

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
317 City Hall Portland, Oregon 97204**

**July 1970 - I**

**COMMENTS ON COMMISSION ACTIVITY**

**AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION**

Acting in response to separate requests by members of the Commission and a sizable group of Portland citizens, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission discussed the disorders which occurred in the area of Portland State University during early May. As a result of their discussion the Commission unanimously agreed to ask its Police-Community Relations Committee chaired by Mr. Lee Brown to research and compile a record of the event in question. The Commission further agreed to consider the contents of the report before determining its disposition. The overriding interest of the Commission is to search out information that may be useful in setting guidelines for dealing with future occasions of conflict and unrest.

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**MATT DISHMAN MEMORIAL CENTER**

On July 5, 1970, the first anniversary of the death of Matt Dishman, efforts spearheaded by Albina Lions, Model Cities Planning Board, and the Albina Ministerial Alliance culminated in ceremonies renaming and dedicating to a new era the Knott Street Community Center. The new Matt Dishman Memorial Community Center was presented with an oil painting of Mr. Dishman in ceremonies presided over by George Rankins, president of the local Lions Club. Mayor Schrunk gave the dedicatory speech. Special thanks were extended to MHRC for its role in arranging this fitting memorial.

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**CITY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

The Commission notes with gratitude a letter from City Commissioner Lloyd Anderson addressed to the State Board of Parole offering to reinstate a former employee when parole is granted. MHRC commends such fair and encouraging employment practices on the part of a City department.

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**WHITES SUPERVISING NON-WHITES**

MHRC has proposed to Commissioner Lloyd Anderson a six week pilot program for City supervisory personnel dealing with non-white employment practices and policies. The program would focus on human relations aspects of supervision, minority group history and differences, "institutional racism", and prejudice. Careful evaluation would be made of this pilot effort with an eye toward refinement and larger use in City departments.

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**38,000 POUNDS OF POTATOES!**

Imagine the number of people that 38,000 pounds of potatoes can feed. When the Mayor learned that potatoes were being burned in fields, he sought and received contributions to Portland for the purpose of assisting people in need. With the job of distributing that many potatoes on hand, MHRC manned telephones until all arrangements were made for delivery to nineteen different private and public agencies.

The potatoes came from farmers in eastern Oregon who could not market large quantities of excess production.

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## FOOD CRISIS

In the aftermath of Portland's 1968 snow storm emergency, questions on how to secure emergency supplies, who would coordinate delivery of supplies, and how to share helping agency resources were raised. MHRC brought the helping agencies together to structure a procedure for dealing with such emergency situations. In recent weeks heavy demands for food have been met by utilizing these special emergency procedures. Remarkably favorable press has alerted the public and highlighted the fine work of the volunteer helping agencies. Citizen contributions amounting to more than \$2,000 and numerous food stuffs have temporarily met the food crisis. Should conditions worsen and large amounts of food be needed, necessary arrangements have been made for State assistance. Through the diligent efforts of many people, the qualifying time for admission to the food stamp program has been reduced by nearly two weeks, aiding substantially families who find themselves in need of food.

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## SUMMER '70

MHRC commends the people who are striving to raise nearly \$200,000 for Summer '70 youth programs. Fred Markey, Mayor's Youth Coordinator, indicates that more than one half the goal has been raised for employment, recreation, transportation, and cultural enrichment youth program. The National Alliance of Businessmen, School District No. 1, UGN, and the City have been key members of the drive. MHRC has helped to relate community programs to Summer '70 for financial assistance.

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## YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

MHRC is working with the YMCA Urban Affairs Committee, Residential Manpower Center, and the Job Corps to develop the new YMCA Resource Center. In addition to providing jobs for youth, the Center will make available information on recreational and job opportunities in the community; social and recreational activities at the Center; classes of special interest; and "rap" time with community leaders, lawyers, police, and others. The Center is jointly financed by the YMCA, UGN, and Summer '70 project.

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## POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In a letter to the Chief of police MHRC suggested a conference on police-community relations to be attended by ranking members of the police bureau and a cross section of community leaders. Questions for discussion were presented for consideration. Included were,

1) Why do so many young people in ethnic minorities view law enforcement as a threat rather than a constructive force?

2) What do these young people in ethnic minorities expect from police and other law enforcement agencies?

3) Does the community understand the sources of this discontent?

4) Is it right to ask the police to deal with many broader community problems when large segments of the community are not even aware that they exist?

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## LEAVE THE TENT

Staff members of MHRC were present at the much discussed confrontation between the Police Bureau Tac squad and the strikers at Portland State University on May 11th. They and several



others on the scene, including police officers and college administrators, advised against taking down the hospital tent because of the considerable confusion over a City park permit. It is highly probable that serious violence would have been avoided if police could have by-passed the tent.

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## RUMOR

On May 28th the MHRC office received word that the death by drug overdose of two men in north Portland was being rumored as a double police shooting. One victim was a black man. Within less than one hour MHRC staff contacted the Albina Community Action Center, the Multi-Service Center, Rumor Control, Model Cities Office and Information Center, the Police-Community Relations Unit, the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the North Branch YMCA, and the Black Student Union at PSU. The latter group made an announcement correcting the rumor to a memorial service attendance of 800 persons in a local park that night. MHRC undertakes to correct invalid rumor in an effort to help prevent escalation of a minor incident into something serious because of baseless rumors.

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## IN THE CENTER AND MOVING

In correspondence early this spring to the Mayor and Chief of Police, MHRC made note of "ominous signs that indicate black moderates are becoming more sympathetic toward the youthful militants". It was recommended that the Chief of Police invite black community leaders to meet with him to establish communication, indicate the need for community support of the police department, acquaint the community with police bureau operations, and assure citizens that the Police Bureau is concerned for fair and equal law enforcement and peace keeping.

## CONCILIATING CONFLICT

Acting on the recommendation of Mayor Schunk that PSU administrators, faculty, and students meet with officials from the Mayor's office and the Police Bureau to discuss the May campus disorders, MHRC assisted in making arrangements for a series of meetings. Tentative lines of communication and agreement on City-University relations were established.

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## POLICE AND HUMAN RELATIONS

Just before June 1970 slipped into history ending the fiscal year for the City of Portland, MHRC received approval of its enlarged budget for 1970-71: \$49,000. Multnomah County and the City will finance equal portions of the Commission budget.

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## OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

Acting on the request of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, MHRC is exploring the possibility of making application for an Ombudsman office in Portland. This entails taking inventory on the manner in which local government departments and agencies handle citizen complaints and respond to demand for service. The main goal in creating an Ombudsman office would be to provide better means of two way communication between citizens and their government.

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METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
317 City Hall Portland, Oregon 97204

November 1970 - II

COMMENTS ON COMMISSION ACTIVITY

HOME TOWN AGREEMENT

Work commenced on May 5th in the office of the Mayor to negotiate a "home town" contract between labor unions, contractors, and the minority communities. The goal is improvement of opportunities for minorities to become apprentices, journeymen, and union members in the construction industry. A small committee representing the three parties to a Home Town Agreement has completed a draft that meets the requirements of the Federal Department of Labor. A good faith effort has been evidenced. Steps are also being taken to insure participation of a majority of all racial minority populations in the three county area. It is anticipated that ample signatories will be secured by the end of December, 1970. The plan estimates that between 100 and 125 persons will achieve apprenticeship, journeyman training, and journeyman placement during the first year.

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CAMPUS AND CITY

Our last newsletter noted that the Police-Community Relations Committee had a report in process on student disorders at Portland State University. This report has been completed and made available to city officials, the chief of police, and inadvertently, the local news media. Constructive comment and planning followed release of the report with most attention focused on its five recommendations. One, in situations that require important political decisions, the political decision-makers

should either be at the scene or follow closely the advice of their representatives on the scene. Two, the Portland Police Bureau should develop written guidelines dealing with crowd dispersal and utilization of the tactical squad. Three, police-community relations officers should be more actively used in times of unrest. Four, the police in dispersing unlawful assemblages should follow the criminal code of Oregon. Five, procedures need to be established whereby city officials, police, college administrators, and community leaders can have continuous communication on a formal basis during times of campus disorder. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, several conferences are now being conducted to determine ways to make the relationship between campus and city more constructive. One local television station has offered weekly television time to students to express their views on current issues and to report on student activities. The Commission expresses its thanks for the cooperation received from local news media, the Mayor, university officials and several concerned citizens who requested the report.

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OPERATION TRANQUILITY

In early June this Commission became concerned about the possibility of violence when the American Legion and Peoples Army Jamboree, groups with wide differences in political ideas and

life styles, converged on Portland the week of August 28th. We met the Mayor and met with representatives of the Governor's staff to discuss our impression about keeping the peace while protecting the right of all people to express themselves. At the same time we started meeting with concerned citizens about their role in maintaining public calm. By July 15th a statement of purpose was adopted and a citizens group was formalized under the name People for Portland. The staff director of Metropolitan Human Relations Commission continued to meet regularly with the steering committee of this organization. One of the first specific projects was to make operational Rumor Control, a central source of factual information. Much of the information for Rumor Control during ensuing weeks was provided by MHRC. People for Portland held sessions to train monitors for parades, festivals, and the scene of tense situations. Thirteen hundred people volunteered for this training. In mid-July MHRC arranged a meeting between the Mayor and People for Portland and participated in meetings with business officials to enlist financial support.

In other developments MHRC attended meetings with health agencies to help plan for the eventuality of a large volume of medical problems. Safety and health resources for both McIver Park (scene of a large youth festival) and the inner city were secured. Communication was maintained with several groups attempting to stage rock concerts in the Portland area and with the politically-oriented Peoples Army Jamboree. On several occasions MHRC served as a link to the Mayor's office and the Police Bureau on matters such as parade routes, use of parks, housing, food supplies and staging areas for demonstrations. At other times MHRC was called upon to advocate before officials steps required to allay fears and concerns of community residents, for instance, removal of Legion functions from City Parks in Negro neighborhoods.

This mass involvement of government personnel and citizens became known as "Operation Tranquility". In many respects this operation turned out to be a masterful event. Dissent and demonstration were allowed but channeled into times and places that minimized potential for violence. Several safety valve arrangements provided lodging and large group activities. Facilitative means of control were employed, with law enforcement personnel in the background. A unified government command headquarters guided the events.

Any fair assessment will show that no life or property was destroyed; widely different views on critical issues were expressed; hundreds of citizens experienced renewed confidence in citizen participation; and government officials discovered viable means for collective decision-making and utilization of public resources. Some have noted that inadequate opportunity was available for discussion or presentation of radical points of view. On the other hand, others have commented that considering the potential for destructive activity, the opportunity for moderate expression and involvement of all persons was a positive alternative.

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## DISSENT AND DISCUSSION!

Responding to a number of requests to help prevent or alleviate serious student disruption, the MHRC enlisted support by Dr. Low and Dr. Anderson of Portland State University to convene a meeting of interested persons on September 24th at the University. Out of this meeting came recommendations for 1) a series of conferences on police-community relations, emphasizing increased understanding between police and members

of the counter-culture; 2) a representative assembly of the university community to draft guidelines for expression of dissent and controversy that will support and protect the university as an open center of free thought and speech; and 3) regular opportunities for students to communicate their views and activities directly to the public via the media. It is recognized that many young people sincerely believe there should be a re-ordering of national priorities and expansion of youth participation in educational and community affairs. These conference task forces will endeavor to assist students in pursuit of these goals within legal bounds.

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#### THE CITIZEN AND HIS GOVERNMENT

As reported in our last newsletter, the Commission has undertaken a study of City of Portland and Multnomah County departments to determine if there is need for a public ombudsman. While the report is still incomplete, the interviews reveal a number of difficulties in communication and delivery of services. Following are some of the categories noted: lack of information, inflexibility in government operation, inconvenience in location or method of delivering services, inadequate or improper law or administrative provision, attitudinal differences between citizens and government bureaus, and lack of effective citizen input. An ombudsman who is empowered to expedite the many breeches between citizens and government may be of value. The report is due to be completed within the next month to six weeks.

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#### PICKETING

Picketing by the Black Panther party against a McDonalds franchise in Portland recently resulted in the closure of that shop and the necessity for arbitration of grievances. The Human Relations Commission assumed the responsibility of bringing both parties together to discuss hiring practices, support of community programs, and personnel promotion. These negotiations were joined by Mr. Herman Plummer, Director of the Albina Community Action Center. A full day conference produced agreement that McDonalds would hire within a prescribed area of the black community, advance black employees to supervisory positions, and contribute a designated amount of raw hamburger to a food program conducted by the Black Panthers. With this agreement pickets were removed and business resumed.

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#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

MHRC continues to provide coordination for emergency services at times of critical need. Frequently in recent months it has been necessary to draw these organizations together to ascertain their supply and need for sharing of foods and materials. In addition the Commission has interceded with County Welfare and the Food Stamp program to speed up the release of food stamps to applicants. Agreement is still in force with the office of the Governor to make emergency surplus foods available if demand requires.

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## INSURANCE INEQUITIES

Do your fire and theft insurance rates seem high? Increase them to 300% and look again. Investigation shows that residents and merchants in north Portland must pay such inflated rates when they can find a company willing to write a policy. MHRC is aiding in efforts to correct this imbalance.

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## CONSUMER LEGISLATION

The local office of legal aid has been working for several months to prepare proposed legislation dealing with consumer protection. Attention thus far has been centered upon such areas of concern as sales credit schemes, deceptive trade practices, the holder in due course doctrine, attorney's fees to recover breach of warranty and home solicitation sales act. When Oregon moves into the next session of the legislature in 1971, these and other pieces of legislation will be presented for adoption. It is anticipated that the Human Relations Commission will lend a hand in efforts to pass effective consumer protection legislation.

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## INTEGRATED HOUSING

MHRC, under the leadership of Mr. Vern Summers, assisted the Portland Housing Authority in relocating five black families from the Negro community into a new housing project in an all white southwest district. The integration of this new public housing project, known as the Hillsdale Project, represents another step in a continuing effort to provide integrated and open housing in the City of Portland.

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## DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION

Righting injustice and discrimination sometimes requires use of powers provided by various state and federal laws. In Oregon the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Labor enjoys access to such powers. MHRC frequently refers citizens to Civil Rights in cases of discrimination in housing, employment, jobs, public accommodation, and vocational training by reason of race, religion, color, national origin, or sex. We commend Civil Rights fine work in this community on behalf of equal rights and opportunities.

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## NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR

Welcome is extended to Mr. Paul Bloom, newly appointed director of the Metropolitan Youth Commission. The MYC, jointly sponsored by the City of Portland and Multnomah County, has the responsibility of seeking economic support for youth programs throughout the metropolitan area. In addition it offers valuable service supporting youth in the way of evaluation and consultation on youth problems. Conversations between Mr. Bloom and the staff of MHRC, as well as communication between the chairmen, show promise of a very close working relationship between these two metropolitan organizations.

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## YOUTH TO YOUTH

Enthusiastic work by twenty-three youth has produced a Resource Alert Program at the Downtown YMCA. The objective was to provide a link between youth and established community resources. Evaluation of the program has shown a need for more emphasis on community out-

reach. A newly written document proposes to employ ten target youth for work with peers who are involved in "non-constructive and damaging activities". The assumption that "youth planning, participation, and responsibility are vital ingredients in youth programs" is reflected throughout the entire proposal. The YMCA has adopted the Resource Alert Program as top priority for the next two to three years. The Human Relations Commission has actively assisted in preparing for the program.

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#### POLICE AND HUMAN RELATIONS

During the 1970 Police Bureau Academy Vernon Summers of MHRC assisted Sgt. John Roe of the Police-Community Relations Unit in presenting a human relations training program to City police. The ten session series involved 375 patrolmen in open discussion, with considerable opportunity given for asking questions and expressing views. Expression of appreciation was given to the Commission in a letter from Sgt. John Roe. Speaking for the Police-Community Relations Committee of MHRC, chairman Lee Brown has indicated desire that this in-service training be continued in 1971.

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#### PRIVATE CLUB DISCRIMINATION

Portland recently hosted the Northwest chapter of the National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials (NAIRO) at a meeting dealing with private club discrimination. Heading the panel were Mr. Charles Davis of ACLU, Mr. Richard Nahstoll a local attorney who studied the question for a City Club report, Mr. Ron Lansing professor of law at Lewis and Clark College and Mr. Patrick Gilroy a lawyer who recently resigned from the Elks because of their discriminatory membership policy. It was revealed that Seattle area officials have taken several steps to eliminate discriminatory practices of private clubs in the state of Washington. Considerable interest was expressed by Portland residents for giving more serious attention to this matter in Oregon.

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JUL 1971



## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County — City of Portland  
317 City Hall ■ Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ 228-6141 x 250

### HOUSING AND HUNGER

Most every community has at least one organization that collects and stores resources during normal times to meet occasional emergencies. But when unemployment rises sharply and welfare payments are based on 80% of the minimum standard of living, emergency strikes nearly every day.

#### A Pattern...

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has kept informed on the dimension of need. A pattern has become clear: as inflation carries prices higher the fixed income of welfare recipients and elderly citizens, and the diminishing resources of the newly unemployed, are less and less adequate to meet the demands for shelter costs. Homemakers borrow from food and personal allowances to cover the cost of shelter until eventually there is not enough money for food and utilities. The demand on helping agencies for food, clothing and financial assistance then becomes excessive.

#### Shelter Costs...

MHRC has attempted to deal with the shelter cost problem through three measures. One, encouraging the State legislature, local officials and private organizations interested in housing to develop concerted efforts aimed at pro-

viding additional low income housing. Two, encouraging Public Welfare to arrange with utility companies workable means for reducing the number of shut-offs involving welfare recipients. Three, counselling caution and preparedness in matters of relocation resulting from large highway or urban renewal projects. A case in point is our effort to help facilitate plans for suitable relocation of families affected by expansion of Emanuel hospital in northeast Portland.

#### Hunger...

The "hunger crisis" is well portrayed in a letter from the Greater Portland Council of Churches. It explains that during the month of November, 1970 FISH provided food for 1,222 persons and clothes 189 persons. By March, 1971 FISH provided food for 2,166 persons and clothing for 277 persons. In addition, between November, 1970 and March, 1971 FISH dispensed \$4,212 for fuel oil and \$3,846 for utility bills, rent and emergency needs. Eighty percent of help provided went to Public Welfare recipients.

MHRC has assisted in meeting this hunger crisis in three ways: One, coordinating the efforts of helping agencies to assure that each has adequate supplies; two, pushing for reform of the food stamp program by adding certifiers in neighborhood offices, changing the requirements

for recertification and allowing for partial purchase of food stamps; and three, giving extensive support to projects similar to "Second Wind" which collected many tons of food.

#### Local Government...

MHRC addressed a letter to the Portland City Council and the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners which outlined the factors observed during the past six months and forecasted a situation next winter that could be substantially more critical. The letter asked these elected officials to assume responsibility for these clear and substantial needs of local citizens by soliciting the active involvement of the Oregon legislature and the Governor's office. Some weeks later Comm. Goldschmidt, the director of MHRC and other social agency representatives met with Multnomah County delegates to the Oregon legislature. Although numerous recommendations were discussed, considerable uncertainty remained as to effective means of implementation.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS

Depicted for some time as America's forgotten citizens, the senior citizen has of late become the subject of much attention through studies, conferences and special programs. The profile of senior citizens is often represented as one of loneliness, poor nutrition, inferior housing, low income and limited mobility.

#### Loaves and Fishes...

A happy event in Portland has been the funding of Loaves and Fishes, a project providing low or no cost meals and social activities for senior citizens. MHRC has helped provide public service

employees for their staff. After securing federal surplus foods, MHRC arranged warehouse space at the Sunshine Division for storage. The director of MHRC serves as a member-at-large on the board of directors. Recently the Commission added its endorsement to a Housing Authority request for group dining facilities in a HUD-funded housing project, in which Loaves and Fishes would plan to provide low cost meals.

Loaves and Fishes is currently organized at five sites and is serving approximately 2,500 meals per month. They have inaugurated a meals-on-wheels program for the ambulatory senior citizens. Plans are underway for expansion of the program into four other communities.

#### Sewer Charge Reduction...

When the Department of Public Works proposed an increase in sewer user rates, commissioner-in-charge Lloyd Anderson asked MHRC to form a committee to make recommendations concerning charges to senior citizens and welfare recipients. The committee recommended that rates remain the same for both groups. The City Council compromised on a fifty percent reduction of the higher rate for senior citizens.

#### INSIDE CITY AND COUNTY

##### Affirmative Action...

Remembering the admonition to "clean your own house before getting into other people's affairs", the Department of Public Works headed by Commissioner Lloyd Anderson has undertaken a plan to insure affirmative action in employment within the Department. A series of training events is being prepared for use within the sewage treatment plant for supervisors. This represents an

important step toward utilizing the City's ability and opportunity to employ minority workers. The Commission was also able, through the good offices of Walter Sakai, to enroll supervisors from the Fire Bureau and the Public Works Department in a week-long supervision training program conducted by U.S. Civil Service.

#### Contract Compliance...

In the same spirit, the Department of Public Works asked MHRC to draft contract compliance requirements covering public works contracts. According to the draft all contractors doing work for the Department would be required to demonstrate equal employment of minorities. MHRC commends the Department of Public Works for initiating these affirmative action and contract compliance measures.

We are aware however that these same steps need to be taken by the entire City and County. Action by the City and County is all the more critical when its representatives go before the public as in the case of the Hometown Agreement asking compliance with federal regulations in the hiring of minorities. Action by the City and County would unmistakably demonstrate concern for equal employment practices and would serve as effective leadership in the community.

#### Hometown Agreement...

On Thursday July 8, 1971 the Hometown Agreement Committee announced the signing of the Portland Area Affirmative Action Plan for the building and construction industry. The objective of the Agreement is to increase employment of minorities in the building and construction industry of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. MHRC has worked steadily for a year

in facilitating development of this Agreement.

Parties to the Agreement are members of 31 local construction industry unions, 324 electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling and general contractors and 19 minority organizations. An Administration Committee appointed by the unions, contractors and minorities will be established under the Agreement. The Agreement states that within five years the percentage of minorities in each craft shall be not less than the percentage of minorities in the labor force of the area covered by this Agreement. During the first year at least 155 new minority workers are to be placed in the construction industry.

MHRC is extremely pleased with the cooperative spirit and good faith that have marked the negotiations leading to this Agreement. The experience in Portland may well prove to be unparalleled in the United States in this vital area of minority employment. From all indications Portland will continue to develop a model program through which hundreds of its minority citizens become full members of the construction industry.

#### Race Identification...

Word has been received from the County that a race identification survey of its employees is near completion. The survey will be helpful in pointing out the areas in County employment where action may be required in order to increase the hiring of minorities. The Commission will assist in developing these affirmative measures.

#### Ombudsman...

The MHRC study on need for an ombudsman has asked for an expansion of the



range of problems handled by the Commission, together with suitable investigative powers and additional staff. Chairman Brownstein and the director have met with several City commissioners. These discussions have underscored the impact of our recommendations upon attempts to bring government and citizens closer together.

## YOUTH CONCERNS

The Commission is frequently called upon to facilitate endeavors relating to the young. Experiences in this regard occasionally result in our initiating actions of our own.

### Priorities...

In February the Commission suggested the need for setting youth services priorities and finance coordination. Responses to this suggestion ran from very supportive to very defensive. However, in few cases did constructive action result. After watching well into July frequent repeats of the conditions prompting our original statements, we are even more convinced and concerned about the "waste, duplication, ineffectiveness and duplicity".

So we repeat:

- \* A public entity should be charged and backed by the City and County government with the responsibility of building a public consensus out of which youth services priorities can be defined.
- \* A means for delineating community-wide priorities as a basis for allocating funds should be determined.
- \* Priority setting, budgeting public monies and evaluation should be continuous activities applied to year-

long as well as summer programming.

### Outreach Training...

Some sixty Portland area youth-serving personnel from a dozen agencies took part in a one week workshop on Outreach methods. The session was sponsored by the YMCA and planned by an inter-agency task force in which the Commission participated. The Commission conducted an afternoon discussion on working with the government system.

### Contact Center and Resource Alert...

Contact Center, a street youth program, has called upon the Commission frequently for assistance. The Commission has aided them in establishing a pattern of communication with the Park Department to expedite plans for summer programs. We were instrumental in securing land and equipment for an outpost camp to serve transient youth. The Downtown YMCA has agreed to a Commission request that one floor of its residence be available during the summer for the housing of traveling youth. In response to an offer from the National Urban Coalition, the Commission arranged for presentation of Contact Center and other proposals for special funding from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. As of this date the YMCA Resource Alert Program, one of the proposals submitted, has received funds in the amount of \$26,000.

### "Second Wind"...

When the Metropolitan Youth Commission undertook to coordinate a metropolitan food drive to support the emergency helping agencies, the Commission was asked to assist in preparing the logistics. The MHRC felt privileged in being able to work with MYC on this drive which was successful in collecting 21 tons of food.

The Board of MYC presented a plaque to the MHRC director expressing their appreciation.

Unthank Park and Dishman Center...

The advent of summer has once again brought conditions of unrest and idleness among youth, causing a rise in concern on the part of the adult community. The Commission is working with other community leaders to open the Dishman Center (a City Park facility) later into the evening on weekdays as a means for providing additional recreation. On the present schedule Dishman Center closes at 8:00 p.m. At the same time the Commission is consulting with youth leaders in an attempt to alleviate the tension between youth and community. There are several areas that have become the focal point for drug abuse, gambling activities and loitering.

#### PROGRESS: YES OR NO?

Because of the large sum of money and the absence of highly visible results, Model Cities has received much questioning and criticism. Staff of the Commission has long been concerned, especially about the feeling often expressed by citizens that Model Cities residents are becoming less and less a part of the total community.

This concern has been documented by the Commission and is summarized in what follows.

#### Concentrated and Isolated...

The vast majority of Portland's black population is concentrated in one section of the city. Numerous industrial zones where jobs are to be found are located along highways leading out of the city in areas remote to the Model Cities community. Only a small percentage of the city's transportation

system leads to these industrial zones from Albina.

#### Decline...

At the same time the high cost or unavailability of adequate insurance is contributing to the exodus of small businesses and light industries from the black community. As a result additional jobs are taken away and convenient shopping, a necessity for many, is removed. Vacant buildings increase in number and grow into unsightly conditions and create "attractive nuisances".

#### Unemployment...

Unemployment among minorities runs higher than among the white population. Were it not for the hundreds of jobs provided by federally-funded programs, countless more black citizens would be unemployed. The question arises, what provisions are being created for new employment when these programs no longer exist?

#### Poor Housing...

Except for the efforts of the Portland Housing Authority very little if any action is being taken to increase the supply of affordable and standard housing accessible to employment opportunities.

#### Public Safety...

Complaints about lack of public safety range from charges of brutality, impolite treatment and slow response to inadequate protection and harassment. Concern is currently high among black citizens over heavy use of narcotics and open gambling in Unthank Park and in front of the pool hall on north Williams and Mason. Equipment has been destroyed several times in Unthank Park and traffic around the Park and the pool hall

is repeatedly blocked by double parking and visiting in the street.

#### PCR...

Residents point out that last year when similar problems occurred the Police Community Relations Unit assigned personnel to the area, resulting in control of the situation. Citizens complain that the Unit has been unwilling this year to employ similar measures. Citizens have likewise noticed the absence of PCR officers at the Law and Justice Committee of Model Cities. They rightly claim that this makes it impossible either to learn of PCR activities in the community or to discuss with the police their concern over problems such as those described above. Such is the evidence that leads some to charge that the PCR Unit has not, after three years, made much headway in fostering open, cooperative relations between police and citizens.

#### Fear and Dejection

More often than not fear or dejection is the feeling expressed by Model Cities residents when they talk about their community. They fear because of riot threat, crime, fire, dislocation or extortion. They are dejected because these conditions abound and because of government promises that are not fulfilled, failing programs and community feuds. Model Cities itself most often elicits these feelings, especially the feeling of dejection.

#### Public Policies...

At question is the effect of public policies and programs upon opportunities for minority citizens. We suggest that public policies and programs have in effect contrived to keep the segregated populations intact. For instance Model Cities draws a boundary around the seg-

regated area within which attempts are made to bring about improvements for blacks. This policy has the effect of reinforcing separation.

Local government appears to do the minimum it can to undertake affirmative action that benefits minorities and supports progress toward an open society. MHRC urges the City and the County to concern itself with an affirmative action and contract compliance policy of its own.

With housing being one of the community's most chronic problems, public policy continues to favor highways, industrial developments and urban renewal projects that take housing from the market. MHRC suggests that local government spearhead a coalition to create an adequate housing market.

#### MHRC Efforts...

Previous portions of this newsletter have recounted MHRC activities which affected the Model Cities area.

In addition MHRC has:

- Lobbied in the State Legislature for insurance and consumer legislation.
- Shared in formation of a new housing corporation.
- Assisted in attempts to reduce tensions around Unthank Park.
- Met with PCR officers and Bureau administration in an attempt to establish working relationships.
- Helped reinforce a struggling black-owned taxi company.
- Cooperated with Fire Department on plans to recruit minorities.



Directors  
file

November 25, 1974

Who is running our country? Is it the Mafia? Is it the Unions or is it our Government? This is a question not only on my mind, but many other people as well.

Our country is of the people all right, but what has happened to - FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE? Egotism, Dishonesty, Prejudisim and the Almighty dollar has taken the place of Unity, Loyalty, and a Togetherness of which our country was founded on and grew. Somewhere along the line something has definitely gone wrong. Wouldn't you say? What is it?

The leaders of our country are to blame. Our leaders, most of them, do not know what, why's and how's of the people they represent. They have never lived in the realm of the majority of our society or suffered the emotional feelings that exist today within our society. It is for the lack of expierence, by our leaders, that exists the conditions we are presently living with.

The inflationary period that we are presently undergoing is completly unnecessary and is only the result of a few greedy individuals making deals for the love of the almighty dollar, while we, the majority of our society have to suffer. I think it's wrong and something should be done about it now, before we have a revolution on our hands.

Formal education seems to have taken presidence over expierence. This, to me is what has caused our nations problems. The rule of today seems to be Formal Education and then Expierence. Many men that lacked formal education in a particular field, could out perform duties where a man of only formal education in this particular field was almost at a loss.

For many years the Turret Lathe was my speciality. In case after case engineers have been proven wrong with, and in their calculations. They knew what the books said, but they didn't know what the machine would do under varying circumstances. A most recent case of where experience prevails over formal education.

The sooner our country learns that formal education only gives one the basics of a field and until he can prove his experience, his honesty and loyalty, only then should he be given power. I'm afraid our country will be doomed if this procedure isn't followed.

awakening of a sense of community pride among residents;

- 2) Preserve and enhance commercial and industrial areas:  
particularly to expand economic opportunity for lower and moderate income residents.

See the ad in the Community Press of January 2 for more details, or call the Office of Planning and Development, Ken O'Kane, 248-4545.

For the first year, the staff has recommended that funds be concentrated in the Model Cities neighborhoods, in Buckman, Corbett-Terwilliger, Northwest, and St. Johns. Special Project areas would be Union Avenue, the Thurman-Vaughan corridor, and the Burnside area.

Final decisions will be made by City Council at a hearing as soon as possible after the Planning Commission-Development Commission hearing. Like other Council hearings, the session will be broadcast on KBOO radio, 90.7 FM.

#### ARTERIAL STREETS STUDY

The Bureau of Planning is undertaking a study of the arterial streets to provide City Council with a recommended street plan and a set of special policies relating to main streets in the city. This plan would then guide capital improvements to facilitate the movement of both people and goods and enhance the quality of neighborhood life. All modes of travel would be included: trucks, transit, autos, pedestrians, and bicycles, as well as land uses along arterial streets.

The citizen participation element of the study will revolve around two sets of city wide meetings, the first to be held in January, and the second round to follow a Planning Commission hearing later in the year. The January meetings will focus on an explanation of the goals of the study, a history of neighborhood development, and a discussion of needs and problems. At the meeting, the staff hopes to identify a group of citizens willing to work directly with the Bureau of Planning and the consultant Robert Conradt.

See the calendar on page 4 of this newsletter for the schedule of 11 meetings.

#### BUDGET TASK FORCES

The citizen budget task forces have begun their work reviewing budget and policy requests from city bureaus. There are task forces for : General Services, Parks, Planning and Development, Police, Public Affairs, Public Safety, Public Works, and Water. Due to lack of space, we are unable to print the names of all the members. For more information, call Sally Gay at 248-4714 between 12:30 pm. and 4:30 pm.

\*\*\*Any new budget requests from the Office of Neighborhood Associations must be submitted to the Bureau of Management and Budget by February 5. Please let us know in writing if you want to make a request for staff assistance. Along the same lines, OONA is eligible to request temporary positions for unemployed people to carry out public service work. Please contact Mary Pedersen if you know of a project that could be carried out on a short-term basis ( 1 year) on or before the 9th of January, as the requests are needed right away.

The Mayor has recommended to Council that the position of Community Garden Coordinator be among the CETA jobs funded by federal funds.

#### EDUCATION

- \* Lewis and Clark College is sponsoring two interesting graduate level courses in political science during winter term. One examines the national decision-making process, and the other will look at the relationship between the public and local governments. These courses meet in the evenings, carry 3 hours of credit, and tuition is \$105. Contact the Political Science Dept for more information, 244-6161.

- \* The Black Studies Program at PSU is sponsoring 10 courses this term. Four of them will be held in the evening from 6:40 to 9:20 pm.:

Monday	Community Development in the Black Ghetto
Tues	Blacks and the Constitution
Weds	Black Women in America
Thurs	Urban Education Problems.

For more information, call William Harris, 229-3472.

#### ABANDONED AUTOS

248-4465

The Bureau of Neighborhood Environment now has the authority to order the removal of abandoned or dismantled autos from private property. Complaints from 3 separate households are necessary.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January
- 7 Tues Planning Commission regular meeting, 2 p.m., 424 SW Main.
- 8 Weds Design Meeting on Transit Mall on Yamhill, Room 200.
- 8 PLANNING COMMISSION - DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING on Housing and Community Development program, 7:30 p.m., Water Services Building, 510 SW Montgomery.
- 8 COUNCIL HEARING Agenda includes: NE Gertz - N. Schmeer sanitary sewer, Bible Temple (2 p.m.) and Downtown Plan Review of Parking.
- 8 ARTERIAL STREETS meetings in Corbett-Terwilliger, Red Cross Building and Northeast at Rose City Park Church, 7:30 p.
- 9 Thurs Harborton at City Council, 2 p.m.
- 13 Mon ARTERIAL STREETS , Foster Road area, Lents School, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Tues ARTERIAL STREETS, Mt. Tabor area, Youngson School, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Weds NORTHWEST PLAN at City Council, last hearing, 9:30 am & 2 p.m.
- 21 Tues ARTERIAL STREETS at Northwest, Trinity Church, and Model Cities, Cascade College Center, both at 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Weds ARTERIAL STREETS in Southeast, Sunnyside Methodist Church, 7:30
- 23 Thurs ARTERIAL STREETS in North Portland, Portsmouth School, 7:30
- 27 Mon ARTERIAL STREETS in Southwest Hills, Ainsworth School, 7:30 pm.
- 29 Weds ARTERIAL STREETS in Jackson area, Jackson High, 7:30 pm.
- 30 Thurs ARTERIAL STREETS in Eastmoreland, Duniway School, 7:30 pm.
- FEBRUARY
- 6 Thurs City Council hearing on the Downtown Parking and Circulation Policies.

\* \*

\* Special Program honoring Martin Luther King's Birthday  
January 15, Weds., Matt Dishman Community Center, 7:30 to 10:30 pm.  
Many special speakers including state and city officials. Plan to attend.

Human Re |

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

1975, Issue 1

Office of Neighborhood Associations

400 City Hall

248-4519



*July*  
*Jan*  
*Apr*  
*July*  
*Oct*

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Executive Review Committee for the Capital Improvements Program began hearing bureau packages on January 2. As a result of the CIP effort to involve citizens, the Office of Planning and Development received 101 requests from 17 neighborhood associations: Parks, 44 requests; Streets and Structures, 24; Traffic Engineering, 14; Sanitary Engineering, 7; Office of Planning and Development, 9; Lighting, 2.

The members of the Executive Review Committee include: Bill Scott, administrative assistant to the Mayor, Art Goodman, Acting Director, Office of Management Services, one assistant from each commissioner's office, and two citizens, Si Stanich, North Portland, and Cindy Banzer, Mt. Tabor neighborhood.

If you are interested in sitting in on any of the sessions, call the City Hall Information Desk for the schedule (248-4210). Hearings continue throughout the week of January 6, with discussion by the committee scheduled for Friday, January 9. The City Council will hear the Capital Improvements Program the week of January 21 through January 24.

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEARING JANUARY 8

The Planning Commission and the Portland Development Commission will hold a joint hearing to receive testimony from citizens about Portland's housing and community development needs. Under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Portland will receive \$8.7 million, based upon the amounts Portland used to receive in federal grant programs. The staff has conducted discussions with citizens groups and is recommending the following goals:

- 1) Maintain and improve low and moderate income residential neighborhoods by: Investment in public services, particularly where such services will occur along with private improvements; (continued on page 2)



# METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County — City of Portland

410 City Hall ■ Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ 248-4187

## mhrc newsletter

JANUARY 1975

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

With the passage of the Contract Compliance Ordinance, MHRC has entered the enforcement arena. This event, coupled with severe financial restrictions which will prevent the hiring of needed staff, has caused the Commission to undertake a close examination of its role, goals and priorities.

Should MHRC retain responsibility for operation of the compliance program and be unable to obtain additional staff, existing staff will have to fill in. This, in turn, will mean abandoning some or all other non-enforcement activities aimed at the promotion of sound human relations. An alternative would be to delegate operation of the compliance program to a line bureau in order to allow MHRC to continue in and expand its efforts in other areas. It is this decision which now faces the Commissioners and which requires resolution in the very near future.

In regard to other Commission activities, the past year has seen a substantial increase in the number of individual cases and complaints referred to MHRC. This is due in large measure to expanded relationships with other local government agencies such as the Police Bureau and the Bureau of Neighborhood Environment. For years the Commission has attempted to respond to requests for services and complaints brought by citizens or referred by other agencies. Appropriate referrals have been made whenever possible, but many cases require direct involvement of the MHRC staff. Because of this fact, and the increased volume, it is becoming more and more necessary to be selective about cases and/or complaints the staff will accept. Staff and Commissioners are in the process of developing criteria for acceptance of complaints or requests for service.



Whatever the outcome of the future, MHRC must continue to seek and foster effective lines of communication with both the community and local government, for without communication promotion of human rights and sound human relations is not possible.

## CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Preliminary work on the Contract Compliance Ordinance began in the spring of 1973. During this time the Commission's Employment Committee and staff met minority organizations and business groups in an effort to compose an effective, acceptable ordinance. At the regular MHRC meeting in August 1973, the sample ordinance was presented to the Commission.

During the months that followed, the proposed ordinance was revised and re-revised in response to additional input from groups such as the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors, and the Minority Contractors Association. The Commission held a public meeting in August 1974 to allow for further citizen participation in the construction of the Ordinance. As a result of this meeting, attended by about 50 people, a number of changes in the Ordinance were adopted.

One of the more difficult decisions faced by the Commissioners during the time the ordinance was being formulated was that of determining whether or not to include a provision affording protection to homosexuals. In presenting their case, members of the gay community argued that if protection for homosexuals is ever to be obtained, it must be presented as a part of a broader package. When presented on its own, they said, it always fails. In the end, although some members of the Commission felt that inclusion of the homosexual clause could possibly endanger the entire ordinance, the proposed ordinance submitted to the Commissioner-in-Charge contained the sexual orientation clause. Exercising her prerogative as Commissioner, Commissioner Schwab deleted the clause when she introduced the proposed ordinance to the City Council.

At the first reading of the ordinance on October 10, 1974, the City Council heard considerable testimony from the gay community, arguing that protection for homosexuals should be a part of the ordinance. The question of whether or not MHRC had the capability of enforcing the ordinance was also raised. At the request of Commissioners Jordan and McCready, the ordinance was tabled until the Commission furnished additional information. Subsequent readings of the ordinance were on October 24 and 31, 1974. The ordinance was passed on October 31, 1974 in the form submitted by Commissioner Schwab. The Commission must finalize staffing arrangements, adopt administrative rules and regulations, notify affected parties, and otherwise prepare for implementation of the Ordinance.

## CASEWORK

Over the past several months, MHRC has rendered technical assistance in response to over 75 complaints made by citizens throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. The large number of complaints received by MHRC is largely due to expanded relationships with the Mayor's Office, the Police Bureau, and the Bureau of Neighborhood Environment. At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of calls coming directly from citizens. Frequently, these cases are "last resort" referrals demanding considerable commitment of staff time. There is also likely to be a need for intervention in tense or volatile interpersonal relations between neighbors and groups.

The large number of complaints received has made it necessary for MHRC to become more selective in accepting cases. The following three items have been considered as response criteria for determining priority cases:

1. Race relations.
2. Senior citizens, sickness, young children.
3. Considerations of health and safety.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Efforts to promote human rights and sound human relations have taken the form of several special projects being currently attended to by the Commission. One effort, undertaken in cooperation with human rights leaders in the community, resulted in Mayor Goldschmidt's issuance of a proclamation declaring December 10, 1974 as "Human Rights Day." The proclamation marks the 26th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations and urges the "wide dissemination and display of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the commemoration of its adoption in a further effort to improve the lot of individuals whose human rights are being denied daily, whether by poverty, political tyranny, blind prejudice, or for any other reason, in any nation of the world."

Closely coinciding with Human Rights Day was the presentation of the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award. This award is presented annually by the Commission to an individual whose unusual devotion to the promotion of human rights deserves recognition. This year's recipient, Thomas J. Sloan, was honored at the Commission's Annual Dinner, December 11, 1974.

In October 1975, the National Association of Human Rights Workers will hold its annual conference in Portland. MHRC staff will be actively involved in the hosting of this convention.

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

From the beginning of its operation, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has been involved in a variety of program activities geared toward the betterment of Human Rights and Human Relations. Such programs do not always produce immediate action and change but seek over a period of time to establish mutual understanding and respect among all economic, religious, ethnic and social groups. Program activities now being carried out by working committees on a regular basis are as follows: Education, Police Community Relations, and Housing.



## WORKING COMMITTEE PROJECTS

### Education

The Education Committee has been working toward the goal of assuring that a course in human relations be included as a requirement for teacher certification in the State of Oregon. The Committee has met several times with a representative of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (the State agency which is responsible for teacher certification and the approval of teacher education programs) and has been in contact with the State Intergroup Human Relations Commission (IHRC). This latter Commission has been charged with the responsibility of insuring that teacher education programs are in compliance with human relations requirements as they now exist. Ben Talley, Chairperson of the Education Committee, has reported that it may be possible for an MHRC Commissioner to be appointed to the IHRC committee that reviews teacher education around the state.

### Police Community Relations

Current priority items for the Police Community Relations Committee are: police human relations training, improving positive relations between citizens and police, alleged harassment of Indians and homosexuals, and licensing of special policemen. During the past several months, this committee has attempted to foster relationships with the official representatives of the Portland Police Bureau and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. According to members of the Committee, these efforts have been successful and the resultant relationships valuable. In the future, the Committee will seek opportunities to participate in police/sheriff staff meetings and training sessions as an additional means of attaining its goals.

## Housing

The Housing Committee has been working with the Schools for the City Committee in an attempt to gather information regarding the housing policies of public agencies such as HUD, the Housing Authority of Portland, the Portland Development Commission, and the Portland Planning Commission. The rationale behind this project is the belief that the best way to integrate schools is to integrate neighborhoods. Using Summer Youth Manpower participants, the Commission and Schools for the City interviewed representatives of the above agencies and the information is now being analyzed. Future projects will include a similar examination of private lending policies, an audit of real estate practices, an investigation of how private agencies help people look for housing, and legislative efforts to improve the low-income housing situation.

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Marlene Bayless, Chairman  
Frank Rivera, Vice Chairman

### STAFF

Vern Summers, Director  
Kalman Szekely, Human Relations Representative  
Darnell Lowery, Human Relations Representative  
Gale Perlas, Secretary  
Desi Freeman, Steno-Clerk



# **METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Multnomah County — City of Portland  
410 City Hall ■ Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ 248-4187

## **mhrc newsletter**

FEBRUARY 1976



Vern Pearson

### **NEWLY ELECTED**

Vern Pearson, 1976 Commission Chairman, was born in Hoffman, Minnesota and attended Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington. Mr. Pearson served in the U. S. Army Medical Corps. He is Vice President of U. S. National Bank, Public Service, Government Relations, Public Affairs, and Urban Affairs. He has been employed by the bank for 20 years.

Mr. Pearson has a community activity background as Secretary-Treasurer of the Capitol Club; past Director, Treasurer, Vice President, and Executive Vice President of the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce; past Director of Tri-County Community Council; and is a strong member of the Boys Club.

He was elected MHRC Chairman because of his commitment to human rights and his belief that there is much to be done to bring about better understanding among all people.

### **PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MHRC has increased its involvement with the Portland Public Schools. Some of the activities included:

1. Participating in the Principal's luncheon at Roosevelt High School.
2. Jointly sponsored Human Rights Week, December 8-12.
3. Monitoring rumor of disturbance at Grant High School.

4. Counseling a minority student at Grout Elementary School.
5. Participating in Human Relations Month, January 15-February 22, 1976.

MHRC is working on other activities with PPS. Projects being planned include:

1. Working with community relations in teacher training workshops.
2. Availability for rumors of disturbances.
3. Monitoring school premises in case of disturbances.

## HOUSING

MHRC's Housing Committee is working with Portland State University on a study of racial steering in the housing industry. The Committee will be studying employment patterns and economic growth patterns as they relate to housing. They will also gather all existing data from other organizations and agencies.

The Committee and staff are organizing housing workshops to be conducted in declining areas in the community. They are also developing a housing handbook as a guide for citizens -- when and where they are discriminated against, and whom to call for action. This handbook will contain tenants' rights laws.

The Housing Committee will also explore the area of red lining. In order to find any evidence of red lining in certain areas of the City, a substantial study will be involved.

## COMMEMORATION PROGRAM HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

MHRC held a program honoring Dr. King on January 15, 1976, at King Elementary School. All elected officials and citizens were invited to attend. Guest speaker was Multnomah County Sheriff Lee Brown, and several speakers from the community expressed their concerns about unity. Other local events were held honoring Dr. King.

## RUSSELL A. PEYTON AWARD

The 1975 Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award was presented to E. Shelton Hill, former Executive Director of the Urban League of Portland, for his outstanding work in the field of human rights. The award, which is named for the first MHRC Director, was presented at a ceremony in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

## MHRC ANNUAL MEETING

The MHRC annual meeting was held January 20, 1976, at the Sheraton Motor Inn. Outgoing Chairman Marlene Bayless presented the gavel to the 1976 Chairman, Vern Pearson.

Awards were given to 1973-74 Commission Chairman Walter Sakai and 1975 Chairman Marlene Bayless for their outstanding leadership.

The staff presented Ellis H. Casson with a special award for his efforts in coordinating community concerns.

Keynote speaker was Portland City Commissioner Charles Jordan, who stressed that commitment is what human relations is all about.

## MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

Commission members and staff met with 30 community groups during December and January in an effort to bring about mutual understanding for the betterment of human relations.

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING

The staff attended an all-day training session in contingency planning, with another session to be held soon. This training is being given by the Community Relations Service, U. S. Department of Justice, at no cost to MHRC. The staff will present a contingency plan to the Commission at their March 16 meeting.

## CASEWORK

MHRC's staff works daily on complaints referred by citizens in Portland and Multnomah County and acts as conciliator in many of the cases.

Neighborhood Conflicts	3
School Problems	3
Employment Complaints	4
Referrals to Other Agencies	8
Requests for Service	15

## MHRC STAFF

Vernon Summers, Director

Kalman Szekely, Human Relations Representative

H. Darnell Lowery, Human Relations Representative

Gale Perlas, Secretary

Desi Freeman, Steno-Clerk (part-time)

Education Committee - The Education Committee met March 2, 1976, to discuss its goals and objectives. Regarding the question of its role relative to the school district, the Committee affirmed that it was one of studying issues, making recommendations, and offering other appropriate assistance. It was also agreed that the Committee should attempt to provide a "place in space" for airing grievances related to education.

The point was made that it would be worthwhile for the Committee to stay in touch with the education committees of various groups and organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Urban League, NAACP, etc. The Committee decided to invite the chairpersons of such organizations in the near future.

#### MONITORING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS OF QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

The staff drafted a plan for monitoring the affirmative action plans of other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies. This draft will be reviewed by the Employment Committee and passed to the full Commission for final approval.

#### NEW MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION

MHRC appointed William S. Thompson III to the Commission to fill Ben Talley's unexpired term. Thompson attended Wilson High School and Stanford University, where he obtained a BA in Psychology. He also attended Universite de Besancon in Besancon, France. Mr. Thompson is employed by Standard Insurance Company as a Supervisor in Claims Personnel. He has an extensive background in Equal Employment Opportunity.

#### PAST COMMISSION MEMBER

Ben Talley served MHRC for two years with his experience in the field of education. It was a disappointing development for the Commission when it became evident that Mr. Talley's position with the State of Oregon would not allow him adequate time to continue working with the Commission, thus prompting his resignation. MHRC says thanks, Ben, for a job well done.

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County — City of Portland  
410 City Hall ■ Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ 248-4187

MARCH 1976

# mhrc newsletter

#### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

During March, there were several community problems in the area of race relations. MHRC is observing Tri-Met's transit mall project as related to equal employment opportunity and minority business enterprise. MHRC is still trying to help resolve the Emanuel Hospital situation. In spite of the threat of budget cuts which may abolish the Commission's staff, MHRC is continuing its efforts to bring about a better understanding among all citizens and groups in the community.

#### CASEWORK

Neighborhood Conflicts	5
Employment Discrimination	2
Referrals to Other Agencies	9
Request for Service	10

#### EMANUEL HOSPITAL

Vern Summers, MHRC Director, has been working with some of the Black employees at Emanuel Hospital during the past three months in an attempt to help solve their differences. The employees asked Mr. Summers to coordinate the Black leadership to help solve some of the discrimination practices taking place at the hospital. After several meetings, Roger Larson, president of the hospital, appointed a fact-finding committee to represent the Black leadership in the community. Mr. Larson expressed his confidence in this committee and said he would give it full cooperation. The committee has begun working on some of the group's complaints. Hopefully, some results from the investigation will appear soon.



## WORKING COMMITTEES

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has six standing working committees to review plans and problems to submit for approval to the full Commission.

\* Education - Sister Mary Louise Volk, Chairman

The Education Committee will seek to promote equal educational opportunity in the metropolitan area as well as engage in community education activities relating to human relations. Specific duties will include continuation of the effort to make human relations training a requirement for teacher certification in the State of Oregon, formulation and presentation of human relations seminars and training sessions, production of human relations spots on radio and TV public service time, and development of human relations speakers' bureau.

\* Employment - Sister Francella Mary Griggs, Chairman

The Employment Committee is charged with furthering the Commission's goals as they relate to equal employment opportunity. Specific duties would include reviewing information regarding affirmative action plans of interest to the Commission, ongoing review of the City of Portland's EEO contract compliance ordinance, and formulation of new programs or activities designed to promote equal employment opportunity in the metropolitan area. The Committee will also produce periodic reports to the Commission containing, when appropriate, recommendations for Commission action.

\* Housing - Charles Williamson, Chairman

The Housing Committee is charged with attainment of the Commission's goals for equal and fair housing in the metropolitan area. Specific duties for the year include producing a fair housing handbook, audits of real estate practices and policies of lending institutions, and formulation and presentation of fair housing seminars.

\* Minority Business Enterprise - Keith Gowing, Chairman

The Minority Business Enterprise Committee will review Tri-Met's MBE Program and monitor its functions while the program is in effect. The Committee will direct MHRC staff to coordinate minority contractors and vendors within the metropolitan area for input to any plan dealing with MBE Programs. The staff will prepare a report to this Committee for assessment.

\* Police-Community Relations - William Jackson, Chairman

The Police-Community Relations Committee will be responsible for maintaining and bettering existing relations between the Commission and the Portland Police Bureau, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, and the courts for the purpose of promoting the Commission's goals relating to equal treatment in the enforcement of the law and the administration of justice. The Committee will review complaints and, when appropriate, make recommendations for Commission action.

\* Russell A. Peyton Award - Hazel Hays, Chairman

This Committee will be responsible for selecting the recipient of the Russell A. Peyton Award.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee is seeking resumes of citizens interested in serving on the Commission, who have some expertise in various fields, to assist the Commission in meeting its goals and objectives.

Housing Committee - The Housing Committee has asked Portland State University for assistance in auditing real estate practices in the Portland area. The Committee is working on a study to determine whether or not there exist patterns of housing discrimination which would indicate violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VIII of the Housing Act of 1968. At present, the Committee is working on development of the scope and methodology for the study.

RECEIVED  
SEP 15 1977  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS

RAUL SOTO-SEELIG

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1101 Executive Building  
811 S. W. Sixth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Telephone: 223-4223

September 12, 1977

Editor  
Human Relations Newsletter  
Metropolitan Human Relations  
Commission  
412 City Hall  
Portland, OR 97204

Attention: Catherine Siegner, Editor

Dear Ms. Siegner:

Your very interesting article on COSSPO, Volume 1 No. 3, September 9, 1977 has the following language:

"Native Spanish speakers also need to familiarize themselves with the American system of government, and must acquire a Social Security card before a permanent visa can be granted."

