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6-3-2003

## Urban Pioneer Awards dinner

Ernest Bonner

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Urban Pioneer Award

**Ernie Bonner Acceptance Speech**

Downtown Hilton Hotel Portland, Oregon

June 3, 2003

Thanks, Neil. I needed that introduction. I was afraid that nobody would recognize me up here in this coat and tie.

I am honored to be on the platform tonight with Tom Moyer and Nohad Toulan, to be recognized as an Urban Pioneer.

Let me take a minute to thank a few of the many people who inspired and supported me.

My lovely wife, Lynn. She is more than half of the two of us. And I can document that. [When the City was considering whether to hire me back in 1973, Hal Johnson wrote to Bill Scott--then in Neil's office--that his 'sources in Cleveland' described Lynn as ". . . a very bright and talented person involved in justice planning and administration. She is said to be a real asset to her husband."]

Hal's informant went on to note that 'there were also many fine things reported about Mr. Bonner, and the only negative thing is that he needs to get a haircut.'

My growing family has been especially supportive: My older daughter, Kathleen Houk, and her husband, Tick (along with their children, Ernie and Carly), my younger daughter, Christine Bonner, and her partner, Lee McKnight, and Lynn's son, Dirk, and his wife, Lori Bergstrom.

It has been heartwarming to watch them grow from cute little kids to responsible, contributing citizens.

My brother, Brian, is here tonight, with his partner Ashley Ferry. Brian enriched my life immensely by putting me in touch with my family roots.

My good friends from Cleveland , Norm Krumholz, and his wife, Virginia, are here tonight.

Virginia is an accomplished archivist and long-time friend.

Norm is one of the great bosses in my life. He is fair. He is honest and straightforward. He is a fighter for what he thinks is right. He is willing to take risks, (as he demonstrated by hiring me.).

Neil Goldschmidt, the guy who received the first Urban Pioneer Award, is another of the great bosses in my life.

Neil offered an important perspective to those of us involved in planning in Portland: ' Don't spend ten years drafting a complicated plan and then ask me to spend another ten years getting it adopted. Bring me a vision for the community and a short list of important investments that need to be made, and then either help me find the money to make those investments or get out of the way.'

He knew that the product of planning is not plans, but investment.

And I am greatly touched and pleased to see so many of the old gang from the seventies here tonight. You guys and gals here tonight, along with your colleagues in the eighties and nineties have created one of the great cities of this Country—one in which we can all take pride. In fact, I'd like to ask all of you here tonight to rise, so that we can recognize your contribution to Portland. Can everybody please rise? Now, can you join me in giving yourself a standing ovation?

I hope our justifiable pride in this City does not, however, blind us to the need for new efforts, new accomplishments.

Some of us (I should say some of you) are still young enough to get up early in the morning, and we will need special efforts from you.

But all of us surely agree that this City in 30 years will be no more and no less than the results of what we are working on today.

To that end, I pledge myself to work for a better city in three ways:

The Midtown Park Blocks: The Midtown Park blocks were dedicated to public open space some 150 years ago. They were lost from public ownership by court order a few years later. Fifty years from now, the area surrounding the Midtown Blocks will be an exciting high density, mixed use area; and we will need those blocks as open space. The Park Blocks Foundation has already started that work. I intend to help them in any way I can.

River Renaissance: In my opinion, the greatest legacy we could possibly leave to our grandchildren would be the incorporation of the Willamette River into the very fabric of our work and our lives. Mayor Katz is urging us on in this River Renaissance effort. Riverfront for People and many others are working in the trenches. If we want to FREE THE EASTBANK!, we need to start working on it now.

Affordable Housing: Tom Johnson, a great Cleveland Mayor in the early 1900's, used to tell this story about the challenge of social policy.

“There was a great river and many human beings were in it, struggling to get to the shore. Some succeeded, some were pulled ashore by kind-hearted people on the bank. But many were carried down the river and drowned. It is no doubt a wise and noble thing for charitable people to devote themselves to helping the victims out of the water. But . . . it would be better if some of those kind rescuers on the shore would go up the river and find out who was pushing the people in.”

