposed action."

The integrity of the new board will be questioned after July 1 on a number of issues besides school closure. The selection of a new school superintendent will certainly head all other issues facing the in-coming board. The out-going board had promised to appoint a superintendent to replace Dr. Robert Blanchard who was fired last year, but, because of Canthorne's actions preceding the recent school board election, the in-coming board will select the superintendent in early 1982.

In a surprise move which caught most people off-guard, Canthorne joined the conservatives on the out-going board in voting to choose a new superintendent in early 1982 and not before the old board's term ended by July, 1982.

Cawthorne, who was an active BUF member prior to his appointment to the board, explained his decision to allow an undefined board to select the new school superintendent and admitted that he realized a major concert of both school and students was needed. He must have feared the "level of integrity" among members of the board. At the same time, community board forums have been held, "Black folk have been very vocal in opposition to closing Adams and Jefferson, and we expect the board to keep those schools open," the spokesperson said. "Some of the board members have announced their intentions regarding Adams, and community groups have announced their opposition, which points to a long, hot summer," according to the spokesperson.

The result was that the liberal majority on the board prevented any overriding of expressed community concern, she believes, and recognized the determination of our community against neighborhood school closure. Abrams also said that parents and residents at Washington-Monroe and Adams had been negotiating on how to keep "the school located at the Adams site open." A merger of both school and students was actively being discussed. No decision on possible legal action to prevent Washington-Monroe from being closed had been decided.

Cawthorne's warning letter told about the merger efforts but failed to offer assistance. A BUF spokesperson observed that the "flip flops" of the board over the past three years has caused the BUF to seriously question the "level of integrity among most of the board members." Community board forums have been held, "Black folk have been very vocal in opposition to closing Adams and Jefferson, and we expect the board to keep those schools open," the spokesperson said. "Some of the board members have announced their intentions regarding Adams, and community groups have announced their opposition, which points to a long, hot summer," according to the spokesperson.
Committee Reports

LABOR

The Black United Front Labor Committee is developing alternative strategies against the kinds of racism which keeps us either at entry-level jobs, or out of the job market altogether.

One such strategy is to not give financial support to any company or store which refuses to upgrade and/or hire Black people. If we remain well-organized and committed to this principle, we can use the power of selective purchasing, so that those who boycott will feel the power of our community pocketbooks, that is, our buying power, and see just how it feels to be in our grace. That will make the negotiators take us seriously when we ask for jobs from those who reap the benefits from our community.

The committee agreed it was too ear­ly to be more specific about additional strategies to obtain equality in the employment place, but we have agreed that there is a need to consolidate a sense of 'community' among us as a people.

To that end, the BUFLC agreed to sponsor what will become an annual outing where we can come together in a relaxed environment to discuss and learn old, new, and modified strategies and socio-economic liberation. (more about that, later)

In other business the BUFLC acknowledges the purposes and need for Black communities to have Neighborhood Security Polices for the personal safety of our people—especially our children, is a top priority of this committee.

The BUFLC recommends to parents the sound advice in a recently released pamphlet, Black United Front Personal Safety Guidelines. This is just one of a series of publications by the Black United Front concerning the safety of our neighborhoods. A copy may be obtained from T.R.E. C.R.I.B. at 249-8501.

ECONOMICS

For several months the Economics Committee has been exploring both the Greater Portland Area and the North­east Portland community job market. They are seeking donations to continue the various phases of BUF activities and operations.

In order to advance the concept of Economic Development, the committee was instrumental in contacting various community organizations, which led to the formation of a "Black Coalition for Economic Development". The coalition will focus on the needs of the Northeast Portland area.

During the planning phases of a pamphlet which was to provide parents with safety information to children, the committee approached Safeway Stores, Inc. for the purpose of seeking a donation to help to defray the cost of printing a readable leaflet. The request was denied by Safeway's spokesperson. The reason: "... too political". Safeway did, however, make a donation in 1979 when the BUF sponsored "Children's Saturday".

The committee approached Nel-Tech, a company which recently relocated on N.E. Union Avenue, and discussed (with a company representative) its intention regarding the hiring of Black community residents. It was apparent that the firm knew little, if anything, about the community. It was decided that the committee should continue to monitor its hiring practices.

In the meantime, local selections were made from all parts of Portland in order to seat Task Force Representatives to direct monies as related to the Community Development Block Grant Projects. The city will have five (5) representatives, and a committee member has been elected as a Task Force Representative.