The above language may be interpreted to mean that native Spanish speakers, but not other people, must acquire a Social Security card before a permanent visa card can be obtained. Or the language may be interpreted to mean that anyone must acquire a Social Security card before obtaining a permanent visa.

It is my opinion that a Social Security card is not required before obtaining a permanent visa. In addition, certain groups of immigrants (the classification of the group is not based upon a national origin) may be barred permanently from obtaining a permanent visa if they obtain employment without authorization from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. As employment is forbidden to some groups of possible immigrants possession of a Social Security card may raise the question as to whether or not that person was employed without authorization.

The damage which may be produced by people misunderstanding the language in your article is very great. I urge you to

**RAUL SOTO-SEELIG**

Editor

September 12, 1977

Page 2

contact Mr. Lyle H. Dahlin, Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Portland so you may obtain clarification as to the law and the policy of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Thereafter I urge you to publicize that information to avoid harmful consequences to those who may literally follow your advise.

If you need any clarification from me or if I can be of any help to you now or in the future, please feel free to contact me.

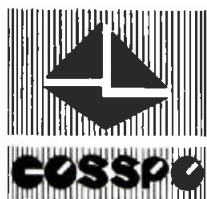
Please continue to send to me your very interesting newsletter.

Very truly yours,



Raul Soto-Seelig

RSS:db



COMITÉ DE PERSONAS DE HABLA ESPAÑOLA DE OREGON  
Committee of Spanish Speaking People of Oregon

---

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 1977

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

September 16, 1977

Ms. Catherine Siegner  
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission  
1220 S.W. 5th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Catherine:

I am very grateful to you for your interest in the largest minority in the State of Oregon.

We really enjoyed the article you wrote for the newsletter.

Please feel free to call us any time.

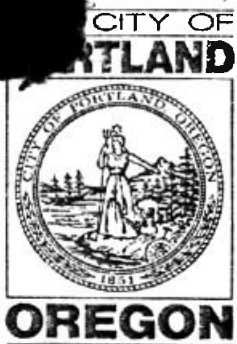
Very truly yours,

COSSPO

*Luis A. Alvarez*

Luis A. Alvarez  
Chairman

LAA/ba



OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY

CHARLES JORDAN  
COMMISSIONER

1220 S.W. FIFTH AVE.  
PORTLAND, OR. 97204  
503 248-4682

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 1978

TO: — Nick Barnett  
Al Jamison  
Mary Pedersen  
Wayne Potter

FROM: Peter Engbretson

SUBJECT: Newsletters

RECEIVED  
FEB 24 1978  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

At its meeting February 15, the Public Safety/Community Affairs Budget Advisory Committee agreed to recommend to Commissioner Jordan that your respective newsletters be combined into a single monthly publication, sent to everyone on a combined mailing list. The committee will be sending a memo to this effect, which I'll pass on to you.

This would be, I feel, an appropriate agenda item for the Policy Council, March 14. Please give some thought to it before then.

In the interim, I'd appreciate your adding BAC members to your mailing lists so they can have a better feel for what you produce. Perhaps you could start by sending them a copy of your last public mailing, with a brief cover memo.

A list of BAC members is attached.

Thank you.

PE:ph

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Jordan

RECEIVED  
FEB 24 1978  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

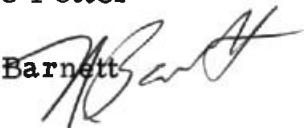


# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

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Multnomah County • City of Portland  
March 16, 1978

TO: Peter Engbretson  
Al Jamison  
Mary Pedersen  
Wayne Potter

FROM: Nick Barnett 

SUBJECT: BAC request re newsletter merger

This memo is in response to Peter Engbretson's memo of February 22, 1978, concerning newsletters. As he suggested, we will forward copies of our Newsletter to each of the BAC members with a cover letter.

Our Commission has not yet had an opportunity to review Peter's memo, nor has it received the memo from the BAC on their recommendations for a newsletter merger.

In the interim, I would like to indicate some of my concerns about this idea. At first glance, it would seem that this idea would produce benefits in terms of cost savings, increased administrative efficiency, relieve some work load for organizations involved, and reduce duplication. In my judgment, a closer analysis predicts a less fortunate set of outcomes:

- In terms of costs: MHRC has an arrangement that is already cheaper than any other bureau and lower than could be produced by any kind of merging of newsletters.
- In terms of administrative efficiency: the difficulties incurred in trying to meet logistics, constraints, and deadlines of another agency in order to produce a newsletter would decrease rather than increase our administrative efficiency.
- There are several other concerns (e.g., MHRC's City/County status, MHRC's area-wide rather than neighborhood orientation, etc.); but, let me address a most serious concern -- the MHRC Newsletter has an essentially different nature and purpose from other City bureau-type newsletters in its orientation to human rights advocacy, addressing politically sensitive issues, and human relations editorializing, free from bureau or political constraints. It would serve little purpose to compromise this, and the merging of our Newsletter with those of other bureaus seems likely to have that effect.



Corbett Building, Room 312  
430 S.W. Morrison Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



Even though these concerns are important to me, I would still be willing to discuss this matter further.

NB:gp

cc: James R. Sitzman

# *Metropolitan Human Relations Commission*

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Multnomah County • City of Portland

## MHRC NEWSLETTER

### GOALS:

1. To provide human relations information to a broad segment of this metropolitan area.
2. To increase this community's sensitivity to human relations and civil rights issues.
3. To share information on specific MHRC projects and activities.

### FORMAT:

1. Editorial by Director.
2. Article on an MHRC Commissioner.
3. One or two (depending on size) articles specific to MHRC activities.
4. One or two (depending on size) articles on human relations/civil rights issues.
5. Announcements of civil rights events, workshops, etc.

Articles are usually written by MHRC staff. Occasionally, we will reprint a relevant article with permission of original source. Articles and format are reviewed and edited by MHRC Director for relevance, sensitivity, and accuracy. The goal is to publish a newsletter every three months but is dependent upon MHRC having a work study student to do the writing, typing, and layout. We currently have Kathleen O'Keefe from Portland State University. She anticipates staying through June of 1981. Staff will make every attempt to replace her for the following year.

Using the newspaper print and format, as we have in the past, keeps the cost minimal. Estimated cost is \$95 per 1,000. There is an additional cost for mailing. This is difficult to break out because it goes through the City's regular bulk rate mailing system.



Corbett Building, Room 312  
430 S.W. Morrison Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



MAILING TO:

- Community organizations
- Government officials, City, County, State
- Key civic and industry leaders
- Radio, television, newspapers
- Other Human Relations Commissions nationally
- Portland and Multnomah County Schools and Public Libraries

# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

## PROPOSAL FOR MHRC NEWSLETTER

Publication schedule: Quarterly

<u>Distribution:</u>	Organizations	441
	Neighborhood Associations	132
	City/County Bureaus	67
	State Representatives	38
	Disabled List	189
	Individuals	<u>147</u>
	TOTAL	1,014

Content: Each issue will focus on the work of one Committee of the MHRC with short updates from other committees.

First Issue: HOUSING

Discrimination in housing---factual survey  
Discrimination in housing---legal procedures  
Upcoming Housing Conference PR  
PLUS: short pieces on Equal Justice, Multi-cultural Education, and the Disability Project, *Empl*

Format: 4 8½ x 11 pages (11 x 17 front-and-back)

<u>Budget:</u>	Typesetting & Layout	\$40
	Printing: 1,000 copies	\$49
	1,500 copies	\$63
	2,000 copies	\$78

(With 2 halftones)	1,000	\$91
	1,500	\$106
	2,500	\$121

Mailing (bulk mail rate 11¢/piece)	1,000	\$110
	1,500	\$165
	2,000	\$220



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Room 520  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136





(These figures assume U.S. mail for all pieces---we may be able to cut this substantially thru inter-office mail)

Recommendation: Patent 1,500 (no halftones)/ mail 1,000  
total cost : \$213/issue

Editing/production responsibility: MHRC staff

JB:jk  
3/2/84

*File copy*

# *Human Relations*



# Social Worker joins Human Relations Commission

Carol Bryant, one of the newest members of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, is a young lady with varied interests and involvements.

Ms. Bryant is a native of Berkeley, California, her parents having moved to the Bay Area from Louisiana during World War II. "I would consider my family as the average, working class Black family with all the usual problems that Black families have. Although I was the first in my family to attend college, they gave me the incentive and the encouragement to go to school."

Graduating from Berkeley High School in 1968, Mrs. Bryant was recruited by Willamette University during one of its minority recruiting campaigns. She and a friend came to Willamette and found themselves, along with another young lady, the first Black women to attend the college. There were twelve Black students on campus, most from California.

"It was a shock. Salem was so different from Berkeley and we just weren't expecting it." Most of the Black students did not return to Willamette the following year, including Carol. "It was a very difficult position to be in - being Black in a small town in Oregon in the '60s, breaking the ground, being a pioneer."

Returning to Berkeley that summer, Carol intended never to return to Oregon. She did return the next fall to attend Mt. Angel College. "It was hard at Mt. Angel, too, but somehow the town did not seem as racist. I just spent my time studying and in my dorm. I had set my goals

by then and decided to stick it out." She did participate in some school activities, including serving as President of the Black Students' Union.

Carol met and married her husband, Jess, while a junior at Mt. Angel. Jess had come from the Mississippi Delta with the Job Corps. He was supposed to go to Texas, but he would not get off the bus until he got as far from Mississippi as he could get. When he saw the Pacific Ocean at Tillamook, he decided that was far enough. Jess stayed at Tillamook for two years, then went to Idaho, then to Salem, where is a Forest Technician with the Bureau of Land Management.

After graduating from college, Carol worked in Salem with the Neighborhood Youth Corps and became active in the NAACP. She became interested in social services and applied to the Portland State University School of Social Work. Accepted there, she had to commute to Portland from Salem.

During the two years she spent in graduate school, several eventful things happened. The family moved to Portland, "I told my husband we just had to move where we were around Black people - Salem was too much." She also became a mother, their son Mark born in 1974.

Carol's graduate school field placements included the University of Oregon Medical School's Child Development and Rehabilitation Project and the Rural Mental Health Project, a program for Chicanos. She also served as an intern with the Port of Portland, evaluating its affirmative action program.

Her experiences at graduate school, where there were few Black students, and on her field placements, brought an awareness of the need for direct services to people and especially to Black people. She also became involved in the field of child development and child care and aware of the need for planning.

"I still have a basic dilemma. I enjoy being involved in direct services and I know there is still a great need for Black therapists and other professionals in the Black community, but I also have this other feeling that the real power to make changes lies with the planners. Blacks do not have enough decision making positions to be able to influence policy."

Carol's interest in policy making led to a position with the Tri-County Community Council as a planner in the field of children's services. From that position she went to the Neighborhood Options for Child Care program, where she is director.

This program, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, seeks to enhance and facilitate existing child care networks and assist parents to expand them. Among the projects are a play group which is expanding into a cooperative preschool, day care homes, a child care referral system and a lending library for day care mothers with cribs, highchairs and other children's items, and sponsorship of a day care mother's organization. This program allows Carol to use her interests and talents in community organization, planning and direct services to families.



CAROL WILLIAMS BRYANT

Among her other activities are membership in Citizens for Children, a statewide advocacy and lobbying group for children; International Women's Support Group of AFSC; the AFSC Third World Coalition; the American

Association of University Women; the Urban League of Portland; the Affirmative Action Committee of the regional AFSC; and the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee.

## Agencies adopt set-aside programs

Two major Minority Business Enterprise programs have been passed by local public bodies - Multnomah County and the Port of Portland.

The Port of Portland's program sets aside at least ten per cent of the total dollar amount of public improvement contracts of below \$50,000 for minority enterprise. A Minority Incentive Program gives a one per cent advantage to contractors bidding on public improvement and other selected contracts in excess of \$50,000 who subcontract at least ten per cent of the contract to minority enterprise.

The Multnomah County program sets aside ten per cent of the dollar amount of public works projects and other selected projects with contract prices of below \$50,000. Contracts totaling less than \$5,000 will be negotiated with minority businesses and contracts between \$5,000 and \$50,000 will be bid among minority businesses. An Incentive Program for Non-minority contractors who subcontract at least fifteen per cent of the contract to minority enterprise provides a one per cent bid preference.

The county will also promote purchase of goods, services and equipment from minority enterprise and may establish separate programs to govern the award of such contracts.

Minority Business Enterprise Programs are based in part on the idea that because of past and

present discrimination, minority firms are unable to compete effectively and therefore cannot secure contracts that are awarded strictly through competitive bidding. It has been determined that until these firms can become self-sufficient, viable businesses capable of open competition, the best means of allowing them an equitable share of public financed work, is through private negotiation of contracts or through bidding among minority firms.

It is difficult for anyone to start a business in this country, but for minorities undercapitalization, lack of managerial experience and other barriers to participation, magnify the difficulties.

The Small Business Administration 1970 annual report estimates that it would require at least 600,000 new businesses, worth \$40 billion, to bring minority business population to its share of the total population. A 1969 U.S. Census Report showed receipts from minority business accounted for less than one percent of the total business receipts and the 322,000 minority owned businesses represented four per cent of the total.

Recognizing the need to develop viable minority business, the President of the United States, issued three Executive Orders to develop and coordinate a national program for minority enterprise. Executive Order 11458, March

1968, established the Office of Minority Business Enterprise and the National Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise. Executive Order 11518, March 1970, called for increased representation of minority business concerns in federal departments and agencies. Executive Order 11625 of October 1971 supercedes 11458 and 11518 but includes the substantive provisions of 11458. Executive Order 11625 requires that each federal department or agency "... continue all current efforts to foster and promote minority business enterprise."

In a Presidential memorandum to all federal departments, dated February 11, 1974, President Gerald Ford urged federal departments to "look for every appropriate opportunity for minority business to participate in government programs, contractors, subcontractors, bankers, etc."

In 1974, the General Services Administration required that "positive efforts shall be made by the grantees to utilize small and minority-owned business sources of supplies and services ..."

John Craig, owner of Complete Gardening Service, prepares trees for planting on Tri-Met Mall. (Photo: Anell Nance, courtesy of Pihaa, Schmidt and Westdahl)





NICK BARNETT

(Photo: Dan Long, courtesy of the Portland Observer)

## Keep moving on . . .

Recently Mr. Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director-elect of the NAACP, declared, "If Black folks don't fight to keep moving we can't hold on to what we've gained . . ."

My observations as Executive Director of MHRC bear out the truth of this statement and it applies not only to the rights of Blacks but to the rights of the elderly, youth, women, Chicanos, Orientals, Puerto Ricans and other groups who still are not allowed to assume that their human rights will be respected.

While it is factually observable that racial minorities, women, the handicapped and others have made some gains, it is also a fact that the vast majority of Indians, Blacks and Chicanos still feel the brunt of the nation's economic recession-inflation. We are still no where near visible in proportionate numbers in administrative, managerial and supervisory positions in either public or private positions.

We are still unduly over represented in arrest records and prison populations. Our children are still ghettoed into schools with the smallest budgets. And don't mention bussing - it's us who get bussed in larger numbers and for longer distances. And do you call not having the option of upper grades in the schools in Northeast Portland

schools in Northeast Portland elementary schools voluntary?

Let me ask you, gentle reader, a few basic questions that I have to face. How would you answer the following:

1. Has Portland reached a high standard of fair and equal housing opportunity?

2. Since state and federal laws have required affirmative action programs - what is the level of progress toward fair and equal treatment in employment for minorities?

3. Since the "separate but equal" doctrine has been struck down by the courts as illegal and in fact discriminatory - to what extent do minority children have access to quality education equal to that available in suburban schools?

This is only a mere handful of the questions that need to be asked.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission would like to work with you in developing the answers to these and other crucial questions and to support you in implementing the solutions.

Nick Barnett, who became executive director of MHRC in September, 1978, is a graduate of the Fresno State School of Social Work.

Following his graduation from high school, Barnett went into

the U.S. Army as a Conscientious Objector, serving in the medical corps. Six years were spent in the Far East and Hawaii.

In 1968 he left the military mainly in response to racial and social problems in the United States. Hoping to become involved in solving some of these problems, he completed his college education and entered Social Work school at Fresno State College. He immediately became involved in the Black rights movement at the college, serving as co-chairman of the Black Caucus for graduate students.

Following his graduation with a Master of Social Work degree, Barnett came to Oregon and accepted a position at PACT designing a pilot project to demonstrate multi-disciplinary community mental health programs. After spending a few months with the Court of Domestic Relations, he accepted a position at Lewis and Clark College where he was director of the schools "University Year for Action" program.

Among Barnett's recent community activities are: City Planning Commission; vice chairman of Piedmont-Columbia Neighborhood Association, Albina Voter Registration Project; Board of Directors, Christy School.

### From the chairman

For some time, your Human Relations Commission has felt a need to open better communications with our community. This newsletter is one method we hope will inform interested people of what we are doing. Our intention is to publish a newsletter at least once a quarter.

During the last few years the progress of the Commission has been hindered by the pressures placed upon the budgets of local governments. Budget cutting has resulted in staff cuts which have resulted in cutting back on our goals because we could not count on stable staff. Our funding this year is greatly improved in comparison with last year. We could use more money, but what government couldn't? Now we are in a position to have a stable staff of competent and dedicated people.

Last week we met and discussed our goals for the year. There are many things requiring our attention, however we prefer to do a few things well rather than many things poorly.

Our committees will be considering the following programs:

1. MHRC monitoring of city and county affirmative action and contract compliance programs. We believe these programs are being properly run, however any program of this nature needs an independent monitor in order to insure citizen confidence in its program.

2. A review of desegregation programs in our public schools.

3. A study of the relationship of disadvantaged people to the Criminal Justice System.

Citizens are welcome to appear formally before the Commission, although of course time is limited. We would like to encourage anyone who has concerns or suggestions to contact any of the commissioners or the MHRC office.

Vern Pearson

## Neighborhood mediation centers planned

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission will sponsor a "Neighborhood Mediation Project" designed to deal with neighborhood conflicts in an informal manner, avoiding police or court involvement and restoring a sense of community to the neighborhood.

The usual neighborhood problems - children, dogs, noise, cars, trash - can develop into a major neighborhood dispute. Often the police or court system become involved, emotions are heightened and hostility and resentment grow, thus making continued relationships among neighbors difficult.

The Neighborhood Mediation Unit will provide an arena where neighbors or families can come together and discuss problems with an interested, neutral person and can reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Neighborhood disputes not only are disruptive to the people involved and their neighbors, but they take a great deal of professional staff time. Disputes often involve a number of areas - often the original problem has

long been forgotten - and involve several different city or county bureaus.

For example, a dispute over automobiles can involve the Bureau of Neighborhood Environment (noise and litter); Parking Patrol (street parking); Bureau of Buildings (yard storage); Fire Bureau (fire hazards) and the Police Bureau. The Portland Police Department estimates that from 30 to 40 per cent of its calls (totalling approximately 200,000 calls in 1976) are related to family or neighborhood problems.

## Commission supports SB850

MHRC has endorsed Senate Bill 850 which would establish a Commission on the Status of Blacks in Oregon, for the purpose of studying the past and current legal, economic, educational, social and political status of Blacks in Oregon.

The eleven member commission, to be appointed by the Governor, would study state and local laws to determine if they are discriminatory; analyze the

lems.

The Neighborhood Mediation Unit will be housed in the community and staffed by volunteers. The volunteer "mediation officers" will be extensively trained in group process, communications and methods of arbitration, and will have close ties to established social agencies that are able to provide more specialized treatment if indicated.

The current plan foresees opening the first one or two pilot programs in January of 1978.

legal status of Blacks under existing laws; review working conditions and union representation; examine educational opportunities; analyze employment policies and practices; assess programs of state agencies; and serve as a distributor of information.

The bill has been passed out of the Committee on Aging and Minority Affairs and is currently in Ways and Means.

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
Multnomah County - Dennis Buchanan, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge

**Vern Pearson - Chairman**  
**W. G. Barnett - Executive Director**

412 City Hall, Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 248-4187

**Cover Photo:**  
Patricia Buckley, Berean Child Care Center  
Daughter of Ms. Raquel Rojas

**Photo:** Dan Long  
Courtesy of the Portland Observer



The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the City and County. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

**Commissioners:**  
Vern Pearson, Chairman  
Hazel G. Hays, Vice Chairman  
Sister Francella Mary Griggs  
Eleanor Davis  
Harry C. Ward  
Carol Williams Bryant  
Armando Laguardia  
Warne Nunn  
Christopher P. Thomas  
Carol Clark  
Nita Chavan  
Reverend Richard Hughes  
William Thompson III



# Harvey Scott School: A lesson in human relations

The students and staff of Harvey Scott Elementary School did not begin their year-long program in multi-cultural education to qualify for the McPherson Award, but as a response to a racial incident during the first week of school.

Located at 67th and Prescott, Harvey Scott has a large contingent of bussed-in Black students, about 110 of the school enrollment of 600. One factor that makes adjustment difficult is the fact that most of the Black students are in the seventh and eighth grades, having attended majority Black schools in the lower grades. Of this year's graduating class of 105, 35 are Black; 20 seventh graders are Black; and the additional 55 Black students are spread among the lower grades.

On September 9th, during the noon hour, fighting broke out on the school grounds and on the adjacent park, involving about 150 seventh and eighth graders - divided along racial lines. A large number of youngsters ran home, telling their parents they were afraid of the Black students who came on the bus. Of course, this resulted in a barrage of angry and concerned parents.

The new principal, Harold Kulm, met the situation with a year-long "Twenty Point Integration Plan" involving staff, students, parents and the community.

Among the principal activities were meetings and social affairs where parents could discuss concerns and where Black and white parents could meet; added activities for seventh and eighth graders; an activity bus so bussed students can participate in after school activities; home visits by teachers and the principal; and multi-cultural training for the teachers.

"The Black parents were surprised when we asked to meet with them in their neighborhood. They said they had been promised such a meeting for several years but it had never happened. They were most concerned about their children being made to feel welcome at Scott," Kulm explained. The discussion then turned to the subtle side of racism. "It was hard, but I learned a lot."

This experience made Kulm aware of the need for multi-cultural education for his staff. The school was closed for the workshop and all teachers were required to attend. "It always causes problems when you close the school, but I thought it was absolutely necessary and would advise it for all schools." Kulm considers the teacher training as a key element in the plan's success and believes such training should be required of all teachers.

The most visible aspect of the "desegregation project" is a mural depicting brotherhood. The mural was designed and painted by a group of Black students assisted by artists from Portland State University and depicts the brotherhood of all races, with a generous dose of Black History.

Cynthia Govan, an eighth grade student and one of the leaders of the student planning group, said of her experience at Scott, "I went to the early grades at Woodlawn, then to Sacajewea. Sacajewea only goes to the sixth grade so then I was supposed to come to Scott. I had a bad feeling about Scott. I had heard about the problems, but my mother thought I should come here. Last year it was horrible - just awful. There were fights all the time and you couldn't walk down the hall without getting poked or hit."



Students Appreciate Harvey Scott School

Photo: Wes Guderian, courtesy of the Oregonian

"This year things are much better. Mr. Kulm will listen to you and try to do something. When he tells you he will do it, you can depend on him."

Cynthia said the white students have learned a lot about Black history and culture and now treat the Black students with respect. "I learned a lot about whites, too. I found out that they are human and have problems too. I used to not like whites and not trust them. Now I trust them like anyone else."

Although desegregation was easier this year, Kulm does not consider the job complete. "We are at about 90 on a scale of from zero to 100. We still do not have integration. It is much better, but I still see little groups of

Blacks and groups of whites in the cafeteria. There are more Blacks sprinkled among the white students and I can see the change, but we have a long way to go."

Kulm hopes to have more younger Black students next fall and believes the transition would be easier in the lower grades.

"Our success lies in that we brought in resources from the community. We had assistance from the Area Office, the Title VII staff, the Urban League, Portland State University and others."

The McPherson Award for Interracial Understanding is presented each year to the Portland Public Schools elementary

school whose eighth grade class most nearly meets specific criteria in multi-cultural education. The students, staff and parents must be involved in planning and carrying out the projects. The selection is made by a citizen committee.

The award was donated to the school system by Mrs. Oslay J. Gates as a memorial to her parents, Reverend and Mrs. Gordon McPherson. The award was first made in 1976 to Creston Elementary School.

Although he did not have the award in mind when he decided to desegregate his school peacefully and with optimum benefit for all, Harold Kulm is already looking over the award criteria and wondering about next year.

## Human Relations Awards



Mercedes Deiz

Judge Mercedes Deiz was presented the Urban League of Portland's special award for her practical devotion to the Urban League concept of equality.

Additional award recipients are: Nellie Fox, AFL-CIO, for furthering the cause of women; Leon Johnson, director of the youth division of the City Human Resource Bureau, for work with youth; Dr. Paul Wright, former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church for opening his church to all races; Bob Burns, executive director of the National Electrical Contractors Association, for equal job opportunities; Gordon Todd of Todd Building Co. for

economic development within the concepts of the Urban League. The University of Portland was awarded for its program to attract Black students.

William B. Webber, Vice President of Tektronix, and Reverend Richard N. Hughes, Executive Director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will be recipients of the 1977 National Conference of Christians and Jews Human Relations Award at the 28th Annual Brotherhood Award Banquet.



William B. Webber



Reverend R. Hughes

Vernon E. Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League, has been chosen to receive the United Way of America's Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award. The award was established to recognize persons who have rendered outstanding service to the voluntary movement in the United States and honors Alexis de Tocqueville, who admired the American spirit of voluntary effort for the common good in his important work, "Democracy in America".

Jordan was raised in Atlanta. He is a graduate of DePaw

University and earned a law degree at Howard University. During the 1960's he was heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement. He served as Georgia Field Director for the NAACP, as an attorney consultant for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, and as director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council.

In 1970, he became executive director of the United Negro College Fund and on January 1, 1972, became Executive Director of the National Urban League.



Robert Hazen

Bob Hazen, President of the Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan Association, was selected as the 1977 recipient Concordia College's annual Citizenship Award. The annual award is given to the individual from Oregon who, in the judgement of Concordia's Board of Control, has contributed substantially to the enrichment of the community.

Hazen was cited for: "His time, energy and concern in effecting both progress and enrichment for the Greater Portland Community, as illustrated by his varied and numerous positions with the Portland

Chamber of Commerce.

• His persistent efforts in soliciting funds for the less fortunate of the Portland community as demonstrated by his constant interest and activity with the United Good Neighbors.

• His extraordinary success in managing a savings and loan association, thus demonstrating the viability of the free enterprise system in providing housing for countless Americans.

• The exceptional renown he has brought to our community by virtue of his leadership in various national organizations.

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## CALENDAR

**Legal Aid Service** will sponsor two classes for persons working in social agencies with low income people. The classes, which are free, will be held on May 19 and 26 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in room C-1 at PCC Stadium Center, 1736 S.W. Alder. The first meeting includes an overview of types of problems handled by Legal Aid and an insight into consumer law issues. The second session deals with sales and loan contracts, liens and repossessions.

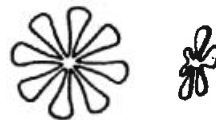
The Annual Meeting of the **Northwest Oregon Health Systems Agency** will be held on May 25th at the Sheraton Hotel. Guest speaker is Dr. Harry Cain, Director of the Bureau of health Planning and Resource Development, Health Resources Administration, HEW, Washington, D.C. (287-2241)

The Portland State University Black Studies Center will sponsor a **Writer and Poetry Series** on May 12, 13 and 14 at Smith Memorial Center. The series will include workshops focusing on various forms of creative writing and a public presentation of local and national Black artists.

Featured speakers at the **Oregon Coalition for National Health Security, Inc.** fund-raising dinner are Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW) and chairman of the Committee for National Health Insurance, and E. G. Marshall, stage, screen and television star. The dinner will be held June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Coliseum.

The **Oregon Women's Conference** will be held at Willamette University in Salem on June 3rd, 4th and 5th. Workshops will explore over 100 subjects of interest to women and the eighteen delegates to attend the national election in November will be elected. For information for election as a delegate, contact Pat Nestler 378-8189 (Salem).

The National Conference of Christians and Jews will honor Reverend Richard N. Hughes, Executive Director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and William B. Webber, Vice President of Tektronix, at its **Annual Brotherhood Award Banquet** on May 17th. (223-7773)



A film series, **Invervention: Changing Patterns of Global Exploitation**, will be sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. Showings will be held at 4312 S.E. Stark.

May 20 - **Who Invited Us** (military intervention in the '60s) **Sharing Global Resources** (multilateral corporations)

May 26 - **Mr. Nixon's Secret Legacy** (limited nuclear war doctrine)

June 2 - **Chile Lives and Thailand's Coup**

June 9 - **Indonesia's Bitter Fruit and Philippines: The End of an Illusion**

June 16 - **No Time for Tears** (political repression in Brazil) and **Brazil's Economic Miracle**

June 23 - **No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger** and **The McConnell Film** (effect of cuts in defense budget on aerospace workers)

The first in a series of "town hall meetings" of interest to the public and criminal justice agencies will be held at 12240 N.E. Glisan on May 26th at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Multnomah County Division of Public Safety. The topic is **Urban Survival: You're not Alone**. The meetings are intended to provide discussion of law enforcement issues, acquainting citizens with services and soliciting citizen opinion and suggestions.



# *Human Relations*



VOLUME 1 NO 2 JULY 1977

## *Newsletter*

# Carol Clark Edmo: Fighting for Indian rights

Carol Clark Edmo, a member of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, serves as Director of Outreach for the Urban Indian Program. In 1974, she came to the program as Assistant Director of the Child Care Program and in May of 1976, moved to her current position.

Carol has a very unique background: that of an American Indian who was born and raised off the reservation, was denied tribal identity, and has dedicated a great deal of her life to the pursuit of rights for Indian people.

She was born in Connecticut; her father being of Sioux background. She was fortunate to have grandparents who travelled from reservation to reservation, with whom she spent her summers as a child.

These summers in the midwest and southwest not only gave her an insight into varied Indian cultures, but introduced her to the West. When it was time for her to attend college, she chose the University of Denver, where she studied Sociology. She transferred from there to the University of Chicago, studying Anthropology and Child Psychology.

In 1966, Carol moved to New York where she was a child care worker at St. Barnabas House, a shelter care program for children. She also attended the New School for Social Research part-time.

"I never did get my degree," she

explained. "The Cambodian invasion occurred at about the time I should have taken my exams and the school closed for the rest of the year."

During her stay in New York, Carol came to know Indian people who were involved in the fish-ins in the state of Washington and began to renew her interest in the West. In 1972, she went to the United Nations Conference on Environment, attending the alternative conference. Two of the Indians she went with travelled on "Indian passports," demonstrating their claim to sovereignty.

When the Indians at Tacoma decided to establish a children's center, they asked Carol to direct the proposed program. The children's center did not get started due to preoccupation with legal matters and economic developments, so Carol began looking for employment. This is how she arrived in Portland at the Urban Indian Center.

Carol is militant in her pursuit of Indian rights. "Most people do not seem to understand that the conflict over fishing rights is an economic struggle. The claim to special fishing rights is based on treaties between the U.S. and various Indian tribes. The United States gained territory, but the Indians were not paid money for the land. This payment was in certain economic rights, including fishing and hunting rights."

Over the years many of these rights have been taken away. Land remaining in Indian ownership has been taken; some has

been flooded by dams. For some of these recent acquisitions of land, there have been money payments.

Traditionally, Indians did not own land, but used it communally. Now, reservation land is allotted to individuals and according to regulations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; upon the death of an individual, the land is divided evenly among the heirs. "This is done nowhere else in the world, and the result is that many people own minute parcels of land. On land that is leased out, some individuals receive annual rent checks of 7 cents or so." In some areas, the tribes are attempting to reclaim the land, but it is difficult because a large percentage of the owners must agree and it is difficult to find many of them.

Indians who do own land on the reservation, or land held in lieu of reservation land, are not allowed to sell without the approval of BIA or certification of competency. "For example, my husband's parents lived at Celilo and were relocated when the dam was built. The governor had a house built for them in Wishram but because there were no building codes the house was not constructed properly. They can sell, but only because they took the unusual step of having themselves declared competent to handle their own affairs."

Another practice of the BIA which Carol considers a purposeful abuse of Indian's economic rights is encouraging tribes not (Please turn to p. 3, col. 1)



Carol Clark Edmo

## Urban Indian Center provides services for Portland's Native Americans

by Catherine Slegner

The Urban Indian Center at 326 N.W. Westover Rd. is a good example of a social service agency meeting the needs of the community - and more.

Back in 1971, the United Indian Council established the Urban Indian Council, and with an initial \$20,000 budget and 2 small rooms on S.E. 11th and Rhone, began aiding the Native American population of Portland with clothes, shelter, food and essential services. An appeal to city government brought additional employees, and some successful grant writing helped cover expenses. A move to S.W. 16th and Morrison gained extra space, and now the Council was provid-

ing a combination of services including outreach, a nursing service, and referral facilities. A CETA III proposal was funded allowing for the addition of an employment and training program.

In 1974, the Council moved to its present location in the N.W. area of Portland. This phase of expansion encouraged the development of various programs all tailored to the needs and desires of Native Americans. The programs include an Outreach Component, directed by Carol Clark, which furnishes information and referral for social services (Welfare, food stamps, Social Security, Veterans Assistance, Children's Services, and emergency food and nutrition aid for needy

persons.) Funded through the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee and Community Services Administration, the program also provides 2 meals a month through the Leaves and Fishes Program to Native American senior citizens. Setting a lower than usual age limit of 50, this program recently sponsored a bus trip to Washington state, where participants were entertained by Chief Lalooka with tales of Indian history and culture.

The Center also maintains an extensive Training and Employment Program. The CETA component aids Indians in securing jobs, placing some in training programs; the education component conducts a variety of classes designed to further the educational goals of participants. The GED program has tutors from Portland Community College for tuition-free instruction; classes in Adult Basic Education are also offered.

An all-volunteer group, The Portland Involvement Corps, has helped conduct clerical classes on Tuesday nights. Native American artists teach cultural arts the first three Thursday nights of each month, with dancing, beadwork, sketching and quilting in the curriculum. Mike Ball, a CETA coordinator, provides help for students interested in higher education. A Corrections component aids penitentiary inmates with counseling, and helps find employment and housing for former inmates upon their release. Associated General Contractors



Employment counselors work to find jobs for their clients.

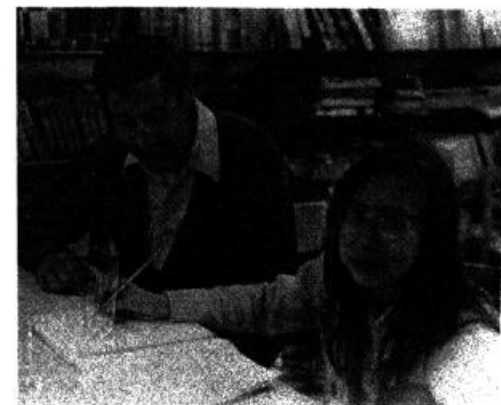
maintains a program at the Center, procuring jobs for Native Americans, other minorities, and women on Oregon and southern Washington state highway projects.

The Center has a Legal Services Department that is staffed by lawyers, law students, work-study students and volunteers. The department addresses landlord-tenant problems, wills, disputes between debtors and creditors, minor criminal offenses and traffic offenses. Major criminal cases and divorce cases are not accepted. Though court costs are the client's responsibility, the legal service itself is free of charge, and the department provides an important service for

those Native Americans financially unable to hire their own attorney.

At 736 N.W. 19th (at Johnson), the Center runs a health clinic dedicated toward identifying and resolving health problems of the Native American community. A diverse staff, including counselors, a psychiatrist for 10 hours a week, nurses, a health planner, and an M.D. for 20 hours a week make up the program. In all, 13 health professionals are available either full or part-time for medical assistance. The clinic is open from 8:30 to 5:30 Monday to Friday. Call 248-4663 for more information.

Overseeing these programs is an administrative staff providing (Please turn to p. 2, col. 3)



Students assist Native Americans in furthering their education.



# From a Human Rights Point of View

by Nick Barnett



This week, a young husband was nearly at wit's end with fear for the safety of his pregnant wife. It seems that the landlord of their tiny second floor apartment on N.E. Union Ave. was inhuman enough (and in this case in violation of state law) to enter the basement of the apartment complex, take out the fuses to their apartment and have the basement door locked so that the young couple could not replace the fuses. The young husband's anxiety stemmed from the fact that her term of pregnancy was near due and without lights in the dark hallway to their apartment, she could not see how to get down the stairs.

Place yourself - dear reader - in their situation. Because of an unforeseeable circumstance you are late in payment of the rent, but still within the legal pay period (by law there is a ten day grace period within which the landlord can take no court action). The electric stove does not work; the refrigerator is out; without lights you sit in a dark apartment. Having too little money to pay for the deposit and installment charges, you have no phone. Having little education you have no idea of your rights - except your fury and frustration clearly tells you - an injustice is being perpetrated! So, what do you do?

Luckily for this young family the Portland Tenant's Union was available. They referred the couple to Legal Aid. An attorney there determined that the landlord was being unjust and was in clear violation of the Tenant-Landlord Act of 1973.

Or again - where would you turn in this situation?

You are 66 years old and one of twelve tenants in a multiple dwelling in N.W. Portland. Because of the modest rent and your fixed income, you overlook the fact that this housing unit is probably in violation of the Housing Code.

When you moved in a month and a half ago the landlord said

that the \$90.00 a month rent would include all utilities and services. This week the landlord has just finished installing an electric baseboard heating unit (the least efficient type of heating) without discussing it with you at all. And now, he is telling you that the rent remains the same, but you will have to open an account with the utility company and pay their deposit. Is this just? Is it fair? Are your rights as a long time taxpaying citizen of this state being trampled in the dust?

In a case very similar to this one, the Portland Tenant's Union was called in to educate all the tenants about their rights, and help them organize to fight for their rights.

The citizens of this state are certainly fortunate to have the Tenant-Landlord Act of 1973. But it isn't enough. Nearly 60% of all the residents in Portland are renters and could be evicted without any just cause should the landlord so desire. All the landlord need do is to give you a written 30-day notice which is not in retaliation against a just complaint. But with the housing shortage, many people, especially the old, the poor, the handicapped and minority persons are afraid to complain about housing code violations for fear of being evicted. Another cause for concern is that the Tenant-Landlord Act allows the landlord to raise the rent any amount and as often as he/she likes as long as 90 days notice is given each time.

The city of Cambridge, Mass. has a rent control ordinance and a Rent Control Board to back it up. That system may have some problems, but it is clear that middle and low-income people need some kind of help. Perhaps if all rental units had to pass inspections prior to being let, or perhaps if no one could rent without a license or perhaps if there were "rent stamps".

In any event, the housing problem is reaching intolerable levels and the rights of renters must be better protected. Air, food, and water are basic human necessities - so also is adequate shelter.

## HUD, Realtors try voluntary compliance

By Kalman Szekely

The conference, "Fair Housing, An American Right/Right for Americans," was sponsored by the Office of Voluntary Compliance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and held in Roslyn, Virginia June 1, 2 and 3, 1977. Participants in the conference included HUD personnel, representatives of public and private human rights organizations, representatives from private fair housing groups and national, state, and local Boards of Realtors. At various times throughout the conference, members of each of these groups served as speakers, panel members, moderators, etc. Other resource persons from business and labor were also utilized. Conference format was a combination of plenary sessions, group workshops (divided by interest area), and technical sessions.

The primary purpose of the conference was to communicate information regarding voluntary concepts and programs in support of fair housing. In the workshops that I attended dealing with State, City, and County Programs, the dialogue covered a broad range of subjects and experiences, some relevant, and others not. However, I was able to identify four major topics that surfaced throughout the discussions:

1. Fair housing is a major problem in the U.S. today, with the effects of discrimination aggravated by economic factors.
2. Voluntary efforts should be tried, but . . .
3. Such efforts must be backed

up by strong enforcement.

4. HUD should have stronger enforcement powers.

Comments on the four points listed above:

1. There was hearty agreement among conference participants on this point. It was interesting to note that conversation on the problem inevitably turned to a discussion of the economics involved and how this element of the problem was approaching (or even surpassing) forms of traditional discrimination as a cause for inequality in housing opportunity. One panelist provided the statistic that one out of four American families with a yearly income under \$11,500 suffers some form of serious housing deprivation. Such deprivation is defined to include one or more of the following factors: a physically deteriorated building, overcrowded living conditions, an excessive amount of income allocated for housing, or lack of essential social services in the community. Solutions offered included preservation of the existing stock of low and moderate cost housing through rehabilitation projects and new construction, as well as expansion of subsidized rent programs.

2. Persuading people to do voluntarily what is required by law appeared to be worth the effort involved to most conference participants. There appeared to be some agreement on the hope that individuals or firms complying voluntarily might see their ways clear to engage in efforts beyond those strictly required by law. A number of panelists and speakers related their experiences in the formulation of voluntary agreements and

the effect they had in achieving fair access to housing and integrated communities.

3. This was perhaps one of the most emphasized points discussed in the conference. It was brought up again and again, primarily by representatives of human rights and private fair housing organizations, and seconded enthusiastically by HUD personnel.

4. At the present time, the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development may only conciliate housing discrimination complaints in which it has found probably cause that unlawful discrimination did occur. If conciliation is not successful, the complainant must bear the burden of taking the case to court. The result is that for a wide range of reasons, most complainants do not pursue their cases. The participants in the conference adopted a resolution stating their support for legislation that would give the Secretary of HUD "the statutory authority to grant relief from discriminatory practices with sufficient staff for all its fair housing and equal opportunity responsibilities mandated by law and executive order."

In general, the conference was helpful in making it clear that the idea of voluntary efforts at developing fair housing practices is as yet relatively new and unproven. No one is quite sure how successful it will be in the long run. However, voluntary agreements subscribed to by local boards of realtors, HUD, local enforcement and fair housing organizations are looked upon as potentially effective tools in the effort to work out the country's fair housing problems.

## Urban Indian Center

(Cont. from p. 1, col. 5)

centralized support services. The staff includes the executive director, Sister Francella Griggs, a chief accountant, a bookkeeper, an executive secretary, an executive assistant, a receptionist, and maintenance help. The administrative component maintains contact with other agencies and directs development and expansion of the Center. The staff utilizes a "management team" approach, hopefully eliciting a consensus of department heads for the decision making process. Sister Francella advocates a system of "working together, yet independent-sharing ideas and brainstorming at meetings in order to arrive at the best plan or decision."

The Center receives funding from many sources: the Office of Native American Programs of HEW's Office of Human Development, the WIN program, the CETA III program, VISTA and others who contribute with funds or employees. It's a multi-faceted Center with as many funding sources.

The Urban Indian Council has meetings regularly, and consists of representatives from various organizations - Portland American Indian Center, the Bow and Arrow cultural group, LAKOTA club (a group based at the state penitentiary), Native American Rehabilitation Association (for those with alcoholic problems), United Indian Students of High-

er Education, and the Win-Ya Indian women's club are some of the groups involved.

In the future, the Center hopes to involve VISTA planners in developing a 5-year plan for directing programs. The Education department and the older Native American program will be expanded, as well as a special youth program.

Given its successful past, these plans will undoubtedly continue to develop the Center's visibility in the community. We are all fortunate in having such a dedicated group of people working toward the health and well-being of Portland's Native American population, and toward the preservation of Native American culture.

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
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5 years old. Son of Dianna Ank-  
ede. (Dan Long Photo, Courtesy  
Portland Observer)



The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the City and County. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

**Commissioners:**

**Hazel G. Hays, Vice Chairman**  
**Sister Francella Mary Griggs**  
**Eleanor Davis**  
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**Warne Nunn**  
**Christopher P. Thomas**  
**Carol Clark**  
**Nitida Chavan**  
**Reverend Richard Hughes**  
**William Thompson III**



# Parents ask role in desegregation planning

Parents in Northeast Portland are organizing to oppose a proposed School Board change in policy that would bar students living in parts of the Boise and King elementary school attendance areas that are in the Jefferson area from attending Jefferson High School. The purpose of the change is to bring the minority enrollment at Jefferson, now 51.5 percent, to below 50 percent to meet state requirements.

The change offered by School Board member Jonathan Newman would not have assigned the students to any high school and would have barred them from any high school with a higher minority enrollment than the district's average of eighteen percent. This rules out Adams, Washington and Grant. They were also barred from the magnet program at Jefferson and Adams if the minority enrollment were over 18 percent.

On July 7th, Newman offered a change in the plan, which would assign students of the Boise section of the Jefferson area to Lincoln High School and the students residing in the King section of the area to Wilson High School. Students could attend any other high school that did not have above eighteen percent minority enrollment and could attend the magnet program at Jefferson or Adams if qualified.

The Committee on Quality Education for All Children opposed the policy change and asked the School Board to postpone any changes until the fall of 1978, using the 1977-78 school year to develop, with the community, a comprehensive integration program.

In the meantime, the school district was notified by the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare that it was found in non-compliance because of discrimination in discipline. HEW found specifically that Black students who were transferred to schools out of their neighborhoods were suspended for tardiness without regard to the greater distances they must travel to school.

The Portland School District's current desegregation policy is based on the 1964 report, "Race and Equal Education Opportunity in Portland's Public Schools."

In the early 60's, the NAACP and others began pushing for desegregation of the Portland Public Schools. The School Board first denied that segregation existed, but appointed a "Blue Ribbon Committee," often referred to as the Schwab Committee (Judge Herbert Schwab, Chairman), to investigate the facts and make recommendations.

The committee found the following racial statistics for 1964-65: Boise 96%, Eliot 94%, Highland (King) 87%, Holladay 87%, Irvington 48%, Humboldt 82%, Ball 14%, Sabin 33%, Peninsula 15%, Woodlawn 27%, Vernon 16%.

Jefferson High School was 28 percent Black; Girls Poly 16%. Black population was 4.2% of the city; the 1963 Black school population was 6.3%.

As a result of the "Race and Education Report", the Portland Public Schools initiated a "Model Schools" program of compensatory education and a limited "administrative transfer" program of Black students to schools outside of their neighborhoods.

In 1970 the "Schools for the Seventies" plan was adopted, which included division of the district into three administrative areas; establishment of middle schools; establishment of early childhood centers in racially isolated areas; and determined that no middle or high school would have more than 25 percent minority students.

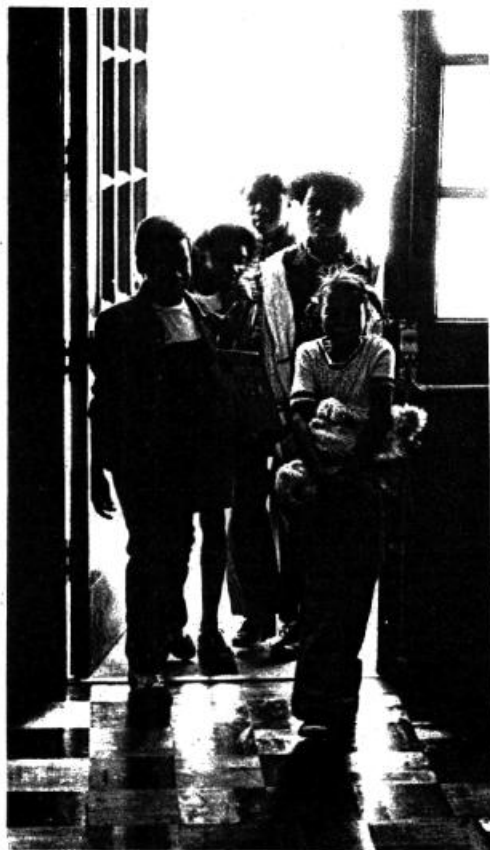
On March 22, 1974, the State Board of Education adopted a policy forbidding a minority enrollment of over 50 percent.

In May of 1975, the Board of Education reaffirmed its desegregation policy and directed the superintendent to encourage an increase in administrative transfers "to the fullest extent practicable" and to continue the conversion of selected elementary schools to Early Childhood Centers.

Sabin, Humboldt, King, Irvington are now Early Childhood Centers; Vernon and Woodlawn are in process of conversion; and only Boise remains kindergarten through eighth grade. These two schools range from 41.8 to 83.8 percent Black.

The request of the Committee for Quality Education for a planning year with input from the community has received the endorsement of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, the NAACP, the Boise and King Neighborhood Associations and others.

Claiming that they and their children have borne the full burden of desegregation, Black parents are demanding that they be included in planning for desegregation.



Boise Elementary School students ready to begin another day of classes. [Photo: Dan Long, courtesy Portland Observer]

## Economic Development Act includes 10 percent minority set-aside

Last spring, when Congress debated the \$4 billion public works bill that would create a million jobs, Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) insisted that ten percent of the funds be set aside for minority contractors. Many of his white colleagues were doubtful, but the Mitchell amendment prevailed.

"Let me tell you how ridiculous it is not to target minority enterprises," he told his fellow colleagues. "We spend a great

deal of federal money under the SBA (Small Business Administration) program creating, strengthening, and supporting minority businesses and yet when it comes down to giving these minority businesses a piece of the action, the federal government is reticent.

"All it does is say that we will create for you on the one hand, and on the other hand we will deny you . . . the average percentage of minority contracts

among all government contracts . . . is one percent - one percent. That is all we give them."

A few months later, President Carter signed the public works bill and it included the Mitchell amendment. There is now a \$400 million pool of funds set aside for minority contractors. It is the largest program of its kind for the economic benefit of minority communities across the nation.

The word from Washington is that the Carter administration

means business. The Commerce Department and the Office of Minority Business Enterprise intend to monitor the program carefully and insure that the ten percent requirement is met in every grant.

The legality of the set-aside practice has been tested in the federal courts and upheld. Several set-aside programs are in effect in the east including one in the project to revitalize the railbeds of the Northeast Corridor.

Washington, D.C. requires that 25 percent of the city's business go to minorities.

Locally, the state of Oregon, Multnomah County and the Port of Portland have minority set-aside and minority enterprise programs.

The State of Oregon is to receive \$55.7 million of the Economic Development Act funds. Among the applicants for funds will be Multnomah County and a City of Portland - Board of Education joint proposal.

## From the Legislature

by Virginia Michel

The 59th legislative session has ended. I recently ran a status check on 30 civil rights bills and discovered only three signed by the governor. Most are still in committees. The following is a summary of some better known pieces of legislation:

Recession of the Equal Rights Amendment (HJR 62) at the beginning of the session gained

little support. Recession soon became reaffirmation of the U.S. Constitutional amendment.

House Bill 2241 was signed by the governor and becomes law. Known as the "Displaced Homemakers Bill," it provides job training funds for single women who have always been homemakers and are now forced into the job market.

Two other bills receiving the governor's signature are:

Senate Bill 436: Relating to the right to die and known as the "death with dignity" bill.  
SB 714: Relating to specifically prohibiting sex discrimination in employment solely on the basis of pregnancy.

Bills passing both the House and Senate but not yet signed by the governor include:

House Bill 2011: Part of the corrections package, this bill establishes mandatory minimum sentences for aggravated murder.

HB 2002: "No discrimination may be made in the provision of educational facilities and services and recreational facilities and services to any person in the state institutions . . . on the basis of race, religion, sex, marital status or national origin of the person."

HB 2260: Requires teachers to demonstrate knowledge of state and federal civil rights statutes and state statutes prohibiting discrimination in education prior to certification.

Other bills still wending their way through the process as adjournment nears include:

SB 952: Prohibits discrimination because of expunged juvenile records.

SB 850: Creates a Status of Blacks in Oregon Commission to study and make recommendations concerning improvement of opportunities for Blacks within the state.

HB 2314: Requires counties to provide legal counsel to indigent persons.

## Carol Clark Edmo

(Continued from p. 1, col. 3)  
to accept as members people not born on the reservation. "If a woman is away from the reservation working or visiting, and cannot get back to the reservation for the birth of her baby, the tribe might refuse to accept the child as a member, denying him any rights that he should derive from membership."

"Another way of depriving Indians of their economic rights is to make them choose whether they will inherit rights from their father or their mother. Indian parents must choose in which tribe they will register the child; then he is eligible only for the benefits due that tribe. Most parents attempt to choose the tribe that will accrue the most

benefits."

Carol and her husband have been affected by these regulations. Her father having lived off the reservation most of his life,

she was not born on the reservation and has never been accepted into the tribe. Her husband was not enrolled as a Bannock until he was over 25 years old.

The right to land is the key to the American economic system. Carol explains: "Land is the cornerstone of the capitalist economy. Buying and selling land, controlling its resources-forests, mineral rights, etc.-is the only way to gain economic security in this country and it is the security that Indians are being denied through limiting their access to

this land."

Ms. Edmo is chairperson of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's committee on Equal Justice. "I am very excited about some of the research this committee is doing. Equal Justice is a serious problem and I believe it is one that the Human Relations Commission can influence in a positive way."

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METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS

## CALENDAR

The Portland Indian Al-Anon Group is having candle-light meetings on Friday nights from 8:30 to 10 PM at the S.E. Neighborhood Facility Building, 3534 S.E. Main. Call 654-3187 for more information. Babysitting is available.