We are witnessing in this country a great and growing gap between those who have, and those who do not. At the same time, resources to deal with that growing disparity are limited. We are now being asked not just to do more; but to do more with less. In that context, the City Club or Portland recently suggested a course of action in the pursuit of affordable housing:

First, Use more of our limited housing funds for housing vouchers, which give the low income households of this community more choices as to neighbors and schools and parks—by giving them more choices as to where they live.

Second, Direct those housing vouchers to the households who most need the help.

In Portland, the Housing Authority is virtually alone in taking on that challenge. I pledge to add my efforts to those who are trying to advance that idea and those priorities in Portland.

Those are my pledges.

What is your pledge?

Cheers to all of you. I look forward to working with you to build an even better Portland in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.

SECOND ANNUAL

College of Urban and  
Public Affairs

**URBAN PIONEER AWARDS DINNER**

HONORING

Ernie Bonner

Tom Moyer

Nohad A. Toulan

June 3, 2003

Hilton Grand Ballroom

SPECIAL GUEST

Governor Ted Kulongoski

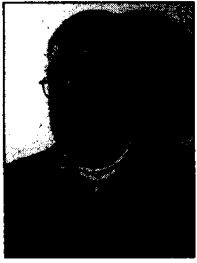
EVENT HOST

The Honorable Neil Goldschmidt

**PORTLAND STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



ERNIE BONNER, LONGTIME PORTLAND PLANNER AND HISTORIAN



Ernie Bonner was Portland's planning director under Mayor Goldschmidt in the 1970's, where he is credited for creating Portland's historic downtown revitalization plan. He is currently a member of the Portland Planning Commission. Bonner serves as an independent consultant on planning and management projects and is considered an eminent urban planning historian.

TOM MOYER, PORTLAND DEVELOPER



Tom Moyer is best known for creating the area's most-popular movie theater chain, as well as creating a new architectural vision for downtown Portland. His two most recent works downtown, the 1000 Broadway building and the Fox Tower, provide a stunning new look for development. Moyer, a life-long Oregonian, has helped re-create the urban landscape in Portland, and his company, TMT Development Co., Inc., has many new plans on the drawing board. He recently partnered with Urban Pioneer Neil Goldschmidt, to create a plan for the South Park Blocks.

DEAN NOHAD TOULAN, COLLEGE OF URBAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY



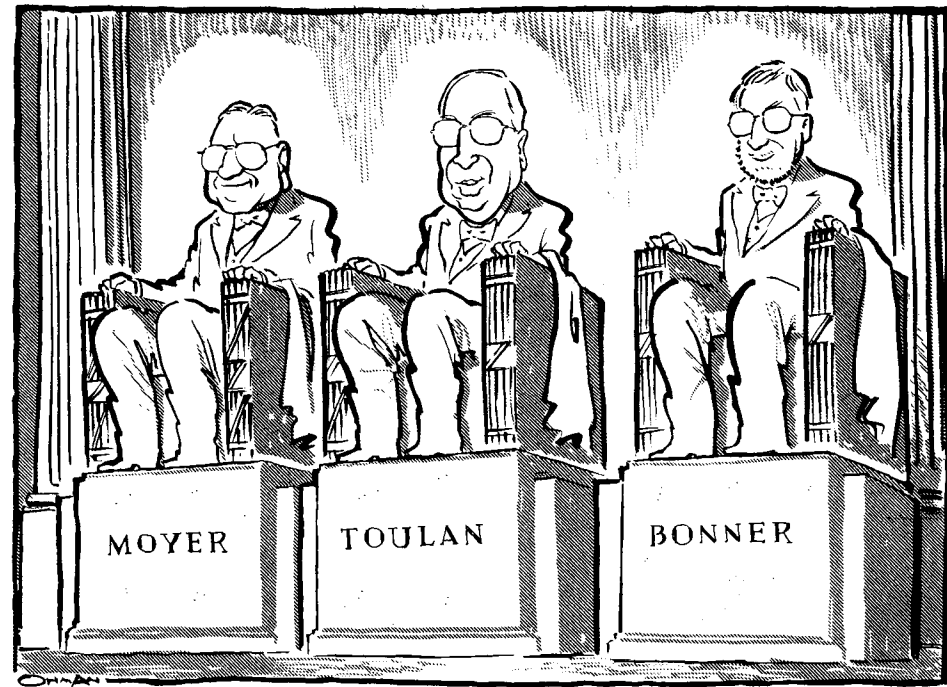
Nohad Toulan is the only dean in the 26-year history of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State and is recognized nationally and internationally for his work. He served as the first planning director for the Greater Cairo region in Egypt. Toulan helped author the Urban Growth Boundary for the Portland Metropolitan area, now studied by planners around the world. He also directed the establishment of the master plan for the City of Mecca. Toulan will retire from his position in June 2004.