All comments or suggestions regarding how these monies should be spent will be welcomed. Call 249-8501.

COMMUNICATIONS

Today, we are constantly being bombarded (and sometimes inundated) by an enormous tide of words through the media of television, newspapers, radio, leaflets, pamphlets, brochures, live plays, seminars, and speaking engagements.

Historically and traditionally, Black folk have had little control over what is said either to us, about us, or even for us, on topics which impact greatly upon the Black community.

In realizing the magnitude and gravity of this ever-worsening dilemma, "The Front" has begun a grand embark­ering upon and against the inaccuracies of our history, both ancient and current. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be present when Dr. Ama Hilliard, Rev. Herbert Daugherty, and Ivan Van Dortima spoke (on different occasions) in recent months at Port­land's Mallory Avenue Church, will attest to the 'grand embarkation' against inaccuracies in our history. More importantly, those that were present will attest to the spirit of the messages that these individuals (along with many others who are involved in the struggle) have exhibited. We are reminded that life is constantly changing, and that we are not simply a part of that change, but we are to work together to bring to the consciousness of all Brothers and Sisters in Portland that we are a mighty people and, as such, have the capacity to affect that change.

To a great extent, the above is the primary focus of the Black United Front Communications Committee. When the aforementioned illustrious and eloquent speakers were here, this was the committee assigned to the task of getting the word out to the community. Thus, it is totally successful in "Against Racism" that took place in Portland on April 4 of this year, left an indelible entry in Oregon history by bringing together nearly 1,500 people—mostly Black. Again, it was the Communications Committee on its J-O-B.

Reapportionment, school closure(s), economic development (or nondevelopment), welfare rights, job discrimination, police brutality, police harassment, and other issues, are all topics which are vitally important to us as Black Americans. The murder of our Black children in Atlanta comes instantly to mind when we speak of "other issues". The murders, and injustices inflicted upon our brothers and sisters in South Africa is another travesty that should not be allowed to continue. Black folks locally should be made aware of how we might counteract those ills.

In the future, the Communications Committee will continue to get the word out to the community. We will strive to have that message accurate, and substantive—something that you can 'sink your teeth into'. We, the committee, will deal with rumors, gossip, and other lies of dispelling lies and getting to the truth.

We will attempt to make you aware of speakers scheduled to be visiting Portland, and we hope that we will meet you there.

In the event of natural or man­caused disasters (ie, electrical blackouts/brownouts, ice storms, health-related information, etc.), we will instruct you on where to go in order that you may receive aid or assistance. We will communicate the need for and aspects of family safety.

Our two basic concerns as the Black United Front Communications Committee are You, the Black Community, and to get timely and relevant information to you—with the help of those who we feel that you will act upon that information.

Whether the word be written, spoken, or projected, we pledge to work so that it make it credible.

"Keep swinging when the going gets tough."
Roy Campanella
The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. White of Seattle, Washington, Miss White will become one of the few Black Naturopaths in the U.S. She will be the first Black female Doctor of Natural Medicine in the country. "I became interested in Naturopathy when I was a student of Haki Madhubuti," author, poet, and Director of the Institute of Positive Education.

Miss White recently earned her N.D. degree from the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, she has done post-graduate work in Parasitology, and has degrees in Human Biology and Zoology from Kansas Newman College and Howard University. In spite of spending many hours studying, Miss White has been active in various community activities both in Portland and Seattle.

AFRIKA IN BRIEF

by N. Funga i Kumbula

Sunday, May 31st is supposed to mark the 20th anniversary of South Africa's secession from the British Commonwealth and the proclamation of an Afrikaner republic. The commonwealth, a grouping of former British colonies and member nations were pressuring South Africa to give the Africans a vote and move towards majority rule as most sane nations the world over were doing. To thwart this pressure, therefore, South Africa left the commonwealth and pursued her current, nefarious and dangerous course.

For that reason, this 20th anniversary is being observed only by the Afrikaners, white South Africans of Boer ancestry who make up about half of the white population of South Africa which totals 4 million or 20% of the country's total population of some 26 million. The other half of the white population are the descendants of the British who stayed on in South Africa after the proclamation of the republic.