Expand your awareness! This summer, PSU is having several classes dealing with cultural issues. One evening class will address "20th Century Jewish Crises" beginning July 5th. For more information on this, contact Mark Schreiber at 243-7404. "American Jewish Fiction" will also be offered.



The Film Committee at PSU is presenting free films this summer in 75 Lincoln hall. Featuring work by Sam Peckinpah, the schedule looks like this:

- July 19 - The treasure of the Sierra Madre
- July 20 - The Ballad of Cable Hogue
- July 26 - They Live By Night
- July 27 - Straw Dogs
- August 2 - White Heat
- August 3 - Bring Me The Head of Alfredo Garcia

Come and hear the blues - Bobby "Blue" Bland will be appearing at the Hayloft in Vancouver July 21 and 22. There will be two shows nightly, 8:30 and 11:00. Tickets are \$5.50 and are available at Meier and Franks statewide outlets and at the Hayloft, 5411 Mill Plain Blvd. in Vancouver, Washington.

Get Ready For Reggae! Come hear the protest voice of Jamaica's Bob Marley and the Wailers at the Paramount July 24th.

Tickets are \$7.00 and are available at Meier & Franks, Everybody's Records, For What It's Worth, America in Vancouver, Steven's & Son's, Lipman's Ticket Place, and by mail order.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Paramount 1037 S.W. Broadway, 97205, at least 5 days before the show for the best seats.

Tickets will also be available at the box office the day of the show from noon on. The show starts at 8 PM, Sunday, July 24th.



On July 28th and 29th, the Portland chapter of the National Association for Community Development will conduct a Training Institute entitled **Stretching the Human Services Dollar**.

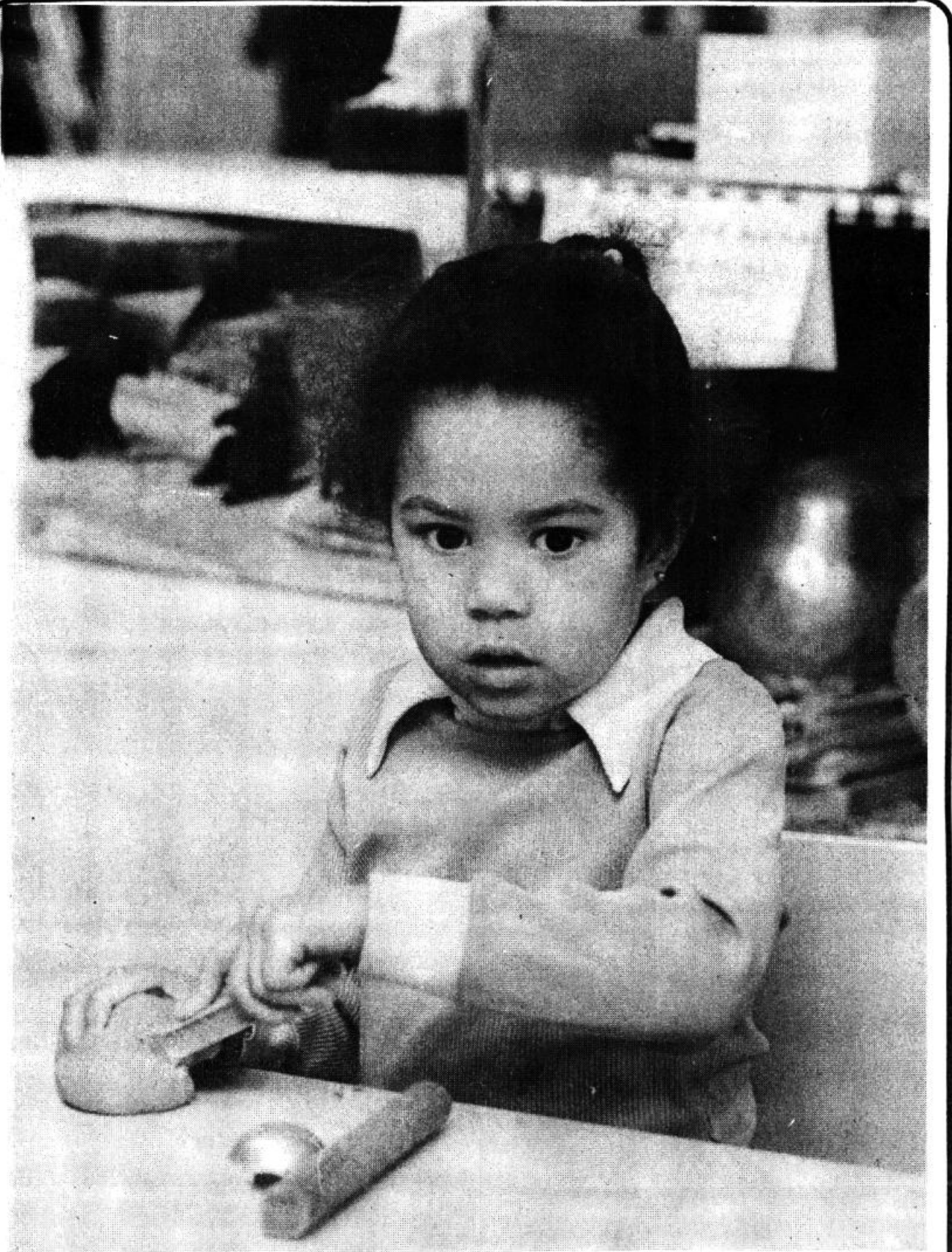
The Institute will address methods of promoting effective interaction between public and private agencies and with communities.

The Portland Hilton will host the institute, and a fee of \$75.00 will cover a kick-off luncheon and work materials.

For reservations or more information, contact Margaret Gayles of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee at 288-8391.

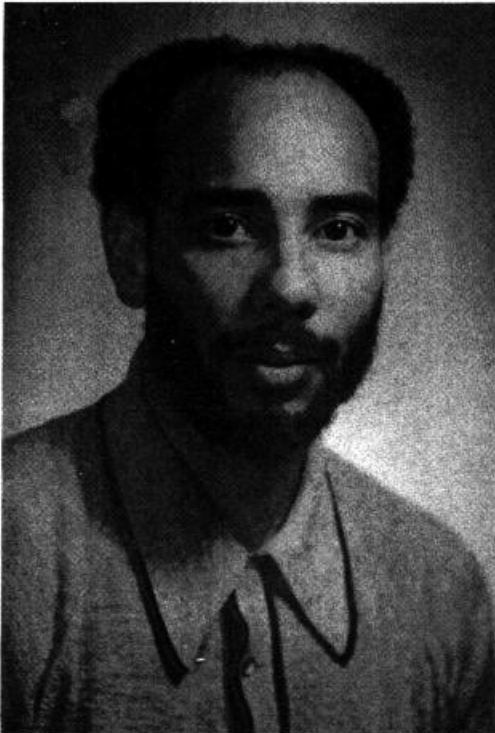


# Human Relations



Newsletter

# Armando Laguardia: Committed to education



ARMANDO LAGUARDIA

by Catherine Siegner

Few people possess such a diverse background and wealth of knowledge and experience as Armando Laguardia. Becoming a Commissioner in January 1977, he is able to understand the difficulties inherent in cross-cultural and multi-racial communities.

His origins trace back to the town of Las Villas in the Yaguajay region of Cuba, where he was born in 1947. Leaving as a refugee in 1962, he lived through the impact of the Castro revolution. An uncle in New York sent money for an airline ticket and his first days in the United States were spent in camps outside Miami, where he learned to speak English.

Welfare and Catholic Services for Children set up foster homes for Armando and other Cuban refugee children, and after being placed with a foster family in Portland, he perfected the new language at Cleveland H.S., and later graduated from Jefferson in 1966.

The Upward Bound Program at the University of Oregon in Eugene helped Armando attain a degree in Romance Languages and Education in 1968. "The years I was there (1966-69) it was all happening," he says, "the anti-war movement and the black movement were all going full speed." He became a founding member of the Black Student Union, which was instrumental

in developing Project 75, a program providing counseling and tutoring assistance for Black and other minority students recruited by the University. He was also involved in teaching while still an undergraduate, helping migrant people meet high school equivalency requirements in order to acquire a GED.

After graduation, he became involved as Associate Director with the Upward Bound Program at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, which focused on "disadvantaged" students of the area. His next stop was Taft High School in Lincoln City, where he provided the foundations for a student-run Placement Center, eliciting involvement in school activities as a deterrent to delinquency.

In 1971, Armando was in Eugene as Director of the University of Oregon's Community Project, the goal being the increasing of dialogue between members of the Eugene community relating to drug problems, the "generation gap" and police/community relations. The altruism in his nature developed and expanded in this atmosphere and he looks back on it this way: "It was contact with a social change climate, and I began to see teaching as helping people live in their society more effectively." Armando was also influenced by the actions and words of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Dick Gregory and Stokely Carmichael. The times produced

his attitude toward an active role in society.

A period of teaching at Adams High School followed, assisting students with basic skills such as reading, notetaking, test taking, etc. He was similarly occupied at the Reading and Skills Center at U. of O. in Eugene in 1971, and took a master's degree there the same year in the field of Disadvantaged Youth Education and Curriculum and Instruction. He then became a curriculum consultant to the AMIDS Program at Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, training staff, developing programs, and helping to design systems of evaluation.

In 1975, Armando came to PSU's General Assistance Center as Program Coordinator. The program is funded through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and provides technical assistance to school districts in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and when requested, develops desegregation plans as well as helping districts provide equal educational opportunities for minority and women students. Curriculum and staff development assistance is also offered. He says, "Districts out of compliance with federal regulations often request our help," and suggests curriculum change can often facilitate inter-cultural understanding.

He expresses his thoughts on integration in the following way: (Turn to page 2, col. 3)

## COSSPO serves Spanish speaking people



COSSPO's office at 3534 S.E. Main, 3rd floor.

by Catherine Siegner

COSSPO, the Committee of Spanish Speaking People of Oregon, is a classic example of dedicated people attempting to provide essential services to a "disadvantaged" target population without adequate resources.

Backed by a Board of Directors, COSSPO consists of a social worker, Elizabeth Ellis, of Equadorian descent; a program secretary, Blanca Sommer, originally from Puerto Rico; and a program coordinator, Carmen Smith, also from Puerto Rico.

The agency currently occupies rent-free quarters donated by Portland Action Committees Together (PACT) in the S.E. Facility Building at 3534 S.E. Main. COSSPO originally began as an effort to organize the various groups of Spanish speaking people,

consisting of Cubans, South Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Chicanos (Mexican-Americans).

In December 1976, these diverse elements had organized into 18 Spanish Speaking Nationalities, and the idea of incorporating into the group all Hispanic people in the Portland metropolitan area, along with others interested in Hispanic culture, was suggested.

COSSPO was founded in February 1977, established its by-laws in March, and began serving Portland's sizable population of Spanish speaking people in April. As a non-profit, service oriented agency, COSSPO's formally adopted purpose is "to enable people of Spanish surname and other minority group members to cultivate and exercise their full human potential on a par with all other Americans. To conduct programs in education, employ-

ment, housing, urban affairs, law and consumer affairs, economic development, community development, social welfare, and citizenship education for people of Spanish surname. To strengthen the growth and development of individuals and families of Spanish surnames. To conduct in-depth research to identify the social welfare needs of the Spanish surname community and to establish plans for corrective action."

Thus far, COSSPO has made impressive gains toward meeting the needs of their target population. Basic needs are addressed first; furnishing clothing, education, employment referral, and developing the essential knowledge of English.

For instruction in basic language skills, students can take advantage of the Bi-lingual Educational Training School, directed by Alicia Ramirez. Participating students have the opportunity to perfect methods of interacting successfully in American society. Writing resumes, filling out applications, and being interviewed for employment are experiences most Americans think nothing of, but are excruciating torture to a person unfamiliar with our language. Native Spanish speakers also need to familiarize themselves with the American system of government, and must acquire a Social Security card before a permanent visa can be granted.

COSSPO's social worker and program coordinator are often called upon to provide translation and/or advice for people dealing with hospitals, prospective employers, or business agreements. Recently, support for economic development from the

Small Business Administration (SBA) has aided several Hispanic people. One Puerto Rican man was awarded financing to open a store in Tigard, a Cuban established an upholstery shop, and a Mexican restaurateur was able to expand his business thanks to an SBA grant.

The process initiated prior to the actual economic development award is complex. Intake is the first step, a feasibility study is conducted to estimate the venture's likely degree of success, and complete plans are presented for approval to the SBA or a bank. Helping to facilitate this process is COSSPO's staff, headed by the coordinator, Carmen Smith.

Ms. Smith, of Puerto Rican background, came to Oregon as a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and did bi-lingual secretarial work before learning of COSSPO. When funding came through, Luis Alvarez, Chairman of COSSPO's Board of Directors,

hired her as social worker. When the program coordinator resigned, Ms. Smith took the position. "My responsibilities are different now, but I still do some of the same things I did as social worker. We get about 50 calls a day, with the main problems usually being jobs or health. Ms. Ellis and I provide transportation or translation when needed."

In 1972, the Oregon Bureau of Labor census of Spanish surname people was 12,897 for the Portland Metropolitan Area (mainly concentrated in the SE and NE sections) and 34,577 for the entire state. These figures do not include Spanish surname women who happen to marry men not of Spanish surname, but even without their additional numbers, Hispanic people are the second largest minority in Portland, and the largest minority in the state.

A large portion of these people are elderly, those who are especially in need of COSSPO's services. (Turn to page 3, col. 4)



Carmen Smith, COSSPO's Program Coordinator.



## From a Human Rights Point of View

by Nick Barnett

In the spring of 1977, the MHRC's Education Committee began to discuss the need to review the Desegregation Policies and Practices of the Portland Public Schools. Recently, the part of the Desegregation Policy that relates to the attendance area of Jefferson High School was the subject of a proposal for change by a School Board member.

The manner in which this proposal was to be considered and decided upon, as well as certain aspects of its contents, became the focus of criticism by parents, students, representatives of various organizations interested in education, as well as by newspaper editorials.

Although the proposal was the product of intense study and soul-searching on the part of the Board member who developed it, and even though it was in all likelihood well-intentioned, it did not and could not have succeeded. There are obviously several reasons for this - but a paramount reason lies simply in the fact that in 1977 the citizenry, parents, students, teachers and others concerned about education will no longer sit idly by while decisions that will affect them are made as if in a void.

MHRC and the Urban League have begun the process of facilitating the convening of a broad city-wide assembly of organizations and individuals concerned about the specific issue of Jefferson, as well as the general issue of the current and projected status of this District's efforts toward an integrated community.

The preparation of an ordinance of major significance in the area of equal economic opportunity is nearing its final stages here at City Hall. City Commissioner Charles Jordan, in collaboration with the Director of the Office of Management Services, Dan Boggan, in providing leadership and direction. As a policy area in which MHRC has a mandated interest, MHRC has reviewed the draft document and offered certain revisions and additions. In general, the Commission views the current draft as a great improvement and an im-



portant step forward for those who have been traditionally disenfranchised. We will discuss this ordinance in greater detail in our next issue.

The budget office has been mandated to carry the City's Management by Objectives effort a step further. The budget office has hired a CETA-funded team to work with regular budget analysts on a project to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of all bureaus. This project aims to eventually assist bureaus in developing clearer, more accurate goals and objectives statements and then develop more appropriate "performance indicators" (in jargonese, which means developing precise ways of determining whether and to what extent a bureau has accomplished its objectives with the fiscal year). MHRC has been selected to participate in this project.

At the preliminary meeting of the MHRC office and the performance indicator project members, MHRC staff noted that while it is commendable to attempt to increase effectiveness and efficiency in governmental operations, an equally important goal is often left out - the goal of humanizing impersonal bureaucracies.

In a certain sense, it is ironic that much attention is given, in various ways, toward increasing the City of Portland's livability; but apparently there is no proportionate concern about livability in the bureaucratic environment. Toward that end, MHRC is making certain recommendations to the performance indicator project staff.

Since the performance indicator project requires rethinking the goals and objectives for each of the City's bureaus, the MHRC office welcomes any comments, ideas, or concerns that will help us reformulate our goals.

Please be aware that on September 9, the MHRC office is being required to move from its present location on the 4th floor, City Hall - five blocks north to the Corbett Building (430 S.W. Morrison), on the 3rd floor, room 312. The phone number will remain the same.



## Seminar explores civil rights bills

by Catherine Siegner

On July 27, 1977, the Tri-County Affirmative Action Association held a seminar on recent Oregon Civil Rights Legislation at the Lloyd Center Auditorium.

Private employers, personnel and affirmative action officers and city and state employees were in attendance at this workshop which granted an opportunity to hear the legal implications of these new bills, interpreted by Deputy Attorney General Jim Durham, and Harold Williams, State Affirmative Action Officer. The following bills became law October 4, 1977:

SB 714, providing medical coverage for pregnancy disability. This bill, aided in passage by a very dedicated group of lobbyists during the legislative session, will be interpreted and enforced by Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson.

Physicians will determine the extent of physical disability incurred by pregnancy in individual cases, in order to calculate benefits.

HB 2281 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, if between 18 and 65, and on the basis of marital status. It also establishes a 30 day time limit for discrimination complaint defendants to be informed of the suit, and would prohibit any backlash against the person filing by the party accused.

Generating the most controversy at the workshop was SB 668, dealing with personnel files. The bill allows employees to have access to their personnel files, providing the request is made within 80 days of termination of employment. Arrest, conviction, criminal investigation, and certain academic records would not be affected by this legislation.

HB 2062 renders it "an unlaw-

ful employment practice for an employer to refuse to hire or to terminate the employment of an individual solely because another member of that individual's family presently works for that employer." Exceptions would be situations where the individual would be exercising supervisory, appointment or grievance authority over, or be subject to same authority by, a member of their family.

HB 2223 establishes compensatory damages for successfully litigated discrimination suits relating to unlawful employment practices or discrimination in public accommodations. Minimum compensatory damages would be \$200, and maximum award in cases of established willful or punitive intent, \$2500.

The bill also sets a time limit of 1 year from date of occurrence for filing such complaints.

## Coalition discusses school desegregation

On August 23rd, members of approximately 30 community organizations met at the Cascade campus of Portland Community College to discuss future plans for developing a desegregation plan for the Portland Public School district.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, the NAACP, and the Urban League set up the meeting, having been requested by the School Board to submit advice on developing an acceptable method of ending the "racial isolation" evident at Jefferson High School.

MHRC Commissioner Harry Ward was elected as temporary

chairperson by the group, which decided to address the overall problems of integrating the public schools in Portland, and not just Jefferson. A deadline of December 15, 1977, was originally established to come up with a new plan as a substitute for the "Newman Plan" which drew fire from most of the groups concerned, but the total group decided to ignore this timeline, and set its own schedule.

The organizations involved in this committee include the following: Schools for the City, Committee for Quality Education for all Children, National Council of Jewish Women, City Club,

Center for Urban Education, National Association for Community Development, Sabin Community Association, City Planning Commission, League of Women Voters, Portland Development Commission, Committee for Coordination of Positive Integration, Boise Neighborhood Association, Portland Council PTA, Piedmont Community Association, the Mayor's Office, National Conference of Christians & Jews, King Neighborhood Association, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and Justice for Black Students.

## Armando

cont. from page 1, col. 5

"Integration is more than juggling numbers of students around. There is a continuum, with segregation on one end, and cultural pluralism on the other. Working toward a state of cultural pluralism involves cultural pride, and representatives from all groups, faculty, institutional services, as well as parents should be included in the educational process at equitable levels, geared toward encouraging its development. In academic achievement, students can be equal regardless of background, and curriculum that reflects the makeup of the community is necessary."

As a representative from the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission to the interim committee studying future desegregation plans for the Portland Public Schools, Armando has a holistic view of the problems involved. "I see things in a world context, needing community involvement and input for positive changes." Being Chairperson of the Community Advisory Board for PSU's Black Studies Department

has given him insight into the needs of the community as related to school curriculum. He says, "There's a lack of information about cultural and political aspects of third world peoples, and their growing influence and importance necessitates a focus on more knowledge, about Africa in particular." Armando would like to see a Chair for African Studies established at Portland State, which would bring African professors here to address these needs.

Armando has two children, Carmen and Carlos, who attend Irvington Grade School. His wife, Casey, is Director of the CETA VI program. He plans to stay in public education in the future, providing technical assistance as well as doing consultant work. "I'm doing what I enjoy, but my involvement has often just happened," he says. A trip back to his native homeland is possible, as is a Ph.D., which would open up the possibility of university teaching positions.

He also has musical interests, playing the guitar, congas and

harmonica. "You only go around once, and the world will continue without you, so the ability to enjoy oneself is important."

A member of MHRC's Education Committee, Armando finds time to belong to the National Alliance for Black School Educators, the National Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Oregon Association for Bilingual Education.

Closely involved with the black experience in the United States, he nevertheless resists pigeonholing and classifying racial and cultural backgrounds. "The American passion for identifying race possibly stems from wanting to know how to treat someone," he suggests, "one can be of multiple origins."

Armando's varied past experiences and cultural background have given him positive viewpoints and different perspectives on the world. Fortunately, he brings these important insights to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
Multnomah County - Dennis Buchanan, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge

Vern Pearson - Chairman  
W. G. Barnett - Executive Director

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Catherine Siegner, Editor

Cover Photo: Gabriella Daniel, 4 years old. Daughter of Patricia Daniel. (Dan Long Photo, courtesy of the "Portland Observer".)



The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the City and County. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to be an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

### Commissioners:

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Sister Francella Mary Griggs  
Eleanor Davis  
Harry C. Ward  
Carol Williams Bryant  
Armando Laguardia  
Warne Nunn  
Carol Clark Edmo  
Nitina Chavan  
Rev. Richard Hughes  
William Thompson III



## MHRC promotes Human Rights at Neighborfair

by Virginia Michel



MHRC Commissioner Armando Aguardia hands out newsletters to people at Neighborfair.

The Human Rights potential for the whole city of Portland was the prevailing theme for Neighborfair, which brought a variety of community groups together for increased sharing and understanding.

The Commission participated as part of a "Human Rights Center" display. As crowds surged past our booth, Human Relations staff handed out copies of the newsletter to many who had not yet had the opportunity to read and find out about our activities and concerns. Commissioners spoke with people who were curious enough to approach the booth and ask questions.

A Women's Suffrage handbill, a KKK parade, Chinese deportation, Dennis Banks, Cesar Chavez, boycotting lettuce, the Nez



MHRC's kiosk at the Human Rights Center.

Perce reservation 1906, a migrant worker and child, school demonstrations and busing - all these diverse subjects were pictured on MHRC's kiosk and brought back one's memory to the long history of the struggle for human rights.



MHRC Commissioner Harry Ward helps blow up balloons.

"Human Rights for Everyone" was the message printed on balloons and freely given to children to display as they wandered on through the Fair.

Nick Barnett, director of the Commission, sums up staff senti-

ment about MHRC's involvement in Neighborfair: "We all look forward to next year's Neighborfair, and the opportunity to share with the community the goals and concerns of the Commission."

## NAACP director Hooks attacks media discrimination

NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks said this week that he "agreed absolutely" with the report of the United States Civil Rights Commission that accused the television industry of racial and sexual stereotyping. He further agreed with the allegation that the Federal Communications Commission could have one more to end such discrimination.

Mr. Hooks, who resigned from the FCC the last week of July to replace Roy Wilkins at NAACP, is vowed to work toward eradicating from the television industry the types of discrimination out which the Civil Rights Commission reported.

"I have long advocated that the FCC should have regulatory authority over the networks be-

cause they are the principal suppliers of programming for most of the major stations in the country," he said. "I happen to believe that where there is little input from Blacks, women and other minorities, the end product will not faithfully reflect the totality of American life," he said.

However, he does intend to have the NAACP, as a private organization, play an active role in the monitoring and examination of programming for bias and stereotyping.

Mr. Hooks explained that in recent years television has attempted to respond to charges of racial discrimination by opening up programs to sports and entertainment figures. But the industry has glaringly refused to

provide such opportunities on a similar scope to serious minorities, such as civil rights leaders and professionals.

This is a weakness that must be corrected, he said. To ensure that the NAACP becomes very active in working to reduce racial and sex discrimination in the media, Mr. Hooks explained, one of his first projects will be to establish a department of communications.

A primary function of this department will be to monitor television programming and hiring practices across the country. The department would also work for the passage of appropriate legislation in Congress.

For example, because the FCC lacks regulatory authority over the networks, he explained, any job discrimination complaint filed

against them must go to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which already has a case backlog of several years.

Mr. Hooks said that he will "go to Congress himself" when it reconvenes to seek the rewriting of the Communications Act to give the FCC enforcement powers.

He also noted that President Carter will be having an opportunity to fill two vacancies on the FCC this year. One of these seats will be his and the other that of Richard Wiley, presently chairman. Next year, a third seat will become vacant.

Mr. Hooks said that he anticipates that President Carter will appoint a Black person to replace him.



BENJAMIN HOOKS

## Help available for rape victims

by Faith Potts

Whenever a woman reports a rape to the police, a patrol officer goes to meet her and takes an initial report. The officer then transports her to Holladay Park hospital for a medical examination. Once dispatched then notifies the Rape Victim Advocate on duty to meet them at the hospital.

Upon reaching the hospital, the advocate offers her counseling and information. She often aids a highly traumatized woman, experiencing fear of retaliation for reporting the crime, fear of pregnancy or venereal disease, fear of her family's reaction, and often, fear of the treatment she will receive from the criminal justice system. The woman will also most likely be suffering from shock, outrage and deep embarrassment. Her life may have been threatened, and she may have been physically injured.

The medical exam is done both to acquire standard evidence and to identify and treat injuries. The advocate is there to comfort and reassure the woman by accompanying her through the physical examination, and being present during the police detective interview. Many times the advocate talks with the victim's friends or family about their reactions and concerns, and about what they can do for the victim.

If no suspect is identified, the

advocate may have no further personal contact with the victim. She will call her in a few days to see how she is doing and again in a few weeks to make sure she has received medical followup.

When a suspect is identified, the advocate assists the victim during the entire prosecution process. She explains what is involved in each step of prosecution and accompanies the victim to all interviews and appearances. These include meetings with the deputy district attorney and appearances at Grand Jury and at trial. The advocate lets the victim know whether or not the defendant is in custody, advises her of the status of the case whenever an action is taken on it, and functions as liaison with the deputy district attorney in discussing the possibility of plea negotiations. After the case is closed, the advocate remains available for referrals and other followup services.

The Rape Victim Advocates are a team of five women, a project coordinator, two project assistants and two outreach workers. Five volunteers relieve the staff on a 24 round-the-clock call that is necessary to assist rape victims.

Since the project began, the advocates have been able to learn more about the crime of rape. Statistics kept on a monthly basis enable them to find out

at what time and under what conditions victims are most likely to be raped. They are also able to keep track of the trends in sentencing.

The project goals are: To increase the percentage of rapes reported, to reduce trauma and the psychological impact of rape on the victim, through counseling and referral to proper agencies, to alter community attitudes, to increase the number of arrests and convictions in rape cases, and to arrive at a better knowledge and understanding of the crime of rape.

During the 33 months of the Rape Victim Advocate Project, over 800 victims of sexual assaults have been assisted. The project, the first of its kind in the nation, has met the need for crisis intervention services and emotional support for victims of rape in Multnomah County. It has also served as a model project for other district attorney offices.

The Rape Victim Advocate Project is especially interested in reaching and educating the community through its schools, clubs and organizations, etc. If your group would like to learn more about the program, the crime of rape, the rapist, the victims, etc., please contact: Elizabeth Taylor or Faith Potts at 248-5050 from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. We would like you to know the facts.

## Committee seeks information

The Committee on Children and Youth is requesting information about agencies that are directed toward serving needs of infants, children, youth, parents and families for a conference to be held December 1 & 2, 1977, in Portland.

They are an interagency organization whose function is to coordinate the planning, dissemination and implementation of effective services to families. Its membership is composed of representatives from the fields of early childhood education, child development, social work, public health, child care, child & youth advocacy, juvenile justice, counseling, mental health, and education.

tion.

There are many programs in the state now providing services to families. These programs are efficient and effective, yet remain anonymous to the large community of those in family and child services. The Committee needs information that will help locate these people and the programs involved.

Do you have a program you would like to share with others in your field? Do you know of a program that really works? If so, please write to Committee on Children and Youth, P.O. Box 1491, Portland, Oregon 97207

## COSSPO

cont. from page 1, col. 5

vices. A grant proposal has been submitted to CETA, requesting funds for an aging project. "We have always been turned down after getting our hopes up," says Carmen Smith, "but perhaps this important project will be funded. Our older people are suffering and we have our hands tied. We have no way to help all the people who need it."

She would like to stimulate awareness in the business community of the needs of Hispanic people, for jobs and for understanding, and has made contacts in the community toward that

goal. "We at COSSPO would like to advertise our existence and make people aware of our services." The agency's bylaws prohibit aiding illegal aliens, but counseling is available by referral to Legal Aid.

When little financial support is available, commitment to an idea can fly out the window. Not so at COSSPO. Carmen Smith sums it up: "The staff can get other positions, but our concern is for the people in need." With very little money, and a lot of dedication, COSSPO has already accomplished a great deal.

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METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS  
COMMISSION

## Calendar



The North-Northeast Youth Development Program is having a grand finale September 4th, from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Albina Women's League, Vocational Art Center, 8 N.E. Killingsworth.

Activities will include modeling, singing and dancing. Parents and friends are invited, and it is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

There will be a HUD workshop on "Acquisition & Relocation" Thursday, September 8th, in the Water Bureau Auditorium, 1800 S.W. 6th, from 9:30 A.M. until 4 P.M.



On September 19th, a hearing will be held by the Residential Care Facility Licensing Board. The Board will discuss licensing of the Native American Rehabilitation Assn. Treatment House, at 1438 S.E. Division, and the Youth Progress Assn., at 1236 S.E. Yamhill. The hearing will be in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7 P.M.

The Black History Program on KBOO (90.7 FM) will present Art Dillworth of the Highland Community Center on September 7th, 6:30 p.m., speaking on "Blacks and the Law."

The following concerts are scheduled for the month of September:

September 10: **Brothers Johnson** at the Paramount.  
September 11: **Bob Marley** at the Paramount.  
September 16, 17, 18: **Chubby Checker** at the Hayloft.

Call the Paramount or the Hayloft for additional details.



From noon on September 23 until 5 P.M. September 24, 1977, a regional conference on land use planning for city officials, planning commissioners, civic groups, and neighborhood associations, will be held at Portland State University.

For more details, contact Dick Beck at 648-8708. There is no registration fee.

The Downtown Center of the Marylhurst Education Center is holding Intercultural Communication Workshops every Tuesday evening, from 7 to 10 P.M.

Examining culturally determined behavior, values and assumptions, focusing on similarities and differences of people of different cultures, the workshop is especially valuable for individuals working in an inter-cultural environment.

On Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30, the Center offers "Africa: People and Politics", an introduction to the history and culture of major African peoples.

By comparing traditional African religion, society and art forms to those introduced from Europe, the class will seek to understand Africa's present social and political tensions. For more information on these programs, please call 224-5828 or 636-8141. Fall term begins on September 26, 1977.



The Direction Service Office, located at 4815 N.E. 7, is a new program to assist those parents seeking services for their handicapped child. The program is available to any handicapped child ranging in age from birth to 21 years, who is a resident within the boundaries of Portland Public School District.

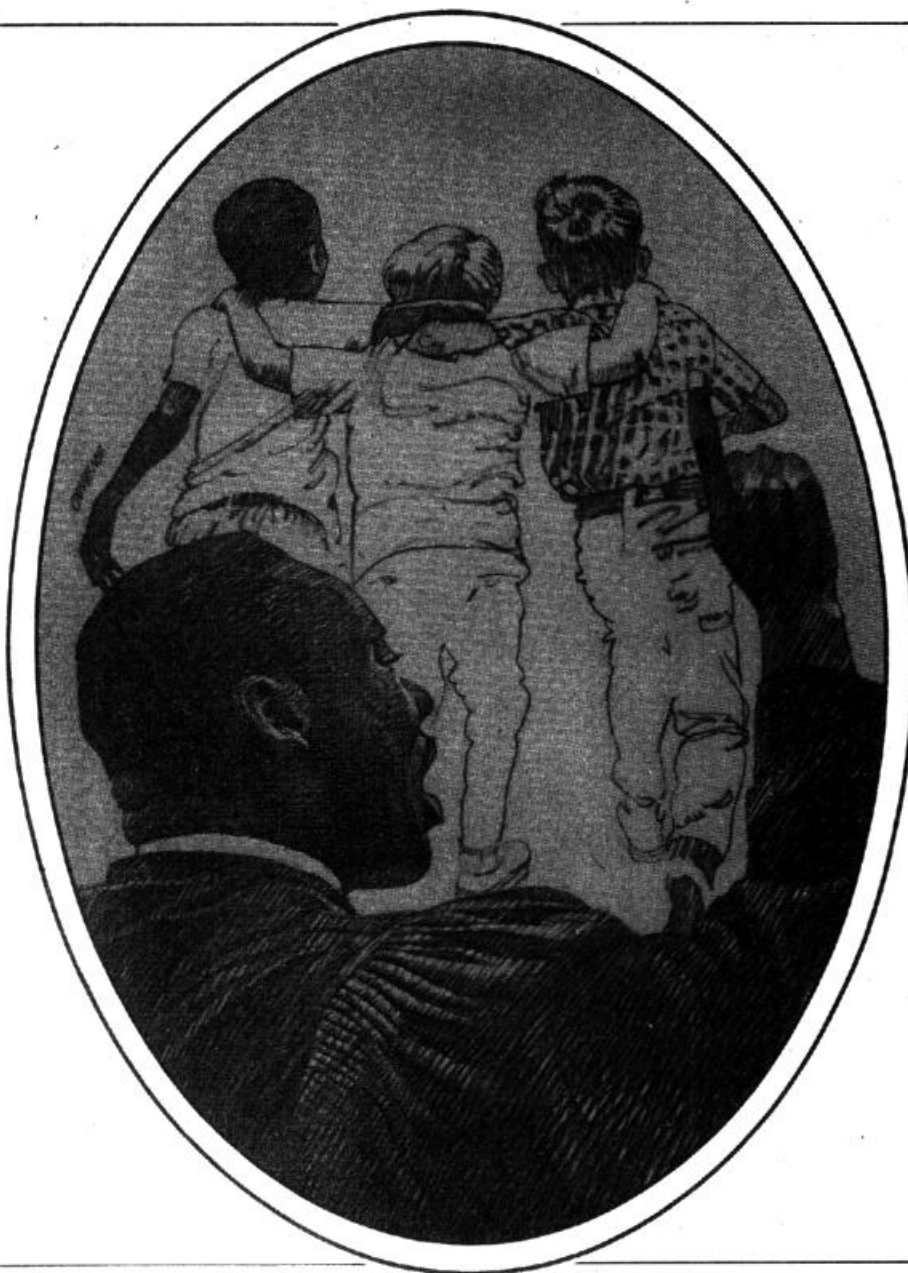
For more information, contact their office at 288-5167.

The Washington Park Zoo will hold their second annual **Handicapped Free Day** on Wednesday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All handicapped persons and their escorts will receive free admission, train rides, flowers, animal crackers, buttons, and special entertainment during the day, including Kay Lee's Playbox Players, as well as clowns.

Tri-Met will provide bus service from downtown, and lift service will be available at the Zoo. Please call Tri-Met if you wish this service on Handicapped Free Day.

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

A man who had a Vision.



*Human Relations  
Newsletter*

VOLUME 1 NO. 5

# From a Human Rights Point of View



by Nick Barnett

"If those had been white people occupying the buildings at Colegio Caesar Chavez, they would have been put out a long time ago." This lament of an Oregon resident to the editor of the *Oregonian* is a clear indication of the tension and friction that continue to exist in this country between persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

While we may point to what appear to be signs of progress in the direction of true equality and mutual respect, there is evidence that these signs indicate nothing more than an uneasy and artificial truce. For instance, we see minorities and women holding employment positions that were once closed to them; we see well-planned and thoughtful attempts on the part of individual communities to integrate themselves; and we see the inclusion of cultural awareness and human relations material in school programs.

However, we also see (and hear) comments such as the one opening this article; we see increased resistance to affirmative action plans in both the employment and educational fields; we see evidence that minorities are living in even more segregated communities; and we see hostile, even violent, reactions to attempts to integrate neighborhood schools.

These examples point out that we have failed to substantially alter long-standing feelings and attitudes. Although important preliminary steps to positive social change have been undertaken, the complex core problems must be more seriously addressed.

Portland—like most cities in this nation—has not been successful in its aim to change certain habits of unjust discrimination and oppressive paternalistic attitudes. These obstacles stand in the way of effective and meaningful inter-group relations.

From the point of view of a human relations practitioner, this is the challenge. We must, of course, continue to seek solutions to immediate problems, but we must never lose sight of the fact that until we can bring about major positive changes in the ways people relate to and think about each other, the goal of community justice and harmony will not be achieved.

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City of Portland—Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge

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Eleanor Davis  
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Armando Laguardia  
Carol Clark Edmo  
Nitina Chavan  
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## Community Coalition Involved in Integration Plans

By Linda Roberts

Many diverse groups, organizations and individuals, together with MHRC, have launched a comprehensive, broad-based community coalition to study the Portland Public School District's desegregation policies and programs.

The purpose of the Coalition is to identify common concerns of the community in connection with desegregation and to insure the kind of equal educational opportunities that will maximize each child's potential.

The Coalition will make recommendations to the school board after studying and analyzing Portland desegregation policy and practices from 1965 through 1977.

The Coalition grew out of opposition to a proposed school board change in the desegregation policy that would have barred black students from Boise and King elementary schools from attending Jefferson High School. The minority enrollment at the two feeder schools is 85 per cent at Boise and 67 per cent at King.

The school board proposal would have forced the black students from those two elementary schools to be bused to two west side schools.

The purpose of the proposed change was to bring the minority enrollment at Jefferson, now at 51.5 per cent, to below 50 per

cent to meet state and federal requirements.

Various organizations and individuals opposed the Jefferson proposal because it affected a disproportionate number of black students, who had no input into the policy change. Those who spoke out favored integration, but opposed the plan because they felt the black community had borne the greatest burden for school integration.

Concern was voiced by the community that the Jefferson problem had not been critically thought out or meaningfully discussed with the groups who would be most affected by the implementation of the proposed change.

The Coalition was formed to ask the school board to reject the

proposal and postpone any changes in the plan until the community had been given adequate voice in the planning.

The Community Coalition for School Integration organized around these issues and plans to involve the community in identifying common concerns of desegregation and to make recommendations for positive integration based on community involvement.

The Coalition will meet on Nov. 29, Dec. 14, Jan. 5, and Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th. All meetings are open to the public and all who attend will be able to voice opinions and become actively involved in the Coalition.

## Krugerrand Resolution passed

In a special session on Nov. 21, MHRC passed a resolution urging citizens not to buy the Krugerrand, South Africa's one troy ounce gold coin.

The decision to pass the resolution followed a pro-and-con presentation on the impact of Krugerrand sales in Portland.

The two groups in opposition to the coin were the American Friends Service Committee and the Portland's Citizens Against Racism.

Speaking for the coin was Richard Davis, Senior Information Officer with the South African Press and Information Office to Los Angeles, who represented T.E. Slanker, a major retail outlet in Portland for the Krugerrand. "This is a chance for us to get down and do something about South Africa at the community level," said commission member Armando Laguardia.

The purpose of the resolution is to inform Portland citizens of the racism system the coin represents.

## From India to Oregon to D.C.



Nitina Chavan (sec. from l.) with her family

Over sweet doughnuts Indian style and clove tea Nitina Chavan said ten years away from her native homeland of Bombay State, India, hasn't been as long as it sounds.

Since receiving her masters in special education at the University of Oregon in 1967, Nitina has been professionally committed to improvements in the field of education, particularly for handicapped and disabled children.

Shortly after her appointment to the Human Relations Commission in January 1977, Nitina was notified of her appointment to the National Advisory Council on Developmental Disability by the Health Education and Welfare office in Washington, D.C.

Working for the National Advisory Council has turned Nitina into something of a trans-continental traveller. Employed as both a consultant and member of the council, she spends much of her time attending conferences and meetings throughout the U.S.

Nitina was raised in Ekola, India, where her father was a reknown Christian minister and for the past nine years has been the chairman for the S.E. Asia Council Alliance Missions.

Christianity is a religion which constitutes only five per cent of followers in the Hindu oriented country.

Growing up in such a devout Christian family, it was surprising Nitina could not recall any instances of discrimination because of her religion. "The Hindus have so many Gods," she explained, "What is one more to them."

Nitina received her undergraduate degree in chemistry in India, before coming to the U.S. to attend the University of Oregon for her masters.

An education abroad was something Nitina said her parents has always promised. "I had always wanted to go to UCLA since that was the school I had always heard about in India," Nitina said.

Instead she came to Eugene, where her brother was already living. After receiving one masters in special education, Nitina later returned to U. of O. for a second masters in journalism in 1969, where she received the Harpham award for her thesis on mass communication problems in underdeveloped countries.

Nitina has a long list of work experience in the field of education. In 1968 she was the director of Washington County Retarded Children's Center, in 1970 she worked as a training coordinator for the institution for mentally ill, retarded and corrections, and from 1970-1974 she was the coor-

dinator for programs for disabled children, which included an infant stimulation program designed for teachers to work with disabled children and their families at home.

Presently, Nitina is employed as a policy and operation specialist for Adult and Family Services in Salem.

In addition, Nitina designed and taught a post-graduate seminar at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 1972, on the bio-medical aspects of mental retardation. The U. of M. is one of the few colleges in the U.S. to offer such a course.

Too much snow in the midwest city brought Nitina back to the Northwest where she plans to stay indefinitely.

Oregon has been a good setting for one of Nitina's few addictions—photography. She had two exhibits of her photographs, which portray landscapes and people in Oregon, in Pittsburg and Santa Maria, California.

continues on next page

## COMMUNITY INTERACTION

### Refugees Still Waiting for funds

Some of the more than 2,200 Southeast Asian refugees in Oregon who have been depending on federal funds for welfare, job and language training are still waiting for their checks.

A new \$4 million Indochinese Refugee Assistance Act has been approved by Congress but the actual allocation of the funds has not been authorized.

Congress allowed the former \$3 million budget for refugee aid to expire on Oct. 1.

"Everybody says the funds could be coming any time now, but we have learned not to predict what Congress will do," said Ed Ferguson, director of the Indochinese Cultural and Service Center in Portland's Hollywood District.

The Indochinese Center, funded by federal and state monies, in addition to private funds has been forced to cut back on all

services and programs supported by federal assistance.

The Social Security Administration, which has responsibility for administering the Indochinese Refugee aid program, announced in late September it had found a \$4 million surplus for refugee aid, which brought a total of \$147,800 to Oregon.

But the emergency funds will not last long and will help only with food, housing and basic needs. It will do nothing to continue the special job and language programs, which are far more valuable in further integrating the refugees to the U.S.

There are about 3,500 Indochinese refugees in Oregon, brought here after the United States pulled out of Vietnam. Fewer than 1,500 have managed to become self-sustaining—the rest are receiving some form of public assistance.

"Most of the refugees have lost their skills because they learned them in a different system. Now they have to start from the beginning and learn again and again," said Dr. Kiatt, former Vietnamese surgeon working at the Center.

"Many Indochinese people are living on welfare, but it doesn't mean they don't want to work. They are very desperate," Kiatt said.

The Indochinese people, invited strangers to a strangeland,

have been very quiet about the interruption in public assistance.

"They are not likely to say how bad things are. When the funding ran out earlier and radio and TV stations came to the Center, refugees interviewed would say America was really doing good things, whereas Americans would say what a terrible thing it is to let the funding run out. The Indochinese people are really very humble," Ferguson said.

The Indochinese refugees have become somewhat unsure of the American system because of the lack of funds, Kiatt explained, but said the Indochinese people did not think they should be too demanding.

But a promise is a promise. The United States welcomed refugees here, promising funds would be available for both subsistence and educational needs.

While the White House is trying to forget it lost the war, the refugees, in their silence, are still waiting.



Photo courtesy the Portland Observer

### Bilingual Paper a First in Portland

The Committee of Spanish speaking People of Oregon put out its first edition last month of *Cosmo Informa*, Portland's only bilingual newspaper.

*Cosmo Informa* is designed to inform both Hispanics and other interested in Hispano cultural

and news of some of the problems and concerns faced by Spanish speaking people, as well as to share cultural values of the community.

The first edition, with a circulation of 5,000, received a positive response from readers, according

to *Cosmo* worker Elizabeth Ellis.

*Cosmo Informa* will be published on a monthly basis with the subscription cost of \$3 per 12 issues.

If you are interested in receiving the next issue or subscribing, contact *Cosmo* at 3534 S.E. Main, Portland 97214 or call 238-0605.

### A New Awareness in PSU Black Studies



Black Studies has come off the back of the bus at PSU.

The once hidden department is creating a new reputation in the community and on campus. Changes in programs, faculty and classes are attracting record numbers of students.

"Things are really solid," said Darrell Milner, assistant professor in black history and litera-

ture and former Black Studies Department chairman. "If anything," he said, "our problems are with other departments—like the kind of problems you face with competition from a new kid on the block."

There are two types of new students in the department, according to Black Studies Chairman Bill Little. The first type is

the black student who previously wouldn't take black studies courses because he or she felt ashamed of their color. The second is the white student who is alienated from the university and finds black studies an academically warm environment.

Little has been largely responsible for the major overhaul in the department, although he has been chairman for less than eight months.

Little, originally from Los Angeles, received his B.A. from Western Washington State College and his masters and Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1972-76.

"We have a different philosophy toward students than the rest of the university," Little said. "We try to create an environment where students feel more at home."

The number of students to faculty is kept low to help the student both academically and emotionally.

PSU presently does not offer an undergraduate B.A. in black studies. Students can obtain a certificate in the department, which usually coincides with a degree in social work, criminal justice, education or a general studies degree.

What can you do with a black studies certificate?

"Just about the same damn thing you can do with any other degree," Little laughed.

Little described an education in black studies as "a way of looking at life which follows all the ideas of the classical liberal

arts education as well."

Sharing the black experience is an awakening for many students. The Black Studies Department offers students a chance to learn about a history and culture so neglected in our grammar and high schools.

What makes black studies an especially vital program is its ties to the community. Some examples of community interaction are projects with the Willamette Immigration Project, the Portland Public School District, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, and the PSU Education Center.

Two classes are offered per quarter at Jameca Community College for inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary. Black studies is also involved with student groups such as the Student Coalition Against Racism (SCAR), the PSU Black Studies Union and the PSU Poetry Committee.

Last year, an anthology of NW writers and poets entitled *DARK Waters* was published by the PSU Black Studies Department.

Black studies continues to sponsor conferences, speakers and cultural activities. Some of these are listed in the calendar on the back page.

Black studies is slowly making headway at PSU.

"If the system is not accessible to change then no one can change it. At first I thought PSU was in that state," Little said, "but I found the right direction and pushed."

continued from page 2

What Nitina misses most in this country is her own cultural awareness. "In India the culture is thousands of years old. Here is only 200 years old and hasn't had a chance to develop," she explained.

Nitina admires the movement in the U.S. motivating people to find their roots. Knowing your past can be a catalyst for a new cultural identity in the U.S., she said.

all the closeness," Nitina said. "In our house in India we always kept a pot of tea brewing and lots of food around all day long for people dropping in."

As much as Nitina misses her homeland, she said it would be difficult to return there to live.

"I couldn't make much of my career if I went back to India," Nitina explained. India has had little money to develop their education programs for mentally retarded children.

The plans for the future are uncertain. "A Ph.D. is in the picture, maybe at the University of Washington," Nitina said.

As a member of the Human Relations Commission, Nitina feels she has been given an opportunity to do something to continue the struggle for greater equality among minorities. Working on the Committee for education, Nitina hopes their research and action will aid in a successful integration plan for the Portland Public School District.



## FEATURE

# A Gold Coin Nobody Should Want to Buy

Portland is one of 26 American cities being bombarded by advertising for the Krugerrand, South Africa's one troy ounce gold coin.

Some parents are turning off their T.V. sets so their children are not forced to view the commercials, commuters are changing their radio station when Krugerrand selling pitches are aired and some even spit on the newspaper pages where the ads appear.

The ads are far from being obscene. They are tastefully done, with that slick commercial zest that makes even the poorest want to buy.

It's what the ads don't tell us that are making people angry.

As it turns out, Krugerrands are far more expensive than their selling price of \$150-\$170 (depending on fluctuating gold prices in the international market.)



The Krugerrand gets its name from Stephanus Johannes Kruger, who served as president of South Africa in the last century. He is remembered by his famous statement: "The chief principle that must always be borne in mind is that savages must be kept within bounds."

### The Real Cost of the Coin

The real cost of the Krugerrand is cheap when the death score of those who mine the gold is tallied up.

It is estimated three miners die per shift in South Africa because of the worst mining conditions in the world.

Ninety per cent of the dead are black miners who earn five times less than their fellow white workers, according to the *New York Times*.

Between 1972 and 1975 alone, there were 2,993 accidental deaths in the mines and 110,169 serious injuries, according to South Africa's *Financial Mail*.

About 90 per cent of the workers in South African gold mines are black, and 9 per cent are white, with a small number of Coloureds and Asians.

In order to provide cheap labor for the mines, Africans were driven off their land, herded into "Native Reserves," forced into the labor market by taxes, and

rigidly controlled by the imposition of pass laws, which regiment the labor flow.

Most of the African miners are immigrants, forced to live in huge company compounds.

### Frightfully Slick

The slick multi-million dollar promotional campaign by New York advertising agency Doyle, Dane Bernbach, Inc., has turned the U.S. into the number one Krugerrand market in the space of one year.

One advertisement in the May 17, 1977 issue of the *New York Times* featured two smiling graduates clad in cap and gown. The man held a Krugerrand in an attractive case, while the woman wore the gold coin on a necklace. The caption read: "Give them money that's more than money. . . When you give a graduate a Krugerrand coin you've not only given money, you've also given gold."

The present \$4 million fall campaign is aimed at the average income, unsophisticated investor, employing headlines such as, "I make \$300 a week. Why should I buy a gold coin?"

The Doyle & Dane ads emphasize the one troy ounce measurement of the Krugerrand—the exact unit of measurement for gold on the international market—which makes it easy for the potential buyer to check the daily value of gold by listening to the general price quotations on the local radio station or looking at the daily newspaper.

Portland is one of the 26 American cities to be inundated with advertising for the Krugerrand during the fall campaign.

"The interest in gold in Oregon has been particularly revitalized in the past month because of an intensive advertising campaign to sell the South African Krugerrand," according to John Guernsey in the *Oregonian*.

### Who Controls It?

The gold for Krugerrands from South Africa's 48 gold mines, many of which have substantial U.S. investment.

The mines are owned by the South African Chamber of Mines, a consortium which controls 90 per cent of all gold mined in the country. Among the seven major financial groups in the Chamber of Mines, the largest is Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo-American Corporation.

Gold sales overseas provide much of the foreign exchange—the dollars, pounds, and marks—that South Africa needs to buy machinery, chemicals, and raw materials for industrial expansion. Such sales also help to pay for arms and oil crucial to the regime in the likely event of a civil war.

In the past few years, gold sales in South Africa have covered about one-third of the total import bill. In addition, the South African government receives substantial tax revenues on all gold produced and the internal economy benefits from gold industry spending.

Since gold was discovered in South Africa in the 1890s, it has been the primary basis of the country's development.

South Africa has 65 per cent of the world's known gold reserves and accounts for three-quarters of all western production, according to reports from the American Committee on Africa, a New York activist and research organization.

### The Gold Market

Until recently, the demand for and the price of gold rose routinely. All major currencies were translatable into gold, which meant countries kept adding to their stockpiles.

Gold was also in steady demand for jewelry and industrial purposes. In the past few years however, while jewelry and industrial demand has remained high, gold has lost much of its importance as an international medium of exchange.

Accompanying these changes has been sharp variations in the world's gold prices. Between 1974 and 1976, the price of gold rose to nearly \$200 an ounce, then plunged to \$110 an ounce.

South Africa, concerned about the situation, began seeking ways to ensure a steady demand and good price for its chief export. One method it hit on was international sales of the Krugerrand.

South Africa recognized that the more gold that could be sold in the form of Krugerrands directly to consumers, the less would have to be auctioned in London and Zurich.

The South African Chamber of Mines began to market Krugerrands in Europe starting in the early 1970s. These efforts were extended to the U.S. in 1975, when it became legal for individuals to own gold.

### Don't Buy

Following the recent wave of repression, forcing closure of all



radical and liberal newspapers and detaining black leaders in South Africa, the protest against sales of the Krugerrand have mounted.

Britain has already banned sale of the coin.

In the U.S., city councils have passed resolutions urging citizens not to purchase the coin, following efforts by anti-Krugerrand groups, in Denver, Chicago, San Antonio, Texas, Dayton Ohio and Madison, Wisconsin.

Investment firms and coin shops in Oakland, Brooklyn and Cleveland, Ohio, agreed to stop selling Krugerrands after picketing by anti-apartheid groups.

The Portland Citizens Against Racism (PCAR) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) are planning protests in December and January.

PCAR and AFSC have jointly presented a resolution for the Portland City Council, which asks them to make official the local opposition to sales of the coin.

Should the city council pass the resolution, it would not prohibit sellers from continuing to market the Krugerrand.