SPECIAL GUEST, GOVERNOR TED KULONGOSKI



In 1974, Ted Kulongoski was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, and four years later to the Oregon Senate. He was appointed Oregon Insurance Commissioner in 1987. Five years later, he was elected Attorney General where he worked to steer kids away from crime and toward the values that had made his own life a success—education, accountability, discipline and hard work. In 1996, Kulongoski was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court, where he served with distinction for 4 1/2 years. In 2002 he was elected governor.

*Special thanks to Walker • Macy Landscape Architects Inc. and Louis Guinett Masonry for design, labor, and materials for the centerpieces.*



*A very special thanks to Jack Ohman of The Oregonian.*

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Paul Kelly & Bob Spelts / Nike  
Len Bergstein / Northwest Strategies  
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Institute of Portland  
Metropolitan Studies  
School of Community Health

### RECEPTION

PSU Jazz Ensemble

Charles Gray, Director

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ethan Seltzer & Kay Toran, Masters of Ceremony

### DINNER

MARIO DEPRIEST

Jazz vocalist

### REMARKS

The Hon. Neil Goldschmidt

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Mr. Ernie Bonner

Mr. Tom Moyer

Dean Nohad Toulan

### SPECIAL GUEST

Governor Ted Kulongoski

### CLOSING REMARKS

# College of Urban and Public Affairs

## URBAN PIONEER AWARDS DINNER

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\*Barbara Roberts  
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Kate Brown  
Margaret Carter  
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Erik Sten  
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Max Williams  
David Wu

### HOST COMMITTEE

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Dave Barrows  
Len Bergstein  
\*Brian Bjornson  
Ernie & Lynn Bonner

Paul & Nancy Bragdon  
Bruce Brenn  
Keith Burns  
Theddi Wright Chappell  
Mary Clark  
Arnold & Elaine Cogan  
\*Jesse Cornett  
Jeannine Cowles  
\*Emily Crumpacker  
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Peter & Pat de Garmo  
\*Barton & Mary DeLacy  
Michael DeShane &  
\*Keren Brown Wilson  
\*Kristen Dozono  
Sho Dozono  
James Draznin  
Hugo duCoudray  
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\*Randy Ealy  
Barnes & Molly Ellis  
\*Walt & Rosemary Ellis  
\*Nicholas Fish & Patricia  
Schechter  
Gerry Frank  
Brian & Rhonda Gard  
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Cynthia Guyer  
Thomas Hacker  
Bruce Harder  
Kathryn Harrison  
Ken & Ginger Harrison  
Sue Hildick  
John Hogan  
Tom Holce  
\*Gunner Ingraham & Leanoor  
Ingraham-Swets  
Kirk & Judy Johanson  
Paul Kelly  
Raymond & Deneen King  
David Kish  
Greg Knox  
Bob & Sally Landauer  
Dan Lavey  
\*David Leland  
Sid & Muriel Lezak  
Jack Loacker  
Ned Look  
Doug Macy  
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Jack & Jan McGowan  
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Pam Gesme Miller

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Tom Moyer  
Deborah Murdock  
Jack Ohman  
\*Jake Oken-Berg  
Nawzad Othman  
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