So this holiday which should have been a time of extreme joy and pride, as well as patriotism, is actually being observed by less than 10% of the population; the Afrikaners. The rest, the Africans, Coloureds, Indians, Asians, and the British will be sitting on the sidelines boycotting and doing all they can to disrupt the festivities.

The Africans would like to see of the festivities as the last Republic Day celebration in South Africa as their cousins across the border in Zimbabwe witnessed the last 'Rhodesia Independence Day' in 1979. Toward that end, they have stepped up the guerrilla campaign. In the past two weeks alone an army recruiting station was blown up and destroyed. The South African regime claims there were no casualties but there has been no independent verification. The rail line from Soweto into Johannesburg proper was blown up again. This is the line used by the trains taking commuters into Johannesburg to work in the white homes, factories, and other white businesses.

The African National Congress fighting for the liberation of Azania has vowed more of these attacks until South Africa becomes the independent, African majority ruled nation of Azania. Three of its guerrillas opened up with sub-machine guns in a market place in Johannesburg also this past two weeks and several whites were killed and more wounded. The guerrillas managed to disappear into the crowd before the police arrived and have not been seen since. Can you imagine someone spraying the crowd with machine gun fire at the Saturday market and then disappearing?

A few weeks ago, more ANC guerrillas managed to blow up a power station just outside Johannesburg which shut off power to several hundred Durban businesses forcing them to close. The war is definitely on. Now the ANC has won support from a most unlikely quarter: students from the white universities. All along white students have either kept out of the fray between the Blacks and the government or sided with the government. In the past week, however, they have taken to the streets denouncing the government's policy of apartheid and arguing for an open franchise in South Africa as the only viable alternative to averting the bloodbath that is right now at South Africa's doorstep. The police, of course, have moved on to the campuses in force and clashed with the students but that does not seem to have deterred the protestors.

The white students have also started fighting among themselves: those that support the government against those supporting radical change in South Africa's race laws. The ANC's Freedom Charter long banned by the racist government has recently been reprinted in several papers both Black and white and the white students are using that to argue that it is a much better document than the current South African constitution which discriminate on the basis of race. The English community is also becoming more vocal in its opposition to the Afrikaner government.

Never before has the government faced so much opposition from so many different factions all at once. And guess who's chuckling? None other than Comrade Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe because in a way he is the cause of so much of South Africa's grief. Not only has he made a success out of Zimbabwe but that was supposed to fall flat on his (Continued on Page 5)
(Continued from Page 4)

face, but he has shown both Black and white in Zimbabwe as well as South Africa the bankruptcy of racism. The question being asked of the racist in South Africa is: if Mugabe can do it and do it so well, then surely either Nelson Mandela (Azania) or Sam Nujoma (Namibia) could do just as well once given the chance.

The South African whites are realizing that they have been fooled for so long and that under their current leadership and course, they are headed for disaster at express speed. Meantime, the harvest is in in Zimbabwe and it has surpassed all expectations: 40% over last year's and the surplus will be shipped to neighbouring Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique thus reducing independent Africa's dependence on South Africa. These countries in the past have been forced to import food from South Africa thus blunting their criticism of that unhappy regime.

With so many reversals on so many fronts all at once, South Africans have one friend and that friend is Ronald Reagan, one time Hollywood actor. Unless he can come galloping to the rescue as he has done in so many Hollywood capers, this could very well be the beginning of the end for South Africa. Stay tuned.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE
by Asmar Abdul Seifullah
aka Joe West # 40404

Author's Note:

Inside/Out is the first of a series of articles that will be brought to your attention in order to give alternatives to the present line of thought surrounding the Oregon Penal System. It's the hope of all the incarcerated Brothers and Sisters now trapped inside the system that these articles will give a new understanding to the Oregon Penal System and its treatment of Black prisoners.

Chains, bondage, and incarceration is not a new experience for Black people. Since the genocidal experience in America, Black people have known physical and psychological limitations of all sorts. Our response to those limitations have been disconcerting at best. How we respond to a people to the limitations imposed upon us is of paramount importance to our struggle for liberation.

For any Black man or woman to think or respond to the present penal system in terms of passivity is counter productive and reeking with negrolism. The "that's not my problem" attitude of most Blacks concerning the just or unjust incarceration of other Blacks is a direct outgrowth of years of slavery. During those years we were taught not to become involved in the plight of our brother slave. "If Ned got whupped -- it was Ned's whuppin', Ned broke a rule, it's not like Ned deserved what he got." That line of thought is good only as long as the rules are applied to everyone equally.