"Portland is helping to support a blatantly racist system whose denial of basic human rights is obvious. People who are aware of the repression in South Africa should work to stop the sale of the coin," said Elizabeth Groff, AFSC representative.

If you are interested in more information, or in helping with the anti-Krugerrand campaign, call AFSC at 235-8954 or PCAR at 281-7886.

## In Defense of the Krugerrand

T.E. Slanker, one of the major retail outlets in Portland for the Krugerrand, is steaming with anger about local and national protest against sales of the coin. Slanker is attempting to defend South African politics and mining conditions by promoting his own pro-apartheid publicity campaign.

At Slanker's invitation, Richard Davis, Senior Information Officer with the South African press and Information Officer in Los Angeles, came to Portland and held two press conferences on Nov. 21, in the offices of the T.E. Slanker Investment Company.

Davis is a "coloured" South African, the government classification for a South African who is of mixed racial heritage.

When Davis was asked if he, an officer with the South African Embassy, had been asked to Portland to help with promotion of sales for the Krugerrand, he denied that his visit has anything to do with the coin.

Davis, however, was eager to describe the working conditions of black South Africans who work in the gold mines. The workers,

he said, are given free housing, free clothes, free local beer (two gallons per day), and free recreational facilities. The miners work an eight hour shift with a shorter shift on Saturday, according to Davis.



Davis believes South Africa has some of the safest mines in the world" and doubts any statistics which question his statement. "To send large numbers of people into unsafe mines would not be good," Davis felt.

At a meeting with MHRG the following day, Nov. 22, Davis made his appearance, again with Slanker, in attempt to further convince the public South Africa is not the way media is portraying it.

"There are numerous oppor-

tunities and avenues of employment for black people in South Africa. You have black millionaires, black businessmen, and black head of supermarkets," according to Davis.

Davis insisted that sales of the Krugerrand could only help black South Africans. He claimed that not buying South African gold will hurt black South Africans by putting them out of work.

A recent article in the *Washington Post* reported residents in Soweto, South Africa, gave a different opinion when asked whether economic sanctions would hurt black people more than whites.

"Cut it, get rid of it, take your business and get out," said a young man angrily. "What can it do to Soweto? People here have nothing to lose."

Another powerful response came from an aging Soweto teacher. "Don't worry. You will just put pressure on a man who is already suffering. What good is my job without my freedom? We are all Steve Biko now. We are ready to die."

# CALENDAR

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Community Values will be the subject for Portland Community Forum on January 5 at 6 p.m. at the PSU Education Center, 4815 NE 7th Ave. Panelists include John Jackson, Melbourne Henry, Shelton Hill and Joyce Harris. Sponsored by PSU Black Studies and the PSU Educational Center.

A conference exploring practical and reflective aspects of citizen participation will be held Dec. 2 and 3 by the Center for Urban Education, 0245 SW Bancroft. Call 21-0984 for more information.

Every Monday evening at 7 p.m., meetings for organizing protest against the sales of the Kruger-land, are held at 1919 NE 10th (near Lloyd Center). Call 281-7886 for more information.

## THEATRE

Storefront Theatre presents *The Arc*, an original multi-media acrobatic production about women's history. Through Dec. 31 Sat and Sun at 8 p.m. 933 N. Russell, Portland. Admission \$3. Call 84-6385 for more information.

New Theatre presents *Secrets*, an original work created by and about three Portland actors. At the Playback Theatre in the Long Goodbye, NW 10th and Everett, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays. Tickets \$3.50. For reservations, call 228-1008.

*Telemachus Clay*, an experimental piece directed by Paul Doumismis, which uses 11 actors to portray over a hundred characters, will be showing Nov. 25-Dec. 17. Fri-Sat. 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$3, at 111 SW 10th Ave., Portland. Call 223-6281 for more information.

The Portland Conservatory Theatre presents *Vanties*, a comedy about three women growing up in Texas, Nov. 25-Dec. 18 at Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock. Fri-Sat. at 8 p.m. Admission \$4, students and seniors \$3, Sun 7 p.m., all seats \$3.50. Fifty cents discount on all tickets bought in advance. Call 771-4105 for more information.

## MOVIES

The Clinton Street Theatre, Portland's only theatre collective, presents *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* and Joanne Woodward in *Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams*. Admission \$1. Nov. 30-Dec. 6. At the corner of SE 26 and Clinton.

Some interesting films coming up at the Northwest Film Study Center, the Portland Art Museum include:

Dec. 4 Sunday 8 p.m.—*The Defiant Ones*. Film on racial tension which pits Tony Curtis against Sidney Poitier as two convicts on the run from the law while shackled together.

10 Saturday 8 p.m.—*Stay Hungry*. Jeff Bridges plays protagonist as a well-to-do Southerner who rebuffs his family and a gang of urban developers by buying a seedy health spa the developers want to tear down. With Arnold Schwarzenegger, the body-building star of *Pumping Iron*.

11 Sunday 8 p.m.—*The Whisperers*. A touching and bemused English film about a lady living alone who begins to hear voices. One of the few good films on the subject of aging.

24 Saturday 2 p.m.—*I Remember Mama*. A warm memoir of a Norwegian-born mother in old San Francisco and some of the hardships they face.

## MUSIC

Arbuckle Flat is open once again at its new location, 1532 SW Morrison. Dec. 2-3 Jack McMahon. Dec. 9 Dr. Corn's Bluegrass. Dec. 10 New Jazz Monestary Qt. Dec. 16 Harold Lawrence String Quartet. Dec. 17 Sky River Band. Dec. 23 Sneaker. Dec. 30 *Sleepy Pieces*. Dec. 31 *Up:re*. all shows start at 9 p.m., \$2 admission Arbuckle serves no alcohol and therefore is open to all.

## RADIO

KBOO, the non-commercial, listener supported radio station at 90.7 FM, has some interesting news and talk programs in December. Some of these include:

Dec. 1 Thurs 8 p.m.—United Front Bookstore takes a look at the *Bakke Case* and attack on affirmative action programs.

4 Mon. 8 p.m.—*Mundo Mestizo*, a bilingual hour of news, music and commentary from North American Spanish speaking communities.

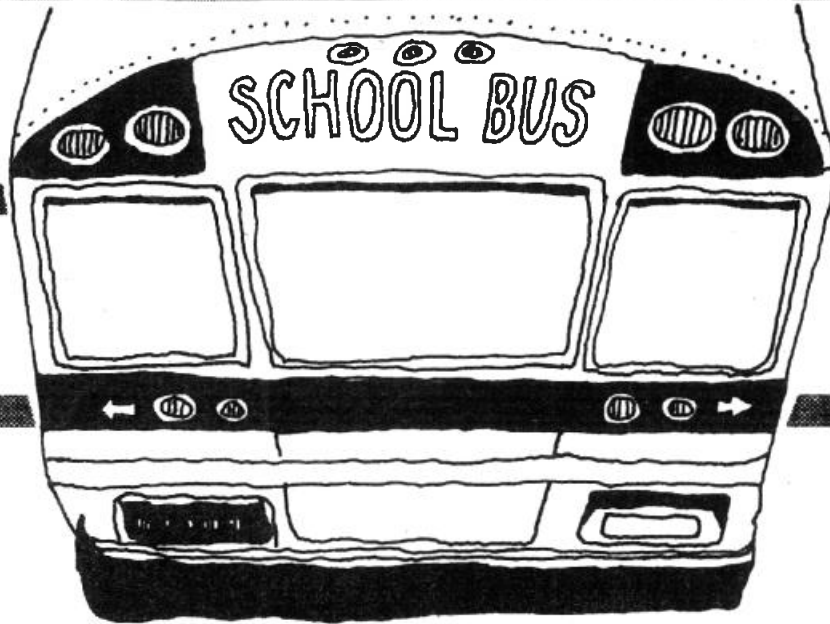
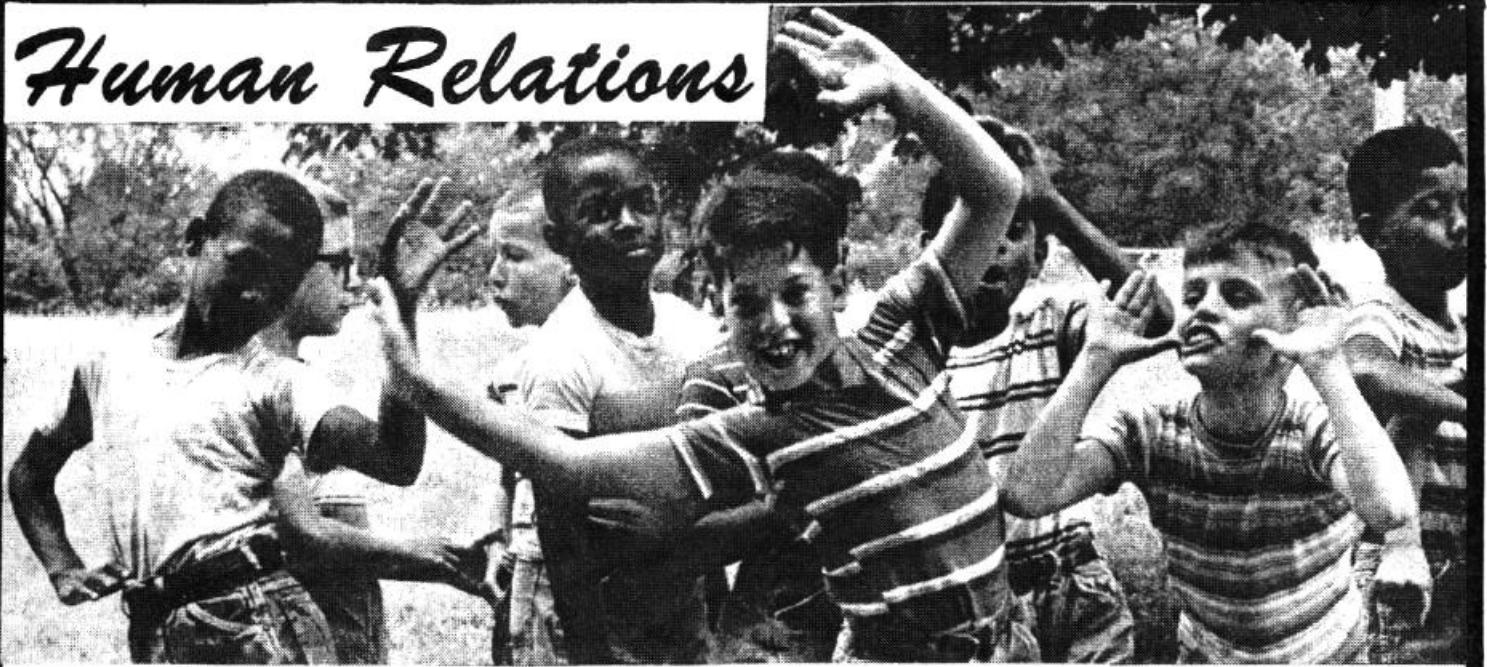
9 Thurs. 10 a.m.—Ben Gerritab of SWAP'Os *Mission* to the U.N. outlines the present state of the liberation struggle in Namibia.

18 Sun. 5 p.m.—Author of *For Colored Girls Who Have considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, speaks of problems she has faced as a black woman in the art world.

If you have something you would like to include the next issue [Feb through March] please write calendar, 312 Corbett Bldg., Portland, Ore. 97204.

Yell copy

# Human Relations



VOL. 1 NO. 5

## Newsletter



## From a Human Rights Point of View

Even though it is now almost early Spring, may I take the occasion of our first newsletter for this year to offer the best of this still new year to each of you on behalf of this Commission.

At the suggestion of Human Relations Commissioner Armando Laguardia, our annual meeting was combined with the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award presentation. It was a grand success. Over 200 persons came to honor Marie Smith, this year's award recipient. Never before had our office received so many calls from people expressing the pleasure they experienced from attending such an event. Mrs. Smith, the Awards Committee, our hosts from the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Russell Peyton himself, and the many participants are all worthy of commendation.

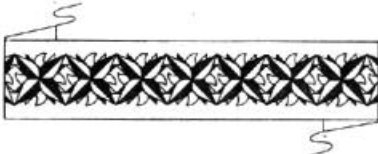
As a result of the voting of the annual meeting we take occasion to welcome the newly elected Chairman Jim Sitzman. Hazel G. Hays and Vince Degue joined him to form this year's Executive Committee. Recently appointed members to the Commission include Anna Street and Jerry Weller.

We wish to extend our deep appreciation to three who were with the Commission last year: Warren Nunn, Christopher Thomas and Carol Bryant.

The enthusiasm generated by the Awards presentation was effectively channeled in productivity by the participation of the Commission members at the Second Annual Planning Workshop held in January. Our goals and objectives are clearer, more feasible and are certain to have significant impact on some important issues. If we are able to obtain the staffing resources needed to carry out our proposed programs, then this fiscal year will be marked by singular achievement in the struggle for justice in Portland.

P.S. Just before going to press—we were pleased to note the courageous and efficacious action taken by City Commissioner Connie McCready in opposing the use of City funds to travel to states where the ERA has not yet been ratified.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Human Rights Workers, I will take this issue to their next board meeting in regard to the site for their fall convention.



Although zoning advocates today attempt to circumvent racial consideration in their construction, exclusion by race is still the basic underpinnings of many zoning statutes or regulations, regardless of how subtly they are hidden.

Historically, zoning has been an antecedent practice to a number of techniques presently in use to oppose neighborhood desegregation.

In 1917, it first came to the attention of the United States Supreme Court, in the case of Buchanan v. Worley, that Louisville, Kentucky, had a statute that forbade incursion of members of one race into an area chiefly occupied by members of another race. Similar statutes were frequently created to restrict blacks from moving out of predominantly black areas.

Present zoning laws are more subtle than those laws enacted prior to World War II, but the consequences are the same. Zoning continues to restrict the entry of certain groups of people into a community and determines areas where they will be contained.

Policies implemented through the use of zoning make suburban housing for lower-income families practically unavailable. Zoning ordinances impose restrictions on lot size, bar apartments, public housing, and multi-family dwellings.

The exclusion of apartments in an area results in excluding lower-income families who cannot afford the higher cost of single-family housing. Some suburban areas prohibit apartment construction altogether, while others limit the number of bedrooms apartments have in an attempt to minimize the number of children who can move into the area. In many suburban communities, lots of 20,000 square feet to one acre are common, forcing the price of housing higher.

Low density residential areas are of necessity automobile oriented, since shopping and other facilities cannot economically be located within walking distance. This acts as an additional barrier to lower-income families.

The net effect of zoning regulations has been to continue to deny blacks an opportunity to move into suburbia and to continue to confine them to restricted residential areas within city boundaries. Suburban zoning has had the effect of both displacing and excluding low-income and minority families, and its use toward this end has often been intentional.

## Policy Making for Fair Housing

A policy on fair housing based on MHRC recommendations will become an inclusive packet to the housing policies being prepared by the City of Portland. MHRC has also been actively involved in the Columbia Regional Association of Governments (CRAG) Housing Technical Advisory Committee in developing policies intended to provide open and equal opportunity for all segments of society in choosing appropriate housing.

While CRAG's policy is still in the initial planning stages, the City's Bureau of Planning is preparing the final draft of Portland's housing policy before presenting it to the City Council for final approval.

One area of major concern to MHRC was that the housing policies provide equal access to



housing for all groups of people and that the end result produces neighborhood diversity. In its advocacy for a truly pluralistic community, MHRC advocates

reduction of the isolation of economic and racial groups of people within communities and geographic areas. This mission could be greatly enhanced if the city insisted on fair housing concepts permeating the first housing policies it adopts.

MHRC's position is that Fair Housing goals and objectives relate to all aspects of housing policies and programs. There-

## '78 PEYTON AWARDS

Marie Smith was recently honored by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission as the first woman to receive its Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award for "outstanding commitment and dedication to human rights."

This was not the only time this energetic lady was a "first." In 1949-50 she became the first woman president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Portland chapter. As one of the founding members of the Interracial Fellowship in 1948, now called the Intercultural Fellowship, she helped lead boycotts of restaurants and retail stores refusing to serve and employ blacks. She was also a founder of the Oregon Association of Colored Women

Club and is now a historian for the national association.

Long years of community service by Mrs. Smith have included volunteer work as a board member of the YMCA, board member of the Economic Opportunity Program and a board member of the Urban League of Portland.

In 1976, Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt proclaimed June 3 Marie Smith Day, "for her tireless service and contributions to our community."

Mrs. Smith is an excellent recipient of the Peyton Award, which is given annually by MHRC to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the advancement of human relations, civil rights and the striving for cultural awareness within our community.



A Section from the Albina Art Mural Project on an outside wall of the Albina Human Resource Center.

fore, we recommended that fair housing become the first policy statement in the document when it goes before the City Council. Implementation programs for Fair Housing, which were not included in the final discussion draft, are being studied in reference to suggestions made by MHRC. They include development of a discrimination checking source which would test housing discrimination complaints within hours of the original complaint and MHRC sponsored education programs for both the public and private sector regarding their rights and obligations to fair housing.

### METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County—Dennis Buchanan, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland—Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge



312 Corbett Bldg., Portland 97204  
(503) 248-4187

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the city and county. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to be an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

James Sitzman—Chairman  
W.G. Barnett—Executive Director

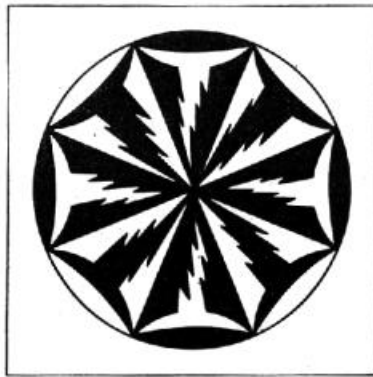
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Harry C. Ward  
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Newsletter: Katy Juhl, Editor





## A Lonely Cross Burning

Carol Bryant opened her livingroom curtains at 9:30 p.m., Feb. 28, to see the smoldering remains of a 3 1/2 foot cross which had been set afire at the edge of the front lawn at her home in NE Portland.

"I almost fainted—I didn't know what to do," said Bryant, 27, who is presently a candidate for the State Legislature from District 14 and a former Human Relations Commissioner.

The FBI, the Portland Police and the arson squad are working on the case but it is doubtful anyone will be found. The only other evidence, beside the cross, was provided by Mrs. Bryant's husband, Jess, who caught a glimpse of "two or three men running toward a van" from their basement window.

The cross burning has left a scar on the Bryant family which will probably never be erased. "No matter what you do or what you say," Mrs. Bryant said, "there always seems to be that reminder that you're black."

"For some reason I feel guilty and I don't even know why," she said. "When you're working hard within the community like both my husband and I are doing, something like this comes as a real blow."

Although many have offered their support, including Governor Straub who referred to the cross burning as "not the Oregon way," the Bryants suddenly feel estranged from the community.

"I wish there was someone I could turn to. In the South black people turn to the churches for

No thanks to the State of Washington, Indians are facing a tough time in Congress this year.

Nine so called Indian "backlash bills" have been introduced to Congress aimed at more effectively placing state control over long debated Indian rights.

The most disputed of the backlash bills was introduced by Jack Cunningham, the new conservative congressman from Seattle, last Sept. 12. Should the bill become law, every treaty the United States has ever entered into would be erased from the books.

Titled ironically the Native American Equal Opportunity Act, the bill designates power to the president, without Indian consent, to "abrogate" all treaties and to dismantle the Bureau of Indian Affairs. While Indians would keep hold of all lands they presently hold, the bill would free Congress from further disputes over hunting, fishing, land and water rights.

Indians are pointing to Cunningham's bill as symptomatic of a growing congressional backlash against demands by Indian tribes for hunting and fishing rights in Oregon and Washington, for land in Maine and Massachusetts and for water rights in Arizona.

To Cunningham the bill is "morally right" because "Congress has a mandate to protect the constitutional provision of equal justice" for all citizens, he said, whether they like it or not.

Congressional reaction to Cunningham's bill labelled its far-reaching power as too extreme and predictions indicate it stands little chance of passing Congress.

Fearing that his first bill will not even go beyond the Senate Committee now studying it, Cunningham introduced a second bill later in September titled "The Washington State Fishing and Hunting Equal Rights Act of 1977," which would be applicable only to the State of Washington.

"If Congress can't carry it all in one pail, we'll serve it up in small cups," said Cunningham's legislative assistant Bruce Addison in reference to the second bill to the Yakima Nation Review, an Indian affairs oriented publication in central-eastern Washington.

The new Cunningham bill would subject all Indian hunting and fishing off the reservations, except for ceremonial catches, to exclusive regulation by the Washington State Department of Fisheries and Game.

"We're on a collision course

with Indians in this nation," said Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.), who introduced two more backlash bills aimed at shrinking the powers of tribal jurisdiction and limiting the water rights and ownership of tribes.

"There is no question there is a feeling that Indians have gone too far," Meeds said. "I have that feeling. There are some people who want 244 Quebecs in this nation."

The "Omnibus Indian Jurisdiction Act of 1977" introduced by Meeds, contains three separate title sections affecting criminal law, civil law and miscellaneous provisions. The bill would deny Indians any civil or criminal jurisdiction (including taxing power) over non-Indians living on reservations. It would also end Indian jurisdiction over tribal members when off the reservation, such as the power the Boldt ruling gave Indians to police tribesmen at traditional off-reservation fishing spots.

Meeds' other bill, the "Quantitative Rights for Indian Reservations Act" requires tribes to determine the maximum amount of water they have used over the past five years ending Jan. 1, 1977, as the ceiling limit to the amount of water they are entitled to in the future.

None of the backlash bills are being well received in the Senate or the House. "I don't think the committees will even hear some of the bills," said Charles Trimble, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians.

Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Committee which must hear the Meeds bill, calls his proposals "simply warmed over termination efforts with a public relations gloss." He said repeated efforts have been made to destroy tribal self-government over the years, and that Meeds' bills fit into the picture.



CAROL BRYANT

support when something like this happens," Bryant said. "But, in Portland black people are dependent on the sympathy of whites since there is no substantial organization to deal with black problems."

The cross burning was probably a warning to Bryant to keep out of politics. But whoever did it and for whatever reasons

has made Bryant all the more anxious to continue on with her campaign. "I'm going to keep on doing what I'm doing," she said, "and I plan to win."

## Community Leader?

Editorial Comment  
by N. Fungai Kumbula

Oregonian editor Richard Nokes took the Portland City Council to task last December for its 3-2 vote asking Portlanders not to buy the bloodstained Krugerrand. Although I was far from surprised by his position, I could not help but be disappointed at this position taken by such a self-styled community leader.

A close look at Nokes' editorial criticizing the City Council for its decision conveys the impression that he was far from clear what the vote was all about. I don't think the vote was intended to tell the people of Portland what to do and what not to do. Nor was the reference to the newspapers, radio and television to tell them what to and what not to broadcast. My understanding of the word "reconsider" in terms of accepting Krugerrand advertising is, simply, "think about it."

The positions taken by Commissioners Schwab and Jordan and Mayor Goldschmidt were intended to affirm their opposition to the policies of the South African dictatorship.

I am a student from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and today, am essentially a man without a country because of the South African mentality. It is because of South Africa that the Ian Smith regime has survived so long, carrying on its reign of terror.

The purpose in trying to stop the sale of the Krugerrand is to cripple the ailing South African economy. She (South Africa) needs the money from these sales to buy more guns, bombs,

jet fighters, build more prisons, and torture chambers so she can go on harassing, torturing and murdering innocent civilians whose only crime is to fight for the self-same freedoms that the American Founding Fathers fought for.

Testifying for the Krugerrand to the City Council, a Mr. Claggett asked, "Do you know how many American jobs are involved and do you intend to jeopardize those jobs?" I suppose Nokes, Claggett et al would sacrifice 25 million Africans in order to save a few hundred American jobs! We Africans always wonder why it is that when it comes to American affairs, there are always so many people ready to defend the cause of freedom, equality and justice but when it comes to Africa, the almighty dollar always comes first.

The argument that a boycott of South Africa would hurt blacks more than whites does not hold because it is the Africans who started calling for the boycott.

To the Mayor, Commissioners Schwab and Jordan, I say: "Bravo! Your efforts are very much appreciated." I would also like to commend the MHRG for its resolution against the Krugerrand, John Donaldson, Professor Kenneth Holmes, the American Friends Service Committee, the Portland Committee Against Racism and Portland State University's Bill Little and all other organizations and individuals who have joined in this fight against oppression.

As to Nokes, Claggett, Ivancie and McCready, one word will suffice: RECONSIDER.

And we're also suing 'cause my client, too, is a victim of reverse discrimination...



## Privileged Minority

Allan Bakke's lawsuit against the University of California has reportedly uncovered some interesting admissions policies there, favoring what might be called the "privileged minority."

The publication "Dollars and Sense" reports that in the same year Bakke applied to the University of California medical

school at Davis, the dean of the school reportedly intervened in the admissions process on behalf of "five well-connected white applicants," putting them ahead of other applicants with initially higher grades.

On another occasion, the publication says, the dean ordered the admission of a student who had not even applied. That student reportedly was the son of a California State Assembly mem-

ber.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear Allan Bakke's claim that he was a victim of reverse discrimination because he was turned down for admission to the medical school, whereas members of a minority group were admitted even though they allegedly were less qualified.

Reprinted from Mother Jones



# The Community Coalition Takes Another Look at School Integration

Ten years ago many Portland black parents didn't mind setting their alarms for 6 a.m. every weekday morning to get their children ready to catch the cross town bus to a predominantly white neighborhood with a school parents hoped would teach their children more than the one in their own community.

But more than a decade of experience in school desegregation with the administrative transfer program has changed that attitude drastically. With no proof that blacks bused will achieve higher in the so-called better schools in white communities, minority parents are questioning the sacrifices made by themselves and their children in carrying the burden of desegregation.

Angry Northeast black parents are pointing to the injustices of the Portland School Board in its decision-making policies



which have led to a plethora of programs to promote racial balance in the schools. The message coming through loud and clear from the community to the board is signaling the need to enter another era of the methods for achieving school integration.

## No More, No More

The Northeast community had little opportunity to voice its opposition to the Board until late last summer when the latest step toward school desegregation was made by the board—a plan to desegregate Jefferson High School.

The controversial part of the plan, which became known simply as the Newman Plan, proposed a redistricting of the Boise and King elementary schools in the Area I school district. The plan would have required forced busing of a high proportion of black students from the two schools to Lincoln and Wilson high schools on the west side of town.

The black community coalesced, together with spearhead groups such as MHRC, the Urban League and the NAACP, to form the Community Coalition for School Integration to voice opposition to the Newman Plan.

Between the months of August through December the growing Coalition membership collectively studied the necessity of the Newman Plan.

In December, the Coalition told the Board the Newman plan was no longer needed since Jefferson's enrollment dropped to 49 per cent this year, below the magic mark of 50 per cent which, according to federal guidelines places schools in the "racially isolated" category. The Coalition also contended that the Jefferson would be racially balanced if the School Board en-



forced its policy of requiring all students who live in the Area I district to attend Jefferson.

According to the Board's statistics utilized by the Coalition to make its recommendations, if in 1976-77, even one-half of the white graduates from Jefferson feeder schools who were attending other high schools had attended Jefferson, the percentages of students would have been 57 per cent white and 43 per cent minority.

"It's a predominantly white group that we are losing," said Eugene Douthit, Jefferson principal. "The largest number of them go to Benson and Monroe. Next year, Benson will have approximately 50 per cent of our white males."

Bowing to community opposition, the School Board agreed unanimously in January to drop the Newman Plan, based on the findings and recommendations by the Community Coalition.

## Not So Fast

One School Board member who very reluctantly voted in

support of the Coalition is the author of the plan itself, professional lawyer Johnathan Newman.

From a lawyers' point of view, combined with what many term an "old line integrationist" attitude stemming from his policies since the mid-sixties, Newman fears the outcome of the Bakke case, the first major case testing reverse discrimination now before the Supreme Court, could limit the Board's power to enforce white students to stay within the Jefferson school boundaries.

Newman believes the Board's own weakness in lacking the legal power to dictate to white students where they can go to school and the volatile attendance patterns at Jefferson will soon bring it back into the

"racially isolated" category.

"The projections clearly show that Jefferson will continue to become a more racially isolated school if we don't act," he said. "That will place our entire pro-

gram in jeopardy."

To community organizers, however, what is most important in the long run is Newman's attitude that the complexities of school integration make him question the validity of such a diverse community group such as the Coalition to be an essential part of the decision-making machinery in School Board policies.

## The Preponderance of Professionalism

"The School Board has been treating citizen involvement as something they have to put up with," said Rocky Johnson, researcher for the Community Coalition. "Their preponderance of professionalism is one of the reasons they're having such big problems with community relations in the first place."

For the first time since school desegregation programs began thirteen years ago, following the release of the Schwab report in 1964, the Coalition is preparing a comprehensive report which will provide a district wide examination of the impact of school desegregation in the past, present and future.

One recommendation the report will make when it is planned to be released in April is a provision for yearly audits of all desegregation actions so that attempts can be made to modify them if they are not successful or are not agreeable to the community.

"Because the Board didn't monitor their programs, they failed to recognize a change of attitudes that began five or six years ago," Johnson said. "You have to have a sense of the community and be able to address them or else things start to go wrong."

## Behind Closed Doors

The following is the fifth of a series of interviews with MHRC commissioners.

If somebody slams the door in your face, what can you do? Do you turn and walk the other way, try and bust the door down, or do you just keep on knocking?

For someone like Harry Ward, walking away would admit defeat, forcing the door open would mean violence, but to keep on knocking would show stamina.

Ward, 61, and now a walking history book on the local struggle for civil rights, has been trying to get blacks behind closed doors ever since he can remember.

"Many of the younger blacks think it's a gravy train that's been here forever—but they don't remember that it took a lot of suffering and perseverance to get where we are today," Ward said.

There is a tranquil feeling emanating from Ward's quiet office at the Oregon State Employees Association, where he has worked as an employee representative for the last ten years.

Sitting comfortably behind his placard of "enthusiasm," conspicuously placed on his clean desk, Ward recalled some of his more

turbulent years in the civil rights movement.

They began in 1960 through 1966, just about the time when a few liberal Portland restaurant owners were taking down their "No negroes and no dogs allowed" signs from their entrances, when Ward was head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



HARRY WARD

Ward calls 1960 "the crucial turning point for blacks in Portland." Membership in the NAACP was the highest it has ever been and Portland's black community was organizing.



Harry Ward (drummer) leads a "march of mourning" in 1963, in memory of Medgar Evers, NAACP Field Secretary in Mississippi.

In 1962, things began to move. The NAACP led a picket which focused on supermarket chains, all the major ones of which continually refused to hire blacks. "The picket line moved from Safeway to Fred Meyers to Klenows on alternate days until each establishment would hire at least one black, even if it was just to be their 'token black,'" Ward said.

"Klenows was the first to hire a black after a lot of pressure, then came Safeway, but we boycotted Fred Meyers for a long time," Ward recalled. "They just refused to hire even one black person."

One door Ward has been knocking on for a long time belongs to the Portland Public school system. "I was saying 'you've got to desegregate

schools' back in 1962, and here I am 17 years later and I'm still saying the same things."

Ward is presently serving as chairperson for the Community Coalition for School Integration, a citizens' advocate group which formed in opposition to the proposed Jefferson busing plan (see adjoining story). Before his nomination, Ward had been working with the Coalition through MHRC's education committee.

The Coalition's success in convincing the School Board to drop the Newman Plan is a hopeful beginning of a new era in school integration to Ward. The need for citizen involvement has never been as essential in Portland's history of school integration as it has been now, Ward emphasized.

When Ward and his wife first

came to Portland in 1964 from his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he had been a teacher and a juvenile court probation officer, he was amazed to find an even more racist society than that of the Midwest. "In Tulsa, blacks were working as electricians, milk truck drivers, water meter readers... but when I came to Portland it was like stepping backward in time."

Has Portland come very far since Ward first came here in 1966? "I think the door has been opened," Ward said. "The problem now is getting blacks to go in. I don't like the way our kids are facing and treating a lot of problems today, but the door is open—that's the main thing."

# The Sticky Fingers of the Federal Grand Jury

Letter to the Editor  
Dear People:

The Fred Hampton Memorial People's Health Clinic in Portland has been served with a subpoena requiring them to produce for a Federal Grand Jury both financial and patient records for 1975-77. The Clinic Collective has agreed, with their lawyer, not to cooperate with the Federal Grand Jury.

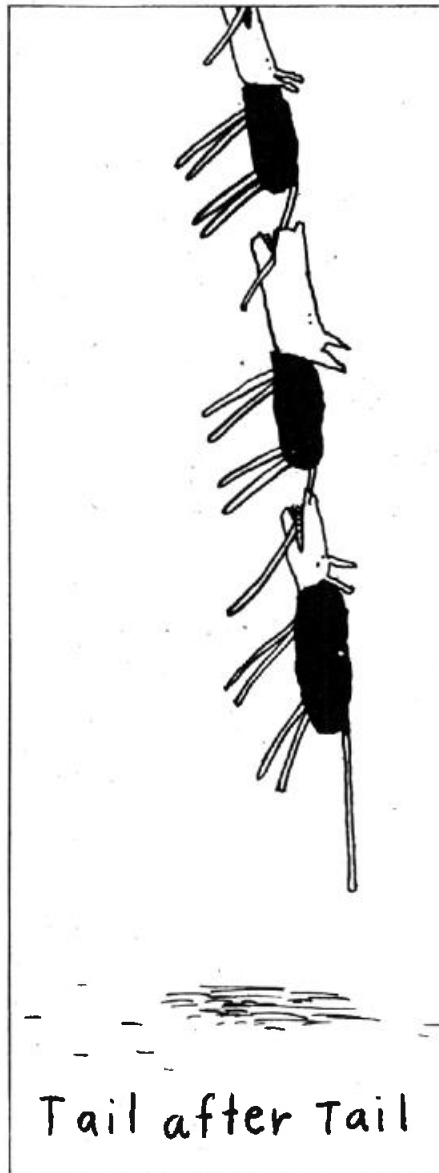
Perhaps you are aware that the Clinic has been serving the people of their largely poverty community since 1969. They have always served the people who had no other means of health care available to them, and those who had problems in receiving the kind of care they were seeking from the health care system. Their patients have usually been poor, and have included many transients who could not get treatment elsewhere.

And the Clinic has been poor itself. Never has it been their intention to make a profit from people's need to receive proper and adequate health care.

That the U.S. Attorney's office is demanding that medical people violate their code of ethics and reveal patient confidences is an outrage to the Clinic.

Since we have no way of knowing what the Grand Jury is investigating, we do not know whether the Clinic or a patient is the target. If the Clinic is a target, the government is pursuing the most selfless providers of medical care in the city for what can only be seen by the Clinic as obvious political reasons. The breadth of the subpoena itself leads one to suspect a "fishing expedition."

The Clinic Collective is rightly concerned and upset at this turn of events. They feel concern for their patients, and for their image in the community. Patients can understandably become distrustful or even fearful when it comes to the matter of their personal records. Above all, the Clinic does not want this to happen and will make every effort to protect their



patients' privacy. Also facing them is the possibility of someone having to go to prison, not for any crime but simply for withholding patient records.

There have been many changes over the years at the Clinic, and the Collective has

worked very hard and in earnest. They do not want their work to be destroyed by false accusations and/or insinuations.

You are probably quite aware of the great expenses for the defense, and the Clinic is not capable of taking on these tremendous costs. Preparing legal defense puts a heavy burden on the Clinic and exacts strain and sacrifice from many people who have only been trying to do their work in the community—to serve the people and provide them with needed health care.

The Clinic is attempting to serve an even wider purpose in the community. Public Health nurses now hold a clinic there once a week and the children from a local elementary school have physical examination there one morning a week. To destroy the Clinic would indeed be a great and tragic loss for the entire community.

In an effort to cooperate and give support to the Clinic, as many of us have done in the past, we are writing to ask you to contribute to the Clinic's Defense Fund, and to write Mr. Lesak, the U.S. District Attorney, in the Clinic's behalf. Under this Federal harassment, the Clinic now needs the support of all of us more than ever before if it is to continue to serve its community. Please send your contributions to:

**Fred Hampton Memorial People's  
Health Clinic Defense Committee  
2304 S.E. Taylor**

**Portland, Oregon 97214**

and write to:

**Mr. Sidney Lesak  
United States Attorney  
United States Courthouse  
Portland, Oregon 97204**

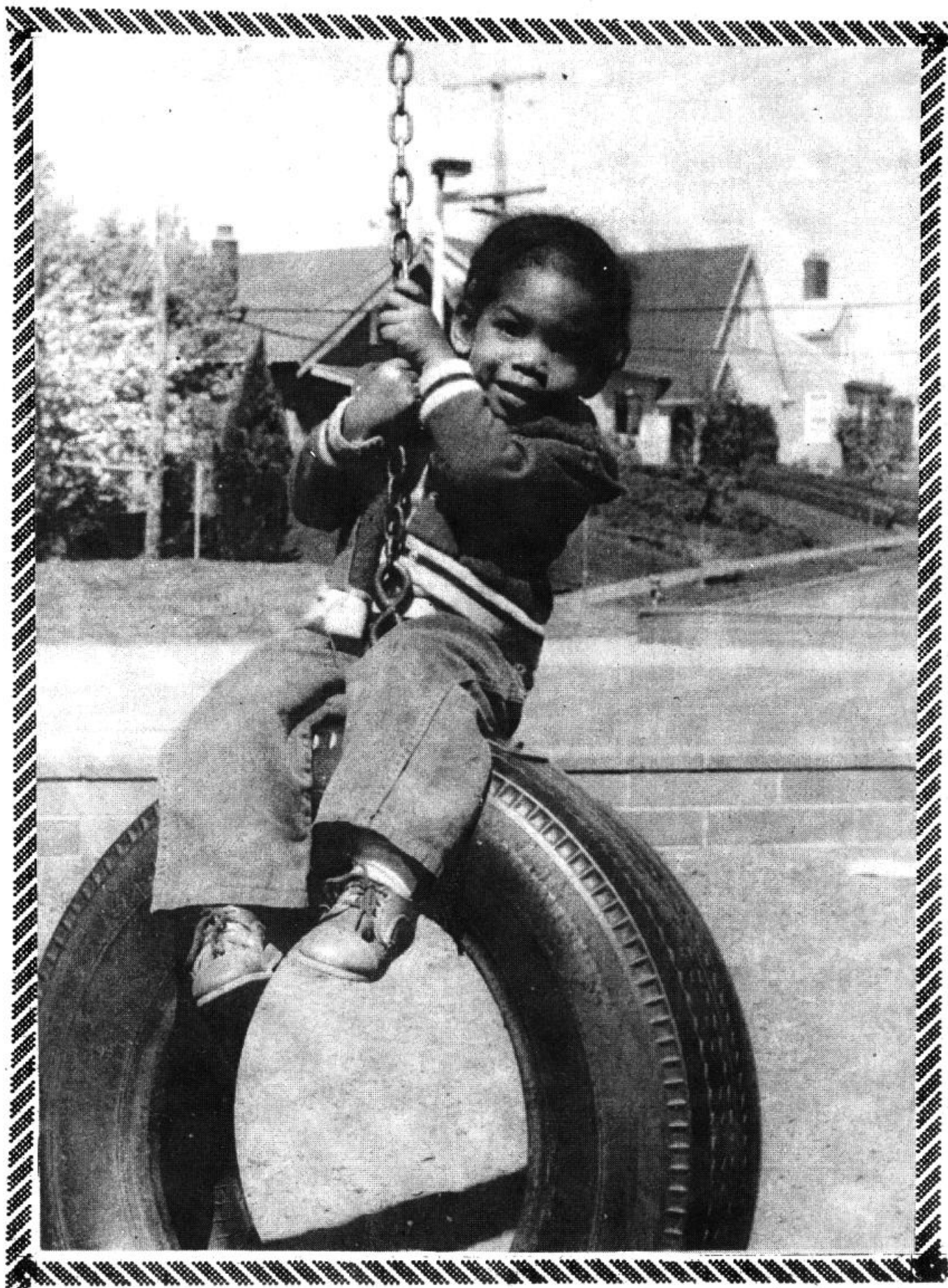
Ask Mr. Lesak to dismiss the subpoena against the Clinic.

Very truly yours,  
Elizabeth Waters

**MHRC  
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Portland 97204**

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Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Newsletter





## From a Human Rights Point of View

By Nick Barnett



The articles in this copy of the Newsletter will reflect a number of important areas in which the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has effectively addressed vital human relations and human rights issues over the past several months. We are experiencing a definite sense of progress and accomplishment as evidenced by the following comments.

The Commission's Employment Committee has spent many hours in reviewing documents, interviewing key bureau personnel and analyzing their findings in preparation for formulating their first annual comprehensive report on the status of the City's EEO effort. Their report will be forthcoming in the next month.

In this year's budget process, both the City Council and the County Board have demonstrated their commitment to human rights as well as giving recognition to the work of the Commission. This, the Commission is a step closer than it has been in years to having the resources it needs to carry out fully its mandate—unless the proposed tax limitation has a major impact on the Commission.

We have continued in our commitment to work with other organizations, boards, and community groups who have a commitment to securing equality and justice for all residents of this area.

In addition to assisting those particular groups mentioned in articles in this newsletter, we have lent our support to the Oregon Jewish Historical Society for their Conference on the Teaching of the Holocaust, the Black Youth Conference, the National Conference of Christians and Jews in their Solidarity Rally, the Beaverton School District for the special Human Relations Day, and the local chapter of NOW in advocating extension of the deadline for the passage of the ERA. Most recently, we supported the NAACP National Convention in Portland by sending out 500 mailers encouraging local citizens to participate, by stuffing innumerable information kits for the convention, and by providing a Rumor Control Center for twelve hours a day for the five days of the Convention.

The Commission's membership is honored to receive its newest member, Ms. Lucy Cosetto. Ms. Cosetto, who has a long record of active involvement in community service, was appointed by the Mayor on the recommendation of Commissioner Mildred Schwab.

The dedication and leadership abilities of MHRC Board Member Harry Ward and Executive Director of NCCJ Mary Edwards were given special recognition when they jointly received the meritorious "How Big Is One" award at the NCCJ annual meeting in June.

Ms. Shirley Tanzer is certainly to be congratulated for overcoming all obstacles in the planning and presenting of an exceptionally well-designed conference on the Concept of Genocide and Teaching the Holocaust. We regret that the appointment to an important position with the Mayor's office prohibits her from continued membership in the Commission. As in ex-Commissioner, she has offered her support to Commission activities where possible.

## Hidden Benefits, Hidden Costs

By Nick Barnett and  
Gregory Gudger

Now that a property tax limitation measure is almost certain to appear on the November election ballot, Oregonians have thrust themselves into a national showcase.

When Oregonians vote on the virtual carbon copy of Proposition 13, with no \$5 billion state surplus to fall back on, they will be testing the legitimacy of the Jarvis-Gann brainchild, whether the price of the tax cut is really worth its weight in boldness.

Following the passage of Proposition 13 in California, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission received a call from an employee of a similar commission in Southern California. The caller, anticipating the loss of funding of that office, was looking for a job.

That job inquiry could serve as a forewarning, not only to the commission, but to other city agencies and bureaus whose services are among the "hidden" benefits of local government—services which are not ostensibly clear to average voters until a local crisis arises or until they reach a certain age or unless they happen to belong to a particular racial or sexual group.

An obvious priority for the city is the maintenance of basic services—public works, police, and fire. However, the overall livability of the city is at stake. How do you put a price tag on services to the elderly? What dollar figure in savings can justify dissolution of community participation in government or the recognition and preservation of human rights? What is the cost of a reflection of cultural creativity and understanding? What is the going price for a quiet and uncluttered neighborhoods these days? Or an informed public?

Unfortunately, whether a savings in dollars justifies a lower standard of livability can only be determined in retrospect when the absence of hidden benefits is all too clear.

What is quite clear now, however, is that a number of jobs will be on the line if voters approve the tax-cut measure; exactly how many layoffs will be determined by how effectively budgets will be streamlined and, in turn, the range of civil services

classifications affected by the cuts.

If, indeed, a wide range of permanent civil service classifications are affected, CETA-funded employees will suffer. According to CETA regulations, a vacancy that is created in a permanent civil service job class by layoff requires that all similarly classified CETA workers be laid off as well.

Worse yet are the employment and governmental service implications for minorities and other "protected" classes. Passage of the proposed property tax limitation could roll back gains resulting from years of struggle for civil rights.

The City of Portland employs more minorities in CETA-funded positions than in general-fund positions (approximately 280 from CETA compared to 237 from the general fund as of January 1.)

and the comparative figures for women are not far off (approximately 600 from CETA compared to 700 from the general fund for the same period). Many of those in permanent slots may not have enough seniority to survive cuts based on years of service; so, the old adage "last hired, first fired" may, indeed, apply to a rejuvenated disenfranchisement of minorities and women under the guise of neutrality.

The fiscal, social, and civil rights impacts of the tax revolt cannot be gauged until state, county, city, and school officials have completed a detailed impact analysis. But well-publicized preliminary indications point to difficult times in the offing—much more difficult than the California-inspired tax measure justifies.

Cont'd on p. 3

## Commission Assists Various Coalitions

By

Linda Roberts

the issue of "racial imbalance" at Jefferson High School, but also in examining the district-wide desegregation policy of Portland Public School District #1.

A final report, with recommendations, will be submitted in November of this year.

The Coalition for Racial and Cultural Freedom has joined the ranks of the MHRC-sponsored community organizations. The Coalition, representing some 12 ministerial, ethnic, and women's organizations, seeks to accumulate and disseminate historical and contemporary information about the various cultures of people in Oregon in an effort to promote cultural awareness and to develop educational programs which realistically reflect the contributions, past and present, of people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Coalition, chaired by Mark Rosenbaum, seeks to reduce and prevent the types of human prejudices that are rooted in the ignorance about racial and ethnic groups. The aim is to promote interracial understanding and appreciation so that all people are treated with dignity.

The groups represented by the Coalition include the Albina Ministerial Alliance, American Friends Service Committee, CKOMMITTEE of Spanish Speaking People in Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, MHRC, NAACP, National Association of Social Workers, National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Urban League of Portland, League of Women Voters, and the Women Resource Center.

The Coalition for Racial and Cultural Freedom again illustrates that diverse groups can come together, gain solidarity, and make a significant contribution to the furthering of human relations in the metropolitan area.

In our attempt to involve a broad sector of the community in human rights and human relations issues, MHRC has actively supported and participated in the formation of several collaborative efforts. In our view, coalitions present an opportunity for involving large numbers of individuals, organizations, and agencies within the community. It is our belief that the more involved people are in issues, the better informed and more effective they can be in furthering human relations in the metropolitan area.

MHRC is extremely proud of our involvement in the formation of the Community Coalition for School Integration. The Coalition for School Integration began last summer with a few dedicated individuals protesting a proposed school Board policy which would have placed a heavy burden on the Black community.

MHRC devoted many hours of staff time to help launch one of the most successful community-directed processes that this city has seen. The Coalition validly represents a true cross-section of the entire community. It is a functioning example of how diverse groups and individuals can come together and work towards a common goal. It also demonstrates that citizens can effectively participate in government with the cooperative effort of civic, educational, and neighborhood leaders in addressing community concerns.

Testimony to the dedication and hard work of its members, the Community Coalition for School Integration has exceeded the expectations of nearly everyone, not only in the professional way it addressed

### METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County - Barbara Roberts, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge



312 Corbett Bldg., Portland 97204  
(503) 248-4187



The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the city and county. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to be an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

James Sitzman - Chairman  
W. G. Barnett - Executive Director

#### Commissioners:

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Eleanor Davis  
Harry C. Ward  
Jerry Weller  
Armando Laguardia  
Carol Clark Edmo  
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Rev. Richard Hughes  
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Newsletter: Gregory Gudger

# Mediation Centers Open for Business

By

Laura Feldman

"You're just another bureaucratic agency," complained the owner of a small neighborhood tavern. "If I have any problems, I call the Police."

Such was one response encountered by Tom Schwenzer, a field specialist at the Neighborhood Mediation Center in S.E. Portland, as he was out introducing S.E. neighbors to their new center.

Tom said he explained to the owner what services the Center would provide to the neighborhood, but the owner still saw no need for another agency funded with taxpayer dollars doing a job he thought the Police were equipped to do. "So I offered him a more specific example of the Center's role that made much more sense to him," Tom said. "I told him the Center could aid a neighbor that repeatedly keeps

method of helping neighbors jointly solve their problems and, specifically, helping them settle their conflicts in a way that is satisfactory and fair to both parties. The neighbors and the complaint in question are brought together at the Center. There they sit down with one another and, with the aid of a mediator who is also a resident of the neighborhoods, they are guided in discussing the pros and cons of an issue and exploring alternatives. Most often, they are able to find a solution. If the neighbors cannot agree on their own resolution, the mediator may suggest a solution or compromise.

In this way, lines of communication are kept open with in neighborhoods. Residents also have the satisfaction of maintaining control at the local level in resolving a particular grievance concerning them. The Center's direct and sincere attention to the kinds of neighborhood problems that arise in

not so much a neighborhood problem as it was a call for attention. "There was no specific complaint to deal with, but rather an isolated coupled," Tom said. "We've been talking with them, trying to give them a more positive outlook towards their neighborhood, and we have referred them to Project ABLE where they can enjoy the company of others and become more active within the community."

This method of referral is another helpful service provided by the Centers. Specific complaints not fitting the criteria of mediation are referred to the proper public or private agency that can deal with the problem. This saves the complainant from the confusion and run-around encountered when trying to find the proper agency for help.

Emmanuel Paris, Coordinator of the North Center, has lived in Portland for 18 years. He's a graduate of the

University of Oregon, with a B.A. in Education. He was actively involved in organizing and running a N.E. Community Food Co-op that served the elderly people in that area. Emmanuel said that he and his staff are currently involved in making contact with the community at large to familiarize the area's agencies and residents with the Center. Agencies such as the Housing Authority of Columbia Villa, the Neighborhood North Agency, and the Youth Services Center are being contacted for possible referrals to the Center. Emmanuel is enthusiastic about the Center's possibilities in offering "a non-violent alternative to settling neighborhood disputes and a contribution to strengthening the social environment in North Portland neighborhoods."

Karen Powell, Coordinator of the N.E. Portland Center, patiently assures a neighbor over the phone that she has been trying to get in touch with the neighbor at whom the complaint was directed and assures the caller that the Center will contact her immediately when contact is made. This is by far the busiest Center. Karen, a resident of Portland for 8 years, is not daunted in the least by what is proving to be a very active area. A graduate of PSU with a Master's Degree in Psychology, Karen has in the past worked with juveniles in the N.E. area. She said she's pleased with the positive responses the Center has received, especially from those neighbors contacted about a complaint registered against them. Since the Center's opening, the staff have received calls relating to harassment, property damage, trespassing, minor thefts, unruly children, barking dogs, etc. A couple of the complaints have been referred to other agencies, two have been accepted for mediation, while many others

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NORTH'S PARIS — "...A Non-Violent Alternative..."



STEINBURG IN S.E. — Making Deputies Aware of the Center



POWELL IN N.E. — "...Positive Responses Received..."

calling the Police about someone's barking dog, while leaving the Police to take care of a thief slipping into the back door of your tavern."

Through the process of mediation, this Project is designed to prevent the need to ask for law enforcement assistance or time consuming and costly court intervention in dealing with minor criminal or civil acts involving specific disputes between neighbors, provided the conduct complained of by a neighbor is not so grievous that one part has been seriously harmed or otherwise injured.

The Neighborhood Mediation Project consists of three pilot neighborhood mediation centers in the Portland Metropolitan Area, which centers provide mediation in neighbor-to-neighbor nuisance and minor misdemeanor complaints.

What is mediation? How does it work? Mediation is a

everyday living represents another support to maintaining a livable neighborhood environment.

The three Centers are staffed by a panel of professional and para-professional community citizens trained in the non-judicial methods of mediation and conflict resolution. Each Center seems to physically lend itself to the area it serves.

The North Portland NMC, located at 6313-A N. Lombard, is housed in a new building. Small, clean, and very business-like, it seems a fitting place where neighborhood residents can comfortably come and work out their problems.

As of June 12, the opening of the Centers, the North Center has accepted several complaints which were resolved through conciliation. Tom Pederson, a field specialist at the Center, found that in exploring the first complaint by an elderly couple the issue was

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She will be meeting with Sergeant Jacobs of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to set up meetings with the different deputies that serve the S.E. area to familiarize them with the Center so that their work can beneficially serve the community.

When asked if she anticipated any special problems, Kathryn felt that aside from the usual neighborhood complaints, there may be added complaints stemming from the many teenagers who cruise 82nd Ave. and Powell Blvd. during the hot summer months.

All three Center Coordinators agree that once their centers become integrated into the neighborhoods they serve, the amount of tension and conflict within the neighborhoods can be greatly reduced. They will help facilitate open communication between neighbors, as the neighbors themselves participate in resolving their problems.

## Hidden Costs, cont...

The intent and the spirit of the tax revolt is admirable and, to an extent, justified inflation and taxes are too high for there to be room for governmental fat. A serious examination of government budgetary priorities is in order, followed by hard decisions on where forced cuts could be

made with the least damaging impact to the public in general and in particular to those who suffer most from a chronic disregard of their rights and dignity. It is hoped that decision-makers will be sensitive to the hidden benefits and costs of the business of government.