First let us view the ghetto, our community, in terms of a colonized community. The term colony is applied because our community is controlled by outside forces. Its economic base is dependent upon the favors or benevolence of its oppressor. Its progress is measured in terms of progress outside itself and in not terms of what it can accomplish on its own.

Welfare and poverty programs that create a dependency in the recipients are forms of colonization. They destroy self-esteem and self-reliance on all levels of human development. Those of us that are fortunate enough to be employed are merely a reserve work force that keeps the larger community in check. Our earnings are spent outside the community which denies us the true benefit of our labors. Lurking outside yet within the colony is the "whuppin post" or the criminal justice system.

When Black people were emancipated on paper the system implemented fear, death, and incarceration as methods of control. Incarceration being by far the most profitable of the three has not only become a means of control but a viable source of revenue for the system. The American Corrections System is by far one of the largest corporations in the country. White America will dispute this fact but countless numbers of white Americans are supported by and profit greatly from Black incarceration. America, therefore, perpetuates situations for increased revenues in corrections. Drug traffic, prostitution, miseducation, vice, and crime of every sort are creations of greedy America. Blacks are the targets of these ventures in vice and are therefore, economic and political slaves for the perpetuation of revenue through corruption and corrections.

The increasing number of Blacks incarcerated in Oregon and elsewhere in indicative of a system of discrimination that finds its focal point in penal justice. White juries, judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers reinforce this discrimination to the Nth degree. The absence of true peer justice within the criminal justice system is the earmark of racism. The state
Onward Christian Soldiers...

The Portland Skinner has informed the African-American community about prostitution lined up wall to wall along N.E. Union Avenue, and for five months the BUF and supporters have been picketing Walnut Park's X-rated theatre also located on N.E. Union Avenue. Adding insult to injury, an adult bookstore recently opened its doors two blocks away from the theatre. Is the African-American community coming known as a "love for sale" and pornographic dumping ground?

In its efforts to "close it down", the BUF has asked for help in order to picket the theatre. While "right ovens" and clenched fists salute boost the morals of the picketers, such gestures of good will will not close it down. More people on a daily basis are necessary, if the community wishes to see more acceptable forms of entertainment at the theatre.

However, throughout the protest period, the question of where is the religious community is a profound one. It is hoped the Black Church will play a more active role, given its concern with morality and decency. Practicing what's preached should be the order of the day, similar to the "right ovens" and clenched fists, daily or Sunday prayers along is not enough to chase the evil away.

Black Folk Are Rational - After All

As a result of hearings that focused on Portland Public School closures, a valuable lesson went virtually unnoticed. The Black community announces it will fight and protest actions detrimental to its well-being, white racist and neo-negroids say Blacks are irrational, emotional, seeking attention, and being divisive.

Yet, when white folk protest by threatening to succeed, disenfranchise itself, etc., what then do we hear as public commentary? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

'Treed' By Ivancie

Was the ouster of Charles Jordan as Police Commissioner a case of "the chickens coming home to roost...again... under the mayoral wings of Frank Ivancie", or, was the hawkish Mayor 'clipping the wings of change' that appeared to be hovering over the police department?

While the Black United Front (BUF) was following the history of other community groups in complaining publicly about police abuse against Black people, Commissioner Jordan was running around the city saying that nothing was wrong with the police treatment of Blacks. The recent wave of media revelations detailing police crimes against Portlanders in general and Blacks in particular shows clearly the lie that Jordan was living.

He himself, was in a to-the-death struggle with those he called "my officers". Mayor Ivancie began public bungling against Jordan following the media revelations and Jordan's limited actions against two of eight police officers who were involved in the "oppossum incident".

Consider the attitudes of the police and the mayor toward Jordan; salt that with continuing police abuse in our community; pepper it, then, with Ron Still's sudden appointment as Police Chief AND the possible loss of any affirmative action plan for the department, and we still charge the PPB with genocidal intent towards us. Until such time that Ivancie and his Police Chief show sensitivity and respect for Black people, we will continue to stand up and accuse those who would threaten our existence as a community, and practice genocidal intent on us as a people.

With those sudden and unexpected changes in the PPB we ask, "Who lost?" Jordan says he will do a crackerjack job as Parks Commissioner. One 'wag' suggested that Jordan won't fight Ivancie because the mayor threatened to make him commissioner of the city's parking lots if Jordan challenged him, but we don't believe that.

This community certainly lost with his removal by Ivancie. Early in his career on the City Council, Jordan is reported to have said that Black folks did not elect him. That may be true, but he recognized, as did we, that we could unseat him if we collectively remove from him the mantle of Black community leader.

That is a power we do not have with Frank Ivancie, however, and Police Chief Ron Still answers to Ivancie, not Jordan. That, then, is what we have lost.

Still, the loss is not that excessive. At one point, it was difficult to have our police complaints accepted as valid. Now, many people and groups have publicly stood up and voiced concerns about the direction and control of the police department.

And Jordan responded. He was told by Ivancie that his time was up, but we are aware that our time is now. We cannot be fired for standing up. Further, we can and should weigh carefully the advantages of again accepting a Black leader appointed in whom we have no confidence.

A Call For Afrikan Unity

'The Afrikans had had, in the very center of the heartland on the continent, a history from which their posterity could learn how unity alone provides the conditions for strength and progress, and that each one of a thousand little 'independent' chiefdoms is but a standing invitation to the aggressors and ultimate domination for all.' This passage, taken from Chancellor Williams' The Destruction of Black Civilization in reference to Afrikans in antiquity, is very much relevant to Afrikans today. Throughout our history the many 'independent' chiefdoms has blinded us to the common cause we face as a people. If we, collectively, would only come to agreement on the source of our oppressive dilemmas and move in unity to eradicate that source, then we as a race of people, would surely prosper. Just as Jews from around the world recently concurred and reaffirmed that 'never again' will the be the victims of another holocaust, we (whose losses have been much greater) should never forget the inhuman atrocities of slavery and continued denials and victimizations.

We must identify our communalities and rally around them as an African people. Let us unite which will provide the 'conditions for strength and progress'.

The Portland ADVOCATE is published monthly by the Black United Front. Address all inquiries and comments to: P.O. Box 3976, Portland, OR 97208, or call (503) 288-6700. All material submitted to the ADVOCATE will be considered for publication and become property of the ADVOCATE.

The Portland ADVOCATE is committed to articulating the Black experience from a local, state, national, and international perspective. Serving as a voice of the BUF, The ADVOCATE will focus on Portland as its first point of reference and will never be apologetic about its Black viewpoint -- be it popular or unpopular. In our attempt to serve as a voice for the Black community, we welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions.
The Black Education Center (BEC) will sponsor a two-day conference, “Who Will Speak For Us? Preparing Black Children to Meet the Challenges of the Future,” June 26 and 27, at 1639 and 1640 N.E. Alberta Street.

The conference will focus on strategies to involve the total community in developing models to improve the quality of life for Black children from infancy through the teens. Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Dean of the University of Oregon’s Law School, will be the keynote speaker.

Workshops will include Black Operated Adoption Programs; Options in the World of Work; Education vs. Training; Black History and Culture; Education: Employment and Training; Parental Involvement in Education; Combating Social Oppression; and Innovative Community Programs.

For registration information, please call 284-9552 or 282-9465.

The Black United Front’s Ghetto All-Stars and the KBOO City League All-Stars clashed in the second “Community-Unity” basketball game. After suffering a tough defeat in the first game, the Ghetto All-Stars was victorious the second time around. Meanwhile, Ulysses Tucker, the coach of the BFF All-Stars, was recognized by "Ebony" magazine as an eligible bachelor for 1981.

The Black Educational Center is now recruiting students for Fall ’81 enrollment. Call 284-9552 or 282-9465 for further information.

**CROSSWORD**

**Answers**

1. Slang term to denote approval and used to distinguish taste
2. Abbreviated title of BUF Chairman
3. Led a slave revolt
4. Known for his sky hook
5. He gained the attention of this world body
6. Blacks had to use it for acquiring equal rights
7. Portland’s only Black female judge
8. Former Black Congressman serving a prison term
9. Lincoln University is located in this state
10. Former President of country where W.E.B. Dubois died
11. Many Black teens do not have one
12. Initials for this West African nation
13. Many are becoming concerned about its activity
14. Orator who is called this name by friends