## ELEANOR DAVIS

With so many pokers in so many fires, it would seem that one's family life would suffer. Indeed, she says, she and her husband only get to take it easy "every once in a great while," but they have always made time for their children. "It has always been important for us as a family to have dinner

together and to talk to each other about our experiences." In fact, both offspring seem to have been bitten by the same bug. Daughter Susan, a Knoxville, Tenn., attorney, is very active in the Unitarian Church and son Jeff is a Student Activities Coordinator at Castleton State College in Vermont.

Before she moves aside and lets the younger generation take up where she leaves off, Eleanor Davis has at least one more thing to accomplish. "Last year I did a kind of silly thing," she says. "I listed all the things I wanted to do before I die. Near the top was getting the Equal Rights Amendment ratified."



# Eleanor Davis-- Diary of an Active Housewife

Metropolitan Human Relations Commissioner Eleanor Davis is one "displaced housewife" who made a place for herself. Not one to lose herself in domestic ennui and succumb to boredom and feelings of inadequacy, she not only put in 27 years of volunteer service to humanity but made her own way to a position of responsibility in the working world.

Currently working in the intake section of the State Bureau of Labor's Civil Rights Division, Ms. Davis well remembers the times in 1972 and 1973 when, armed with a resume with only one job reference from 1946, a legacy of community service, and a strong will to achieve, she still could not get a job until 1974.

After having spent some 27 years as a homemaker and community service volunteer, she says, "As far as most employers were concerned, I was unemployable...most wouldn't even bother with an interview."

Up until the early 1970's, Ms. Davis' only work experience was the result of working two years with a YWCA Teen program following her graduation with a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington in her native Seattle in 1944. During the next few years, she travelled with her husband, Charles, who was an accountant with the American Friends Service

Committee. A major part of his duties centered on working with community cooperatives in Georgia and California. His purpose was to help them get incorporated and at the same time to study them as an alternative to private enterprise. While in Georgia, Charles, currently State Public Utilities Commissioner helped the backwoods Macedonia Community Cooperative establish an accounting system and assisted them in becoming incorporated. Eleanor, who was pregnant with her first child well remembers her role and those of other women in the communal setting. "Wives took turns preparing the meal," she says, noting that everyone ate in a central house. "One would go on a weekly shopping trip for the entire community."

Unlike the other women who conformed to the mores of the society and accepted their socially-defined roles without question, she says, "I wanted to make my own decisions...I did not like abrogating some of my rights of decision-making to the group."

She and her husband spent eight months in Georgia before moving to Berkeley, California, in 1948 where Charles worked with the Berkeley Community Cooperative Store. Both decided they wanted to come back to the Northwest in 1951 after having struggled

with limited income and a growing family; so they moved back to Oregon.

Throughout her travels, Ms. Davis not only carried out her domestic duties but also continued to log time whenever she could in volunteer social work. It is in her blood. The progeny of Mabel and Fred Ring, she was inspired by their lifetime of service to the people of Seattle. "My parents were radicals,"



she says, noting that they were very active in race and community relations — so much so that they were considered Socialists in Seattle. Their accomplishments ranged from involvement with community groups turning wastelands into parks to founding Christian Friends for Racial Equality.

Eleanor has carried on the tradition admirably, starting from high school when she

worked with the YWCA through which she acquired her first job. The groups with which she has been associated read like a directory of community organizations: YWCA, Association of Unitarian Women, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the Unitarian Church (she was a national board member from 1965-1971), American Civil Liberties Union, Urban League, NAACP, Oregon Council for Women's Equality (which she organized and of which she was President from 1971-1973), Advisory Committee of the State Intergroup Relations Commission, and, of course, MHRC.

1969 brought Eleanor to an increased awareness of women's rights when the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation began emphasizing women's rights in a new program. "With that thrust," she recounts with pride, "I set up the first women's conference in 1973 by bringing together 10 different organizations to sponsor it."

Indeed, the advent of the 1970's brought Eleanor to an increased awareness of her own rights as a person as well. She decided that it was time to do more than just volunteer work. She wanted a paid job. In 1972, she took a course from the Department of Continuing Education which was designed by Sue Gordon to help women reassess themselves, determine

what skills they have, and to see what they can develop from their potential. She investigated other courses of study, including the paralegal program at Portland Community College, for a brief period before looking to the field of civil rights.

Her job search proved futile until 1974. However, as if harbinger of future success, the year 1973 proved to be a fruitful one for Eleanor. It brought the First Statewide Women's Conference mentioned earlier. Eleanor also served on the Advisory Committee to the State Intergroup Relations Commission where she met other dynamic women like Hazel Hays, Bobbie Nunn, and Brerda Green who, like herself, were on the move. "I've valued and enjoyed the contacts that I have made," she says, noting that those friendships continue to this day.

Eleanor was part of an effort which resulted in the legislature budgeting some \$55,000 to the State Bureau of Labor to investigate problems of discrimination in state agencies (MHRC and its current chairman, Jim Sitzman, were also involved in that effort).

Fittingly, 1973 was the year of Eleanor's appointment to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. In 1974, the icy cold barrier

Cont'd below

## NAACP Convention Issues Hit 'Home'

By Gregory Gudger

The front page of the Monday, July 10th *Oregonian* headlined the American Nazi Party March in Chicago's Marquette Park. A few pages later, a picture of a mounted Klansman in tailored ceremonial nightshirt paraded atop another article about the Tupelo, Mississippi chapter of the racist organization monitoring a march by Black demonstrators in that city.

Ironically, the papers of the week before were replete with coverage of the NAACP 69th Annual National Convention held here July 3rd through July 7th.

This paradox brings to mind queries regarding the impact that the confab of the national civil rights organization will have on Blacks and whites in Oregon. Indeed, how will the lot of Black Oregonians change in the wake of so momentous an event?

Billed as a "working" convention, the schedule included a number of workshops — sixteen to be exact — aimed at issues the organization deemed to be in the forefront of minority concern: education, employment, housing, the media, amongst others, including the controversial energy concern. These workshops featured panelists recognized as experts in each of the fields represented. Their charge was to present the facts

of each issue and their interpretation of what the impact would be on Black Americans. The workshops provided forums wherein delegates and interested participants could solicit direction in addressing issues in their respective locales. Indeed, branch representatives were challenged to, in the words of EEOC Chairperson Eleanor Holmes Norton, "choose your weapons" in the struggle for equality on the local front.

It is no surprise that many of the issues discussed at the conference are of particular relevance to the Oregon branches of the NAACP: the impending presence of the Whittenburg (Jarvis/Gann) Property Tax Limitation initiative on the November general election ballot; disproportionately high Black unemployment; the possible impact of the Supreme Court Bakke decision on state educational institutions and the educational status of Black youth in general, among others.

Officials of the Portland branch have indicated that no concrete plans of action have been decided on as of yet; but many indicate that the momentum is there. "Many people are waiting to see what happens," said local Vice-President Lucious Hicks, "and a lot of people are ready to get involved in some sort of positive program. That suggests to me that there are a lot of people out there with skills but need to

be informed, and directed by the agency."

"This," he added, "is where our task lies."

According to local branch chairman Thomas Kennedy, the Portland branch will be having a membership meeting and drive Sunday at Bethel AME Church in order to "spread the stuff around and get more young people in there," adding, "We've got a lot of work to do."

The City of Portland Affirmative Action Officer Alyce Marcus is sympathetic of the task facing the local branch. Noting that the State of Oregon is not the most discrimination-free state in the country, she said "We Blacks still have to spend most of our time fighting racism."

Ms. Marcus encouraged her staff to attend the convention to "get that push, that drive you need to stay in and fight."

Noting the minimal attendance by whites at the convention, Ms. Marcus said that more whites should have participated to alleviate their misperceptions and misrepresentation of Blacks. "To the average racist," she explained "it (the convention) was an annoyance seeing so many Blacks here."

Perhaps a more important problem was the lack of attendance at the conference by local Blacks. Many convention goers considered this unfortunate but not discouraging. "This is the time to call on our

'silent' members as well," noted Hicks.

However, lip service, noted Hicks and others, is not the answer either. No number of inspiring speeches, such as those forceful and elegant addresses given by Margaret Bush Wilson, Benjamin Hooks, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Julian Bond, and others, can substitute for positive action. "It is time for us to take affirmative action," a fiery Norton contended.

Charles White, a 30-year member of the local branch and veteran of "some eight to ten conventions," noted, "you can't tell what the effect will be right now...it's going to take some time...but somethings in planning."

### EPILOGUE

The basketball court at Irving Park may not be the most likely place to find a harbinger of things to come, but in the struggle for civil rights, sometimes it is necessary to take what one can get — as evidenced by the Supreme Court Bakke decision.

However, several of the local "Pearls" took time out from contemplating the "slam dunk" to consider the effect that the Whittenburg tax limitation amendment would have on local CETA funding. Once informed of the potential for losing his job, one young man flew into a tirade.

"WHAT!," he screamed "Man, just about everybody knows got one of those jobs. don't know about them, but I'm damned sure not going to lose mine, 'cause I'm 19 and can vote."

(Continued from above)

unemployment, prolonged time, finally broke. Eleanor was selected for a job with the County Law Enforcement Counseling Program as a clerk. She had to resign her position with the MHRC, but after nine months stint with the County, she got a job as a representative with the State Civil Rights Division and was subsequently re-appointed to the Commission in 1975.

After spending four years as an investigator, she took position as an intake representative with the bureau. "I was asked if I would be interested working in the intake office and I said I'd be happy to do on a job-sharing basis." She now works one-half of a week and another person works the other half. "I thought four years was enough," she said, indicating that she desired different type of pressure that wasn't as intense as that of civil rights investigation.

Cont'd on p. 2

# E-Board Mandates Compliance with 'Sunset'

House Bill 2360, passed by the 1977 Oregon Legislature, requires that teachers show a demonstrated knowledge of Civil Rights laws as a requirement for certification. The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) was charged with implementing procedures by which teachers seeking certification or recertification could comply with the law by September 1, 1978.

The TSPC was slow in responding to its charges, but after countless arguments and public hearings, the TSPC settled on a "sign-off" method of "demonstrating knowledge" of Civil Rights laws for teachers seeking recertification. By this method, approved by TSPC on May 20, 1978, candidates for recertification would only have to sign a statement indicating that they had read a booklet entitled *Discrimination and the Oregon Educator*.

At the May 20 meeting, opponents to a permanently instituted "sign-off" as approved by TSPC sought to have a "sunset limitation" imposed of January 15, 1979, after which time teachers seeking recertification would have to complete a commission-approved learning activity as a demonstration of knowledge of Civil Rights law.

On June 15, 1978, the Legislative Emergency Board strongly recommended that TSPC adopt a sunset limitation of March 15, 1979, on the sign-off provision. The Emergency Board's recommendation on a policy matter rather than a fiscal matter was, according to Jim King of the State Board of Education, unprecedented.

Emergency Board members Representative Katz, Senator Heard, and Senator Fadeley, supported by a vote of Representative Van Vliet on the 4-1 adoption of the board recommendation, admonished TSPC for adopting the sign-off as a "permanent" method of compliance with the law. Representative Stevenson, the sole dissenter, preferred a June 30, 1979, "sunset."

Although Dick Jones, Executive Director at TSPC, said the sign-off provision would expire when another delivery system is in place, Senator Fadeley noted that no such language appears in the text of OAR 584-36-051, hence this has implications that the

provision could be in force "forever."

Pro-sunset forces, including MHRC, felt that TSPC should adopt the learning activity provision of the role as a permanent provision. It called for the development of a commission-approved learning activity to be offered by a similarly approved educational organization or agency designed to inform teachers of civil rights laws regarding education as required for certification by HB 2360.

In her testimony before the Board, Barbara Hutchinson referred to a January 15, 1979, expiration for the sign-off except for "emergency" cases

as recommended in a minority report filed by pro-sunset advocates at the May 22, 1978, TSPC hearing. In its recommendation, the Board defined "emergency" in terms of new teachers coming from outside the state seeking Oregon certification.

MHRC Commissioner Armando Laguardia went on record at the hearing as registering MHRC support of a sunset on the sign-off.

The Board suggested that the Oregon Education Coordinating Commission coordinate implementation of the learning activity option as soon as possible.

## Lee Brown Honored



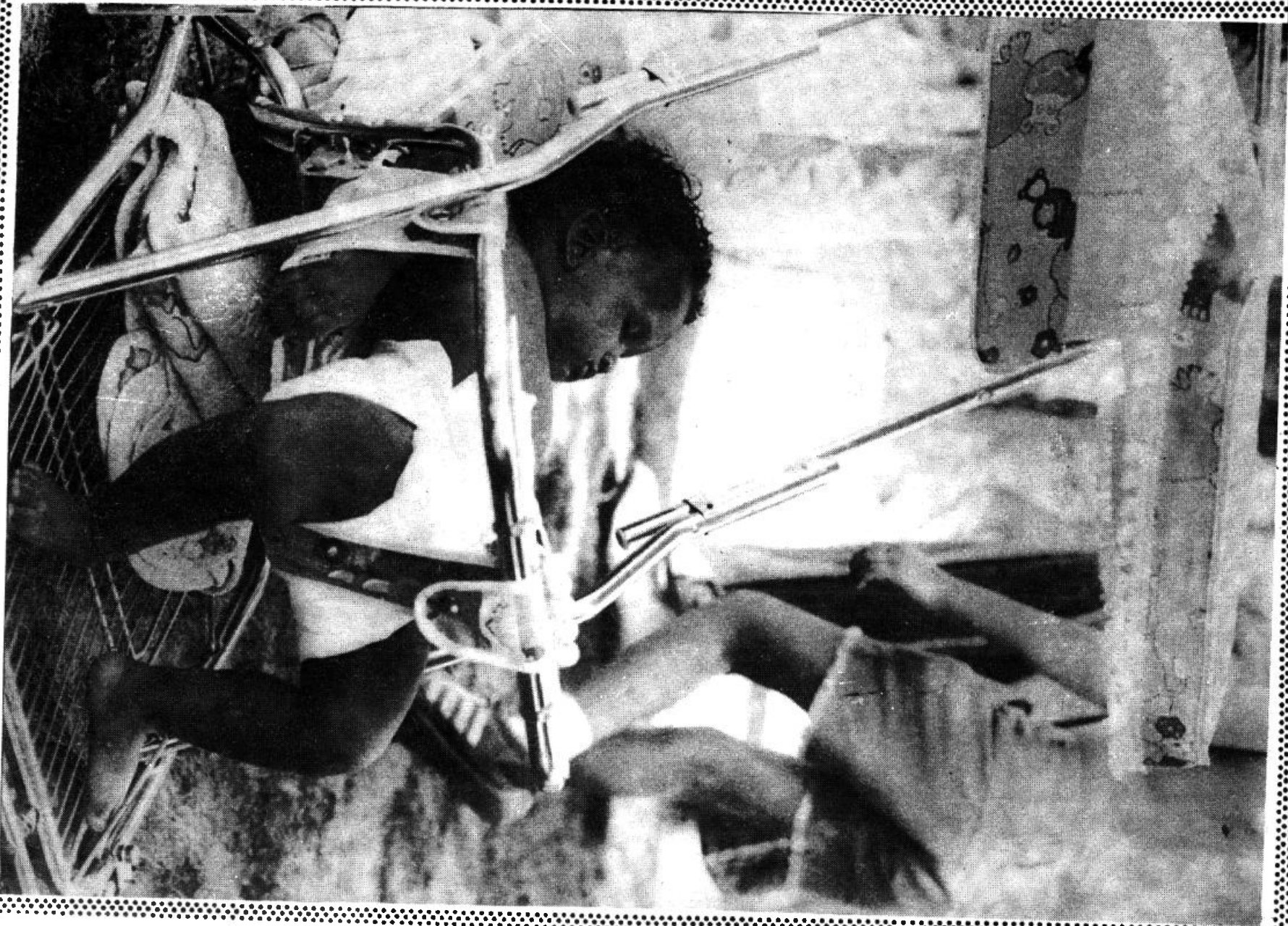
**HAPPY STAND-IN** — Yvonne Brown (center) accepts honor as lifetime MHRC Commissioner for husband Lee. City Commissioner Charles Jordan (right) and MHRC Chairman Jim Sitzman (left) made the presentation.

**MHRC**  
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City of Portland

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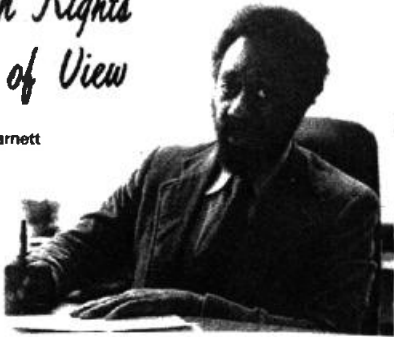


SEPTEMBER 1978

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

## From a Human Rights Point of View

By Nick Barnett



A major topic of discussion in the Portland community these days concerns racial integration. Community groups and organizations of all kinds are spending many hours in probing the dimension, the complexities, and the damaging effects that "de facto" segregation and systemic racial isolation has had on the children and the people of this city.

The broad diversity of talented people from all over Portland who are addressing this difficult issue, the mature approach and sincere commitment that these citizens have demonstrated, encourages us to think that, in Portland, the very citizens themselves are on a course which provides more hope for progress in integration than anything witnessed heretofore.

To their voices we would add the following comments:

An important constitutional basis for integration and the insurance of equality in open access to education for all Americans is contained in the Supreme court case called *Brown vs the Board of Education*. In light of the discussions going on here, currently, the three famous theoretical principles that were enunciated in this case are worthy of review.

—The first and most famous one stated: "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." —The second principle stated: "Segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a detrimental effect upon the colored children." —And further, the third principle stated: "Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

Thus, the opinion of this nation's highest court makes it clear that the "de jure" and "de facto" denial of equal opportunity in receiving education goes against the spirit of the U. S. Constitution, is socially reprehensible and illegal. The profundity of this opinion and the wisdom upon which it is based forever resolves the question about the legal aspects of school integration: Integrated education is a right — segregated education is both harmful and constitutionally illegal. With the legal side of integrated education no longer a question, how is it that even after, lo, these many decades there is still so much difficulty in reaching compliance with the intent of our Supreme Court and the Constitution on this matter? If segregation and racial discrimination are illegal, why then — in so many school districts throughout the nation — including this one — is there apparently so much resistance to a genuine, thorough, wholehearted approach to integration? More specifically, in Portland — which is generally regarded as having an open mind, law-respecting population, and one which is given to fairness in its dealings — a disproportionately high percentage of Black children are transported long distances from their home areas to help the school district achieve racial balance in the classroom, while a comparatively low number of white children are transported for that purpose. Is that equity?

Indeed, the question about school integration is no longer a legal problem. In this day, it is now a moral problem, an ethical problem, a question of social values. Is America in general, or Portland in particular, ready to move into the new age — at long last — truly committed to cultural pluralism — ready to admit and proclaim that diversity is one of this nation's greatest strengths — and that the business of actively creating an authentic multicultural society is one of the magnificent challenges of the coming decades. I, for one, am convinced that this is our historical mandate, and now is the time to begin. It will require a self-assessment and recommitment by each individual, group, organization. It will require that both on the local as well as on the national level, the value of sharing cultural diversity be placed on the highest agendas and provide a philosophical base from which all economic, political, ethical, educational, and legal decisions derive.

The alternative is the risk of a halfhearted, half-conscious drift towards a version of American apartheid, moral confusion and a million lost opportunities from realizing this country's potential for greatness.

# Neighborhood Mediation gains wide acceptance

by Linda F. Calvin

The Community-based Neighborhood Mediation Pilot-Project is now "alive and functioning" in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Each of the projects' three Mediation Centers, located in the North, Northeast, and Southeast areas of the city, held an open house for community members and Agency representatives to acquaint them with the centers' functions, staff and volunteers. The N.E. Center's function which was held July 28; the North and S.E. Center's opening festivities were held August 4 and August 11, respectively.

To date, some 30 different agencies refer clients to the centers. Youth service centers, the Mayor's Office, Portland Development Commission, Bureau of Neighborhood Environment, and the office of Neighborhood Associations has provided numerous referrals, as well as the Portland Police Bureau, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Legal Aid, County Quadrant Office, and Animal Control. The ostensible viability of the project is illustrated by the fact that 30 to 35 percent of all referrals come from the Portland Police Bureau.

The project provides a specialized service *unmet* by the existing public and private metropolitan service sector. From June 12 to August 11, 168 cases involving approximately 250 individuals were referred to the centers. Of the 168 cases, 134 were accepted for mediation services and, by August 11, 74 of those cases were successfully resolved.

Moreover the primary beneficiaries of the project are, the Neighborhood disputants themselves serviced by a community-based center. Through their involvement in the mediation process, the

disputants learn critical communication skills in personal problem solving situations.

An integral part of the program is the involvement and training of the 15 community volunteers. All were thoroughly screened before being accepted and subsequently, received forty hours of intensive training in mediation over a six day period. The Community volunteers, serving on a three person mediation panel offer an invaluable service to the individual in their community by helping them learn and appreciate a constructive and more effective method of resolving their neighborhood disputes.

On July 18th, at a Community Awards Ceremony the 15 volunteers were awarded a 'Mediation Hearing Specialist' certificate for successful completion 40 hours of training. County Court Judge Besty Welch presented the awards to the volunteers, who also received congratulations from Nick Barnett, MHRC Director and Mediation Project Coordinator Elaine Walsh County Commissioner Barbara Roberts, and recently appointed MHRC Commissioner Lucy Cozzetto were on hand to celebrate the event.

To illustrate the point, Wanita L. Gray a volunteer from the N.E. Center wrote in a letter to City Council regarding the mediation project, "I felt it (the mediation project) was preventive medicine which would not only save the city many dollars in police efforts and courts costs, but would do tremendous good toward helping neighbors live together as peaceful and co-operative citizens. I envisioned the project as a learning tool for those [who] helped and who would in turn help others to understand the benefits derived from calm, objective discussion considering each person's complaint and need and

arriving at an agreement palatable to both."

Project staff are also pleased with the favorable response given by city officials.

Commissioner Charles Jordan expressed his appreciation of the North Mediation Center's handling of a long-term neighborhood dispute which had caused numerous hours of unresolved work for several city agencies.

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, after receiving a positive letter from a pleased disputant serviced by the S.E. Mediation Center staff commented; "Congratulations. It's good to know there are people out there who can solve this kind of problem— heaven knows my office has spent enough time on them."

Project Research Coordinator Sidney Splawn is discovering that many requests for the projects' services come from outside of the project service area. Data gathered thus far indicates that the three centers have received referrals from and serviced a population area of some 300,000 persons, well beyond the originally defined Project service area of 150,000 persons. While criteria for Center's site locations gave priority to servicing for low-income populations, the centers provides Mediation services to all persons regardless of socio-economic status, race, age, sex, religion, or disability.

Since its inception this project has more than lived up to expectations and has produced the same successful record as in other major cities across the nation where it has been in effect for longer duration.

The Neighborhood Mediation Project has proven to not only be an asset to the community but a rewarding experience for the dedicated and enthusiastic project staff and volunteers. It is their belief that the fiscal year 1978-79 will be "action packed."

### METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County - Barbara Roberts, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge



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The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the city and county. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to be an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

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W. G. Barnett - Executive Director

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Harry C. Ward  
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Gregory Gudger  
Sidney Splawn  
Gale Perlas  
Linda Roberts

Newsletter: Linda F. Calvin



# MHRC Gets Hand or Two at Neighborfair



**FAMILY AFFAIR**— City Commissioner Charles Jordan(left) added his signature along with his prints to the MHRC display. Patricia Jordan, The Commissioner's daughter (right), followed in her father's handprints, so to speak, putting in her five fingers worth.



**Faces in the Crowd** — (left) MHRC staffers Linda Roberts and Gene Turner (seated left and center, respectively) enjoy a break amongst the milling throng.



**HELPING A HELPING HAND**—Little tot (right) was assisted by her mother in making her mark. Hands-on display was a hit with children and adults alike.

## OSPIRG Finds 'Redlining' in Portland

by Linda F. Calvin

A newly released study by The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) states that banks in the Portland area have been 'redlining' specific areas in the distribution of mortgage loans, forsaking the inner city to invest in outlying areas, particularly Eastern Multnomah County, Clackamas County and Washington County, in the granting of mortgage loans based on arbitrary criteria.

In conducting the two-year study, OSPIRG divided the Portland Metropolitan area into nine sectors. Of those, Inner Northeast, North, and Downtown/Corbett-Terwilliger in the south all received a disproportionately low number of loans. On the other hand Washington County and Clackamas county each received a disproportionately high number of loans, in comparing the proportion of houses sold in such areas.

According to the OSPIRG report, "every bank in Inner Northeast Portland, and every bank except Fred Meyer in downtown Portland made fewer loans than they were expected to make. Willamette Savings and Loan was far and away the worst offender making absolutely no loans at all in any of the three districts."

Since the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, banks across the country

have been accused of 'redlining' a practice defined as the denial or discouragement of the flow of mortgage money to a neighborhood based on arbitrary characteristics of a neighborhood such as the age or location of the house, or area traits such as the racial and ethnic characteristics of the residents, the age of the housing stock, the degree to which land uses are mixed, or the income levels of the residents.

In most instances, deterioration of the neighborhood is accelerated, and blight and abandonment spreads. Eventually the wrecking ball comes in, and the vacant homes are torn down to make way for urban renewal.

The eight banks that OSPIRG chose to study based on such factors as volume of loans, location of branch offices, availability of loan data, and the type of lending institution accounted for mortgage loans on 33 percent of the houses sold in the Metropolitan area.

Of the eight banks studied, only one -- Oregon Mutual Savings Bank (OMSB) -- came the closest to making the expected number of loans in Portland inner city neighborhoods. OMSB made 42 home loans in inner Northeast Portland when their expected share of the financial market would have been 31 mortgages. First National Bank of Oregon,

however, with an expected 65 loans for that area, actually made only 30 loans to home buyers.

The other six banks studied also had lending activities similar to that of First National. In the Inner Northeast section of Portland Far West Federal Savings and Loan made 52 out of 61 expected loans; Equitable Savings and Loan, 26 out of 50; Willamette Savings and Loan, 0 out of 16; The Oregon Bank, 1 out of 3; Fred Meyer Savings and Loan, 3 out of 12; and U.S. National Bank, 14 out of 50.

Lending activity for all the financial institutions was much more active outside the city limits. In comparison to loans made in the city, First National wrote mortgages for 480 homes in Washington County during that same time period. The number of loans First National might have been expected to make in Washington County was 335.

OSPIRG recommendations called for changes in city policies and in Bank and Savings and Loan Association policies to help Portland residents finance their housing. Some of the changes OSPIRG proposed are: 1) Banks and savings and loan organizations should eliminate appraisal and underwriting standards which discriminate against inner city housing; 2) minimum loan amounts and age of housing

requirements should be eliminated and, 3) Membership of the Portland Metropolitan Loan Review Committee should be increased to include more community citizens, and the authority and activity of the community should include looking at the terms of loans as well as the granting of loans. (Presently, the Portland Metropolitan Loan review Committee includes seven representatives of lending institutions, one non-voting member of the Portland Office of planning and Development and two non-voting citizen representatives).

"People who have been discriminated against when applying for a home loan may never know the reasons their loan was denied," said Charlie Harris, former OSPIRG attorney, who did the study along with Michelle Hayes. Harris argued that the existence of the Committee should be more widely publicized, and lenders should be required to inform persons who have been denied loans that their application may be reviewed by the committee. Harris also suggested that lending within Portland might be improved if the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission would monitor bank loans.

Other states have also been active in the fight against redlining. Illinois now requires a disclosure of both loans and written applications for loans.

Illinois has also passed the 'Illinois Fairness in Lending Act,' which prohibits discrimination in home loans based on geographic area or on 'standards that have no economic basis and which are discriminatory in effect.'

In California, a law passed in 1977 allows the state to force a bank to make a loan where the state finds that the borrower was turned down because of redlining or other discrimination.

Under a voluntary pact entered into in 1977 between the Oregon Association of Realtors and HUD, Association Officials agreed to encourage local real estate boards and individual agents to better inform women and minorities about the availability of housing.

The OSPIRG report found that redlining does occur in Portland and there are certain neighborhoods in the city that are clearly discriminated against in obtaining insurance of home loans. However, OSPIRG researchers could not isolate specific motives for this kind of discrimination.

What ever the reasons behind redlining, the OSPIRG report definitely shows that Portland neighborhoods with concentrations of low income and minority peoples suffer from these practice of redlining, and will continue to suffer from these practices until policies are changed.



## COMMISSIONER PROFILE

## Hazel G. Hays Extends a Helping Hand

Hazels G. Hays-- don't forget the G. or you'll hear about it at some point [she never forgets and her timing is impeccable]-- is Vice-Chairman of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission and one of the most extraordinary persons you're likely ever to meet.

When you first meet her, you're impressed with her calmness and her ability to converse provocatively about whatever subject seems to arise. But let the conversation drift into human rights, and it's guaranteed that you'll see the calmness replaced with the passion and dedication that have characterized her involvement in this arena since adolescence.

She commands attention for her handsome appearance as well as for what she has to say. You're struck not only by her handsome appearance, but her command of situations as Manager of the State's Adult and Family Services Division for the Multnomah Regional Office, where she oversees the delivery of public assistance programs to some 30,000 families or single adults in Multnomah County. Observing Hazel in action it's hard to believe she hasn't always been sophisticated.

But she hasn't. Growing up on a farm in Youngstown, Ohio, offered little opportunity to achieve sophistication. It also did not provide exposure to some of the uglier ways of the world... like racism. But Mrs. Hays soon learned.

When she went to Columbus [Ohio] at age 16 to attend Ohio State University, she collided head-on with the problem of the color line at a theater. Despite her preference for a seat on the main floor of the theater, she was sternly directed by an usher to the seats in the balcony, the area relegated to Black audiences. After refusing to accept her assigned seating and being threatened with removal, she took the issue to the top -- the manager -- and, "he helped to throw me out."

The humiliation of this experience led directly to the first in a long line of involvements in demonstrations. At the time, demonstrations were not regarded as acceptable vehicles

for voicing dissent, particularly if one were Black. Even the NAACP [in which Mrs. Hays held and continues to hold membership] considered demonstrations dangerous, preferring to involve itself in litigation rather than activism. But that didn't stop Mrs. Hays. Determined not only to air her own grievance but to attack the injustices which resulted in the denial of equal rights for all people, Mrs. Hays participated in the formation of the Vanguard League. Comprised of young active Blacks who did not feel they had the time to wait for the courts to resolve all matters of racial inequity, the League picketed theaters, restaurants, and utility companies, urging the serving and/or hiring of Blacks.

Mrs. Hays continued to utilize this form of protest and peaceful demonstration in later years with the NAACP here in Portland -- notably in 1966 when, while chairperson of the local chapter Labor and Industries Committee, she led a march on the Portland Branch of the United States Post Office to protest its laxity in the hiring and promotion, once again, of Black workers.

Minority employment has always been a priority amongst Mrs. Hays' many concerns, not only in terms of securing jobs but in the acquisition for strategic positions by minorities. "Whenever I get a chance to talk to a young Black or other minority person about careers, I always say that if they are not in a position where they are in charge of hiring, firing or controlling a budget, they are not where the action is."

However, she notes, securing those positions in the labor market today is a lot more easily said than done. Indeed, in this era of cutbacks and limitations, she feels that minorities in such positions, like herself, are an "endangered species."

"The number of minorities in Oregon with decent jobs is decreasing," she said. To insure some measure of regeneration, Mrs. Hays has been known to extend a helping hand, not only as a service to those who follow her, but as a tribute to those, who, in times past, gave of

themselves in the same spirit.

The primary responsibility for one's future, however, lies with that individual, she explained. Characteristically, Mrs. Hays' success reflects her own dogged determination to excel.

When she first came to Portland in 1959, Mrs. Hays was not content to be only a wife and mother. She had a burning desire to continue her schooling which she had left undone at Ohio State, and she wanted a career. During the next decade she accepted a position as administrative assistant with the Albina Neighborhood Services Center, shortly thereafter became Community Services Coordinator for the Portland Development Commission, and enrolled at Portland State University.

At the end of a six and one-half year stint with the Commission, Mrs. Hays chalked up an extensive list of credits. From 1963 to 1968, she served as advisor to the Albina Improvement Project and played a key role in the development of the Neighborhood Development Program. In 1968-69, she was on loan from PDC to Model Cities where she served as Administrative Assistant to the Director, Deputy Director for Citizen Participation and, for a brief period, Interim Director. Back with PDC, she served on the Personnel Hiring Committee in 1971 and, for the last three years of her stay, coordinated all community services.

During that same period, she graduated with a B.S. in Social Sciences from P.S.U.--Cum Laude, no less-- and as a member of Phi Lambda Theta National Honors Society. And, of course, she still found time to vigorously pursue the demand for equal rights. She served as Secretary of the Portland Chapter of NAACP and as Chairperson of that organization's Labor and Industries Committee. Her role in fighting for Black employment at the Post Office may have keyed her election as Secretary of the NAACP Western Region. The foregoing, plus a list a mile long of involvement in human rights and human services organizations and boards,



HAZEL G. HAYS

resulted in an appointment in 1972 by Governor Tom McCall to the Chair of the Governor's Commission on Human Rights.

Mrs. Hays' resignation from the Portland Development Commission in 1973 was marked by a testimonial banquet where she was honored by some 200 friends and co-workers, as well as receiving in absentia lauds from many, including then-Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk. Very few are honored by such a broad spectrum of people-- from the grass roots of the community to the ivory towers of government-- as was Mrs. Hays.

After a brief stint with private industry, as well as acting as a consultant for the Portland Development Commission and HEW's Regional Office of Education, plus teaching part-time at the University of Portland, Mrs. Hays was appointed Manager of the Albina Human Resources center. A highlight of the more than three-year period she successfully managed that facility was a fund-raiser to establish a loan fund for needy clients which was attended by, among others, President Gerald Ford. The success of that event is typical of the results Mrs. Hays achieves with any project she undertakes.

Before being appointed to her present position in early 1977, Mrs. Hays managed to pick up her Master's Degree in Education plus appointments

to various boards of directors such as those for the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center and the Oregon Library Association. She also became affiliated with Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Nineteen seventy-five marked the first appointment of Mrs. Hays to Metropolitan Human Relations Commission by Mayor Neil Goldschmidt to fill an unexpired term. She was subsequently reappointed in 1977. A rocky, early history of the commission not with standing, Mrs. Hays has a great deal of respect and appreciation for the Commission and its accomplishments while under the direction of Nick Barnett. As her record of affiliations show, Mrs. Hays has been and is a staunch advocate for the cause of human rights.

"I'd like to see more people interested in it," she said, adding, "there is a lot of discontent and change is slow, but the more interest that is shown, the faster the change will come."

The Commission has come a long way and has done some very good things in recent years," she said, indicating that, despite the priority of cutting back in extraneous services by government in light of tax limitation measures, human rights is a priority issue, not to be sacrificed merely for the sake of fiscal streamlining.

"I hope no one is even considering it... We've come far enough to get MHRC, but we certainly haven't come far enough to do without it."

## Commission Finds City EEO Programs Deficient

According to a recent report by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's Employment Committee, the City of Portland has yet to fulfill its statutory commitment to Equal Employment Opportunity in the areas of Contract Compliance,

Federal Grants Compliance and Minority Business Enterprise. The City's Affirmative Action Office, also part of the

City's EEO commitment, has had some positive impact on the hiring of women and minorities, but, according to the report, there is apparent lack of "strong support and commitment from all administrative levels."

The Committee report was presented at an August 29 informal Council Meeting attended by Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, Commissioners Jordan

and Ivancie, representatives from City Bureaus charged with coordination of EEO functions, MHRC members and staff. Despite the critical nature of the report, Mayor Goldschmidt commended the Commission on successfully and effectively evaluating the City's EEO efforts.

During the course of MHRC's evaluation, the City had been moving toward actual

ization of various EEO functions not yet functional or established. Though not reflected in the report, the City recently hired Pat Ban as Contract Compliance Manager to fill a long-standing vacancy, and a draft MBE Program has been submitted by Purchasing Manager Harold Vaughn to the City Attorney's office for review -- both are key moves toward development of com-

prehensive Contract Compliance and Minority Business Programs where, as cited in the report, none existed before.

MHRC recommendations included ways of helping minority firms become more familiar with the City's Bidding process as well as ways of helping the City retain minority employees as more minorities move into the City's workforce.

# EEO update: the national picture

How close have minorities and women come to being on equal footing with white males in America? Not very far says the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

According to a study by that Commission published in August of this year which centered on the areas of housing, education, employment and poverty, the gap between minorities/women and white males continues to increase. Disparities were greater in 1976, the report states than in 1960.

In the area of housing for example, minority male and all female-headed households are only two-thirds as likely to be

owner-occupied, two to three times as likely to be overcrowded (based on the standard of one person per room) and more likely to spend more than a quarter of their income for housing.

The study indicates that minorities and women are less likely to complete their high school education than white males. White males have a 71 percent better chance of completing a college education and, after graduation, will probably receive 15 percent more pay than equally educated minorities and 30 percent more pay than equally-educated women.

The study went on to point out that, education not withstanding, minority men and all women are two to nine times as likely to be out of work and, if employed, are less likely to have the more prestigious jobs.

Overall, female and minority male headed households earn only one-half the income of those households headed by majority males.

Although gains, in absolute terms and numbers, may indicate some advance against artificial barriers which traditionally block their upward mobility. Continually growing proportional disparities reaffirm the need for strengthened Equal Opportunity efforts.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, send your name and address to:

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JANUARY 1979

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

# Reverend Richard Hughes: Activist

Portland, Oregon is an insulated town, somewhat unencumbered by the political, social and economic afflictions which scar larger and older cities to the east and south. In many ways, that's good, but in others, such as the blind complacency it fosters, it isn't.

Despite its professedly high level of livability, Portland still faces the problems of high unemployment of its minority population (particularly the young) and, by virtue of the demographic dominance of the majority culture, the city is "impoverished," according to MHC Commissioner Reverend Richard Hughes.

"Personally," says Reverend Hughes, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, "I feel Portland is handicapped in that, demographically, it does not have really large, identifiable minority groups who can make clear and impress their needs upon the rest of the community."

A socio-politically active veteran of the Civil Rights struggle in the East, the 52-year-old native of Albany, New York well knows how hard it is to foster a truly multi-cultural, egalitarian atmosphere, but he also knows the advantages it brings to the entire community.

Unlike most ministers, Hughes has spent more than 30 years of his life down from the pulpit and out in the streets. Fueled by impressions as a child of the Great Depression, Reverend Hughes prepared himself for religious studies at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School by the "unorthodox" prerequisite of a B.S. in Social Work from Ohio State University in 1942. There, he learned the methodology of the social scientist, and experienced his first taste of the plight of the poor.

"The casework training oriented me to an approach to pastoral work that I feel was at a different level of perception than some pastors in those days," he said. "I was exposed to the problems of poor people, to their struggles for survival

through conducting surveys in poverty stricken areas."

Reverend Hughes found his field work with the Black poor in Cleveland, Ohio to be a "sensitizing and consciousness-raising experience." Though many actual and potential pastors were more isolated from the harsh realities of poverty, the aspiring Reverend Hughes had first-hand contact in poor Black homes.

After completing his religious studies and pastoring for two years in Sandusky, Ohio, Hughes was afforded the opportunity to utilize his religious and social service skills as Director of the Bay County Council of Churches in Michigan. There, he could spend half of his time coordinating, teaching and counseling with the small ecumenical body, practicing skills acquired from two years of Clinical Pastoral Education; the other 50 per cent of his time was spent as a liaison between the church body and local social service agencies.

This bi-partate function of ecumenical bodies, Reverend Hughes says, epitomizes his

quest and what he considers to be the true function of the religious sector: to enhance the function of the church community from within by augmenting the church's ability to deliver its primary services, denominational lines notwithstanding ("Not to work together is to deny the community and ourselves.") and to "interface with the life of the community around us" through community action and assistance.

And Reverend Hughes has lived by his words.

While in Bay City, Reverend Hughes pushed successfully for the passage of a referendum for low-income public housing and he actively advocated justice in the terms and conditions of employment, and fair housing for Puerto Rican migrant laborers. He ultimately testified before the President's Commission on Migratory Labor in Washington, D.C.

"That got me in trouble," he says, because of the repressive tone of McCarthyism in American politics of the late 40's and the early 50's, "but my Board (of the Council of Churches) backed me up." In 1950 his achievements were acknowledged when he received the national Lane Bryant Community Service Award.

In Albany, New York, he and the church fought against discrimination in housing, employment and the availability of mental health resources by the O'Connell political machine which disdained the wailings of the poor.

Police brutality was also a topic of great concern in Albany, but it was in Rochester, beginning in 1962, that Reverend Hughes, the Council of Churches, allied with Black, Catholic and Jewish churches, fought the most ferocious attacks on Blacks by the police. Indeed, "the city was on the verge of a riot," Hughes recalls. It was a battle that brought together Saul Alinsky, Bayard Rustin and Bishop Fulton Sheen, among others, the latter of whom had to resign his post, under a great deal of pressure, after a tenure of only three years as Bishop. In the end, however, Blacks and other oppressed people gained a foothold and now, according to old friends of Hughes who remain there, "the strongest moral force in Rochester is the Black Church."

Through the battles and the years, Reverend Hughes had come to know comrades-in-arms the likes of Alinsky, Sheen, Rustin (a long-time personal friend), Rosa Parks, Andrew Young, and the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's, which Hughes feels ended much too soon, came the complacency and insecurity of the 70's. "Then, things were ripe," Hughes recounts, "the chemistry was there, but now, it's hard to see the handles on building relationships. Events bring



REVEREND RICHARD HUGHES

things to pass and then you get a handle on it, and you can start to do some things in the community."

Indeed, some things have changed for the nation, Hughes and the church. The turn of the decade brought Reverend Hughes, now (1969-1976) a member of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches, a change in scene: Portland, where he was appointed to his current post as Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in 1970. There were new posts and awards. In 1973, he was appointed to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission where he currently serves on the Equal Justice and the Peyton Awards committees. Following his tenure on the National Council of Churches Board of Governors, he was appointed to the organization's Commission on Ecumenism in 1977. That same year, he also received the Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

After Vatican II and Pope John XXIII, the Catholic Church moved into the arena of social action and, ultimately, into the Ecumenical Structure which previously aligned only mainline Protestant denominations. Though not formally in Portland, the Jewish Church also embraced the Ecumenical philosophy. Of

conspicuous necessity still, Hughes believes, "is the improving and increasing of the relationship with churches in Portland's Black Community."

"The Ecumenical idea is based on unification. We must raise people's consciousness to the view of all people who inhabit the world rather than disjunctive and selfishly sectarian views," he said, adding, "and it is incumbent upon the 'White' church to establish positive attitudes and working relationships within itself in order to come together with the 'Black' church in the Ecumenical movement."

Hughes explained that the 'White' church would not benefit from, nor would the 'Black' church align itself with, a dysfunctional body. The unification of the Black community and the 'Black' church is similarly requisite, despite the absence of large numbers.

The call for solidarity is clear — especially now, when the life of urban centers, including Portland, is at stake. While attending a confab at the White House to review the President's Urban Policy Program, Hughes expressed concern for its shortfalls as do Pat Harris and other concerned persons within and outside of the Carter Administration. A call to action is imminent; and Reverend Richard Hughes is ready to answer.

## Harry Ward wins Peyton Award

taken from the Portland Observer

Harry C. Ward has been named the recipient of the 6th Annual Russell A. Peyton Award, which is awarded by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for outstanding contribution to human relations.

Ward is perhaps best known for his three terms as President of the NAACP and his current chairmanship of the Community Coalition for School Integration.

Ward came to Portland from Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1954. Having been active in the YMCA in Tulsa, he looked for something to do to fill the void.

"The Y here wasn't doing much. The NAACP wasn't either, but I decided to run for President." Ward was elected for the 1961-1962, and the 1963-1964 terms. He also filled and unexpired term in 1968.

One of the most serious problems for Blacks in Portland was employment. Under Ward's leadership the NAACP began contacting chain stores—those that had stores in the Albina area and did not hire Blacks.

Another struggle was against the Housing Authority of Portland. Which at that time was operating largely segregated housing. HAP sought to build a low-income project in the heart of the Albina district. "We saw it as further

segregation—building a housing unit for Blacks." Strong opposition from the NAACP and other Black organizations stopped the project.

Ward's biggest fight as President of the NAACP was with the Portland School Board. In April of 1962, the NAACP pointed out to the Board that the Portland schools were segregated and asked for desegregation. "I was really naive," Ward explained, "I thought when we advised them that the schools were segregated, they would just go ahead and correct it." Instead the Board angrily denied the segregation existed. After further NAACP pressure the Board appointed the "Race

and Education Committee," chaired by Judge Hubert Schwab, a former Board member. The NAACP had no representation in the committee.

The Race and Education Committee found segregation in the Portland schools and made recommendations for its remedy: a limited number of Administrative Transfers (transfers at the Principal's request of students who would benefit from desegregation); Voluntary Transfers, students transferred at their parents request and expense; Compensatory Education in "Model Schools," schools now not only segregated by race but separated administratively. "The NAACP stood alone in

opposing the Race and Education Committee.

"Of course we were right, because here we are, sixteen years later, fighting the same issues. I am especially disappointed in Jonathan Newman, who was a member of 'The Committee of 100' which supported the NAACP's call for desegregation. I am disappointed that he has not supported a more equitable desegregation program."

"Education is one of my most vital interests. Some people wonder why I am so concerned about education when I have no children. But our children are our futures and their education is very important. (Please turn to P. 5 Col. 1)



# From a Human Rights Point of View

By Nick Barnett



Like yesterday, 1978 is now history and like tomorrow, 1979 remains to be seen. In the same manner of most years the past one left its residue of triumphs and tragedies, to ponder and to act on; to have reason for hope; and have evidence for dismay. At this point in time we may still be too close to it to be able to weigh the full import of its meaning, nevertheless quick glances at some of that year's major events leave us with a chill more foreboding than the kind brought on by this winter's bluster. Was it not the year that nearly dealt a serious set back to ERA efforts, was it not a year in which unemployment ravaged the lives of millions of Americans (cold fractional statistical increments notwithstanding) and in which inflation made millions more distressed enough to produce a tax revolt? Was it not the year of the ambiguous Supreme Court decision on the Bakke Case; and a national movement to strip Native Americans of all title to their few remaining lands?

These and other events cause those concerned about human rights to peer carefully and seriously into the coming year's unclear beginnings. Fortunately, other elements and events just as real cause the barometer of social progress to fluctuate, if not inch upwards.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill did pass even though in a somewhat watered down state; the ERA movement successfully fought for an extension; the ultimate drastic predictions of major economists did not fully come to pass; President Carter did achieve a major milestone toward peace in the 30 year war in the middle east; and, an important diplomatic advance in the mutual opening of diplomatic doors between the U.S. and mainland China; and the American public is much more aware of the atrocities of South Africa's racially oppressive government.

Yes it still may be too soon to weigh in the balance of analysis and reason the full meaning of "78" for the cause of human rights nationally, internationally, and locally, but while we wait for the results to come in, it is still not too soon to peer ahead, at least locally, to survey the human rights landscape for clues of what lies ahead. Here follows some items noted, at first glance.

## HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEFS . . .

### item . . . A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

February 17, 1979

Multnomah County Exposition Center

You are invited to attend A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE on February 17, 1979 at the Multnomah County Exposition Center starting at 12:00 p.m.

February 19, 1979 marks the 37th anniversary date of the enactment of Executive Order 9066. By signing this Order on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave Executive approval for the wholesale uprooting and incarceration of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, 74% of whom were United States citizens.

The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE acknowledges the years of hardship Japanese Americans endured to make the United States home for their parents, themselves, their children and all the Nikkei generations to come. The Expo Center was the Portland Assembly Center during World War II, where the Nikkei were imprisoned before being sent inland to concentration camps.

The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE held in Puyallup, Washington on November 25, 1978, drew about 2,000 participants. Similar events are scheduled for Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The schedule for the DAY OF REMEMBRANCE is: 12:30-1:30 Registration; 2:00-3:30 Program; 3:00-3:45 Break; 3:45-4:15 Entertainment; 5:00 Community Potluck.

For further information contact Peggy Nagae 224-4094.

item . . . There is a new bilingual (Spanish-English) newspaper in town. It's name is *Chavista*. The rapidly growing Spanish speaking population in this state now has another public voice. Our office received a recent copy of this monthly newspaper. The articles in it are well written, interesting and substantive. The format is very attractive and professional. If you are interested in keeping up on events and commentary related to the Spanish speaking community in Oregon then write for your copy of *Chavista* to: Newspaper Project, Colegio Cesar Chavez, 1000 S. Main, Mt. Angel, Oregon 97362.

item . . . In the arena of Human Relations/Human Rights two significant positions in State government have undergone a changing of the guard as a result of the new gubernatorial administra-

tion. Governor Atiyeh has appointed Ms. Jackie Winters as State Ombudsman, and Ms. Carol Whitney as State Affirmative Action Officer.

The previous Ombudsman, Phil McLauren, and the previous State Affirmative Action Officer, Harold Williams, are both to be commended for their contributions to advancing the cause of citizens access to government and their dedication to the promotion of equal employment opportunity.

It is our hope that the new appointees will approach their responsibilities with as unshakable out-front commitment to the progress of human rights and equality for all as did their predecessors.

item . . . This office has been contacted by Mrs. Jean Nichols to share some information released by a local human rights group called the "Cambodian Day of Prayer Committee," of which she is a member. Over the past several months, this group has been holding prayer and discussion meetings focused on the plight of indigenous Cambodians, who are being subjected to a process of genocide by revolutionary insurgents.

The Cambodia Day of Prayer Committee aims to draw local and national attention to this gross inhumanity and particularly to urge churches to take some form of active expression of support for the lives and human rights of these people.

At 10:00 a.m. on the 26th of January a press conference will be held at the Ecumenical Ministries Office, 0245 S.W. Bancroft.

Numerous concerned leaders will be present (or be represented) to lend support: U.S. Senator Hatfield; Bishop Bigliardi (Episcopal Bishop of Oregon); N.W. Synod of the Lutheran Church; Members of the Indo-Chinese Cultural Center; Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Since other activities and projects are being planned, if you are interested in being involved please contact: Mrs. Jean Nichols, 2608 S.E. Marigold Court, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123, Telephone 648-9459 or Reverend William Cary, 288-6206.

item . . . Recently a noted Human Rights celebrity was honored with a birthday party. Ms. Ruth Haefner, an Oregon Grey Panther leader well-known for her forthright stands on behalf of the rights and dignity of senior citizens in this state, is now eighty-five years — and going strong. It was a genuine pleasure to join her many admirers in celebrating the event at Matt Dishman Center on the 17th of January. In a subsequent issue of this newsletter, there will be a feature on some important plans the Grey Panthers are working on for 1979.

item . . . We hereby recognize and express our appreciation for the integrity and commitment of Reverend John Jackson during his recent tenure as President of the Portland Branch NAACP. We, at the Human Relations Commission are well aware of his courage and the many contributions he has made in the struggle for justice. We especially note his willingness to establish lines of collaboration with our organization and others to jointly address common issues. With him the phrase — "in unity is strength" — was not rhetoric but a mode of action.

To the new branch President, Lucious Hicks, and to the new leadership on the Board we extend our welcome to the struggle. This community has great need of you and will have great expectations. The variety and depth of talent, energy, and vision you bring to the leadership of this branch is indicative that the community's expectations will be more than met.

item . . . Much activity is in evidence in the women's rights area. The Oregon Women's Political Caucus had a full day's conference on Saturday the 13th of January, at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Registration started at 9:00 a.m. and the rest of the day was filled with notable political figures. People like Barbara Roberts, Rep. Nancy Ryles, Rep. Donna Zajoin, and Rep. Sue Pisha to name a few. Judge Helen Frey presented the Mary Rieke Award. A business meeting to elect incoming officers was held in the afternoon, and the day was appropriately capped off with a cocktail party in honor of women Legislators at the home of Norma Paulus. If you are interested in information on the conference, call Nancy Roche at 292-1668 any day after 4:00 p.m.

Again the Human Relations Commission is proud to note an important appointment for another of our Commissioners. Com-

missioner Eleanor Davis has been selected as Chairperson for the Womens Rights Coalition. She will bring much experience and dedication to the task. We heartily congratulate the Coalition for such an excellent choice.

The Women's Rights Coalition is a strong active women's rights group and has reorganized itself to better address the coming legislative session. The Coalition is made up of seventeen different women's organizations. They have hired as a full-time lobbyist, Karen Ennis. Ms. Ennis is an attorney and among her many human rights credentials are 3 years of service to Legal Aid.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) will be holding their annual meeting in January. Having won a successful discrimination suit against Channel 6, they have used the proceeds to establish an agency called Legal Aid To Women, Inc. We understand that currently (mid-January) they are seeking to fill a full-time paid, (about \$11,000 a year) executive director position. For information contact Linda Tozer or Sherry Oeser.

item . . . The American Friends Service Committee has a number of materials relating to Human Rights (defined as basic social, economic and political rights) that can be borrowed or rented inexpensively. These materials include films, slide shows, filmstrips and written materials suitable for high school aged and adult groups and individuals. Some topics covered are: The effects of Multinational Corporations on Workers in the U.S.; The Case for a New International Order; The abuse of infant formula in the Third World; and South Africa. For more information call AFSC 235-8594.