**Down**

A. What Portlanders seldom see
B. Led his people against the French
C. Seldan mentioned East African nation
D. Let state to abolish slavery
E. Nationalist name for South Africa
F. His base of operation was Harlem
G. Black songwriter and pianist
H. Ancient city of Songhay/Niger known for its scholars
I. For Colored
J. Leader of this East African nation
K. Was suspected as the Hoo Hoo leader
L. Wife of an outstanding Black scholar

**Answers To Last Month's Crossword**

- SWEET REV
- U L W T
- NAT KAT
- Z M N M
- LAW M D G
- N N A
- D I G G S M O
- K T O B M
- N N A
- K K K A N D Y

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**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR YOUTH.**

In the spirit of the End of the Summer Jam, which was held last Labor Day, when over 10,000 community residents bided farewell to the summer of 1980, we're ready to welcome the summer of '81 with a Beginning of the Summer Jam, Sunday, July 5th, at the East Delta Park. Our welcome will include live entertainment, music, skits, gospel singing, speakers and food. This event is sponsored by the Community Professionals and The Organization for the Inner City's Blues. Be there or be square.
Effects of Each Decennial Census: Reapportionment

by James Hill

The Oregon Constitution requires the Oregon Legislature to reapportion political districts after each decennial census (every ten years per the census). On May 8, 1981, the Oregon House of Representatives by a vote of 53 to 5 passed House Bill (HB) 2001 which allows for a Black population of 44% in the new District #18.

The Oregon Constitution further requires that both the House and Senate concur on an identical plan before July 1, 1981, or the decision to redistrict will be made by the Oregon Secretary of State. The original plan was not meeting the constitutional deadline.

The courts have ruled that all constitutional district plans must be designed in a manner to ensure the population is composed of "communities of interest."

Moreover, each district must meet mandated federal guidelines — "one man, one vote" principles — which was established by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party and the Voting Rights Acts currently being debated and re-evaluated by Congress.

On the other side of the aisle, in the Senate, Sen. Bill McCoy's (D-Portland) ineptness was devastatingly embarrassing. McCoy, the only Black state senator, opposed HB 2001 because the new District would be Black, he said, and thereby become "segregated." On June 4, 1981, the Senate Government Operations Committee accepted McCoy's advice 9-2, voting to reduce the Black population in District #18 by 5%.

McCoy's actions are not difficult to understand given that he was found to be one of the least effective legislators in Salem. Just consider the following: A) He fought against the establishment of an Oregon Commission on Black Affairs; B) his support for statewide recognition of Dr. King's birthday was weak; C) he went against corporate divestiture in South Africa; D) backed away from introducing a bill related to the extension of the Voting Rights Acts; E) gave no input on the state's racial harassment bill; and, F) allowed the use of his name on only one affirmative action bill.

Due to McCoy's actions, which contradict the expressed desires of the majority in the Black community, a joint House and Senate Conference committee will have to resolve differences over HB 2001.

History may repeat itself and reapportionment will not be decided by the state legislators by July 1, 1981, as required. And possible court challenge seems a foregone conclusion because any elector in the state is empowered to challenge the plans. The final date for state reapportionment whether by the legislators or the Secretary of State (who decides if they can't) is Nov. 1, 1981.

In essence, the community must organize, conduct sessions whereby Black folks can decide who and under what conditions they will become a "New District." We now have the chance to put into practice the contention of the community that it is in our interest to speak with one voice as our congressional delegation advocate our local, national and international concerns in Washington, D.C.

We now need people to lobby the Oregon senate, prepare testimony and discuss the issues with the various interest groups in our community. If we utilize a process whereby all concerns are heard in an open forum, with the prevailing concerns supported by all, then our community will be empowered and politically viable.

At the April 30, 1981 meeting of the House Elections and Reapportionment hearings at King Neighborhood Facility, the constant and clear voice of our community was simple: We will conduct our own political affairs.

But today there is an absence of the kind of leadership in Salem to represent our interests. There is no Black legislative leadership to focus statewide attention to the lack of employment opportunities in both public and private sectors in our community. Those Blacks who do have jobs are subjected to the worst jobs without any authority to make decisions. This is another aspect of the lack of political power here.

Another example is of a Black candidate from this community who, under the Republican Party banner, campaigned as a Republican first, a businessman second, and a Black man further down the continuum of "who am I and who am I to serve." This misguided allegiance flies in the face of the political maxim; "In politics you have no permanent allies and no permanent enemies."