Thus from the items in this briefing, it is evident that the momentum for human rights is alive and active. The caliber of the proponents is high and characterized by substantial competence and dedication and their battles will be waged on many fronts.

Our only New Year's pledge is that we will continue to lend our best energies to advance mutually productive interrelationship among people, and to support the human rights aspirations of all our citizens so that yesterdays dream of a humane and democratic society can be today's reality.

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Multnomah County - Barbara Roberts, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Charles Jordan, Commissioner in Charge



312 Corbett Bldg., Portland 97204  
(503) 248-4187



The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was established by Multnomah County and the City of Portland as an independent commission with special authority to carry out programs in the field of human relations and to serve as a liaison between the public and the city and county. The fifteen commissioners are appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

The mission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to be an advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights and mutual respect for all citizens, but with special regard to those who suffer most from chronic disregard of rights and dignity.

James Sizman - Chairman  
W. G. Barnett - Executive Director

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Eleanor Davis  
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Jerry Weiler  
Armando Laguardia  
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Rev. Richard Hughes  
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Newsletter: Linda F. Calvin

by Linda F. Calvin

By custom and tradition any American who has been injured by false accusation, arrest, or imprisonment is expected to bring the responsible parties into court and obtain a judgement clearing his or her name and collecting damages as redress. Freedom is considered so precious by Americans that even a few days of false imprisonment have been compensated with large monetary sums.

Japanese Americans have experienced the agonies of being incarcerated unjustly and have suffered the indignity of being imprisoned by their own government. Redress for the injustices of the 1942-1946 period should not be just an isolated Japanese American issue; it is an issue of concern for all Americans. During the years 1942-46 some 77,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and 43,000 Japanese nationals, most of whom were permanent U.S. residents, were summarily deprived of liberty and property without criminal charges, and without trial of any kind.

The governmental authority for this mass incarceration was based on Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. Executive Order 9066 broadly authorized any military commander to exclude any person from any area. The Presidential Order did not mention any specific group, nor did it provide for detention. However, there was an understanding among high officials that the authorization was to be used for the purpose of removing and incarcerating Japanese Americans.

There were 15 temporary concentration camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. They were mostly county fairgrounds, race tracks, and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into concentration camps with high barbed wire fences, some of which were electrified. With search lights and guard towers completing the scene, each camp held nearly 5,000 detainees. In several instances, living quarters consisted of horse stalls, even with manure still inside. The incarceration of Japanese Americans was accomplished district by district over a five month period. The Government's actions encouraged private harassment. For exam-

ple, in one town outside the official expulsion area, the entire Japanese American community was boycotted and forced to leave town.

While the Japanese Americans were incarcerated, and unknown to them at the time, some members of Congress and the State Department proposed through legislation or executive action to strip all native-born Americans of Japanese ancestry of their citizenship and deport them to Japan after the war. One member of Congress even proposed a mandatory sterilization program. Fortunately neither of these extreme measures were taken.

Regrettably, Judges, even Supreme Court Justices were not immune from the prejudices of the time, and the judicial system failed in its constitutional responsibility to protect citizens against abuses by the executive and legislative branches.

In *Hirabayashi and Yasui vs. U.S.* (320 US 1, 115), the Supreme Court ruled that a curfew may be imposed against one group of American citizens based solely on ancestry.

The Supreme Court justified various decisions of this nature by reiterating the false stereotypes about Japanese Americans were inherently more dangerous to national security than other people merely because of their ancestry. The Court ignored the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection of law, and violated the basic principle of American justice that guilt and punishment must be individual, i.e., the inalienable rights to life, liberty and property cannot be deprived except upon conviction of an individual's own wrongdoing — not the wrongdoing of others nor of a group. Justice Robert Jackson stated in dissent: "The Court for all time has validated the principle of racial discrimination in criminal procedure."

The Pacific war ended in August 1945, but the last mass detention camp did not close until October 1946 and the last special internment camp did not close until 1952. The return of Japanese Americans to their homes in California, Oregon and Washington was marked by vigilante violence and the agitation of pressure groups to keep out the Japanese Americans permanently. Homes,

farms and businesses left behind were occupied by whites unwilling to return the property to the rightful owners. Homes were burned and dynamited, and Japanese Americans were targets of terrorist shootings. When news of the hostility would reach those still in the camps, they naturally were reluctant to return to their homes.

Reconstructing lives was not easy, and for some it was too late. Elderly pioneers lost most of what they worked for all their lives. Property losses alone were conservatively estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco to be over 400 million dollars based on 1941 figures. Congress appropriated partial restitution, but only 8 1/2 per cent of estimated property losses were compensated. Nothing was done to compensate the tremendous increase in land values during the war years, lost income, unnecessary deaths, mental sufferings and loss of freedom.

*What do I remember about the evacuation?* As stated by Kemie Tambara, Pacific Northwest District Council Executive Secretary for the Japanese American Citizen League, "The most important of the many experiences during that period, was the sense of frustration, futility and hopelessness that stigmatized us as one of Japanese ancestry. Having grown up believing in the United States Constitution that 'all men are created equal,' and that every American citizen was entitled to equal justice under the law and strongly influenced by the Anglo-Saxon Protestant ethic, it was a great shock to discover that we were considered just 'Japs,' rejected by our own government. And as 'enemies,' not deserving of civil and human rights as U.S. citizens."

*What was camp like?* "They were like army camps that had been hastily thrown together. The barracks were not reinforced so that the bitter Idaho winds came blowing in and the hot summer volcanic-type dust sifted into the rooms. All of our daily activities were done in communal settings: eating, going to the lavatories. Nothing was private. The value of privacy of person was never fully appreciated until we were in camp. We become obsessed with whatever happened within the camp. With

not much hope for the future, our lives in these camps became more real than the outside world. This feeling probably could be equated to a prison-type complex. I remember on one of those bitterly cold days, our allotment of coal was delivered but because of some government forms that were not in proper order, this coal could be not released for our use. However, every morning that pile seemed to shrink in size, although it was placed beyond the barbed wire fence and in full view of the watch towers.

The educational system within the camp conformed to Idaho requirements, but it was difficult to motivate the students to achieve, when no definite goal could be promised.

After these camps were closed in the fall of 1945, the road back 'home,' that is wherever we chose to resettle, was just as difficult. I feel that even now we are only half-way there, despite the reports of statistics that show the achievement level of the Nisei. Prejudice and hatred against us still remains. It's just that feelings have become convert. It is a more difficult situation to combat than in the days when every Nisei child used to hear the taunting cries... 'Japs!'

Not only were direct losses sustained, but long lasting psychological damages resulted. Families disintegrated under the prison-type conditions, and individuals became disoriented and embittered. Most importantly, Japanese Americans suffered the indignity of being imprisoned by their own government.

President Gerald R. Ford rescinded Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976 — exactly 34 years after its promulgation and stated: "An honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them."

When interviewed about restitution, Harold Onishi Counselor at Washington-Monroe High School stated, "It is an issue that has been a long time in coming. Our own government has perpetrated a wrong, that is, incarcerating its own citizens into assembly centers and relocation centers,

without due process."

These grave injustices were perpetrated in spite of the fact that our government had in its possession proof that not one Japanese American, citizen or not, had engaged in espionage, not one had committed any act of sabotage.

This was a bleak period in the history of American freedom. From time to time there have been voices of protest raised against this national shame. A few isolated voices tried to protest — some clergymen, some scholars, some members of the government, the National Urban League, The American Friends Service, NAACP, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. A surprising number of military personnel who knew the Japanese Americans and understood the true situation — but our nation was bent upon revenge.

Today the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Japanese American community are working to overturn the Supreme Court cases which legalized the mass internment of people based solely on race.

Peggy Nagae, Legal Advisor for the Pacific Northwest District Council of JACL expressed, "JACL wants public acknowledgement of an American experience that has been swept under the rug. Redress is an issue for every person that wants to protect our Democratic process, and who believes that America stands for individual and civil rights as guaranteed by the Constitution."

The 3 1/2 years that Japanese Americans spent in concentration camps cannot be given back to them. Their millions of dollars of lost property cannot be restored. Indeed people know that there is no adequate compensation for the injustice and suffering which has occurred. But as Justice Goldberg has stated, "money is the demonstration of the injustice done. It is better than a paper resolution."

Restitution does not put a price tag on freedom or justice. According to the Japanese American Citizens League the main purpose of redress is to obtain government recognition of an historic injustice and insure that it will not be repeated for any other American.

## Equity for the Eighties

by Linda F. Calvin

The Community Coalition for School Integration is by far the most remarkable organization ever established to improve race relations in this City. It is broad-based, multi-racial, and an exceptional model of community oriented politics. It is composed of 38 organizations and 105 individuals.

In an extensive research process, the Coalition found a disparate effect against Black children who are bused to achieve desegregation. As a

result of grade elimination in the Black community schools, upper grade children are forced to attend schools outside their neighborhood areas. Contrary to Dr. Robert Blanchard's contention that white students have substantially shared the burden of desegregation, the fact is that nearly 33 per cent of the Black school population is bused. Some volunteer and some have no choice. Less than 2 per cent of the White school population is bused for desegregation purposes. All of these are volunteers.

Both Black and White students are bused to other Schools due to school reorganization into primary and middle schools. The per cent of Black students bused for this purpose is slightly higher than the per cent of Black students in the whole school district.

Not only do Black children bear the major burden of this effort, but they are scattered and isolated in a manner insensitive to sound educational goals; for example, 451 students from King (a predominantly Black elementary school

to grade 5) are dispersed to 42 different schools. This unmanageable scattering is obviously unfair and inequitable. There are no longer any upper grade levels for them to attend in their school.

The Coalition made a number of specific substantive recommendations to the School Board toward improving the process for integration, while at the same time improving the quality of the educational experience of all children. One of the key recommendations for implementation by the Sep-

tember 1980 school year was a plan for *school pairing*. This would involve the pairing of a school composed of predominantly minority pupils with one or two schools of predominantly majority population in such a way that none remain nor become racially isolated. An added incentive built into this plan is the opportunity for greater grade level specialization which would strengthen the quality of education for all the children. When viewing alternative approaches in comparison (Please turn to P. 5 Col. 2)

(Continued from P. 2 Col. 5)

We can't allow the 'silent lynching' as I call it. Although there have been great pains in employment and housing — and I think in attitudes — there has been no change in education. The injustices children have to suffer in the schools are traumatic experiences and it is something we have to deal with."

After leaving the Presidency Ward remained an active NAACP board member. One of the employment fights he began was continued under President Mayfield K. Webb, that with the longshore unions. Because Blacks were denied union membership, the NAACP picketted the docks and involved national union president Harry Bridges and Senator Wayne Morse. Some Blacks became members and a suit filed by others who sought employment was successful nearly ten years later. As a board member, Ward picketted the Portland Post Office following a complaint filed by Tom Vickers, who became President in 1967. "The Post Office had refused to promote Blacks," so we filed a suit and picketted for several weeks. That issue was also decided in favor of the Black employees.

Ward's activities have not been restricted to the NAACP and the education issue. He received one of the initial appointments to the Model Cities Citizens' Advisory Committee from Mayor Terry Shrink and remained on the board through the life of the program. He is a member of the boards of directors of the Boys Club of Portland, the Progressive Businessman's Club, Emanuel Hospital and the Royal Esquire Club of Portland. He is a Commissioner of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, chairman of the Education Committee.

For the past ten years Ward has been an Employee Representative for the Oregon State Employees Association and will retire at the end of December. Previously he was a state employee with the Oregon State Welfare Department.

The award will be presented on January 23, 1979, at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1624 N.E. Hancock, at a noon luncheon. Previous winners are: Tom Sloan, Tektronix; Jack Mills, U.S. National Bank; E. Shelton Hill, Urban League of Portland; A. Lee Henderson, *Portland Observer*; and Mrs. Marie Smith.

(Continued from P. 4 Col. 5)

parison to the specifications of the plan, one is drawn to the conclusion that the Coalition recommendations make a substantial contribution to improving the effectiveness and equity of integration in our school district, while at the same time doing more to keep neighborhood peer groups intact than any other plan in evidence.

The Community Coalition for School Integration maintains that racial segregation represents a serious conflict with the American creed of equal opportunity and the traditional use of education as a vehicle for economic and social mobility. Racial segregation is seen by many as detrimental to a sound education for Whites as well as Blacks. It can be damaging to children by distorting their view of America as well as their own self-image; it denies children the enrichment that can occur when they have contact with other cultural groupings. It encourages prejudice within children regardless of their color. It presents an inaccurate picture of life to both White and Black children, and prepares them inadequately for a multi-racial community and the world.

The Coalition's primary purpose was to identify common concerns which would enhance desegregation and to develop recommendations based on those concerns which would enhance equal educational opportunity for all students involved in this process. The Coalition's research clearly identified some basic principles regarding desegregation/integration.

1. That school integration should promote equality of educational opportunity.

2. That school desegregation is the means whereby school integration is

Page 5

accomplished.

3. That desegregation is the law of the land.

4. That desegregation must be an equitable process.

5. That desegregation in Portland is *not* an equitable process.

During the December 11th School Board meeting, the Board heard Dr. Blanchard's reply to the Coalition's 10 recommendations for integrating Portland's seven racially isolated schools that now have over 50 per cent minority attendance.

Dr. Blanchard endorsed the concepts in eight of the recommendations. He considered the recommendation for future School Board ties with the Coalition a Board decision. He called the student transfer recommendation for pairing, "an over reaction and perhaps unworkable."

On December 18, 1978 the Community Coalition for School Integration responded to Dr. Blanchard's reactions to their recommendations. In the response to the School Board, Oralee Beach Assistant Coordinator for the Coalition stressed, "we are sorry that there seems to be such a large misunderstanding of what the pairing proposal is about." The Coalition's contention is that merely reducing the scattering of Black students as Dr. Blanchard suggested and not instituting a two-way transfer approach would continue the overwhelming inequity of the current program.

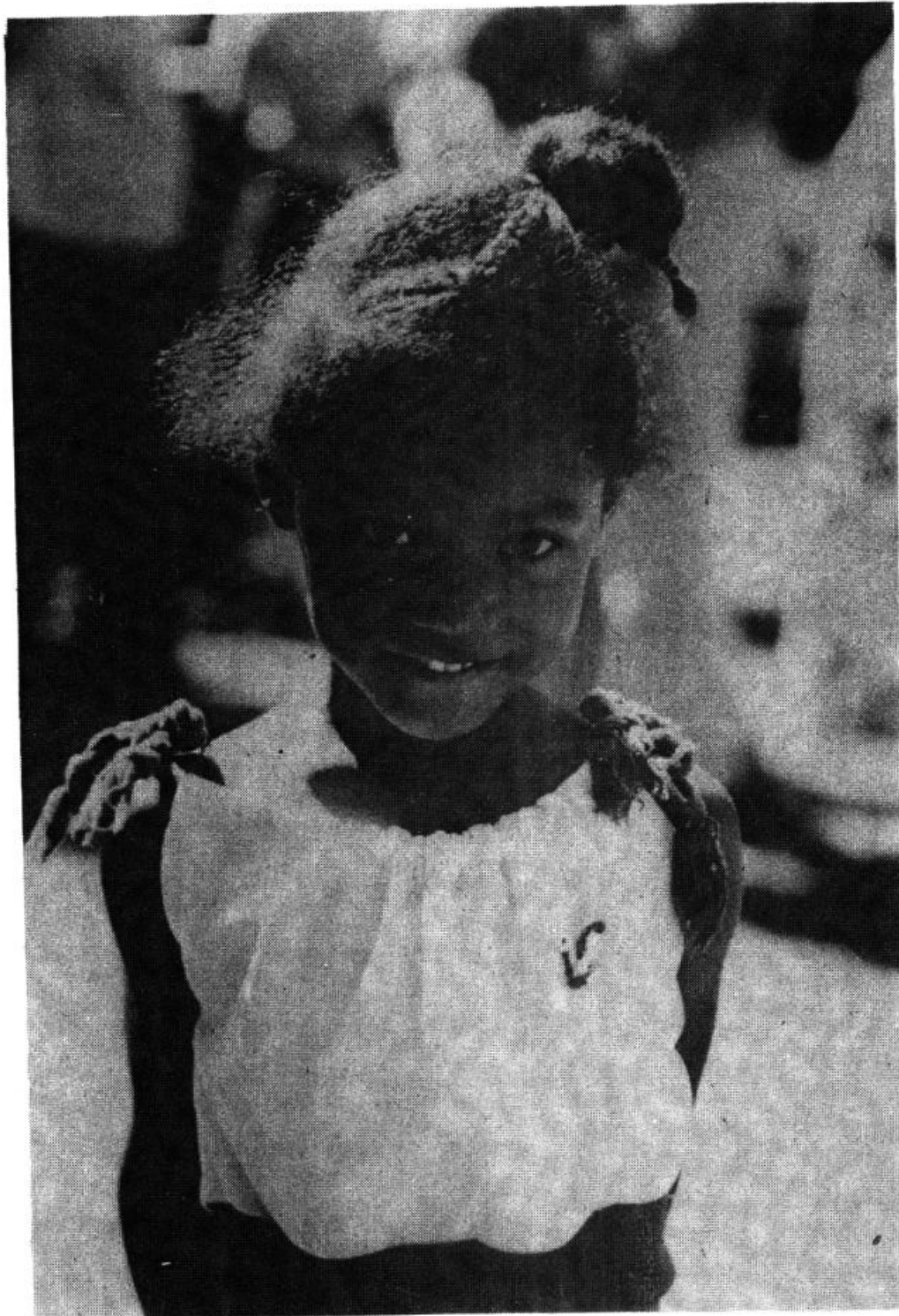
The crucial questions before the School Board in 1979 is: Is the School Board willing to make its desegregation program an equitable exchange? Are the Board members willing to adopt policies that will make integration educationally sound and ethically correct?

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# Human Relations



Volume 11 Number 1  
December 1980

Newsletter



*By Linda Roberts*

At the onset of the new decade, an appraisal of the state and the progression of human rights is in order.

The late 1970's have brought about many significant social changes which have the potential for affecting major social disorders and erosion of any progress we have made in the area of race relations.

Of serious concern is the current state of our economy, the lessened economic growth, high unemployment, and underemployment, coupled with rising inflation, have created untold hardship for many in our society. These economic pressures have brought about cutbacks in local government budgets and reductions in federally funded manpower and social service programs. Given limited access to a shrinking job market for entry level or underskilled workers, we see an increasing rise in minority unemployment. High unemployment coupled with limited access to manpower training and social service programs have created an environment of frustration and alienation within minority communities. The economic base of minority Americans is far more fragile than most people believe. Nationally, the Black unemployment rate, 14.7 per cent, is at the highest level in five years and is more than double that of whites. More than 30 per cent of the nation's Blacks have incomes below the poverty level, compared to 8.7 per cent whites. Some of the gains of recent years are rapidly slipping away. For example, the median income of Black families rose from 55 per cent in 1960 to 60 per cent in 1970, but has since dropped back to 59 per cent.

In addition to the severe economic conditions, there is clear evidence that there is a growing increase in overt acts

of racism and an increase in organized white supremacy activities. In fiscal year 1980, The Community Relations Service (CRS) of the U.S. Department of Justice responded to 1,431 alerts of racial incidents, a 6.6 per cent increase over 1979. Of those, 68 cases related to Klan activities, a 55 per cent increase over 1979. In a November 1979 report published by the Anti-Defamation League, there has been roughly a 25 per cent gain in Klan membership over the 1978 figure. More significantly, they estimated an increase of 100 per cent in Klan sympathizers.

The increase in harassment, assault, and murder of Blacks in Miami, Buffalo, Atlanta, and other cities creates a nationwide environment which lends support for racist movements to organize. Most importantly, because these groups and individuals sense in the public an indifference which they interpret as support.

Given the current economic conditions and the increase in overt acts of racism, a social context has been created where major civil disorder can occur.

Portland is not immune from what is happening nationally. Locally, we are experiencing cutbacks in state social service programs; the unemployment of Portland's minority youth is alarmingly high; and there is clear evidence of a growing intolerance for people from various ethnic and racial groups. This is exemplified by an increase in overt acts of discrimination and harassment against individuals and groups. Over the past several months, civil rights organizations have been called on to respond to a variety of incidents which clearly indicate an increase in racial tensions and a lack of tolerance for people who appear different because of their

race, color, customs, or traditions.

A survey of only those incidents which have been reported in the media clearly shows that bigotry and prejudice is still a major problem in this area.

**October 1980.** Posters exposing racial genocide were placed on the streets of downtown Portland.

July 1980. The Ray Richardsons of Milwaukie, Oregon experienced continual racial harassment over a three-month period. A five-foot cross was burned on their lawn; their car was spray painted, "Kill the Black," and "Death to Niggers." Similar threats have been sprayed on their house and front door; a note left in the driveway said, "Leave or Die, Nigger;" a vehicle slowly drove by the house, blasting racial epithets from a loud speaker.

**May 1980. A Black family living in an apartment in Oregon City suffered so much racial harassment they gave up and moved back to Portland.**

**Spring 1880.** An interracial couple living in St. Helens gave up and moved back to Portland rather than face continual racial threats.

The manifestations of social disorder are varied and numerous. But to allow overt acts of racism to continue only serves to heighten tensions between groups of people; and we must recognize that organizing for "Racial Purity" creates an environment where crimes against individuals and groups can and do occur.

The changing economy and the alterations in the climate of race relations are all unaddressed issues in this community. In these times of fiscal stress and a fluctuating environment, we have an obligation to be well informed of the issues and an obligation for adequate planning to address issues which only serve to widen the gap and produce further alienation among people.

## Native American is Peyton Award recipient

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has named Native American community advocate James Metcalf as the recipient of the 1980 Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award. This award is presented for outstanding involvement in fostering human rights and interracial relations.

Mr. Metcalf, an outreach worker for the Urban Indian Council, is the eighth Peyton Award winner, an honor first bestowed in 1973 and named for Russell A. Peyton, the first executive Director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. When Mr. Peyton retired in 1972, his friends and co-workers established an annual award in his name as a way of recognizing his memorable compassion for his fellow beings and his substantial contribution to the cause of human equality. Award winners are selected from nominations submitted by local community groups.

Mr. Metcalf, this year's recipient, has a superior reputation for representing the needs of Native Americans. His dedication to the political and social rights of senior citizens has been established through his untiring advocacy efforts. He has served on the Hearing Boards of the Aging Services Division, the Quarantant Advisory board, the Department of Justice Service's Citizen Advisory Committee, and volunteered for United Good Neighbors. At the other end of the age continuum, Mr. Metcalf has committed his talents to Native American Youth. Believing that athletic competition can be a useful tool that bridges the racial distance between people, Mr. Metcalf has coached and encouraged interracial football, basket-



**JAMES METCALF**  
ball, and little league baseball  
for over sixteen years.

In August of 1978, Mr. Metcalf was instrumental in resolving the tense dispute in the old Hoyt Hotel parking lot when the problem of Native Americans taking up residence in jerry-built huts had escalated to a serious issue.

In addition to honoring Mr. Metcalf with the Peyton Award, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission presented awards to three students of the new Harriet Tubman Middle School for competitively superior composition on ways to improve interracial acceptance and understanding at Tubman. The winners were: Jeremy Krop, sixth grade; Eric Loeb, seventh grade; and Lisco Ray III, eighth grade. Formal presentation of the awards took place at the Peyton Award Luncheon, Tuesday, December 9, at St. Andrews Catholic Church, 806 N.E. Alberta Street.



★  
• ANNOUNCEMENT •

In an effort to get more community participation, MHRC will hold its next Commission meeting at Beaumont School, 5736 N.E. 33rd near Killingsworth Avenue, on January 20, 1980 at 7:00 p.m.

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**Susan Hunter** - Equal Justice  
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**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Multnomah County - Gladys McCoy, Commissioner in Charge  
City of Portland - Mike Lindberg, Commissioner in Charge  
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**NEWSLETTER:**

**Kathleen O'Keefe**

# Fair housing on the upbeat



Fair housing is a tangible concept, dealing with such items as a roof over one's head and adequate heating in the winter. A 1977 statistic tells us that one out of every four American families with a yearly income under \$11,500 suffers from some form of serious housing deprivation. Such deprivation is defined to include one or more of the following factors: a physically deteriorated building, overcrowded living conditions, an excessive amount of income allotted for housing, or lack of essential social services in the community.

Fair housing, as defined by the MHRC, "is the assurance that every household has access to safe, decent, sound housing; of a type suitable to its needs and desires; at a price affordable to its income; without the imposition of arbitrary socioeconomic barriers and restraints." This ultimate goal will be attained only when fair housing concerns are a major concern in every housing-related activity.

Such activities are zoning, building and housing codes, land use planning, all government housing plans and also all phases of potential or actual housing discrimination. Since MHRC has gained responsibility for Portland's fair housing in November 1978, we have worked closely with local government, private industry, and community organizations to develop an environment where fair housing concerns are an integral consideration in all housing-related programs, policies and activities.

MHRC has been working towards various housing goals. One such goal is the elimination of exclusionary zoning, which is a common practice in Portland. Exclusionary zoning is the zoning of certain areas to outlaw the construction of high density/low cost housing thus prohibiting the neighborhood to families of a lower income bracket. This could also have the effect of excluding minority groups which are predominately lower income. This type of zoning tends to construct solid neighborhood barriers, with lower income families in the inner city and higher income families in the suburbs. Exclusionary zoning has been deemed illegal by Federal Courts. State land use planning goals which require all jurisdictions to provide for higher density lower-cost housing, will go far towards reducing exclusionary zoning and promoting racial integration. MHRC would like to see affordable housing for everyone in all of the City's Metropolitan Areas without economic barriers. MHRC encourages the increase of, and better dispersal of, multifamily zoning within the predominately single-family areas.

Red-lining home loans is another aspect of

discriminatory housing. This name was adopted because lending companies, agencies and insurance has been known to take city maps drawing a red line around certain sections, then excluding all within the "red-lined" section from loans and insurance.

Redlining denies or discourages the flow of mortgage money to a neighborhood based on arbitrary characteristics such as age of location of a house, or area traits such as the racial or ethnic characteristics of the residents, or the income levels of the residents. Very often redlining leads to neighborhood deterioration, with blight and abandonment spreading. The houses are left to rot or are torn down, making way for urban renewal.

Not surprisingly, the areas most often included in these red lines are the inner city neighborhoods, where many of the minorities reside. This red-lining practice is another form of exclusionary, discriminatory housing and further hampers the poor and minorities from improving their own situation.

## PROBLEMS FOR RENTERS

Tenants must be informed of their rights. The citizens of this state are fortunate to have Tenant-Landlord Act of 1973, but it is not enough. Nearly 50% of all Portland residents are renters and could be evicted without any just cause should the landowner need to do so. All the landowner need to do is give a 30-day written notice. But with the housing shortage, many people, especially the old, the poor, the handicapped, and minority persons, are afraid to complain about housing code violation for fear of being evicted. Another cause for concern is that Tenant-Landlord Act allows the landowner to raise the rent any amount and as often as she/he likes as long as 30 days notice is given each time.

Renters rights include livable housing. This means no leaking roof, holes in walls, broken plumbing and adequate heating facilities. The landowners responsibility is to supply these. The renter is not responsible for any major property repair; i.e., roof patching or plumbing repair.

The landowner is also required by federal law not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religious or national origin. In addition, State laws protect against discrimination on the basis of marital status or handicap. Many families in the Portland area have found themselves denied the sale or leasing of housing because of their sex, race or ethnic background. Also, discrimination against families with children in apartment rentals has reached crisis proportions.

**DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS FAMILIES**  
Discriminatory practices towards families with children

are common, with low-income single parents taking the brunt. A recent study by MHRC shows that 80% of the complexes prohibit children, as do 1/2 of Portland's single family homes. This discrimination is not illegal. While parents and their children seek housing, they often stay with friends or sleep in their cars. Finding this situation less than ideal and often tiresome, they wind up spending more than they can afford for unsatisfactory housing, accepting anything in wearied desperation. A tight housing market exists in Portland, which allows for greater restrictions by landowners.

Many landowners cite property damage and tenant disturbance as reasons to prohibit children from their property, claiming children tear up apartments and break windows, screaming all the while. From a more practical viewpoint it is true that single persons and childless couple housing is much more inexpensive to build and maintain than are larger complexes.

Complexes built to accommodate children are not cost effective from a landowner's standpoint. Apartments must be built larger and playground space allowed, thus subtracting from the number of apartments able to be built on a given amount of space. Soundproofing is necessary when constructing with children in mind, meaning a higher overhead for the builder. Many landowners want to keep the overhead down to the minimum on their investment. MHRC, the Apartment Owners Association, the Portland Board of Realtors, the Multifamily Housing Council and others have formed a task force to address this issue. The task force seeks cooperation in the alteration of potentially suitable buildings, and also training programs and certification for complex managers. The committee would also like to see a ratio of children per unit to be a voluntary rule among apartment owners.

## HANDICAPPED RIGHTS

State law grants the handicapped some rental rights. A landowner may not refuse to make minor necessary adjustments to make their property accessible to the handicapped, such as installing a ramp on a short staircase. If the adjustments would demand major construction, such as the widening of a door way or installation of a special shower, the landowner may not refuse to comply if the handicapped renter agrees to pay all costs incurred. Landowners may not refuse to rent their property to the handicapped with the handicap being the sole basis of refusal.

## VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Persuading people to do voluntarily what is required by law is a MHRC fair housing goal. Voluntary agreements

subscribed to by local boards of realtors, Housing Urban Development, local enforcement and fair housing organizations are looked upon as effective tools to work out fair housing problems. There is hope that individuals or firms complying with fair housing legislation might see their way clear to engage in efforts beyond those strictly required by law.

As noted above, many types of housing discrimination exist. To combat this discrimination, MHRC has



established a Housing Discrimination Checking Service. Frequently, substantiation of discrimination is required. The Checking Service, using volunteer checkers, gathers evidence of discriminatory practices inherent in differential treatment. Examples of differential treatment include telling minorities that the landlord is not available to show the unit, when this is not true, quoting higher prices or rents to minorities, charging higher deposits and nonrefundable fees, and refusing to rent or sell to those covered under civil rights laws. Both federal and state laws accept evidence of differing treatment as evidence of discrimination.

To demonstrate a difference in treatment, a checker similar to the complainant except for the factor discriminated against, is sent to the landlord or realtor involved. If the checker receives different information than the complainant, discrimination is indicated. For example, a man believes he has been denied an apartment on the basis of race, a white checker, similar in background and income, would be sent to the same apartment. If they are given different information about the availability, the price or conditions, then the discrimination complaint is strengthened.

Complaints can be filed at either the state or federal level, or a complainant can proceed with a civil suit. Because a civil suit can result in higher settlements than the complaint process, some complainants prefer this approach even though it involves legal fees.

If the complainant decides to file a complaint, the MHRC Checking Service will assist him or her in setting up interviews, preparing written accounts of the incident, and at-

tending hearings. This increases the accessibility to state and federal processes by complainants. In addition to conducting checks and helping persons filing complaints, the Checking Service will refer complainants with problems other than discrimination to agencies which addresses their concerns directly.

MHRC wishes to see equal access to housing for all groups of people with a high rate of neighborhood diversity. In its advocacy for a truly pluralistic community, MHRC

advocates reduction of the isolation of economic and racial groups of people within communities and geographic areas. This mission could be greatly enhanced if the city insisted on fair housing concepts in every housing policy it adopts.



## FAIR HOUSING WHO, WHAT AND WHERE'S

To file an Oregon State Housing Complaint contact:  
Oregon State Bureau of Labor, Civil Rights Division  
1400 SW 5th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97201  
(503) 229-5004  
To file a Federal Housing Discrimination Complaint contact:

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division  
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development  
530 SW 6th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 221-3127

A federal complaint must be filed within 180 days of the incident which the discrimination took place.

To contact the MHRC Checking Service and/or obtain any additional information or assistance with filing a complaint or if you have any questions about fair housing, contact:

Mr. Richard Kuczek  
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission  
430 SW Morrison St.  
Room 312  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 248-4187

Excluding any ensued court costs, all of these services are free to the public.

Vern B. Pearson -

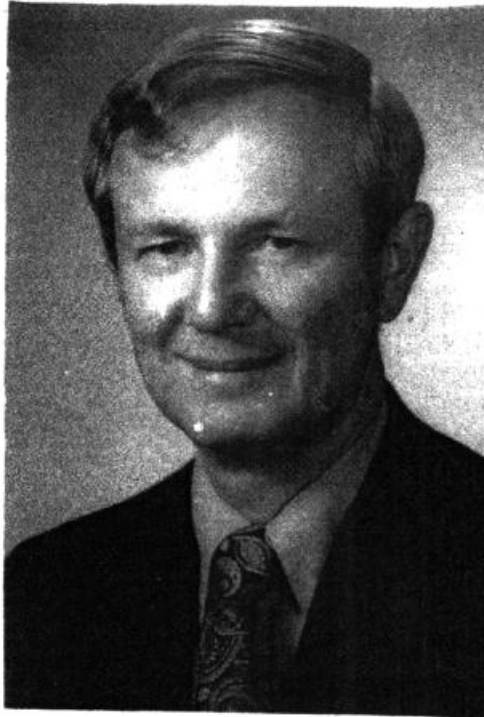
## A portrait of business with a social conscience

Few individuals in the business world have demonstrated more social awareness and responsibility than has Vern Pearson, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Pearson, a native of Minnesota, came to Portland as a youth of 12. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and attended Vanport College (now Portland State College) for two years. After 2 years in the Army he graduated from the University of Washington.

Presently, he is Vice President and Manager of the Public Affairs Division of the United States National Bank of Oregon where he recently celebrated his silver anniversary as an employee. He is responsible for government relations and economic development and the Community Affairs Department. The Community Affairs Department represents the bank to the public in various ways and manages a unique program called the Opportunity Loan Program, which is designed to provide loan to industry and business of the "disadvantaged class" who do not meet the bank's regular lending standards. Loans are also made to non-profit social service organizations to assist in relocating, new projects and other similar undertakings. Although the program is not specifically designed for minority groups, these are the groups it most frequently serves. For example, it will help lower income individuals to build housing, purchase necessary job equipment, obtain additional education necessary for job advancement, or as in one case, pay the initial fee needed to join a certain union.

Mr. Pearson was appointed Commissioner to MHRC in 1975 by former Mayor Neil Goldschmidt. He served as Chairperson for two years, 1976 and 1977. This year he



Vern B. Pearson

began his term as Chairperson on the MHRC Employment Committee which he has served on for several years.

The role of MHRC in City and County human rights affairs is perceived by Mr. Pearson as an important and vital one. He feels it is essential to have a specific agency that deals with human rights issues and offers "a stabilizing influence."

Mr. Pearson sees MHRC as instrumental in initiating many useful organizations. The Coalition for School Desegregation, and the Neighborhood Mediation Project all began while he was the Chairperson of MHRC.

During the last five years, Mr. Pearson has witnessed the

positive expansion of MHRC including the addition of staff and activities. He saw the Commission go through a painful growth period and emerge the stronger because of it. "The Commission has taken on many meaningful projects. Four or five years ago, we were groping for our role but now we have found that role and we play a useful part in the City."

Mr. Pearson sees the Employment Committee faced with future challenges but is confident that the committee's past successes are indicative of its problem-solving potential. He is pleased with the Committee's past involvement with Portland's Affirmative Action program and the Contract Compliance Ordinance but

finds it a problem to efficiently monitor these programs. To monitor the proceedings and the outcome of these programs is a "horrendous task" and, thus far, the Committee has had to be "content with a random sampling." Vern finds fault with this system and hopes that the Committee can devise a "system that will make random samplings meaningful."

When asked about equal employment opportunities in the Metro area, in both the public and private sector, Pearson said he had no specific data to categorically prove anything but he suspects "as a reasonable assumption, that this area has a long way to go before fully attaining equal employment opportunities for all groups of people." He would like to see the Employment Committee take a strong look at the probable causes of unequal treatment in employment opportunities. There are many, such as politics and racism. He would like the Employment Committee to work in this area and come up with "some sort of definitive statement, looking at facts and figures - does this Metro area fully carry out equal employment opportunity commitments."

Presently Mr. Pearson is concerned about the City's CETA program. CETA's original purpose was to "develop skills of the unemployable" and he feels to a large extent this is not being done. Vern sees CETA "more involved with employing those with college degrees and not doing enough for the person who was a high school dropout at 15 and now at 21 has no skills or job attributes." Vern believes the City needs to address the unemployable, offering them tangible opportunities or "condemn them to poverty for the rest of their lives."

Mr. Pearson has also been

giving some consideration to the Portland Public Schools System and asks "Is Portland Public Schools District #1 only concerned with turning out potential college students?" Mr. Pearson says, "Let's face it, not every High School student wants to go to college. What about those who are good with their hands?" Mr. Pearson believes that the less academically inclined have been forgotten. "Not everyone gives two hoots and a holler about History, Shakespeare, or Physics." Mr. Pearson thinks that High School students should receive instructions in work habits that would prepare them to join the work force. He feels that the correct attitude towards the working world and one's role in such an environment is vital to one's survival and that this training is missing from the secondary school programs. "We need to find out if we are doing what needs to be done for today's young people."

In addition to his work with MHRC, Mr. Pearson serves as a board member of Emanuel Hospital, the Diabetes Association, and of Loaves and Fishes. He is also Chairperson of Metropolitan Hospitals, Incorporated.

Vern Pearson is married to Barbara Vessey and they have two children, one of each sex, who are both in their twenties. Mr. Pearson enjoys fishing and hiking. He spent his recent vacation backpacking on a section of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Mr. Pearson has steadfastly served MHRC as a competent member for five years and his present term expires in December, 1981. He is not sure, at this time, if he will be able to serve another term. Whether he does or not, MHRC has benefited from Vern Pearson's perserving concern and sustained responsiveness to human rights.

## Thumbnail sketches of Commission members

**Armando Laguardia** - A native of Cuba, Armando arrived in the U.S. in 1962. Resettling in Portland, Armando attended both Cleveland and Jefferson High School, obtaining his BA in Romance Languages and Education from the University of Oregon. He was instrumental in the development of the Black Student Union at University of Oregon, where he returned in 1971 as director of the University's Community Project. In 1975, he was in PSU's General Assistance Center as the Program Coordinator, and has since then been involved with PSU's Black Studies Department. Armando is now employed by the PSU Education Opportunity Program. He is presently Chairperson of Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

**Carol Clark Edmo** - Ms. Edmo, of Sioux heritage, was born in Connecticut, and spent her summers on various Reservations in the Southwest and the Midwest. She attended both the University of Denver and the University of Chicago, studying Sociology, Anthropology and Child Psychology. Carol is adamant in her pursuit of the rights of Native Americans and is now the Director of Community Affairs for the Urban Indian Council, an organization tailored to the needs and desires of Native Americans. Ms. Edmo is the vice Chairperson of the Commission and Chairperson of the Equal Justice Committee.

**Nitina Chavan** - Ms. Chavan is a native of India, where she completed her undergraduate work in Chemistry before coming to the United

States. She attended the University of Oregon where she received two masters degrees, the first in Special Education and the other in Journalism.

Nitina has been professionally dedicated to the field of education, especially for handicapped and disabled children. She was appointed to the MHRC Education Committee in 1977 and is now employed as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Eleanor Davis** - Ms. Davis graduated with a BA in Sociology from the University of Washington. After many years of volunteer public service, her first job was with a YWCA teen program and since then she has been associated with many community organizations. She currently works in the intake section of

the State Bureau of Labor's Civil Rights Division. She was a past Chairperson of the Education Committee on which she presently serves. Ms. Davis has been an active advocate in the area of women's rights.

**Lucy Cozzetto** - Ms. Cozzetto has attended both the University of Oregon and PSU to study Business Administration. She has volunteered as a school board member, a tax and financial consultant to minorities, senior citizens and low income families, and worked with Vietnamese Family Services. She now serves on MHRC's Housing Committee.

**Vincent A. Deguc** - Mr. Deguc is an attorney who received his BA in government from the University of Notre Dame du Lac, and graduated from Lewis and Clark Law

School. He has been in private practice since April 1977, is active in the Native American and Polish Community, and is a member of MHRC's Equal Justice Committee.

**Sho Dozono** - Mr. Dozono is a past president of the Japanese American Citizens League and would like to establish closer ties between the Japanese Community and other minority organizations in Portland. He received a BS in History from the University of Washington and a Masters in teaching from Portland State University. He taught at Grant High School for five years, where he started a Student's Human Relations Commission. He is a management/personnel specialist, a children's athletic coach, has taught Japanese at Portland

(Continued on back page)

# More Commission members

(Continued from page 3)

State University, serves on the National Conference of Christians and Jews and is Chairperson of MHRC's Education Committee.

**John F. Heflin** - Dr. Heflin received his BA in Political Science/History from New Mexico Highlands University and both his Masters and Ph.D from Stanford University in School Administration. He is the Chairperson of NAACP's Education Committee, an associate professor at PSU's School of Education and a member of MHRC's Education Committee.

**The Reverend James D. Hulett** - The Rev. Hulett, a Methodist Minister, received his BS degree from Portland State University, his MS degree from New York University and his Doctorate of Ministry from the School of Theology at Claremont in California.

Mr. Hulett has been the Chairperson of both the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Portland State University and the Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church. He spent two months in Hessel, England, on a pastoral exchange. Mr. Hulett now serves on the South East Quadrant Citizens Advisory Board of Multnomah county, MHRC's Employment Committee and is church Pastor of Portland's Trinity United Methodist Church.

**Robert W. Pike** - Mr. Pike received his BA's in Political Science and Speech from the University of Washington and has graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School. He is chairperson of the City County Advisory Committee on the Disabled, the City of Portland Bldg., Code Waiver Board and serves on MHRC's Equal

Justice Committee. Mr. Pike is now studying for Oregon's Bar Exam in February.

**Eve Rosenfeld** - Ms. Rosenfeld graduated from the University of Oregon with a Liberal Arts education. She also did graduate work at the School of Social Work at Columbia University, New York City. Ms. Rosenfeld has done many years of volunteer work with the Portland Public Schools, including a term as PTA President. She now is the Congregational Affairs Director of the Congregation Beth Israel and serves on MHRC's Employment Committee.

**James R. Sitzman** - Mr. Sitzman graduated from Willamette University and from Harvard Divinity School. In the past, he has been a minister, a YMCA director, and a staff person of MHRC. Presently he is director of the Division of Natural

Resources for Metro. He involves himself in many civic activities such as being a member of the City Club, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Common Cause, Fair Share, etc. He was Chairperson of MHRC for the past two years and is the Chairperson of the Housing Committee.

**Olga Ann Talley** - Ms. Talley, who joined MHRC and the Employment Committee during the summer of 1980, received her Bachelors in Elementary Education from the University of Portland and her Masters of Science in Special Education from PSU. She has, since 1970, worked as a child development specialist in several different capacities and now is the Associate Director of the Early Childhood Education Head Start Program.

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

412 City Hall  
Portland, Oregon 97204



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## Procedure for Newsletter

Format as of August, 1977: (Subject to alternative ideas of course)

Interview with commission member

Exploration of minority connected agency - examination of services offered, population served, staff structure, history, future, etc.

Activities re civil rights issues, affirmative action, contract compliance or non-compliance news, local events pertaining to human relations.

Committee activities, agendas, recommendations of individual committees or the commission as a whole.

Question/Answer column addressing current issue of interest.

Calendar - activities of relevant agencies, coming attractions and events of note, speeches, films, seminars, etc.

View of director, from a human rights point of view.

Any other either solicited or unsolicited items from staff or others.

Possible additions:

Monitor of new units activities (neighborhood mediation and discrimination study) if desired.

Expansion of Question/Answer to anticipate future grievances or issues emerging in this area.

Background and followup of civil rights issues, from a historical perspective or from a current impetus viewpoint.

Assignments of staff - results of individual research, reports, etc.

## Printing Procedure

There are two main choices in this process; utilizing the county printing procedure, or MHRC staff and Observer facilities.

County printing process: MHRC can contract with the county printing office to typeset, layout and pasteup the newsletter. They take bids on the entire process, submit the galleys to the commission, send them back to the typesetting company for corrections or changes, and initiate the bidding procedure for printing.

Estimated cost of this procedure: (Assuming 16 hours labor for typesetting and 6 hours for layout and pasteup)

16 hrs. at \$15 per hr. typesetting = \$240

(layout and pasteup included)

Corrections or changes 40

Cost of printing (2000 copies of  
4 page tabloid style)

70  
\$350

**TERRY D. SCHRUNK**  
MAYOR



**RUSSELL A. PEYTON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
316 CITY HALL

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
**OREGON**

MHRC labor and Observer facilities process: MHRC can utilize the typesetting, layout and pasteup facilities of the Observer, using staff labor. Supplies such as the film for the compugraph typesetter, layout paper, wax, negatives, etc. can be paid for directly. Making negatives at the initial layout will avoid mistakes that otherwise go uncorrected if negs are made at the printers. The bidding procedure for printing is followed as delineated in the county printing office, with lower bid doing the actual printing.

Estimated cost of this procedure: (Assuming same hours and number of copies)

Labor is not a factor here, since the commission would be paying the person's salary anyway, if otherwise engaged.

Cost of supplies involved in typesetting,

layout, pasteup and negative procedures = \$15

Cost of printing 70

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\$85

**TERRY D. SCHRUNK**  
MAYOR



**RUSSELL A. PEYTON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
316 CITY HALL

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
**OREGON**



in the business of real estate to deny, restrict or provide unequal services and opportunities in the sale or rental of dwellings.

State and federal fair housing law can be enforced either by government agencies or in a court of law.

In the State of Oregon, people can file their complaints of discrimination in housing with the Oregon Civil Rights Division (CRD). The CRD is a division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries and located at 1400 S.W. 5th Ave., 4th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97201 (Telephone: 229-5900). To file a complaint, hard and fast evidence is not necessary; a person need only believe that they have been discriminated against. However, there is one stipulation that the complaint must be filed within one year after the incident occurred.

After the complaint has been filed, the CRD will first attempt to resolve the dispute through a Pre-determination Settlement (PDS). The PDS is a no-fault agreement signed by the complainant, respondent, and representatives of the CRD. If either the complainant or respondent are not satisfied with the terms of the PDS and refuses to sign, then the PDS will be dropped and the case will be turned over to a Fact Finding Conference (FFC).

At the FFC, each side will give their version of the story. At the end of the FFC, and after the CRD has determined whether or not a violation of fair housing law has occurred, the complainant and respondent may agree to settle the complaint. If not, and if the FFC found substantial evidence, the case will be turned over to a field investigator.

The investigator is an impartial fact finder who will collect pertinent information and materials relevant to the case. Based on the evidence gathered by the earlier FFC and the investigator, the CRD will decide whether or not there is substantial evidence of a violation. If the CRD concludes there is, the CRD will again try to get the complainant and respondent to settle voluntarily.

If no agreement is reached through conciliation, the complaint may be turned over to the State Attorney General's Office (AG). After evaluating the case, the AG may prepare specific charges against the respondent on behalf of the CRD. A hearing will be scheduled and a notice of the charges and the hearing will be served to both the complainant and respondent.

Before the hearing, both parties may still settle voluntarily. If no settlement is reached, a hearing will be conducted, testimony under oath will be taken, and a hearing officer will make a proposed order that makes a finding of the facts, a conclusion of the law, and an appropriate remedy (if any). Based on the proposed order, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries will issue a Final Order. Final Orders can be appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals and, beyond that, the Oregon Supreme Court.

At anytime before or after filing a complaint of discrimination in housing with the Oregon Civil Rights Division (CRD), the complainant may secure a lawyer and file the case in Circuit Court. However, if the case is already filed with the CRD, then it will be dropped should the complainant fail to withdraw it himself. In other words, a complaint cannot be pursued by both the CRD and Circuit Court simultaneously.

The CRD has jurisdiction over a complaint for only 12 months; Circuit Court may handle a case indefinitely.

## COMMITTEES

### Employment Committee

The Employment Committee is presently working hard with youth unemployment and trying very actively to penetrate the business community for the real hiring of the youth in Metropolitan Portland. The Committee is also evaluating City/County EEO. The Committee has just written a letter to Gov. Atiyeh on this critical issue of Youth Unemployment.

### Communications Committee

Communications Committee projects, in addition to this newsletter, include a speakers bureau, a poster outreach program, and a cable-TV show. The latter is a series of TV shows, broadcast by Rogers Cablesystems, detailing issues of concern to the various committees of the Equal Justice Committee. (Call John Blank, 796-5136, for scheduling information.)

### Equal Justice Committee

The Equal Justice Committee's (EJC) work includes monitoring various ongoing City/County and volunteer committees and commissioners: for example, the Internal Affairs Auditing Committee, the Public Safety Policy Commission, and others. In addition, the MHRC has been asked to monitor juvenile services in Multnomah County with regard to minority needs, input and participation; EJC staff has been assigned this task.

Ongoing EJC projects include updating the Pre-trial Release Study, which examines the different rates of citations vs. bookings for minorities and whites; and the Court Interpretation Project, which aims to install a consistent, reliable system of providing translators for linguistic minorities—mainly Hispanics—who are arrested, tried, or otherwise involved in the court system.

## MHRC STAFF

**Metropolitan Human Relations Commission,  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland,  
Oregon 97204-1989 (503) 796-5136**

Director: Linda Roberts

Secretary: Gale Perlas

Committees:

Education/Employment: Dapo Sobomehin

Equal Justice/Communications: John Blank

Housing: Roberto Reyes-Colon

Coordinator/Disability Project: Jan Eisenbiesz



# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Newsletter

APRIL, 1984

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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Sho G. Dozono, Vice Chair  
Donny R. Adair  
Angelica Chatham  
Lucy J. Cozzetto  
Carol Clark Edmo  
John F. Heflin

Linda Johnson  
Sidney I. Lezak  
Keeton Lowery  
Robert W. Pike  
Marveita Redding  
Eve O. Rosenfeld  
James R. Sitzman

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Roosevelt Robinson  
Lt. Steve Tillinghast  
Rena Waterman  
L. Ramsay Weit  
Bill Wood  
Bob Wright

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Janine DeLaunay  
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Bernard K. Wolfard  
G. Park Woodworth

## RACE AND HOUSING PATTERNS IN PORTLAND, OREGON

### Is there Housing Segregation in Portland?

Minorities comprise about 14% of Portland's population. Of 100 Portland residents, approximately 86 are white; 7 are black; 4 are Asian/Pacific Islander; 2 are Hispanic and 1 is American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut.

Almost 52% of Portland's minority residents live in Inner Northeast neighborhoods, an area which represents about 15% of the city's population.

About 73% of Portland's black residents live in Inner Northeast neighborhoods. This area represents about 9% of the city's white population.

Approximately 60% of Portland's black residents live in neighborhoods where the black population exceeds 45%. This occurs in a city where the black population is about 7%.

Approximately 43% of Portland's black residents live in five Inner Northeast neighborhoods (Boise; Eliot; Humbolt; King and Vernon). These five neighborhoods represent less than 2% of the city's white population.

In these five Inner Northeast neighborhoods, the white population is about 34%, the black population about 60%.

Comparably sized Southwest neighborhoods represent about 5% of the city's minority population and minorities comprise only 4% of that area's population.

Inner Southeast neighborhoods, which represent a population larger than Inner Northeast, represent about 5% of the city's black population.

## How does Housing Segregation Correlate to Housing Ownership?

City-wide owner occupied rates:

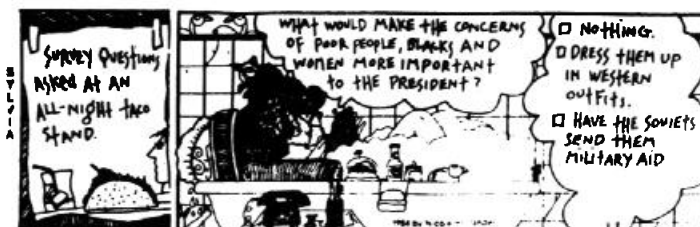
	% OWNER OCCUPIED	MEDIAN MORTGAGE
Whites	54.7%	\$361
Blacks	42.4%	\$343
Am. Indian	25.3%	\$313
Asian/Pac Is	43.0%	\$381
Hispanic	32.5%	\$364

Inner Northeast neighborhoods represent approximately 86% of black owner occupied units and about 11% of the city's white owner occupied units.

Inner Southeast neighborhoods, representing a slightly larger population, represent about 2% of black owner occupied units and about 13% of white owner occupied units.

Inner Northeast neighborhoods represent about 61% of Portland's black renter occupied units and about 6.6% of the white renter occupied units.

Inner Southeast neighborhoods represent some 9% of Portland's black renter occupied units and some 24% of



white renter occupied units.

The five Inner Northeast 'core' neighborhoods (Boise; Eliot; Humbolt; King and Vernon) represent almost 45% of the city's black owner occupied units, and about 1.7% of the city's white owner occupied units.

These five 'core' neighborhoods represent about 41% of the city's black renter occupied units and about 2.2% of the city's white renter occupied units.

City-wide, about 42% of black households are owner occupied. In Inner Northeast neighborhoods that figure is about 50% and in Inner Southeast neighborhoods it is about 9%.