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All photos courtesy of Richard J. Brown
Most Ominous Opponent!

By Henry Garfield

It is not of interest to most Blacks to be reminded that The Oregonian newspaper historically has been one of the strongest, consistently anti-Black media in the state. Therefore, the comments of William Hilliard (May 6, 1981) criticizing the Black United Front and its supporters for vitriolic criticism of the school board’s proposed school closures did not find an enthusiastic reception in the Black community. However, for the benefit of those who are actively involved in dealing with matters of maltreatment and miseducation of Black children in the Portland public schools, an added assessment is provided.

Hilliard praised the Lincoln and Jackson school facilities and supporters; criticized Herndon and Eaton for supporting Jefferson; inferred that the race issue is used judgmentally to clutter the minds of young people and insinuated that Blacks speaking strongly against racial bigotry polarize the community. In addition there was a request for the NAACP, Urban League, and ‘Blacks of relative security’ to make themselves heard. Along with these, he recited his pleasant experiences as a Lincoln parent. Well this can be countermanded a hundred times over by other Black parents of Lincoln students who encountered for many years extremely hostile attitudes from administrators and teachers.

For most Black people in Portland it is painfully evident that discrimination against Black children in the public schools is not just a faulty functioning of the system. It is the intent and purpose of the system. The BHF and all others who are concerned about this are engaged politically and socially with removing disabilities imposed by unconscionable administrators and racist advocates who may be or become board members.

In America, in Oregon and in Portland the socio-political system is unable to provide an equitable existence for the Black population. The economic processes do not intend to offer Blacks equality in life and legal structures are arrayed against justice for Blacks under law. Generally all levels of the Black population have varying degrees of awareness of these circumstances.

For Hilliard to argue against Blacks challenging impositions of racist disrespect and contempt is both stupid and irresponsible. He displays an appalling ignorance of Black history in recommending that the NAACP and Urban League be propelled into the most prominent roles in these critical Black struggles. No other people in this country or in the world now would subject their political fates to organizations that are financed, controlled and manipulated in whole or in part by outsiders.

America does not have any new frontiers and Black people are going to have to make their stands wherever they are. Many Blacks have historically marched, prayed, picketed, fought and died for some kind of change in this country and this is no time for them to become an inert, useless mass.

Hilliard obviously does not comprehend nor relate to what it means for Black to develop and maximize their political, economic and social interests by their own efforts. The significance of Black people raising their political consciousness, increasing group cohesiveness and denouncing without reservations white bigotry and tyranny eludes him completely.

White racism has immeasurable harmful effects on the quality for Black people in Portland. The Oregonian as one of Oregon’s major racist institutions has played an important role in shaping many of the despicable attitudes and social relationship policies that have been characteristic of this environment for more than one hundred and twenty years. Hilliard has the audacity to find Blacks in error who attempt to confront the situations which have resulted from this newspaper’s deep implication in creating and maintaining the anti-Black structures in the educational system. In performing this service he appears as a relic, left over from the bad old days. He is revealed clearly to Blacks as the Oregonian’s staff link to connect the white racist codes of the slave era with the social programming of the present.

Unfortunately for some Blacks the meaning of civil rights suggests that they will be allow the freedom to honor, obey and ally themselves exclusively with those ideas which strengthen and expand white racism. These people are comfortable in their prejudices of preference of servility. They admire what they perceive to be white power, authority and influence. Anyway they are used or misused does not make them uneasy, uncomfortable or guilty. They have no conception of the real meaning of liberation...and that is really sad.
Left: Ivan Van Sertima, linguist, anthropologist and professor of African Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey, lectures NE Portland community residents on the African presence in America before Columbus.

Bottom: Supporters of African liberation march from the King Facility to Irving Park to celebrate African Liberation Day (ALD) last May 23rd. ALD is celebrated across the country and internationally each year, the first Saturday after the birth of Malcolm X.
Residing did. . .

The project which recruits and sends Black skilled workers to assist developing African countries.

Manifesto, which challenged the major three sons, his Christian churches.

He turned to the Pan-Africanist struggle, beginning his leadership of Black computer operators against African countries.

At best, Mr. Fuller was known for encouraging young writers to develop their skills which would reflect on the Black experience.

Irving S. Davis, Co-Chairman of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and executive director of the Pan-African Skills Project, died April 22, 1981.