### How does Housing Segregation Correlate to Housing Conditions?

City-wide, about 18% of white households and almost 40% of black households live on annual incomes of less than \$10,000.

City-wide, about 18% of black households and about 36% of white households have annual incomes exceeding \$25,000.

Inner Northeast neighborhoods representing about 73% of the city's black population and about 9% of the city's white population, represent about 85% of all black households and about 7.5% of white households with incomes exceeding \$25,000.

The five Inner Northeast 'core' neighborhoods represent about 45% of black households and .7% of white households with annual incomes exceeding \$25,000.

Inner Northeast neighborhoods represent about 86% of the city's black owner occupied mortgaged units and about 82% of those units with mortgages exceeding \$400 per month.

Inner Northeast neighborhoods represent about 11% of the city's white owner occupied units and about 7.5% with mortgages exceeding \$400.

The five Inner Northeast 'core' neighborhoods represent about 34% of all black owner occupied units with mortgages exceeding \$400, they represent about 3.6% of the city's white owner occupied units mortgaged in this amount.

The Inner Northeast neighborhoods represent about 61% of the city's black renter occupied units and about 70% of those with rents exceeding \$300.

The five Inner Northeast 'core' neighborhoods represent about 37% of black renter occupied units with rents exceeding \$300 and about 1.6% of white renters paying this amount.



### MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION: Its Purpose and Goals

by Dapo Sobomehin

America is a multicultural society, racially, religiously and ethnically diverse. Since the philosophy of American society invites such diversity, we must all learn to understand it and welcome it. However, it is all too obvious that there is vast misunderstanding, misconception, prejudice, distrust and, all too often, hatred that pervades America and affects the behavior of groups and individuals toward others different than themselves. America has a history of abuse against racial, ethnic and religious groups that has left a legacy in attitude and behavior. The purpose of multicultural education is to help students face that legacy, come to more humane and realistic understanding of other groups and thus become more responsible citizens; citizens who can work towards creating a more harmonious society and world.

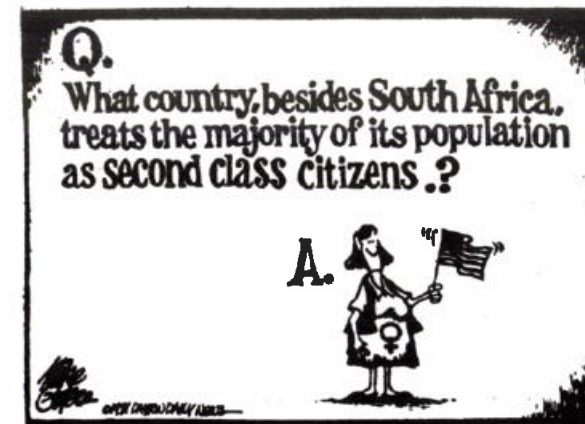
Our educational system has an obligation to develop citizens who have a thorough understanding of culture and ethnicity in our society. Such cultural understanding is linked to an understanding of the American legal system and how society's and individuals' values are influenced by that system. In understanding the cultures in our society, students must realize how law has affected the experience of ethnic and cultural groups especially in their struggle for social justice. American youth, sadly, know little of the problems faced by members of minorities in their struggle to achieve equality in this society. What little they know is often falsely colored by the "education" they receive from their family, peer groups, neighborhoods, churches, organizations, mass media throughout their lives.

By the time they reach school, most students have well developed attitudes about ethnic groups, including prejudices and stereotypes. One goal of multicultural education is to raise the students' level of critical thinking and awareness of the ways the society teaches them to think of other cultural, ethnic and religious groups. Multicultural education should seek to offset the negative aspects of this "education" by helping the students to evaluate its messages and their own beliefs and comparing them to real situations within their own communities. Through personal contacts, biographies, field trips and investigations into the ethnic makeup and history of their own communities,

students can begin to develop a realistic and positive understanding of groups they otherwise would have "known" from an unhealthy distance.

Multicultural education should also be a force for positive change within the legal system. Toward this end, students must know about the principles, ideals and realities of the U.S. system of law, legal processes and the government. This includes the different ways they have affected people of a variety of ethnic and cultural groups as they strive for social justice. Students also need to develop a personal ability to use the tools of law so they can gain both personal and group goals and in that way take part in creating a more equitable society.

Schools exist to prepare youth for the future. What kind of beliefs and attitudes they have about other ethnic groups and how that affects their behavior toward people different from themselves, depends greatly on the success or failure of the educational system to prepare them through multicultural education. Obviously, the educators themselves must be trained and educated, including evaluating their own beliefs and attitudes, if they are to train the youth to be critically aware and to resist the noxious effects of the "education" that surrounds them daily. Successful, well-planned multicultural education is a key to ensuring that our nation and the increasingly interdependent world will continue to exist and to become a better place for all people to live.



### THE DISABILITY PROJECT

In 1977, the Disability Project was established in order to ensure that people who are disabled are not discriminated against in employment, programs and services.

The Disability Project was established as part of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Disability Project Coordinator directs the work of the City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled, which is comprised of interested persons, including disabled persons or organizations representing disabled persons.

The Committee monitors and makes recommendations on City/County efforts to achieve program accessibility and barrier-free facilities and to recommend appropriate steps to achieve equal employment opportunities for the disabled.

To facilitate the Committee's work, three ongoing sub-committees exist. They offer the following services:

**Architectural Barriers.** (1) Reviews all plans for renovation of new construction or facilities owned, operated, leased, or occupied by City/County to determine accessibility; (2) Monitors all programs so that people with disabilities will not be denied the opportunity to participate in any services or activities provided by City/County; and, (3) Reviews all requests for waivers of architectural barrier requirements when facility is publicly owned.

**Employment.** (1) Monitors City/County employment policies and practices and recommends remedial steps to eliminate any remaining discrimination; (2) Assists in job restructuring to accommodate disabled workers; and, (3) Recommend to City/County ways to effectively increase community awareness of job opportunities available to the disabled population.

**Awareness.** Provides education, awareness and technical assistance through workshops, seminars and outreach.

The major project for the month of January was a five-week series on KBOO discussing issues of concern to the disabled.

### DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING: Laws and Procedures

by Scott Jones

Much confusion and misinformation exists about discrimination in housing and state and federal fair housing law. In order to advocate for their civil rights in housing, people need to know:

- Who is protected under the law;
- What discriminatory patterns and practices are illegal; and,
- How are the laws enforced?

Federal fair law prohibits discrimination in housing because of a person's race, color, national origin, religion or sex. In addition, Oregon's fair housing law further prohibits discrimination in housing because of a person's marital status, physical disability or mental disability.

However, in the State of Oregon, the prohibition against sex discrimination does not apply where unrelated persons of the opposite sex would have common use of bath—or bedroom facilities in a rental dwelling.

It is illegal, on the basis of a person's or group of person's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, physical disability or mental disability:

- To refuse to transact an agreement to rent or sell after a legitimate offer has been made;
- To impose discriminatory terms, conditions or privileges on an agreement to rent or sell;
- To limit or provide unequal services or facilities in connection with an agreement to rent or sell;
- To produce, or have produced, discriminatory notices, statements and advertisements and to use them to exclude, restrict or select potential buyers or renters;
- To misinform someone that a dwelling is unavailable for inspection, sale or rental when it is in fact so available;
- For profit, to encourage or cause people to "panic sell" or "panic rent" their dwellings;
- For financial institutions to deny people financial services related to housing such as loans and insurance;
- For real estate brokers and other organizations engaged

#### ANNOUNCING THE SECOND ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE

"Using the Market Place  
to  
Promote Fair Housing"

DATE: Friday, April 27th

TIME: 8:30 - 4:30

PLACE: THE GREENWOOD INN  
BEAVERTON, OREGON



Linda Roberts, continued

on board, MHRC had only four funded positions—Director, two staff persons, and one clerical position. “With only two staff,” Linda says, “it’s impossible to do serious research” to document the problems that exist in the Metropolitan area. Today, in spite of having lost two staff persons to the budget cuts last year, we are up to four full-time staff (plus a Director and an expanded clerical staff).

Also, during her tenure, Linda has succeeded in securing parity funding from Multnomah County and secured funding for the Fair Housing Program through Housing and Community Development Block Grant funds.

Linda thinks one of the major problems her replacement will face will be stable funding. In this era of budget retrenchment, programs like MHRC are especially vulnerable; continued funding will require strong advocacy by the new director.

The MHRC will continue to be very important to the community, Linda feels. One of the major issues facing this community is minority employment, especially among minority youth. The majority of private companies in Portland have a very poor record on affirmative action; there is lots of work that needs to be done to solve the minority employment crisis.

Following a well-earned vacation, Linda will be pursuing a master’s degree in Sociology at Portland State, specializing in race relations.

Good luck, Linda!

## MHRC STAFF

**Metropolitan Human Relations Commission,  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland,  
Oregon 97204-1989 (503) 796-5136**

**Director:** Linda Roberts

**Secretary:** Gale Perlas

**Committees:**

**Education/Employment:** Dapo Sobomehin

**Equal Justice/Communications:** John Blank

**Housing:** Roberto Reyes-Colon

**Coordinator/Disability Project:** Jan Eisenbeisz

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City of Portland  
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission  
Room 520  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989



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The Housing Committee of the MHRC assists individuals, government, industry, non-profit organizations and unincorporated neighborhood and community associations with enquiries about or complaints of discrimination in housing. It promotes affirmative housing for all, and contests discriminatory legislation, policies, rules and regulations in housing.

For more information, or if you feel you have been discriminated against in the matter of housing, call Roberto Reyes-Colon, 796-5136.

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# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Newsletter

AUGUST, 1984

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G. Park Woodworth

## Studies show high risk of inter-group conflict

A survey of the major studies conducted by the MHRC over the past couple of years shows that stress and tension arising out of discrimination because of race, color, religion or national origin are continual problems facing our community. The studies indicate the continuing need for an organization, such as the MHRC, with the specific responsibility and authority to carry out programs to improve inter-group relations in this metropolitan area.

This community has a large and growing ethnic and racial population. There are approximately 29,000 Blacks, 12,000 Hispanics, 12,500 Southeast Asian, and 5,000 Native Americans residing in the area.

The Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice, uses several variables to determine the risk level of community tensions between minorities and majority communities. They evaluate police-minority friction, economic anxiety, educational issues, and housing segregation. They also evaluate local governments’ response to those needs. In fact, the degree of local governments’ response to those inequities becomes the critical factor. If inequities exist and if there is a general perception that local government is unresponsive to those needs, the risk level escalates.

Here’s how the Community Relations Service variables apply to the Portland Metropolitan Area:

### Economic anxiety

- Minority youth unemployment is close to 60 percent; the overall unemployment rate for the City is 8.8 percent, for Blacks 19.4 percent, for all minorities 15.4 percent.

- Blacks represent 11 percent of the City’s population; however, they represent only about two percent of the work force in private industry.

- Minorities represent 14 percent of the City’s population; however, they represent only about seven percent of the city’s work force and nine percent of Multnomah County’s.

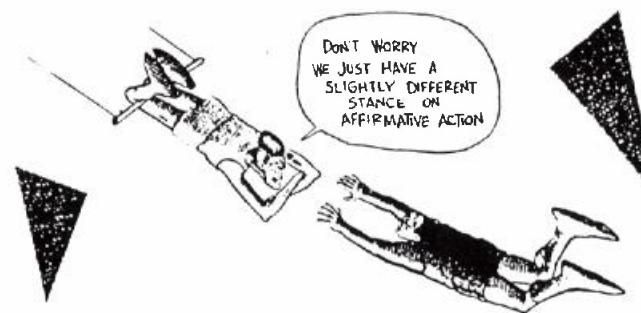
- The overall percent of poverty in the Portland SMSA is 12.3 percent. For Blacks it is 30.6 percent; for all minorities it is 24.5 percent.

### Education

- In Portland Public Schools, the suspension rate for white students is 3.9 percent, for Native Americans 4.05 percent, for Blacks 7.97 percent and for Hispanics 5.9 percent. The dropout rate for white students is 7 percent, for Native Americans 14 percent, for Blacks 9.2 percent, for Hispanics 9.6 percent.

- The achievement levels of Black students are approximately two grade-levels behind white students’. This becomes especially critical when our society is moving into an era of “Educational Excellence.”

(Continued on next page)



(Inter-group conflict, continued)

#### Police-community tensions

- The State of Oregon is second in the nation in the incarceration of Blacks into state prisons.
- Black youth are disproportionately represented in Juvenile Court. In the area of delinquency and status offenses, 37 percent are racial or ethnic minorities. Almost three times as many minorities were in Juvenile Court as would be expected from the proportion of minorities in the under-18 population in Multnomah County. Further, these youth who come in contact with the Juvenile Court are disproportionately sentenced to Hillcrest and MacLaren. (Out of 51 children committed to Hillcrest or MacLaren, almost half—47 percent—were minorities.)
- Out of a police force of 687, the Portland Police Bureau has only 33 minority officers.
- In the past few months, there have been two major incidents involving large numbers of Blacks and Portland police (Pier Park and the Video Arcade on N.E. Union).
- In MHRC's 1982 Pre-Trial Release Study, the probability of being booked into jail, rather than simply cited by the Portland Police Bureau, was directly related to the race of the person charged with an offense.
- Multnomah County has a large limited or non-English

speaking population, including native speakers of other languages as well as speech- or hearing-impaired persons. However, interpreter/translator services are available only on an ad-hoc, improvisatory basis; there is no systematic means of providing qualified, professionally certifiable interpreters or translators in situations involving these people and the Justice System.

#### Segregated housing

- Minorities comprise about 14 percent of Portland's population. Almost 52 percent of Portland's minority residents live in inner-Northeast neighborhoods. Approximately 73 percent of Portland's Black residents live in inner-Northeast neighborhoods.
- City wide, about 15 percent of single-family and 13 percent of multi-family units are considered to be in "fair-to-poor" condition. In inner-Northeast neighborhoods, about 23 percent of single-family and 20 percent of multi-family units are considered to be in fair-to-poor condition, a rate 50 percent greater than the City as a whole.
- Approximately 13 percent of the City's population live in neighborhoods where "fair-to-poor" housing stock exceeds 25 percent. Almost 64 percent of the City's Black residents live in comparable neighborhoods.

## City flunks affirmative action evaluation

Minority utilization figures for the City of Portland, as presented by City Affirmative Action/EEO Status Reports, have been disappointing to us at the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. MHRC is extremely concerned about lack of representation of minorities and women in the City's departments. The situation has reached a critical point, not only because the problem is continuing, but because it has deteriorated from last year.

A review of similar governmental bodies in the Portland Metropolitan Area indicates that there is an availability of qualified candidates. Multnomah County has succeeded in virtually reaching their affirmative action goals in the third quarter of 1983-84 (10.45 percent minorities; 44.80 percent women). Tri-Met has 16.3 percent minorities and 22.4 percent women; the Port of Portland 11 percent minorities and 30 percent women. However, the City is far from attaining its goals, resulting in underutilization in all but two categories of jobs, paraprofessional and clerical. The overall utilization for the City is 6.9 percent for minorities, 20.7 percent for women. Although women are slightly farther from parity than minorities on the average, the City is still one-third away from reaching parity for both categories. By race, this average holds true for Blacks and Asians, but not for Hispanics and Native Americans who are 57 percent from parity.

Another indication that availability is not the issue is the fact that when the City has an opportunity to hire women and minorities, they do not. In the first nine months of FY 1983-84, there were 37 positions where women and minorities were among the top three candidates (13 classifications had minorities, 24 classifications had women candidates), and they were not hired. This causes us to question commitment not only to affirmative action but to fairness in hiring practices.

In addition, in 1980, City Council overwhelmingly passed an ordinance, Affirmative Action Certification Rule, which would assist the City in reaching affirmative action goals.

The selective certification has never been used by any City bureau.

City Council recently approved an Affirmative Action Plan for the disabled. In 1985, MHRC's report will include an evaluation of disabled employees in City employment.

#### Recommendations

- The Commission recommends as a basic part of the City's commitment to Affirmative Action/EEO that when a minority or woman places number one for a position where under-utilization exists, the City makes a commitment to hire that candidate.
- The Commission recommends that the City's EEO Regulatory Committee be reestablished to monitor and evaluate Affirmative Action/EEO performance of the City. We believe that this committee is indispensable for the realization of equity and fairness in the hiring practices of protected groups.
- The Commission recommends that the City resume active recruitment of minorities and women to enhance its recruitment and hiring of protected classes for employment. (The Affirmative Action Office staff has been reduced and limits the current ability for recruitment.)
- The Commission recommends that the City develop specific recruitment programs in the Hispanic and Native American communities.
- The Commission recommends that the City reaffirm their commitment to Affirmative Action by encouraging bureaus to use the Selective Certification when necessary and appropriate.

We strongly urge the City to seriously consider these recommendations and take appropriate action. We urge the City to be in the forefront, setting an example for companies doing business with the City and for the entire community in order to achieve the reputation of a city with equal employment and a general sense of fairness.

#### Minority youth unemployment reaches crisis point

by Dapo Sobomehin

Minority youth unemployment in the Portland Metropolitan Area has reached a critical point. It must be a concern to all humane, compassionate and committed citizens of this community. The issue has become so important that people on the public buses, in the parks, and attending social gatherings are talking about it. People are looking for a solution to this malignant disease in the Portland area. The high unemployment rate among minority youth has existed in Portland for a long time, but the recent recession has complicated the situation.

The overall unemployment rate for youth between the ages of sixteen and nineteen in the Portland Metropolitan Area is 27.4 percent; however, for minority youth of the same ages it is an appalling 66.4 percent. In actual numbers that translates into approximately 4,000 unemployed youth out of 6,000 minority youth between ages sixteen and nineteen in Portland. Many of these youth are seeking meaningful full-time employment in addition to those looking for worthwhile summer jobs.

Historically, opportunities for employment for minority youth have been provided mainly by the City of Portland through federally funded CETA Youth Employment Programs. A major contribution to the current crisis is the drastic federal cutbacks for CETA funds, from \$28 million five years ago to an expected miniscule \$5.8 million for FY 1982-83. This has had a severe impact on minority youth since they occupied 70 percent of the City's summer CETA jobs. Even at that high percentage, 2,300 minority youth were still unemployed. Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) has replaced CETA with a tokenish \$6 million for adult and youth employment and training programs. We hope that even with the handicap of insufficient funds, JTPA arranges its goals so as to have impact on the youth with the greatest unemployment record.

Hell awaits those minority youth who complete high school only to find that they lack adequate skills to compete for employment in our increasingly computer-technology oriented world. Employment statisticians have supplied us with the data that the poor, black youth have even more complicated problems due to rising school dropout rates and epidemic levels of teenage pregnancy; all of these problems contribute to developing a low self-esteem and self-respect. This deteriorating situation has caused minority youth to question the purpose of democracy in our society. As one dropout youth put it, "What does democracy mean to me when I cannot find a job to sustain myself? I feel useless in this society."

It has been projected that by the year 2000, minorities will be 20 percent of the population in Portland. The make-up will be equally one-third black, Asian, and Hispanic. Youth under age 18 are 38 percent of the black population and 42 percent of the Hispanic population. The result is that the future work force will be increasingly populated by youth who, historically, have not been well received by employers in Portland. This poses a great threat of instability in our community unless attitudes and actions change drastically. Portland cannot afford to create a future generation of idlers, loafers, and malcontents.

Immediate action must be taken in order to respond to the potential problem which may arise as a result of the lack of employment of our minority youth—tomorrow's adults. To equip these youths to participate as adults in the democratic

process will be a demanding task. The issues of prior educational background, lack of employment skills, and racial discrimination in the marketplace must all be tackled. Doing this effectively will be costly in dollars, but failing to face the problem head on will be even more costly in terms of lost human resources and the cost of repairing damages done to society by people not content to accept idly their bleak future. If unaddressed, their hell will become our hell.

It is both essential and possible for the public and private sector to collaborate in helping to relieve this problem; it only requires the creativity and commitment to do so. There must be a change of heart, a change of outlook, a total commitment to fulfillment of human needs and aspirations.



Linda Roberts (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

#### Linda Roberts leaves post to pursue Master's degree

Linda Roberts, MHRC's current Executive Director, has resigned, and will be leaving as of July 31st.

Linda came to the Commission in 1977. She worked as a staff member until 1979. When then-Director Nick Barnett took a year's leave of absence to work for Mayor Connie McCreedy, Linda took over as Acting Director. She moved into the Executive Director's position in 1980.

Linda is proud of her work with MHRC. When she came on board, she felt that the Commission "could be a vehicle to involve large sections of the community to turn issues around in Portland."

One issue Linda was heavily involved in was inequities in educational opportunities for minorities in Portland Public Schools. She told us that, "MHRC played a vital role in pulling together the Community Coalition for School Integration," and that the Commission provided staff support to the coalition for the first several months. It is a matter of history how the Community Coalition took up the issues of the dispersal of the black community through busing ("forced" rather than voluntary busing, due to the closure of middle schools in the black community), the high suspension/expulsion rate for minority students, and the lack of multicultural education for teachers. Another area where broad-based community support was crucial was the police/community coalition which resulted in the Citizens Auditing Committee.

In addition, Linda can feel proud of her role in strengthening MHRC organizationally. When she first came

(Continued on back page)



## Interview with Vince Deguc

(Continued from inside)

nary practices.

Vince strongly disagreed with the Board's historic reversal on Eliot School. (The Board had promised that Eliot would be the site of the new Middle School in the Black community; after Board elections, the new Board reversed itself on this, provoking a storm of protest that eventually won Eliot back.) The Board, Vince said, "made a commitment to the community and could have achieved a lot of credibility. . . [but] they damaged their credibility in the Black community. They had an optimum opportunity and they blew it."

### The future: same struggles and new ones

While some battles have been won, Vince feels that "we still have to be a watchdog. . . it's never-ending." In addition, "the same kinds of battles have to be fought again for other minorities" — here Vince mentioned Southeast Asians, religious minorities, gays and the disabled.

As an example, Vince noted the difficulties the disabled have experienced in getting the equal accessibility provisions of Sect. 504 enforced (see story elsewhere in this issue).

### MHRC STAFF

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Committees:

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### Employment/Economic development

Equal employment has always been a focus of MHRC; Vince views it as a worsening problem. As the economy declines, competition for jobs will increase, and the climate of inter-group relations will tend to worsen.

Is economic development, then, a human relations issue? "We're going to have to look at it," Vince feels. "It's very difficult to talk to someone about human dignity when they can't feed, house and clothe themselves."

As an avenue to explore, Vince thinks we should look at the role of small business, which, he feels, is the "heart of jobs creation."

### Women

"MHRC activities have been in areas that impact women — such as employment and FBEs — but not in areas that have been identified as solely women's issues," Vince pointed out. "The Commission will continue to work in areas such as equal employment, comparable worth, child care (with the School District regarding Latch-Key) and will strive to expand into other areas as we can, in terms of having impact locally."

In general, Vince feels, "We can't profess to have all the answers — we have to be vigilant on a regular basis." Our strength, says Vince, is our openness, and our ability to "keep a broad perspective. With our diverse backgrounds [on the Commission] we can achieve consensus."

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NOVEMBER, 1984

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Kitty Purser

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Donald B. Schwehn

Gordon H. Smith

Connie Soper

Bernard K. Wolfard

## Three MHRC seats open up

Three Commissioners have recently resigned from MHRC.

Linda Johnson has resigned to go to work for the City's Metropolitan Youth Commission; as City employees may not be Commissioners, she had to vacate her seat. In the meantime, she's also decided to run for the County Commission seat vacated by Gladys McCoy. Linda served on the Housing Committee, and was a Mediation volunteer.

Donny Adair has also resigned, because of added responsibilities at Emanuel Hospital. Since August 15th, he has been in charge of all the hospital's labor relations. Donny has served on the Employment and Communica-

tions Committees.

And most recently, Angelica Chatham has resigned, to go to work as an MBE specialist in Los Angeles. She has served on the Housing Committee, and was chair of the Peyton Awards Committee.

Angela, Donny and Linda — we wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors.

Due to these resignations, there are now three vacancies on the Commission. If you desire to serve on the Commission, feel like you might bring something of value to the body, and have the time and energy to contribute, please contact Reymundo Marin, staff director, for details on how to apply. (Commissioners are appointed by City and County Commissioners, but the MHRC can recommend appointments.)

## The unfinished agenda

By Reymundo Marin

MHRC Executive Director

Abelardo Delgado, the celebrated Chicano poet, wrote a poem entitled "Stupid America." Actually, he could have used a euphemism to soften reality as he saw it; however, his poem makes a positive statement that things could be different *if only* "you would let him."

*stupid america, see that chicano  
with a big knife  
on his steady hand  
he doesn't want to knife you  
he wants to sit on a bench  
and carve christfigures  
but you won't let him.*

*stupid america, hear that chicano  
shouting curses on the street  
he is a poet  
without paper and pencil  
and since he cannot write  
he will explode.*

*stupid america, remember that chicanito  
flunking math and english  
he is the picasso  
of your western states  
but he will die  
with one thousand masterpieces  
hanging only from his mind.*

The same argument could easily be made of all disenfranchised groups in our society, different ethnic and social groups, women of all races and men and women with different sexual orientation. It is the denial of the

(Continued on next page)

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## The unfinished agenda (Continued from front page)

development of the best potential within all of us that is so tragic. All want to become part of the American mosaic, however diverse or polychromatic. All want to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, there are some "un-smart" forces who are determined not to let it happen. It need not be this way, and if the poet speaks of "our" America in this fashion, it is because he loves it. We need to commit ourselves to making Portland a warmer and better place to live.

There is a growing number of unemployed, hard-core unemployed, who desperately need a chance to become productive and contribute to our society. We need to put our best minds to work to try to solve the unacceptable high unemployment rate among minority youth, the disabled and older workers. We need to involve business and corporate leaders, advocacy commissions, and the affected communities in a "think-tank" forum to come up with some solutions — beyond lip service — for the creation of real employment opportunities.

The "un-smart" barriers must come down in order to make fair housing a reality. Every fair-minded person in our society should help make affordable fair housing a priority.

The justice system should take a hard look at itself and truly strive to become color blind. All individuals in our society should feel secure in their person and be treated with respect, courtesy and dignity regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or economic status.

Unfortunately, there exists an unfinished agenda which needs to be addressed. We must constantly be on the lookout for the protection of civil and human rights of all people and appeal to the common decency that all of us possess. Let's put aside the meanness and the "stupidity" which the poet is alluding to and let us aspire to a higher ground, to a higher moral purpose, to a greater sense of fair play, and to a greater sensitivity towards the feelings and needs of others.

As Paulo Freire in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* suggests, our task is to collectively strive to liberate the oppressors of our society by helping them free themselves from the destructive oppression they carry within themselves. . . to help them overcome the oppressive racism, and destructive path in the denial of the rights of others. As Benito Juarez, the famous 19th Century Mexican statesman once said, "Among nations, as with individuals, the respect of the rights of others is peace." We can aspire to no less.

Recent citizen complaints to our office further corroborate the feeling that our civil and human rights agenda in the Portland Metropolitan Area is still unfinished:

- Employment discrimination complaints range from being harassed in the workplace, being bypassed for promotion, and later reduced in force (rifting) because of their low status, as well as being denied an opportunity for employment.
- Disabled citizens are being denied equal access to jobs and services.
- Majority and minority women are being denied equal pay for comparable work.
- Police are using entrapment, and are selectively enforcing laws to arrest male and female prostitutes.

- Hispanic citizens are being required to present proof of documentation — selectively enforced — based on national origin/visual discrimination.

- Employers are enforcing the unapproved Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill even before it is decided by Congress. The "unsmart" assumption still remains that people of color and/or with accents are somehow suspect aliens.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is composed of 15 hard-working, unpaid volunteer Commissioners who are appointed precisely to liberate the oppressors within all of us. There are currently three Commission vacancies which need to be filled. If you want to join us in improving human relations in the metropolitan area of Portland, please contact our office for more information. In addition, we have need for many volunteers in all our standing committees — dedicated individuals who wish to contribute their time and expertise in the areas of education, equal justice, employment, fair housing, the disabled, and communications.

We welcome all who seek the best for all people.

## Disabled struggle for accessibility

by Jan Eisenbeisz  
Coordinator, Disability Project

Under federal law — Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — no otherwise-qualified handicapped person shall, solely by reason of their handicap, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance.

That law as well as others is the reason why the City County Advisory Committee on the Disabled (CCACD) has been fighting so hard with the Justice Center, Performing Arts Center, and Pioneer Square to make them accessible to the disabled.

The CCACD worked with the architects from the very beginning, when these structures were merely drawings on sheets of paper, and put in long hours reviewing plans and making recommendations regarding accessibility compliance.

However, as they were built it seems like these recommendations were not adhered to. In particular, dispersed seating in the Performing Arts Center was not provided, courtrooms at the Justice Center were not accessible, and there was no access to the podium at Pioneer Square.

Finally, though, because of the persistence of CCACD, through many meetings and compromises with the architects, and having media coverage, some of these deficiencies have been corrected. Two courtrooms at the Justice Center are accessible, and by building a ramp one can now get onto the podium at Pioneer Square.

Laws only provide a framework, but proper enforcement is crucial in the effort if any real progress is to result.

The government could have saved approximately \$35,000 if CCACD's initial recommendations had been acted upon, and hours and hours of people's time could have been spent in other areas. A disabled friend once told me, "I get tired of people talking for us; I only wish they would talk *with* us."

Each quarter, this newsletter will feature an interview with one of the Commissioners. In this issue, we talk with Vincent Deguc, Commission Chairman.

## Chairman Vince talks about MHRC's past and future

Vincent Deguc, recently elected to his second term as MHRC Chairman, has been active with the Commission since 1977, at first as a volunteer on the Equal Justice Committee, and, beginning in 1978, as a Commissioner.

Vince began to do Human Relations work as a Vista attorney for the Urban Indian Council upon admission to the Oregon Bar in 1975; in 1977, he began both his private law practice and his volunteer work with MHRC.

## Police Internal Affairs Auditing Committee

One of the Commission's projects Vince is proudest of is its role in the creation of the PIIAC. "We were involved before [the] Storrs [Committee]," said Vince, in terms of dealing with the issue of appropriate responses to citizen complaints about the police. The MHRC helped form a community coalition to focus on the problem, Vince said. Because of the coalition's advocacy role, the City Council appointed the Storrs Committee, which designed the PIIAC that finally went to the voters in 1980 as Ballot Measure 54.

During this period, Vince said, he worked on the Equal Justice Committee to help formulate the Commission's position; in addition, he was a speaker for Ballot Measure 54 during the campaign.

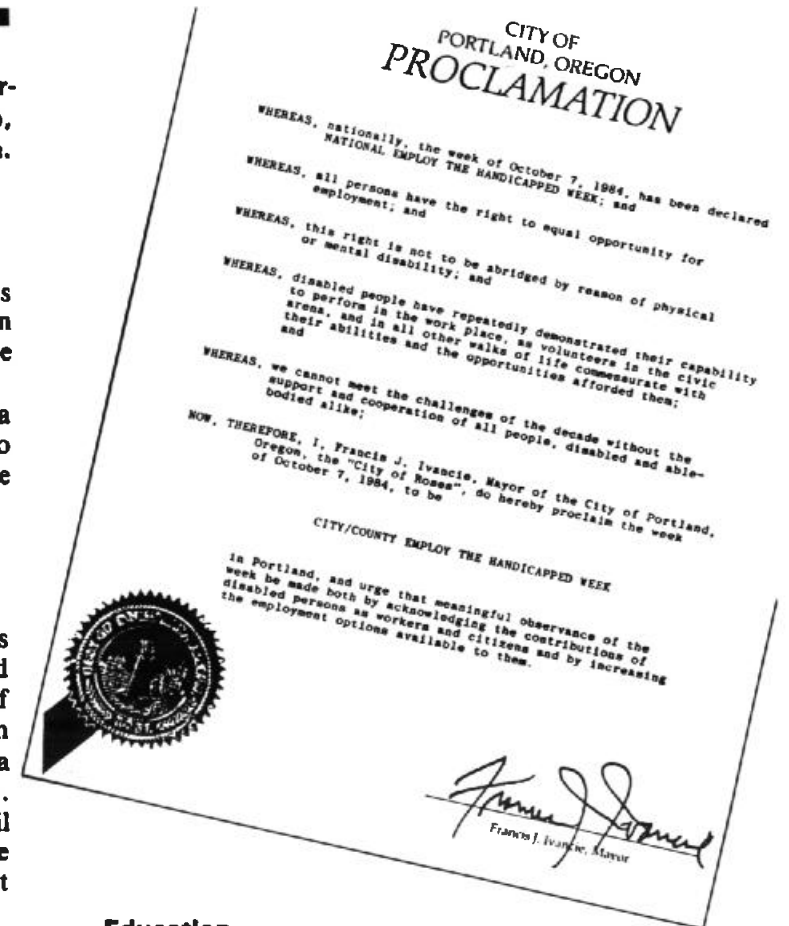
How would Vince evaluate the PIIAC? "I think they've been conservative," he says, "which is probably what I would have advocated too," since the PIIAC was a new, controversial organization. But, he feels, it has given us a valuable window on police conduct, and the fact that someone is being "a watchdog" has had a lot to do with officers' being more positive. "I think we have a better Bureau — in terms of responsiveness to the community — than we had a decade ago," Vince emphasizes.

## The 'possum incident

Was is racist? MHRC didn't say specifically, Vince recalls, but the Commission recognized that it could be racist, and that further the Black community did in fact view it as racist.

"My instincts were that Jordan was right" in wanting suspension or termination of the police officers, or some kind of sanction, Vince said. "The statement needed to be made, by a public official, that we're not going to tolerate activity by City employees that either is racist or even appears to be racist," Vince emphasized.

"The police union also lost a prime opportunity by failing to at least make to the Black community a statement sensitive to the issue of racism, while also making it clear that their responsibility was limited to labor-management relations," Vince continued. Thus, the police lost a golden opportunity for building police credibility in the Black community as well as the community as a whole.



## Education

Vince feels that the work MHRC did on Administrative Transfers (busing) and discipline was very important. According to Vince, MHRC did the initial studies on these problems, and was therefore a key force in the Community Coalition for School Integration's eventual recommendations for an end to forced busing, a Middle School in the Black community, and an end to discriminatory discipline.

(Continued on next page)

## Commission to host Peyton Award Luncheon

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission will hold its annual Russell A. Peyton Award luncheon on January 10, 1985.

In 1972, when Russell A. Peyton retired from his position as Executive Director of the MHRC, his friends and co-workers established an annual human relations award in his name as a way of recognizing his memorable compassion for, and his substantial contribution to, the cause of human equality.

The MHRC would appreciate your help in nominating a deserving person in our community for this award. Please submit a short profile or resume on the person(s) you nominate, including references, to "Peyton Award Committee," c/o MHRC, 1120 S.W. Fifth, Portland, OR 97204.

The luncheon will be held at noon, January 10, 1985, at the Red Lion Inn, 310 S.W. Lincoln. Tickets are \$10, and are available at the Commission. Please call Roberto Reyes-Colon for further information.

## Fair Housing

by Roberto Reyes-Colon

The Fair Housing Committee provides advocacy services as well as technical assistance to individuals who feel that they have been the victim of housing discrimination.

In addition, the project is developing procedures to identify major impediments to fair housing choice, as well as to undertake actions to overcome such impediments.

The Committee has identified several areas which impede fair housing efforts in the Metropolitan area. Among the many issues identified are:

- Housing affordability;
- Discriminatory practices of housing industry operators;
- Lack of coordination of fair housing efforts;
- Lack of ongoing secure funding for program development and implementation.

Your input is welcome in assisting us to identify other areas which are of concern to the community. Get involved — fair housing is the law! For further information, please call Roberto Reyes-Colon, 796-5136.

## Gays and Lesbians well-organized in Portland Area

by Kathleen Bambeck and Keeston Lowery

The Gay/Lesbian community is everywhere, invisibly immersed into society. (According to national demographic data, it is estimated that 10% of the total U.S. population is Gay or Lesbian.) You may say that you don't know any gay people, but how do you know that the person working with you is not a member of this hidden minority? It is hard remaining invisible, hiding daily behind the guise of being one of the gang. Therefore, many Gay and Lesbian persons find a safe environment in one or more of the many organizations, guilds, groups and clubs that abound in the Gay/Lesbian community. In such groups members find the safety to be themselves, often after a day of keeping silent, or perhaps a semester of knowing that if anyone learns of this part of their being they may lose jobs and/or friends. They remain hidden in the office or classroom and find they can come out within these groups.

There are organizations dealing with *being* Gay, such as the Lesbian Forum, Phoenix Rising, and the Counseling Center for Sexual Minorities. There is a local chapter of

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, which is planning to host the 1986 convention of the national organization. The Cascade Guild is organized into chapters of doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, business people and other professionals. There is a Gay fathers group; a group — Wildfire — for Gay and Lesbian teens; and the Bridge Club, a support group for young Gay/Lesbian adults. And the Lesbian Aging Project is currently making plans to establish a retirement community.

If one likes sports, upwards of 2,000 Gays and Lesbians are organized into softball teams, volleyball teams, running groups and a Gay/Lesbian bowling league that is one of the largest in the city. Representatives of these various sports leagues are currently making plans to participate in the International Gay Games II to take place in San Francisco in 1986.

And if show business is your game, there is the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, Lesbian and Gay theater groups, late-night drag shows, and charity functions where groups gather to entertain and raise money for a variety of community service organizations, such as the Pal Project (a support service organization for Gays and Lesbians in special health crises, including AIDS), and the Cascade AIDS Project, (which recently received a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to deliver educational services dealing with AIDS). A recent concert raised money for African relief.

In the political arena, the Right to Privacy PAC, Oregon's major Gay and Lesbian civil rights organization, raises \$32,000 annually at its Lucille Hart Dinner, proceeds from which go to the campaigns of gay-supportive candidates in Oregon.

In the sphere of religion, there is Dignity, an organization of Gay Catholics, and the Metropolitan Community Church, which ministers to primarily Protestant-oriented Lesbians and Gays. There is also an active chapter of Gay and Lesbian Friends, as well as groups of Jewish and Mormon Gays and Lesbians.

For more information on how to contact these organizations, consult a yearly publication called *Out and About*, available in Gay- and Lesbian-owned businesses, Gay/Lesbian bars, and Gay/Lesbian organizations.

The rapid emergence of all these groups in the 1970s stands in marked contrast to the fear and low level of organization of the McCarthy-era '50s, and will serve as a basis for the difficult challenges of the '80s.

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# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Newsletter

AUTUMN 1985

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## MHRC STAFF

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Executive Director: Reymundo Marin

Executive Secretary: Gale Perlas

Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator

John Blank, Human Relations Specialist

Roberto Reyes-Colon, Human Relations Specialist

Dapo Sobomehin, Human Relations Specialist

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Cheryl Harmon  
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Jean Malbrain  
Dennis Nordlof  
Larry Reilly  
Roosevelt Robinson  
Gary Schrader  
Clyde Stites  
William L. Wood

The Communications Committee would like to take this opportunity to inform our readers that Mayor Bud Clark and Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington have instituted an official police liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community. Deputy Chief Tom Potter has stepped forward to volunteer to serve in this capacity.

## AIDS termed "holocaust" for Gay community

AIDS is rapidly emerging as the number one item on the Gay political agenda. According to Sandy Director, Portland's "Gay mayor," the disease is essentially threatening the Gay community with a "holocaust."

Brown McDonald, head of the Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), concurs. He points out that although the number of AIDS diagnoses in the state is relatively low (43 to date), the rate of increase is truly alarming: Oregon doubled its number of diagnosed cases in the last eight months, and will probably double it again in the next eight. (In California the doubling rate is every 12 months.)

John Baker, Chair of City Nights, which raises funds for AIDS service organizations, stresses that "politically, AIDS is one of the main issues" affecting Gays: "It's making it more difficult" to get equal protection legislation.

Baker, who is also a board member of the Right-to-Privacy PAC, says that PAC members are spending more than half their time on the AIDS issue. Civil rights issues concerning discrimination in services, jobs and housing for people with AIDS are coming to the fore. "We [in the PAC] support the ordinances in L.A. and West Hollywood to ban discrimination against people who have AIDS," he says. The PAC, according to Baker, is looking closely at the possibility that such a law may be needed in Portland, or in Oregon.

McDonald says the pressing need at this point is a massive outreach campaign to educate the public about AIDS and dispel the vast amount of misinformation currently circulating about the disease. He says that his group has a four-point educational program ready to go — it only awaits funding. The program's components are:

- a brochure for corporate employers on how to deal with their employees who might develop AIDS (the brochure is based on guidelines developed for U.S. Bancorp by CAP);
- a media campaign directed to the general public concerning the transmission of AIDS, clearing up the misinformation that is currently being circulated;
- the services of a nurse epidemiologist to educate medical professionals as well as professionals in other fields (e.g., police and social workers) who may be dealing with people with AIDS;

In this issue MHRC's Communication Committee focuses attention on Portland's Gay and Lesbian community. The article by CC volunteer Kathleen Bambeck provides information on the background and current diverse make up of this community. The central focus, however, is on AIDS, since this disease is currently such an important issue for the Gay/Lesbian community.

- extend risk reduction information to people in other risk categories: intravenous drug users (including prostitutes) and recipients of blood products.

CAP is currently developing the budget for this program; McDonald estimates it will be in the neighborhood of \$350,000. At this point CAP is operating on a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. (Portland was one of only eight cities to receive such funding, according to Keeston Lowery, chair of the Right-to-Privacy PAC.) McDonald expects that further funding will be available through a pending Federal grant to the States of \$22 million.

Up to this point, McDonald says, Oregon has allocated no funds to AIDS education. McDonald attributes past problems in obtaining funds partly to an Administration (Gov. Atiyeh's) which is generally unresponsive to the problem of sexually transmitted diseases. California, by contrast, has allocated \$12 million to such programs this year, and Georgia has allocated \$100,000.

California and Georgia, McDonald points out, have well-organized and vocal Gay communities.

Oregon's Gay community as well has been active around the AIDS issue. Three organizations have emerged: in addition to CAP, there is the Chester/Esther Memorial Fund, and the Pal Project (a project of Community Health Services).

While the main focus of CAP is educational outreach, the Pal Project, according to Community Health Services' Steve Fulmer, is geared to provide counseling and emotional support for persons with AIDS, professional referral assistance to help people through the mounds of paperwork, and a limited level of practical support (cooking, cleaning, etc.). Fulmer points out that housing for people with AIDS is a growing need. Pal is negotiating with the Senior Service Division, which has the primary responsibility for housing. Money will be an issue here: Fulmer says \$100,000 could easily be requested, and eventually the cost could reach a quarter-of-a-million dollars to set up a residential care facility for people with AIDS.

The Chester/Esther Memorial Fund is a community project to raise money to meet the short-term practical needs of people with AIDS.

In addition, Gay political activists have formed City Nights, a group, according to John Baker, whose primary goal is to raise money for the city's AIDS service organizations. At a recent concert, starring California rock star Sylvester, the group netted \$10,000 which was shared by the concerned groups. Another event is being planned in the near future.

#### AIDS misinformation

Kristine Gebbie, the State's Health Division administrator, share some of McDonald's concerns. "In the past several weeks," she says, "misinformation about AIDS has been growing by leaps and bounds." Among the remedies her department will institute in the next several weeks will be an intensive campaign to get the truth about AIDS to the state's schools. "We are working on getting information to every school district right now," says Gebbie. "We have drafts ready to go" which should be finalized in a very short time. In addition, Gebbie is looking at hiring at least two medical professionals as staff persons within the next month to do educational outreach about AIDS.

Dr. Charles Schade, Multnomah County Public Health Officer, is also concerned with the climate of growing hysteria around AIDS. He feels that the response of some parents of schoolchildren in New York City, who have demanded that AIDS-infected children be quarantined and have boycotted public schools in protest, is "just outrageous" from the standpoint of what is currently known about AIDS.

McDonald points out that AIDS is transmitted primarily through semen, feces, and blood — and then only through "blood to blood" contact, i.e., not through skin contact. Essentially this limits transmission to sexual intercourse; there is no evidence that AIDS can be transmitted through casual contact, such as might occur in restaurants, theaters, hospitals, schools or other places where large numbers of people gather. The AIDS virus has been isolated from saliva and tears, but these media are not considered potential transmitters of the virus, McDonald says.

Transmission of AIDS in a school situation, by a child who is incontinent or vomits on the floor — as implied by a recent Oregonian article by Richard Restak — is extremely unlikely, according to Dr. Shade. It is instructive, he says, to compare the epidemiology of Hepatitis B with that of AIDS. Hepatitis B is also transmitted through bodily secretions, and — unlike AIDS — there is *some* evidence of its being transmitted in a family setting or in institutions (e.g., through shared razors). Yet, health authorities do not recommend quarantining children with Hepatitis B, although, Dr. Schade stresses, they recommend extreme care with blood spills. Such care, however, it is worth repeating, does not extend to the level of a quarantine.

Not only is there no evidence that AIDS is not transmissible through casual contact; but, according to Dr. Schade, there is positive evidence that it is not so transmissible — one study determined that a group of health professionals who were exposed to AIDS-exposed blood via needles that had come in contact with it did not have the AIDS virus transmitted to them.

Furthermore, said Dr. Schade, the children who have developed AIDS have not contracted it through a normal family situation (as is sometimes the case with Hepatitis B); rather it was transmitted *in utero* from an AIDS-infected parent.

For more information about AIDS, contact:  
Steve Fulmer, Community Health Support Systems,  
223-5907  
Brown McDonald, Cascade AIDS Project, 223-8299  
Multnomah County Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic,  
248-3816  
Kristine Gebbie, Administrator, State Health Division,  
229-5032  
Dr. Charles Schade, Multnomah County Health Officer,  
248-3406

#### Commission to host Peyton Award luncheon

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission will host its annual Russell A. Peyton Award luncheon on January 10, 1986.

In 1972, when Russell A. Peyton retired from his position as Executive Director of the MHRC, his friends and co-workers established an annual human relations award in his name as a way of recognizing his memorable compas-

sion for, and his substantial contribution to, the cause of human equality.

The MHRC would appreciate your help in nominating a deserving person in our community for this award. Please submit a short profile or resume on the person(s) you nominate, including references, to "Peyton Award Committee," c/o MHRC, Room 520, 1120 S.W. Fifth, Portland, OR 97204.

The luncheon will be held at noon, January 10, 1986, at the Viscount Hotel, 1441 N.E. Second. Tickets are \$10, and are available at the Commission. Please call Roberto Reyes-Colon at 796-5136 for further information.

#### New Commissioners appointed

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Commissioners: William A. Little, Lois A. Shenker, and Bong W. To.

Dr. Little comes to us from a background of teaching Black Studies at Portland State, where he is an Associate Professor. His publications include "Blacks in Oregon," "Black Women Writers in Oregon," and "Black Leadership: Structure and Styles in Portland, Oregon [in progress]." He has travelled extensively in Africa and the Middle East.

Lois Shenker, the recently retired Director of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Learning Center, has long experience in community service. She has been the Chairperson and Fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of Portland, worked to help Soviet Jewry and Russian immigrants to Portland, and has served on the campaigns of Senator Bob Packwood, City Commissioner Mike Lindberg, and former Portland School Board Member Jonathan Newman.

Dr. To, a clinical psychologist, was born in Peking and later moved to Singapore, and from there to the United States. A recent arrival in Portland, his energy is already being felt: he is the Chairperson of the Metropolitan Ethnic Minorities Executive Coalition, the Coordinator of the Oregon Asian Cultural Exchange Association, and a member of the Portland Public Schools' Refugee Job Preparation Advisory Committee.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is indeed fortunate in being able to benefit from the skills and perspectives of its new Commissioners. To all three of you: Welcome on board!

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES Disability Project

*By Jan Campbell*

This coming year will be a very busy one for the Disability Project.

During the summer the Apple Corporation donated an Apple IIe computer to the Project. This will enable it to network with four other agencies concerned with the disabled: SOAR, Paralyzed Veterans, Volunteer Braille, and Independent Living. The network's goals are to collect demographic data on local residents with disabilities, identify needs, and develop an information data base in services and assistance to the disabled.

Additionally, the Disability Project and Tri-County Independent Living Center were awarded a \$15,000 grant from Multnomah County Community Development funds to conduct an in-depth needs study of the disabled. The

study will be for one year, beginning October 1, 1985; a part-time computer operator will be hired to assist in putting the gathered information into the computer and analyzing the information.

In addition, the Project will continue to monitor the City and County to ensure that the disabled are not discriminated against in employment, programs and services.

#### Education

*by Dapo Sobomehin*

The annual Tubman Essay Competition/Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Essay will be extended to four more schools, one in the Gresham School District.

The Committee is continuing its five-year study of Portland Public Schools suspension rates and graduation requirements. The Committee is also working with the Oregon Multicultural Education Association on multicultural education in the School District.

#### Employment

*by Dapo Sobomehin*

The Employment Committee is evaluating the statistical data on the Portland Private Industry Council. It is also investigating how the County and City Minority Business Enterprises meet their requirements in dealing with minority business people in the community.

The Committee will be investigating the City's & County's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action performance for our annual report. Summer Youth Employment is also being studied.

#### Equal Justice

*by John Blank*

Equal Justice Committee Chairperson Carol Edmo recently served on the Committee on the Police Use of Force, appointed by Chief Harrington in the wake of Lloyd Stevenson's death. The Committee was charged with examining and making recommendations about the use of force by Portland police. In addition to having Commissioner Edmo on the Committee, MHRC voted to support the work of this Committee.

The Committee reported at the end of July, recommending, among other things, that police training should incorporate human relations skills and cultural awareness; that the carotid hold be banned at its present level and elevated to the level of deadly force, the same level as firearms; and that the community attend to the high percentage of contacts and arrests which involve people who are "out of control" due to alcohol, drugs or mental problems.

The Equal Justice Committee will be examining closely all the Use-of-Force Committee's recommendations, as well as Chief Harrington's response to them, and will recommend MHRC action as appropriate.

In addition, the Equal Justice Committee is beginning to consider the question of evaluating the Police Internal Affairs Audit Committee, a body which MHRC played a significant role in creating.

Finally, EJC staff continues to monitor developments in several areas: the INS incident at the Rimrock Cafe last spring; the hopeful solution of the problem of court translations *via* the new Indigent Defense Board; the activity of Free South Africa Movement activists seeking to ban Krugerrand sales in Portland; and various significant trials as they arise.



## South Africa — Human rights issue of 1985 *(Continued)*

### Divestment on MHRC's agenda

At its December meeting MHRC reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the principle of divesting public funds from businesses which do business with South Africa. State Representative Margaret Carter will introduce a divestment bill in the current legislative session.

The divestment movement has grown rapidly in recent years. Divestment bills have been passed in five states and 14 cities, and are pending in many places around the country. In addition, a federal divestment bill will be introduced in Congress this year by members of the Black Congressional Caucus.

Divestment backers see both a moral and political purpose for withholding U.S. funds from South Africa. Morally, investing money in South Africa is seen as akin to having invested in Nazi Germany — no return on invested funds, no matter how high, could justify investing in such a system. Politically, divestment is viewed as a way of pressuring South Africa's regime to end apartheid by withholding financial support from it. In principle this is no different from instituting an economic embargo, a policy which the U.S. government applies in many cases; divestment activists hope to pressure the Reagan Administration to apply sanctions to South Africa as well.

### Divestment financially advantageous

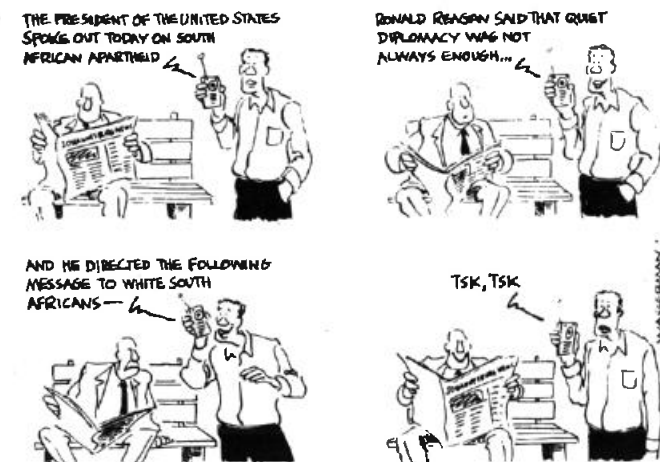
Local opponents of divestment, including some public employee and senior citizen groups, worry that divestment could lead to financially imprudent use of public funds, such as pension funds. However, according to divestment proponents, studies, as well as experiences of jurisdictions that have undergone divestment, show that investment portfolios which have dropped South Africa show comparable and in some cases higher rates of return than compared to before divestment.

In addition, some analysts point to the risk of pouring money into the rapidly destabilizing political climate of South Africa.

### Local South African Consul resigns

Protests and civil disobedience in Portland resulted January 18th in the resignation of Calvin Van Pelt from his post as South Africa's Honorary Consul. The twice-weekly pickets of the Consulate, with two to three arrests of prominent individuals each time, proved effective.

Among those arrested was Keeston Lowery, MHRC Commissioner and chair of the Right to Privacy PAC. All arrests were monitored by MHRC staff, and were conducted in a peaceful, principled fashion, with no violence or threats of violence or harassment from any of the parties.