Beginning with his leadership of Black computer operators against Chase Manhattan in New York in 1966, Davis soon moved into the international liberation struggle. In 1969 he was instrumental in formulating the Black Manifesto, which challenged the major Christian churches to support social justice and national liberation. They did.

His most significant accomplishment was founding the Pan-African Skills Project which recruits and sends Black skilled workers to assist developing African countries.

He is survived by his wife and three sons, his mother and brothers.

A KKK Khronology*

Advocate Note: Information shared is a courtesy of Afram Associates, Inc. Harlem, New York

Spring, 1866: Confederate veterans formed Klan in Pulaski, Tennessee.

1867: Under the leadership of Grand Wizard Nathan B. Forrest, the invasions of Black homes and flogging of Blacks and whites became commonplace throughout the South.

July 4, 1867: Klansmen openly marched in major Southern cities in full regalia.

1871: In one month, 207 Blacks were lynched in New Orleans, Louisiana.

1939-1972: Congressional investigation brought Klansmen to trial for violence, resulting in the Ku Klux Klan Act. The Act made it a crime for anyone to deprive citizens of their constitutional rights.

1874: In one week, 200 Blacks killed in Vicksburg, Mississippi before elections.

1939-1975: 3,500 Blacks killed in the South by the Klan.

1896-1900: KKK and Red Shirts engaged in terror to destroy Black and white political conditions.

1900-1914: KKK lynched 1100 Blacks.

1915: The Birth of a Nation, Hollywood's epic adventure, depicted the KKK as saving the South from "carpetbaggers and niggers." U.S. President Woodrow Wilson thought the movie was, "like writing history with lightning."

1915: William J. Simmons invited 15 friends atop Stone Mountain in Georgia, built an altar and burned a wooden cross which led to the Invisible Empire of the KKK, the largest organization in the history of the U.S.

1918-1921: 28 Blacks burned alive, some of whom were World War I Veterans, in their uniforms.

1920: The Invisible Knights of a KKK grew to an estimated 35 million members, and attacked Blacks, immigrants, Catholics, Jews, and "nigger lovers."

1921: 6,000 people attended a public rally of the KKK in Portland, Oregon.

1920-1930: Klan supported candidates who won top political offices throughout the U.S.

July 4, 1933: O.C. Stephenson was sworn in as Indiana's Grand Dragon before a crowd of 100,000 KKK's.

1958: 40,000 Klansmen marched through streets of Washington, D.C.

1930: Due to internal pressure, the KKK bordered on falling apart, and also due to the rise of anti-Klan groups.

1944: The I.R.S. filed suit against the Invisible Empire for $685,000 in back taxes.

1947: J. Kennedy exposed Klan in his book I Have a Dream with the Ku Klux Klan.

1954-1965: U.S. Justice Department revealed the Klan was responsible for 70 bombings in Georgia and Mississippi, 30 Black church bombings in Mississippi, castration of a Black man in Alabama, and 50 bombings in Birmingham, Alabama.

(Continued on next page)
January-March, 1979
Boston, MA: Eleven Black women murdered throughout city, and all cases are unsolved.

December, 1980
Brooklyn, N.Y.: 48 year old mother beaten by police, who was left on street while suffering with a cerebral concussion.

April, 1980

October, 1980
Chicago, IL: 52 year old Black man beaten to death by white policeman for smoking on city train.

May, 1981
Cullman, AL: Named Camp MyLai, the KKK has established a commando training camp for men and women. The KKK members are preparing for what they think is an inevitable race war.

November, 1980
Decatur, AL: Black woman shot eight times by police following a dispute with gas company after cutting off her supply.

May, 1979
Emporia, KS: Black male killed by police after allegedly threatening them with a knife.

September, 1979
Fort Worth, TX: Black male shot to death while leaving a burning house.

November, 1980
Houston, TX: Boy Scouts taught to kill by shooting, using strangulation, and decapitation at KKK training camp.

December, 1980
Los Angeles, CA: Since 1972, 44 young Black men and boys have been found dead along the city's freeways. In addition, Los Angeles police led the nation in the number of killings of Blacks.

May, 1980
Miami, FL: 11 year old Black female raped by white highway patrolman.

October, 1980
Newark, N.J.: Police beat an entire Black family, including a one year old child.

National Black United Front Supports the Campaign To Wear Green Ribbon For the Children of Atlanta