*No statement in this newsletter is to be construed as support for or opposition to any political candidate, ballot measure or political issue. In this way, MHRC is recognizing its obligation to not use city provided funds for political purposes.*

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## Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Newsletter

WINTER, 1985

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### MHRC STAFF

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1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland,  
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Director: Reymundo Marin

Secretary: Gale Perlas

Committees:

Education/Employment: Dapo Sobomehin

Equal Justice/Communications: John Blank

Housing: Roberto Reyes-Colon

Coordinator/Disability Project: Jan Eisenbeisz

### Youth Week: March 3 - 9

Early last year City Council designated the first full week of each March as Youth Week.

This year's Youth Week events, sponsored by the Metropolitan Youth Commission, Pioneer Square, the City of Portland and Multnomah County, are around the theme, "Caring and Sharing: Youth and Community."

The week's kick-off event will be held at Pioneer Square, from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., on Friday, March 1st.

Highlights of the Week include a Youth Luncheon at Portland State University, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on March 6th, and a Youth-City Council meeting, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., also on March 6th ("Youth and Government Day"), where youth representatives will present their action plan to the Council. This presentation will be broadcast on KGW Ch. 8's "In Your Opinion" show on Sunday, March 10th.

### Three new Commissioners appointed

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Commissioners: Johnnie Bell, Jose Mata and Vikki Rennick.

Johnnie Bell is Administrator of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries Civil Rights Division. Her appointment to the Commission will provide a vital link between MHRC's advocacy function for civil rights and the Civil Rights Division's enforcement function.

Jose Mata is an attorney and long-time supporter of Hispanic and other progressive causes. A member of the Hispanic Political Action Committee (HPAC), he is that group's former Multnomah County Chairperson. He is on the steering committee of LALO (Latin-American Lawyers of Oregon) and has served on the steering committee of the Lawyers Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America. In addition, he coordinated HPAC's voter registration campaign in Washington County, and served as Margie Hendriksen's State Field Coordinator during her recent U.S. Senate campaign.

Vikki Rennick brings to the Commission a long history of advocacy for the disabled. She is currently the Executive Director of the Tri-County Independent Living Program, Inc., an organization she helped found. For the past two years she has been increasingly active in MHRC's City-County Advisory Committee on the Disabled.

MHRC is indeed fortunate in being able to benefit from the skills and perspectives of its new Commissioners. To all three of you: Welcome on board!



## Peyton Awards banquet big success

This year's Peyton Awards luncheon, held January 10th, 1985 at the downtown Red Lion, was a great success. The 252 people who attended heard keynote speaker Mayor Bud Clark and witnessed the presentation of the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award to ex-Multnomah County Executive Don Clark.

In his address, Mayor Clark promised that minority youth employment, a key concern of MHRC, would be one of the highest priorities of his administration. Citing the "cruel statistics" that show minority youth unemployment to be twice as high as for white youth, the Mayor said he would be making a special effort to change those figures. Besides talking to local employers and businesses, he said he would expand the existing program for youth unemployment.

MHRC's award to Don Clark expressed its recognition of his 25 years of service to the County as sheriff, commissioner, and county executive.

The Peyton Award was established in 1972, when Russell A. Peyton retired as Executive Director of MHRC. At that time Russ's friends and co-workers established the annual award in his name to recognize his compassion for and contribution to the cause of human equality. Peyton Award winners over the years include A. Lee Henderson, Marie Smith, Harry C. Ward, Gerry Newhall, Jim Metcalf, Fr. Bertram Griffin, Gertrude Crowe, and Fred Rosenbaum.

In addition, awards were presented to Marah Danielson, Ralph Schuping, and Mike Stanley, students at Harriet Tubman Middle School, who were the winners of this year's Harriet Tubman Human Relations Essay Competition.

And finally, the first Sonja Hilton Award, which originated with MHRC's City-County Advisory Committee on the Disabled, was presented to Linda Besant, founder/director of Shared Outdoor Adventure Recreation (SOAR), a program for disabled people.



Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kfoury and Russell A. Peyton Award winner Don Clark



Portland Mayor Bud Clark and Russell A. Peyton



Multnomah County Executive Dennis Buchanan, Portland City Commissioner Margaret Strachan and Mayor Bud Clark



MHRC Executive Director Reymundo Marin addresses Peyton Award luncheon and seated at left is Bud Clark

## South Africa: Human Rights issue of 1985

The Republic of South Africa, with its system of apartheid, must be counted as a major world human rights abuser. Twenty-two million Black people live in South Africa, comprising 72 percent of the population. However, they cannot vote, buy or sell land, live or work where they choose, or move freely. They have been stripped of power and deprived of control of their lives by the apartheid system of legislation and custom. Dissent is met with terror and imprisonment.

### Blacks can't vote

Blacks in South Africa cannot vote — period. In 1983 white voters (16 percent of the population) endorsed a new constitution which granted limited powers to "coloreds" (people of mixed Black and white descent, who make up nine percent of the population) and Indians (who are descended from immigrants from India, and are three percent of the population). But the new constitution leaves Blacks totally disenfranchised.

### Living restrictions

In South Africa, Blacks may not purchase land in "white areas," which comprise 87 percent of the land, and may not remain in white areas without a permit. Worse, millions of Blacks — 4.5 million since 1961 — are being forcibly removed from the white areas to distant, arid unproductive "homelands" as they are euphemistically called. According to apartheid ideology, Blacks enjoy political power in these "homelands" and so they do not need basic democratic rights in the white areas.

### Labor discrimination

Blacks may work but not live in white areas, except for contract workers; since contracts are often awarded only to one family member, often workers must separate from their families. Others who work in white areas are forced to commute from the "homelands."

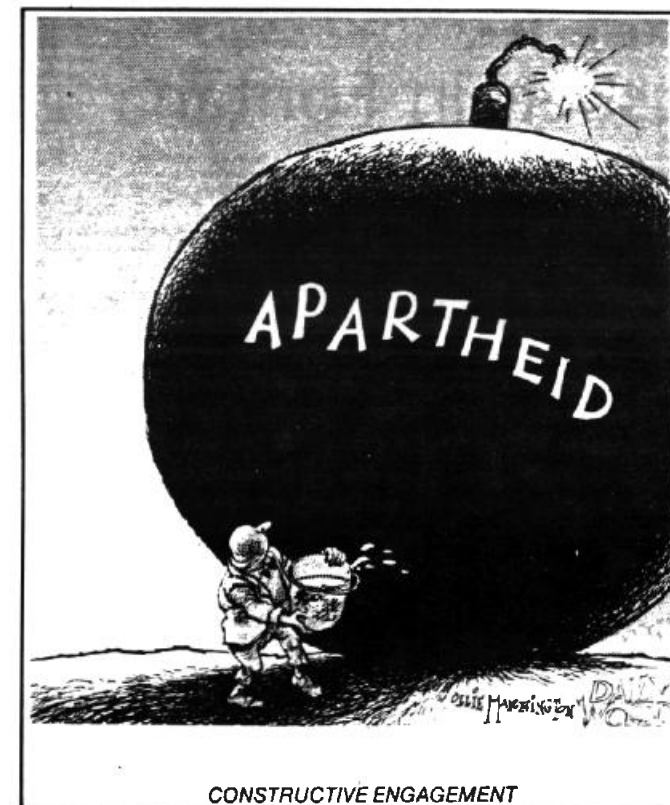
Black workers are paid far less than whites: 5.37 times less in mining; 4.03 times less in manufacturing. The percentage of Blacks living below the poverty level in major urban areas averages 64 percent. Some estimates put Black unemployment as high as two or three million.

### Repression

The system of apartheid, based on an ideology of "racial purity" reminiscent of the Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan, is enforced by state violence and terror. Blacks are forcibly removed to the "homelands." Peaceful protests are met with police shootings and other violence. Arrests and long imprisonment of people who speak out against apartheid is common; in jail, torture and murder of dissidents is frequent. In addition, South Africa's system of "banning" — essentially, placing citizens under lengthy house arrest — is unique.

### U.S. policy inconsistent

While the U.S. government applies economic and diplomatic sanctions to several countries, it has adopted a benign policy towards the only country in the world where racism is part and parcel of the legal system, continuing and even encouraging trade with and military aid to the apartheid regime. Instead of sanctions, the Administration is adopting a policy of "constructive engagement" towards South Africa, a policy which, according to anti-apartheid activists, amounts simply to sighing over South Africa's racism while at the same time strongly supporting it.



CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

### Anti-apartheid movement grows

In the United States, the movement to stop American involvement with the apartheid regime is growing rapidly and is taking many forms. Nationwide civil disobedience, protesting the diplomatic presence of South Africa here, has been going on since November. Boycotts of ships and cargo going to and coming from South Africa are being pressed. A number of state and local governments have adopted legislation divesting public funds, such as public employee retirement funds, from South Africa. (In South Africa itself it is a severely punishable offense to call for divestment of foreign funds.)

(Continued on next page)

that such services now exist, and contact local planning and funding agencies to provide needs and services identified by the survey as not available in our community.

Women's organizations plan major conference

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, at its February meeting, voted to become the 28th organization to sponsor the conference, "Women In The Year 2000," to be held in Portland in the Fall of 1986.

The conference will be the culmination of an ambitious series of studies organized by the group's steering committee, on the theme of "Where will women be in the year 2000?" Each study will concentrate on a specific women's issue or on an issue from the perspective of women, and will address three questions — "Where are we?" "Where do we want to be in the year 2000" and "How do we get there" — with relation to each issue studied.

A sampling of the more than 22 topics to be presented includes: Elected and appointed women in politics; Wages of working women; Peace activism in the year 2000; Strategic planning — Hispanic women in the 21st century; Domestic and sexual violence; Minority women in higher education; The Federal budget from a woman's perspective.

The MHRC, in addition to co-sponsoring the conference, will hold a public hearing during the conference on a current issue of importance to women in the Portland metropolitan area. Kris Rogers, one of our newly appointed Commissioners, will head the task force organizing this hearing.

For more information please contact Joan Perez Little, executive coordinator for the conference, at 235-0439, or Leslie Morehead, executive director, at 220-1675.

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Metropolitan Human Relations Commission  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989



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MHRC

METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER



CITY OF PORTLAND

APRIL 1986

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MHRC SENDS MESSAGE:  
"WE CARE"

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was created in the tense interracial climate of 1969 to send a message from "the establishment" to our minority communities. That message was, "We care."

During the past year, MHRC Commissioners and staff have devoted themselves to helping ameliorate community tension and mediating intergroup conflicts, in an effort to continue to put forth that message. To that end, the MHRC is directly involved with dozens of community-based organizations and programs providing technical assistance, information and referrals.

The combined affiliation and working relationships and networks of our staff and Commissioners with a variety of civic and community-based organizations is extensive. Our budget narrative lists 165 organizations with which MHRC is in active contact — and this list is only a sample of our complete network. Through this identified network, Commissioners and staff are able to contribute a high level of communicational, educational and technical skills to these groups, and are able to help communicate the concerns of these groups to the City and County.

Our six standing committees have been involved with almost every issue of importance that has been articulated by the majority and minority communities, including the disabled, in Multnomah County and the City of Portland. For example: the Education Committee has taken up the issue of unequal school suspension rates, and organized the Fifth Annual Harriet Tubman Human Relations Essay Contest in three schools in Multnomah County around the theme, "Living the Dream"; the Employment Committee

has monitored affirmative action in the City and County and helped organize the Minority Youth Employment Committee; the Equal Justice Committee has advocated for Court Interpreters for limited-English speakers (including sign-language users), helped raise the consciousness of the Mayor's and the Chief of Police's Office about Hispanic concerns with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and monitored the Police Internal Investigations Audit Committee; the Housing Committee has monitored fair housing in the City and County and helped organize landlord-tenant dispute resolution services; the Disability Project has pressed for accessibility for the disabled, including legislation financing such accessibility; the Communications Committee, in addition to publicizing issues of community concern in MHRC's newsletter, helped the Police Bureau gather public input on the Police Use of Force.

Our relation to the communities we serve is based on concrete support on many levels. Besides providing information, counseling and referral to citizens making complaints in the areas of human and civil rights, our staff is involved in invaluable research which groups in the community use to document their concerns.

Unfortunately, we may face significant budget cuts this year, which would seriously impair our programs. We need your support through phone calls, letters, and other volunteer efforts to persuade Portland and Multnomah County Commissioners to continue to fund us at current service level, as well as to improve our response to community needs.

MHRC's budget, programs, volunteers, or whom to contact with your support, please call Reymundo Marin, MHRC executive director, at 796-5136.



PHOTO: BOB PICKENS  
Secretary of State Barbara Roberts and Peyton Award winner Rev. John H. Jackson

Peyton Awards Banquet  
big success

The Reverend John H. Jackson of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was presented with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award at our annual luncheon, held at the Viscount Hotel in January.

Introduced to the more than 200-person gathering by Urban League executive director Herb Cawthorne as "maladjusted" because he refuses to adjust to racism and other forms of injustice, Rev. Jackson, a co-founder of Portland's Black United Front, used his speech to point out that, in the words of Martin Luther King, "there are good people in the world." In these times when the news seems to be filled with so many evil people, it is important, Rev. Jackson stressed, to bear this truth in mind.

"The good people won't always be parading in front of City Hall," he said. "They won't always write to the newspaper. But when you need them, they'll be there."

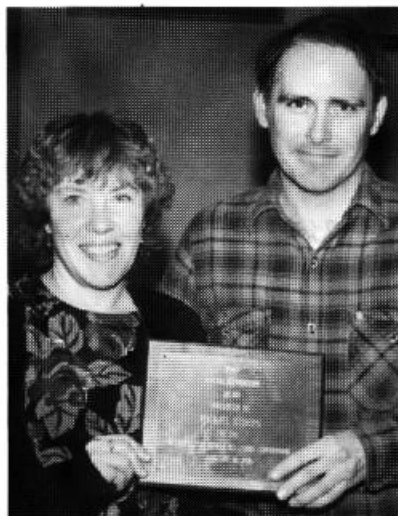
Among the good people present at the awards ceremony was keynote



speaker Barbara Roberts, Oregon's Secretary of State. Her theme was that "one person can make a difference." She told the gathering how she discovered that she could make a difference. A single mother of an autistic son, she recalled her successful one-woman lobbying effort to secure State special education rights for disabled children. This victory convinced her that she could make a difference, and was the beginning of her career in state politics. At the end of her speech, she drew a standing ovation, when she said, while simultaneously signing, that "I believe in human rights. Together we can make a difference."

Another feature of the luncheon was the presentation of eight awards to students winning the annual MHRC Harriet Tubman Human Relations Contest. This year's theme was "Living the Dream." The winners were: Damon Turner, sixth grade, Rukiyah Adams, seventh grade, and Sam Miller, eighth grade, from Tubman Middle School in Portland; Lisa Lee, sixth grade, Shreeyash Palshikar, seventh grade, and Jonathan Kelley, eighth grade, from Sellwood Middle School in Portland; and Debbie Neal, seventh grade, and Shawnee Grimfted, eighth grade, both from Dexter McCarty School in Gresham.

In addition, Michael Stoops, chairman of the Burnside Community Council, was given an award for his work with the homeless; and the Sonja Hilton award was presented to the late Willard K. Martin for designing Hollady Center, a school for disabled children. Martin's wife, Gail, accepted the award.



Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury and award winner Michael Stoops.

PHOTO: BOB PICKENS



Human Relations Essay Contest winners (L-R): Jonathan Kelley, Shreeyash Palshikar, Lisa Lee, Sam Miller, Damon Turner, Rukiyah Adams.

### Court Interpreters problem nears solution

After more than five years of work by the Equal Justice Committee (EJC), the problem of providing qualified Court Interpreters for limited English-speakers appears to be nearing a solution.

Court Interpretation is a problem because there is currently no screening process to determine which interpreters are qualified. There is a list of interpreters available to attorneys and the courts; but there is no exam to verify a person's ability to interpret from and into another language and there is no way to screen interpreters' knowledge of legal terms and procedures.

There is a need for interpreters in more than 60 languages including sign language in the Portland Metropolitan Area, but the most pressing need is for Spanish-speaking interpreters. Spanish is the native language of a large number of native-born Americans who live in our area (the United States is the world's 5th-largest Spanish-speaking country!) and a growing number of Hispanic immigrants, not to mention undocumented Hispanics. The EJC has felt that getting a qualification program for Spanish interpreters in place would be an important first step.

#### A suit waiting to happen

Oregon law requires that competent interpreters be available for limited English-speakers (including sign-language). However, since there are no established standards or procedures for ensuring competency, the existing

situation can be described as a "suit waiting to happen."

The EJC has been trying to place this issue on the public agenda. The problem, in this time of budgetary crisis, has been to identify which government agency needs to take the responsibility for developing a qualification program.

At press time, the matter is before the Commission on the Judicial Branch, a group which is empowered to introduce legislation directly into the Legislature's Judiciary Committee.

The EJC, which has compiled extensive documentation on qualification systems around the country, feels that we are on the threshold of creating one here, thus facilitating the process of guaranteeing equality within the justice system for our linguistic minorities.

Anyone with interest and/or expertise in the matter is encouraged to contact John Blank, EJC staff person, at 796-5136.

### Four new Commissioners appointed

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of four new Commissioners: Michael L. Benjamin, Sidney A. Galton, the Reverend Rodney I. Page, and Kristine O. Rogers.

Michael Benjamin comes to us with a background in multi-cultural communications and interpersonal relations. He is currently Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at

the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. He is the former director of the North-Northeast Community Mental Health Center, and is now president of the firm of consultants, Michael L. Benjamin and Associates. He is currently conducting a six-month cross-cultural communication training course with the Portland Police Department.

Sidney Galton, an attorney by profession, is a Hearings Referee for the Workers' Compensation Board. He serves on the Portland Police Central Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee, is the Treasurer of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, and is the General Manager and President of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

The Rev. Rodney I. Page brings to the Commission a strong background in human relations work. He is the executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, an organization of thirteen Christian denominations, which advocates for social justice for the poor and oppressed. In addition, Rev. Page has been the president of Schools for the City, and has served on the boards of the Institute of Judaic Studies, and of JANIS, an organization serving runaway youth. Rev. Page is a member of the Portland City Club, the NAACP, Disciples Peace Fellowship, Fellowship of Reconciliation and the World Without War Council. In 1985 Rev. Page chaired the Police Use of Force Committee set up by Police Chief Penny Harrington to make recommendations to the Portland Police Bureau concerning the use of force by Portland police.

Kristine O. Rogers comes to us with an impressive background in community service. Secretary of the Portland City Club (in which she has been active for more than ten years), she chaired the Committee which produced the City Club's Report on Adult Prostitution in Portland in August 1984. She has chaired Oregon ACLU's Women's Rights Project, and has served on the steering committee of ACLU's Women's Rights Coalition. She has been a Director of the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency, and has worked on several of that group's task forces. She is a member of the Urban League, NOW, and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus. Professionally, Ms. Rogers has worked as an assistant U.S. Attorney for Oregon, is an Adjunct Professor at Northwestern School of Law, and is a consultant to various Indian

Tribes, private organizations and federal agencies on cultural resource law.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is indeed fortunate in being able to benefit from the skills and perspectives of its new Commissioners. To all four of you: Welcome on board!

### Fair housing a concern for the '80s

Human beings have the natural tendency to want to tie social trends into neat manageable bundles of a specified duration. For the most part we like to think in decades.

If the '60s may be summed up, with respect to civil rights activities, as a time of *demonstration* and *confrontation*, and the '70s as a time of *documentation* and *litigation*, so far it appears that the '80s may be characterized as a time of *frustration*.

The goal of equal housing opportunity has run into a barrier of "no housing opportunity" for the vast majority of our protected classes, as well as for Gays and Lesbians, and for families with children.

During this decade of frustration, we find that housing discrimination has taken on a new face. Subtle and hard to detect, new discriminatory practices have had an adverse impact on families with children, especially single parents with children.

Officially, on-site managers and property management firms indicate that there is no basis for this claim. However, we know better. For example: the practice of employing time restrictions in the use of recreational facilities, the designation of "adults only" buildings, the use of occupancy standards (e.g., only one child per bedroom), use of age-or-children standards (e.g., no children over 10), etc., are discriminatory.

Unfortunately, this type of discrimination is supported by the lack of legal protection afforded children. Voluntary approaches in resolving the situation have gone unheeded. What is needed is the legislative will and leadership to grant protected-class status to children, and the development of a well-coordinated audit-based testing system to monitor and enforce the rights of all individuals to decent shelter.

For more information please

contact the Fair Housing Project, 796-5136.

### Committees focus on education and employment

The Education Committee has just resolved the monetary crisis stemming from the 1985 Harriet Tubman Essay Competition Award. The money for the winners has just been given to the students from Dexter McCarty Middle School in Gresham.

The second annual Multicultural Education Association Conference held on February 14, 1986, was an overwhelming success. Over 100 people attended this conference, which dealt with the major contributions of Oregon's minorities.

The Employment Committee is working closely with the Minority Business Group to begin to evaluate the City/County Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and Female Business Enterprises (FBEs). The Committee will be evaluating the Affirmative Action Plans of the quasi-governmental agencies Tri-Met, Port of Portland and the Metropolitan Service District, as soon as their Plans are received.

### Disability project survey targets needs, resources

The Disability Project is working diligently to finalize its survey, which will be sent out to at least 5,500 disabled persons in Multnomah County. The survey will assess the current status and unmet need for housing, access to community services, and access to emergency services.

Disabled groups specifically targeted are: the deaf, the blind, those with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and spinal cord injuries, and the mobility-impaired.

The Project will also contact an estimated 500 agencies to measure the handicapped-accessibility of the target service agencies in the following areas: wheelchair accessibility, bus line accessibility, availability of TTY service, and availability of sign language, large print or braille resources.

By gathering this data we will be able to match up needs to existing community resources, assist the existing resources in increasing awareness in the disabled community

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# MHRC

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER



CITY OF PORTLAND

AUGUST, 1986

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## "Women-in-the-year 2000" conference features issues, MHRC hearings



"Women in the Year 2000: A Futures Conference," to be held at Mt. Hood Community College, Fri.-Sun., September 19-21, promises to be an exciting and historically important event.

The conference, subtitled "Women Designing the Future," will feature more than 60 studies, presentations, workshops and panels focused on the theme, "Where will we be in the year 2000?" More than 26 local organizations, including MHRC, are sponsoring the event.

Featured as keynote speakers will be: Dr. Joyce Brothers, psychologist, T.V. personality and best-selling author; Prof. Eleanor Holmes Norton, feminist lawyer and former head of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Dr. Sonia Johnson, feminist and peace activist, who was ex-communicated from the Mormon Church for her energetic support of the Equal Rights Amendment. In addition, NASA astronaut Dr. Bonnie Dunbar will lead a conference session as well as a special student brunch.

Joyce Brothers will address the conference at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 19th; Eleanor Holmes Norton at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20th; and

Sonia Johnson at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 21st. Bonnie Dunbar's student brunch will be at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 20th; her conference session will be held at 2:30 p.m. the same day.

### MHRC conducts hearings

In coordination with the conference, MHRC will hold a series of hearings on the status of women in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Commissioners will chair panels on Employment/Economics (Sept. 19th, 9-noon), Health/Family Life (Sept. 19th, 1:30-4:00 p.m.), Justice/Legislation (Sept. 20th, 9-noon), Education/Community Affairs (Sept. 20th, 1:30-4:00 p.m.). The public is encouraged to testify: sign up at the conference, or in advance with MHRC, 796-5136.

### Panels

In addition, there will be panels on: *Women and Politics*, with Oregon State Senator Nancy Ryles, Oregon Women's Political Caucus Chair Marilyn Schultz, former Portland City Council candidate Maria Veramontes de Marin, Montana State Representative Nancy Keenan, and former Oregon State Senator Ruth McFarland (Sept. 19th, 1:15 p.m.); *Women in Arts*, with author Ursula K. LeGuin, musician Sigrid Clark and painter Ann Rothan (Sept. 21st, 10:45 a.m.). As well, former Wall Street executive Mary Covington will coach women in power games and exercises (Sept. 20th, 1:15 p.m.).

### Special events

Additional special events will be concerts by Holly Near (8:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19th), and Sweet Honey in the Rock (4:00 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 21st). Both concerts will be held at the Benson High School Auditorium.

Conference fee is \$40/3 days, \$30/2 days; \$20/1 day. Concert tickets are \$12 per concert, at the door.

For more information, call Joan Little, 235-0439, Nancy Huppertz, 248-6800 (ext. 496), or MHRC at 796-5136.

## Are you being discriminated against? We want to know!

MHRC is documenting all discrimination complaints in the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

If you feel you are being discriminated against because of your race, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital/family status, handicap or any other reason, please call MHRC at 796-5136. We will document your complaint, inform you of your legal rights, and suggest strategies and resources.

### Discrimination is illegal

Various local, State and Federal laws make it illegal to discriminate against certain groups of people, known as "protected classes" with regard to employment, housing, and public accommodations (restaurants, bars, etc.). Protected classes generally include race, sex, religion and national origin.

However, there are groups whose members suffer discrimination, which are not legally protected. For example, Gays and Lesbians are sometimes protected, but often are not. Single women (and men) with children are often discriminated against, in housing, for example, but have little legal protection at this time.

cont. on page 2





Dr. John F. Heflin



Rev. Rodney I. Page

## New officers elected

At its 26th Annual Meeting June 30th, MHRC elected Dr. John Heflin as its new Chair, and Rev. Rodney Page as its new vice-Chair.

A long-time member of MHRC, Dr. Heflin is currently a professor of Educational Administration in Portland State University's School of Education. Dr. Heflin has been instrumental in several projects during his tenure on the Commission. For example, he helped develop the Community Coalition for School Integration, which did such good work around the issues of forced busing Black students, unequal suspension rates, and others. In addition, he contributed greatly to the development of MHRC's annual

Harriet Tubman human relations essay contest for middle school children.

Rev. Page, a recently appointed Commissioner, is Executive Director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. He is well-known in the community, frequently serving on boards and commissions dealing with complex human relations issues. For example, he chaired the Use-of-Force Committee appointed by then-Chief Penny Harrington to investigate the carotid hold and other police uses of force; as well, he chaired the County Task Force on the Potentially Dangerous/Chronically Mentally Ill.

Congratulations, John and Rodney, on your new offices.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MHRC has an active program in several areas: Education, Equal Justice, Employment, Fair Housing, Communications, and the Disability Project. All of our programs need volunteers. If you have an interest or any expertise in these areas, please fill out and send in the form below, or call us at 796-5136.

By serving in one of these areas, you will add strength to the Commission as well as to the progress of human relations in Portland and Multnomah County.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

(Send to: MHRC, Room 520, 1120 SW Fifth Ave., Portland, OR 97204)

cont. from page 1

If you feel you are being discriminated against, we need to hear from you, even if you do not belong to a protected class. Discrimination needs to be documented so that we can push for protected-class status and other remedies. And, although MHRC has no legal enforcement powers, our staff often can reason with the discriminating party to produce a more satisfactory outcome.

Call 796-5136 to report discrimination.

## Disabled activist hits light rail

"Light rail is being financed by tax dollars provided by the general public. The disabled are part of that public, and pay taxes, so light rail should be accessible to us. To deny us services that we have helped pay for is wrong."

The above remarks were made on August 20th by disabled activist Jan Campbell, in her testimony before Tri-Met's advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, during hearings concerning accessibility of Tri-Met's new light rail service.

Ms. Campbell, who uses a motorized wheelchair, has been an advocate for the rights of the disabled since the early '70s. She is the Coordinator of MHRC's Disability Project.

In her testimony, Ms. Campbell made the point that people with disabilities have an absolute right as well as the responsibility to participate fully and equally in society, and that an absolutely necessary condition for such participation is the freedom to travel, so fundamental to the American life-style.

On opening day, Ms. Campbell said, the light rail system will not be fully accessible to disabled people; this is a reflection, she feels, of the view that the disabled are entitled only to limited participation in life's major activities.

"On March 17, 1982," Ms. Campbell testified, "the Portland City Council adopted Resolution 33120, which requires Tri-Met to provide one-hundred-per-cent accessibility in the new light rail facilities. As yet, we haven't seen this. You would not ban

anyone on the light rail because of sex, race, etc.; but by starting up light rail and not having it totally accessible, you are discriminating against the disabled. This is a civil rights issue."

### Action needed

Ms. Campbell expressed herself as dissatisfied with a rumored contingency plan to provide alternative service for the disabled. "This is going back to the idea of separate and unequal service which we have fought so hard against. We do not want segregated services. We want to be integrated."

The disabled, Ms. Campbell feels, have met their responsibilities. "We have worked with Tri-Met, evaluating and making recommendations. I feel Tri-Met needs to make a commitment to the disabled community by providing timetables of when this service will be totally accessible; and action must then be taken to meet these deadlines."

## Bogle and Strachan commended

At its April meeting, MHRC passed a resolution commending "the renewed commitment of Commissioners Bogle and Strachan to improving City performance in utilizing MBE/FBE's in providing the City with professional, technical and expert services. As a result of their actions, the day is closer when minorities and women will participate fully in the free enterprise system and in City of Portland contracts."

The resolution points out that in 1980, the Portland City Council decided to monitor MBE/FBE participation in City contracts, and goes on to state that "... [the City] has not met with sufficient success in increased MBE/FBE participation. ... The goal set by the Council for procurement of professional, technical and expert services from MBE/FBE's was 9 percent. As of February 6, 1986, the percentage for MBE/FBE's was 1.07 and .60 percent, respectively. ..."

The resolution notes that Commissioner Bogle, setting an example for other City Commissioners, took concrete steps to ameliorate the problem in his bureaus. The resolution further commends Commissioner Strachan for taking similar measures.



## Conference to focus on infants' health

Improving the quality of children's health in Oregon will be the focus of the "Healthy Infants Conference," to be held September 15th and 16th at the Portland Hilton.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together business leaders, educators, insurance providers, local government officials, legislators, media representatives, health professionals and other concerned Oregonians to build an advocacy network and generate action strategies to improve the quality of child health in Oregon. Conference organizers hope that effective prenatal care and a unified public and private policy for delivering services to high-risk women will reduce infant mortality rates, reduce immediate and long-term health care and education costs and insure healthier children for our future.

The conference is being sponsored by the Oregon Healthy Mothers, the Healthy Babies Coalition and the Oregon State Health Division.

The keynote speaker will be Dana C. Hughes, Senior Health Specialist for the Children's Defense Fund, and co-author of *The Health of America's Children: The Data Book*. In addition, State Health Division Administrator Kristine Gebbie and Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury will address the conference.

Registration fee is \$40. Please contact Michael Benjamin and Associates, 227-1899 for registration information; and Louise Lopes, 229-5757 for program information.

## MHRC advocates for hearing-impaired

In a pioneering effort, MHRC resolved at its June meeting to provide amplification and interpretive services for the hearing-impaired at MHRC meetings.

In addition, the Commission requested that the City and County provide such services so that the hearing-impaired may participate equally in City and County programs. MHRC's staff was instructed to establish guidelines for the implementation of amplification systems and interpreters, and to pursue such implementation with appropriate City and County officials.

Accordingly, Jan Campbell, MHRC's Disability Coordinator, met with City Communications Engineer Charles Brockman, Lily Tamura of the City's Affirmative Action Office, David Cook of the Mayor's Office, George Kosovich of the State's Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Access Program, and various members of the hearing-impaired community.

The group determined that the best amplification system for the hearing-impaired was the "loop system," as opposed simply to microphones and a loud-speaker. The group decided to wire Room C, Room B and the Hearings Room in the Portland Building, 321 City Hall, and Council Chambers. Estimates range from \$3,500 to \$4,000 to "loop" all five rooms.

A cheaper, portable system was considered, but was rejected by the group because of problems with checking out and maintaining the equipment.

The plan is to introduce an ordinance in City Council in October. By September 15th, Jan Campbell will complete a full needs-assessment, and Charles Brockman a full cost-analysis and feasibility study (to show that they won't have to tear up walls and the like); the material will be organized and sent on to David Cook, who will assist in setting up the ordinance.

For the deaf, money is already available for interpretive services. In addition, Ms. Campbell was able to encumber \$300 from last year's budget for this purpose.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MHRC has active committees dealing with Advocacy, Research and Public Information, as well as the Disability Project. All of our programs need volunteers. If you have an interest or any expertise in these areas, please fill out and send in the form below, or call us at 796-5136.

By serving in one of these areas, you will add strength to the Commission as well as to the progress of human relations in Portland and Multnomah County.

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MHRC

METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER



CITY OF PORTLAND

VOL. 3, NO. 4

DECEMBER, 1986

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Chief Davis talks with *MHRC Newsletter*

So far, says newly appointed Portland Police Chief James T. Davis, the biggest difference between being Chief and being a Precinct Captain (Davis was formerly the Captain of North Precinct) is that he puts in 12-14 hours daily, rather than only 8-10. As part of that extremely busy schedule, the Chief graciously consented to be interviewed for the *MHRC Newsletter*.

Chief Davis' attitude toward the community-oriented concerns of MHRC was generally positive. These concerns include affirmative action in police hiring, cultural sensitivity training, cooperation with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the problem of prostitution (especially as it affects the inner Northeast neighborhoods) and racism among police officers.

Affirmative action

The Chief agreed that affirmative action in hiring was a high priority for the Bureau. At present, according to Police Bureau statistics, out of 741 sworn personnel, 621 are white males. There are 77 white females, 18 black males, 6 black females, 8 Hispanic males, 1 Hispanic female, 3 Native American males, 1 Native American female, 6 Asian males and no Asian females. Minorities and women are thus severely under-represented on the force proportional to their numbers in the general population.

The Chief feels that minorities probably want to become police officers in the same proportion as whites. The problem, he feels, is the relatively small minority population in the Portland area; in addition, minority talent is siphoned off by competition from the private sector and other bureaus such as the Fire Bureau. Often the competition can

offer more money and opportunities than the police can. To remedy the situation, the Bureau conducts a national search for minority applicants, a policy which the Chief plans to continue aggressively.

Cultural sensitivity training

One of the responses of ex-Chief Harrington's administration to the community's concerns following the shooting of Lloyd Stevenson by Portland police officers in 1985, was to require eight hours of cultural sensitivity training for the Bureau's officers.

Chief Davis thinks the training, currently under contract with MHRC Commissioner Michael Benjamin, is valuable and he fully intends to continue it. However, he admits it is difficult to measure its effectiveness—as difficult, he points out, as it is to measure the effectiveness of human relations work generally.

Cooperation with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

The degree of cooperation between PPB and INS became a matter of controversy when the INS last year attempted to acquire its own direct computer access to PPB files. That matter was eventually settled (INS got access to state-wide computers which have only limited access to PPB and other local agency files), but it raised the broader question of police/INS cooperation in general.

Ex-Chief Penny Harrington formulated a draft policy on the matter, but resigned before it was finalized. It was left to interim-Chief Robert Tobin to formulate the policy which is now in effect.

Although Chief Davis has not had occasion to study that policy in

depth, he said he saw no problems with it. "If it's not broken, don't fix it."

The policy states that PPB will cooperate with all law enforcement agencies, including the INS. However, while INS will be notified when arrested criminal suspects are in "apparent violation" of immigration

*Continued on next page*

Human Relations  
luncheon to honor Stevie Remington

This year's Human Relations Award luncheon will be held at noon, January 9th, 1987, at the Red Lion Motor Inn, 310 S.W. Lincoln.

At the luncheon, Ms. Stevie Remington, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be honored with the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award. The Award, established in 1972, is given annually to an individual who deserves recognition for a long-standing history of human relations work in the community. Ms. Remington's work, dedication and continuous service to all the citizens of Portland in civil and human rights advocacy make her a truly worthy recipient of this award.

As well, the annual Sonja Hilton Award for demonstrated commitment to the human rights of the disabled, will be presented to the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center by the City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled.

In addition, the Cascade AIDS Project will be receiving a special award for their excellent work, compassion and contribution to the well-being of our citizens in the education and fight against AIDS.

The cost of the luncheon is \$11.50. Please make your reservations by calling the Commission at 796-5136.

## New Immigration bill source of concern

Hispanic organizations, immigration lawyers and local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials are closely watching developments around the controversial new immigration bill. At November's MHRC meeting,

guest Joseph Greene, Deputy District Director of the INS for Oregon, stressed that the new bill is the result of a struggle between the American ideal welcoming immigrants (the "Statue of Liberty" ideal) and the narrow-minded, prejudiced "What-

*Continued from previous page*

laws, "it shall not be our policy to take enforcement action solely based on violations of civil immigration laws," which are outside PPB jurisdiction. In addition, "crime victims and other persons of ethnic minority who are not suspects of criminal activity will not routinely be questioned as to their immigration status."

### Prostitution in the Inner Northeast

According to the Chief, in the more than 23 years he's been on the force, there has always been prostitution in the Northeast part of town. He doesn't know why it's located there, but doesn't think that it is due to looser enforcement. He is aware that prostitution shifts its location when enforcement efforts increase, but he wants to move it out of the city as a whole, rather than just from place to place within the city.

Other cities have achieved success in cutting down prostitution by emphasizing targeting prostitutes' customers ("johns") rather than prostitutes themselves. The Chief stresses that the police have often targeted johns, by putting in women decoys. Other efforts to discourage johns, however, such as publishing names or sending letters to men arrested for prostitution, have been ruled out by the courts.

On the other hand, he says the Bureau is looking into a suggestion made by Ed Blackburn, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the City, to send "traffic behavior questionnaires" or something similar to owners of cars behaving suspiciously, for example, frequently circling the block in high-prostitution areas. Such a program has apparently been very successful in Birmingham, Alabama in reducing prostitution.

### Racism on the police force

While the Chief won't deny there is racism on the force—after all, he points out, growing up in this society, "No one is pure"—he feels the Bureau is not particularly racist,

no more so than other institutions in our society.

Reports surface from time to time (for example, in a recent *Portland Observer* story) about treatment of black officers by non-minority officers. Black officers, according to these reports, say they feel too vulnerable to speak out publicly about racism in the Bureau. They are afraid of ostracism by fellow officers, and of not being able to get back-up in serious or life-threatening situations.

The Chief says he has never been approached by a Black officer with these problems, but would be receptive if he were to be approached: "I'd be more than willing to deal with it." He is not aware of such problems, nor would he tolerate them, he says.

### Police Internal Investigations Audit Committee (PIIAC)

The controversial issue of whether PIIAC has the authority to subpoena police officers, the Chief thinks, has been resolved during the administrations of Penny Harrington and Robert Tobin. The central question, in his view, is whether PIIAC is to be "an investigative or a review" body. So far, under his administration, this problem has not resurfaced. The Chief would be interested, he says, to see how many cases there have actually been where PIIAC has had problems with police officers cooperating.

### Hate group activity

Naturally, the Chief is very concerned with the potential of activity in the Portland area by neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups, because of the infringement on people's rights and the possibility of violence. However, there is no special effort being made to investigate these right-wing hate groups, and there is nobody in the Intelligence Division who has been assigned specifically to such a detail. At this point, the Chief says, he is simply relying on the FBI to let the Bureau know what is happening.

I've-Got-I-Keep" attitude also prevalent in American history. He defends the current law as being the best compromise in the current political climate: "If it hadn't passed, we would have gotten a more Draconian law."

Most Hispanic organizations, however, opposed the current bill as well as previous Congressional efforts, and are unhappy with the law. "The contractors and farmers are the ones who will benefit from this new law," says Cipriano Ferrel of the Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, (PCUN—in English, "United Tree Planters and Farm Workers of the Northwest"). "This is not for us. It will only hurt us."

PCUN, a growing union with ties to the Willamette Valley Immigration Project and the United Farm Workers, was formed in 1985 to organize the state's more than 90,000 migrant workers.

At issue are the provisions of the new law dealing with employer sanctions, the so-called "guest worker" program, and aspects of the legalization program.

The "employer sanctions" provisions, it is feared, will result in discrimination against anyone who "looks foreign" by employers fearful of incurring sanctions.

As well, there are suspicions that the temporary residence ("guest worker") provisions will amount to new forms of legally sanctioned peonage. Historically, according to Angela Morales, also with PCUN, such programs have been used to import strikebreakers to break farmworkers unions. Under the current guest-worker program, she points out, workers can be paid any salary, no matter how low, have no protection, and are disqualified from most forms of public assistance. Under these conditions, she stresses, people are very vulnerable to grower and government pressures.

The "legalization" provisions, granting temporary resident status to aliens who can prove they have resided continuously in the United States since Jan. 1, 1982, are another source of worry. The problem is that it is currently unclear what will count as "proof" of continuous residence; in fact, according to Greene, the regulations determining the issue will not even be written for six months. This needs to be pointed out, because there are already law firms charging \$50, \$75 and \$100 to determine whether an alien qualifies for legalization. *Continued on next page*

## Restrictions on parades raise problems

Since at least the beginning of Mayor Clark's administration, Janet Hazzard, the Mayor's Special Events Coordinator, has been trying, with the help of a committee, to formulate an ordinance regulating special events that are held on Portland streets, including parades, marches and athletic competitions.

On October 9th, 1986, Ms. Hazzard tried out a proposed ordinance before City Council. Because of problems raised in testimony, the Council passed only some sections of the ordinance. The problematic sections were to be reworked by the committee and reintroduced later.

The proposed ordinance dealt with a number of requirements on organizers of special events, including the application process, application fees, insurance requirements and criteria for revocation of permits.

One of the main problems testified found with the ordinance was with the section dealing with insurance requirements. The proposed ordinance would have made sponsors of special events responsible for

*Continued from previous page*

Furthermore, the regulations in question, says Greene, will be drafted by the INS itself. According to immigration lawyer Richard Ginsburg, there is concern among advocacy groups that the regulations could amount to a "big rip-off"—i.e., it could turn out that almost no one qualifies for resident status, and that almost everyone who applies will get deported.

In fact, according to Ms. Morales, PCUN expects an increase in raids and deportations in the near future, and plans to monitor INS closely.

This assessment is in line with INS staff increases granted by the new law. According to Greene, local staff will be doubling. At first, new staff will be used mainly for the legalization program, which will set up offices in Portland and in Eastern Oregon. Then, in the next year-and-a-half, staff will be moved to employer sanctions, which will be handled by an entire new division. At the same time, INS plans to step up its enforcement activities against aliens involved in criminal activities, including marriage-fraud and other schemes.

providing public liability and property damage insurance to protect the sponsor, the City, City Council members, officers, agents and employees from all claims which might arise out of the event.

Speakers from the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as from various activist groups which often hold parades and marches, testified that this requirement could force sponsors of events to incur substantial expenses. Such costs could, particularly in the case of small groups, effectively prohibit an event. In addition should the event be a political rally or parade, the insurance requirement could constitute a *de facto* ban on free speech and thus run into constitutional difficulties.

Because of this testimony, Council decided to delete the portion of the ordinance dealing with insurance requirements and refer it to committee for further study. According to Ms. Hazzard, the committee has asked the Bureau of Risk Management to assess what risks there actually are from various special events, and what precisely the need is to require insurance against these risks.

The ordinance also would have granted the Mayor or the police officer in charge the power to revoke a permit for an event if the event did not start within ten minutes of the announced starting time. After testimony in opposition to this clause, the Council, which itself had started its session that day almost fifteen minutes behind schedule, amended the clause to allow police to cancel events if they were more than 30 minutes late.

Council also sent back to committee portions of the ordinance dealing with notifying churches and businesses along the route of parades and runs. Downtown churches especially have problems with runs and parades that are scheduled for Sundays and conflict with services. Both downtown traffic and parking cause problems for congregation members; sometimes people do not even attend services when they know that an event will be scheduled, because of the parking and traffic problems. Besides interfering with freedom of worship, church collections also suffer. According to Ms. Hazzard, approximately 20 events per year are at issue; perhaps

half of them have serious impact on downtown churches.

The problem is being reviewed by the committee, which at this time includes Dr. Wayne Bryant from the Downtown Churches Association (as well as representatives from Tri-Met, various government bureaus and three citizen members appointed by Mayor Clark in 1985).

## ACLU seeks testimony on Gay/Lesbian discrimination

The American Civil Liberties Union is working with other groups to prepare a bill for the 1987 Oregon Legislature, to focus on providing Gays and Lesbians legal protection against discrimination in education, employment, housing, or public accommodations.

As part of their effort, the ACLU is interested in contacting Gays and Lesbians who have been discriminated against, and who would be willing to testify before a Legislative committee. If you think you might be interested, please call Stevie Remington, ACLU Executive Director. Any information you provide her will be kept confidential.

If interested, please call Ms. Remington at 227-3186; or MHRC, 796-5136.

## Black Studies Council to meet

The sixth annual conference of the National Council of Black Studies, Pacific Northwest Region, will be held on February 21st and 22nd, at Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park, Spokane, Washington.

The theme will be: "Educating Blacks and other ethnic minorities: issues, trends and future directions." Panels will be held on a variety of social issues, including Black Families in the Military, Building Confidence and Competence in Mathematics, and Teaching Reading to the Minority Child.

Cost for the conference will be \$60 (including lunch and banquet). For more information, and to register, contact the Black Education Program, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA 99004, (509) 359-2205.



Jan Campbell  
Receives Award

Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator, was selected this March by the Board of Directors of Access Oregon to receive its Community Service Award.

"You were selected," said Board President Dana Scott, "due to your personal and professional commitment to equal access for individuals with disabilities and your active community involvement... Thank you for your ongoing advocacy for individuals with disabilities."

Congratulations, Jan!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MHRC has active committees dealing with Advocacy, Research and Public Information, as well as the Disability Project. All of our programs need volunteers. If you have an interest or any expertise in these areas, please fill out and send in the form below, or call us at 796-5136.

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MHRC

METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER



CITY OF PORTLAND

VOL. 3, NO. 5

MARCH, 1987

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Task force on prejudice and violence to form

On January 28th, 1987, more than 40 people, representing almost every ethnic group and human rights organization in the metropolitan area, met to discuss establishing a task force to combat what many perceive to be a rising tide of prejudice and violence against racial, religious, sexual and political minorities.

The meeting was called by the MHRC, in response to what seem to be a growing number of hate-group type incidents. Neo-Nazi and KKK-type violence has occurred in Idaho and Washington; and KKK-leader Robert Miles has declared his desire to "retire" to Coos Bay; all of this fits into the neo-Nazi plan to make the Northwest a "whites-only" republic (no Jews either, of course).

In addition, in the last year in the Portland area, the MHRC has been made aware of incidents such as the following: Anti-Semitic harassment of congregants at Temple Shaarie Torah, connected to so-called "pro-life" activists; the painting of swastikas, anti-Japanese and anti-police logos on people's doors in East County; alleged harassment by a gang called "The Reich" at Parkrose High School; a recent North Portland murder of a Black man attributed to the Gypsy Jokers, rumored to be connected to the Aryan Nations.

As well, there have been reports about the presence in the Portland area of so-called "skinheads," gangs of youth who shave their heads, dress in black, wear Nazi insignia and "bash" Blacks and other minority groups. TV news has carried reports that skinheads have been active in the downtown area; rumors have reached MHRC that skinheads have been seen roaming the Northeast; and graffiti promoting the skinheads

has been observed at an East County light-rail stop. The Center for Democratic Renewal (which monitors hate-group activity nationally) reports that these "skins" (as they are also called) "constitute a national movement which increasingly evidences the overt symbols and ideas of neo-nazism."

"Skins emerged on the periphery of the U.S. punk rock scene about five years ago, heavily influenced by the British experience... They favor punk bands like Skrewdriver, Anti-Heros, U.S. Chaos, Romantic Violence and Agnostic Front. They are united in their avowed hatred of 'peace punks,' homosexuals, liberals and leftists, and in their frequent attacks upon Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and Jews." Such attacks include one in Detroit, where a young man was beaten senseless by a mob because he was distributing leftist literature, attacks in New York City on elderly Black women by chain-wielding gangs, and a murder in Atlanta of a young woman because she was Jewish.

The parallels with Hitler's Brown Shirts are evident to any who care to notice.

The group which MHRC convened in January voted unanimously to endorse a four-point program for responding to the growing threat of right-wing violence. The program, drafted by MHRC staff, outlined four areas of work: Victim support (for victims of right-wing violence and harassment); education (especially outreach to youth) about the historical and social significance of hate-groups, designed to counteract the influence of such groups on youth; intelligence (gathering up-to-date and accurate information on the development of right-wing hate-

Hinkle faults Reagan  
Administration's civil  
liberties record

The following are excerpts from the Keynote Address delivered by Charles Hinkle, Portland lawyer, former ACLU national board member and Oregon ACLU chapter president, at the MHRC's Annual Awards Luncheon on January 9th, 1987.

If you looked only at the advances in human rights that have been made in the past 100 years in this country,

Continued on next page

groups in the region); and advocacy (including efforts to identify and change conditions, such as unemployment and farm foreclosures which hate-groups feed on; advocating for effective legal and constitutional methods for opposing hate-groups; mobilizing local political, business and community leaders to speak out forcefully against the far-right, and pressuring the Reagan Administration to do the same).

The group met again in February, and appointed a steering committee to draft proposals on the organization and funding of the Task Force it hopes to create.

At the February meeting, there was considerable discussion of the role MHRC would play. One scenario floated was to somehow house the Task Force at MHRC, due to MHRC's legitimacy as a government agency as well as its base in the broad, multi-ethnic community. In addition, the group expressed the desire to consider the problem in its statewide aspect, since incidents have been happening all around the state.

At press-time the steering committee has not yet completed its work.

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you'd come up with an impressive list, after all, and you might think that there's nothing more to fight for — it's all been achieved. But the battle for civil liberties never stays won, as the founder of the ACLU liked to put it — and the past six years have shown us how precarious these advances have been and how easy it is to undo them. When the Reagan Administration came to power, it set out on a crusade not only to stop the progress of civil rights, but to turn it back wherever possible. Agencies like the Legal Services Corporation, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the United States Civil Rights Commission were taken over by people opposed to the very heart of what those agencies were supposed to stand for. In the Justice Department, men and women who had devoted years to the enforcement of civil rights laws were driven out and replaced by lawyers who were opposed to the laws they were supposed to enforce. They began filing briefs in the Supreme Court urging the narrowest possible interpretations of the civil rights laws. They proposed to repeal parts of the Voting Rights Act, and their Congressional allies opposed its renewal altogether. They submitted legislation to permit the government to jail people for long periods without trial; legislation that would encourage police to conduct illegal searches; legislation to abolish the rules requiring that people be informed of their right to a lawyer when they are arrested; legislation to prohibit freedom of choice in matters of child-bearing; legislation to require the teaching of the religious doctrine of creationism in the public schools; legislation to permit government-sponsored prayer sessions in the schools. The litany could go on and on — but I tell you I am grateful for that Republican Congress back in 1950 that pushed through the 22nd Amendment, because if Ronald Reagan were permitted to serve more than 8 years as president I don't know if any of our constitutional rights would be safe.

But if the opponents of civil rights never give up their fight to repeal, to amend, to dilute, to chip away, we don't give up either. That's why events like this luncheon are so important — because they remind all of us who care about these issues that there are a lot of us who care about



Middle school winners in this year's Harriet Tubman Essay Contest are (from left) Bronwen Wright, Saladin Lloyd, Freda Franklin, Emily Canzler, Joan Cosgrove, Julie Usher, Kimberly Waters, Damon Turner and Gary Simpson.

## MHRC presents awards

Stevie Remington, executive director of the Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union for the last 15 years, was presented with the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission's Russell A. Peyton Award for outstanding commitment and service to human and civil rights, at the Commission's annual awards luncheon on January 9th.

In her acceptance remarks, Ms.

these issues — and more importantly, they remind the rest of the world that we are here and that the fight goes on. We are lucky in Oregon that those who would turn back the clock have gained very few victories on the state level — but that doesn't mean there's nothing left to be done, and I want to mention just one thing that must still be done. This year, as in every legislative year since 1973, a bill has been introduced that would prohibit discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. My friends, I want to say to you that the time has come to pass that bill. I haven't the slightest doubt that sooner or later the gay rights bill will be part of the laws of our state, and I haven't the slightest doubt that someday men and women will look back with wonder and amazement at the length of time it took to accomplish this goal. I hope this year is the year that goal is reached. ●

Remington praised Portland Mayor Bud Clark, who presented the award, for honoring her when the two were on opposite sides of a lawsuit. "Only in Oregon!" she said. She was referring to the ACLU's representation of Commissioner Bob Koch, who is suing the City for having suspended him without pay in 1985, when he was a police officer.

She also took the occasion to point up one of ACLU's current priorities: to persuade the Oregon Legislature to adopt HB 2325, which would outlaw discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations against Gays and Lesbians. Ms. Remington noted that the bill would encounter "enormous opposition from groups representing intolerance and bigotry." On the other hand, she urged support for the bill, which "would alleviate some of the suffering of those despised because of whom they love." She stressed that, "If all who believe in tolerance unite, we can win."

Also recognized at the banquet were the Cascade Aids Project, for its work and support on behalf of people with AIDs, and the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, which received the Sonja Hilton Award for presenting plays promoting community awareness of the disabled.

Finally, the winners of the annual Harriet Tubman Essay Contest were given their awards. The winners —

*Continued on next page*



Stevie Remington

*Continued from previous page*

Emily Canzler, Joan Cosgrove, Freda Franklin, Saladin Lloyd, Gary Simpson, Damon Turner, Julie Usher, Kimberly Waters, and Bronwen Wright — were selected from the 573 middle-school students from thirteen schools in Portland and Multnomah County that participated in the contest.

Pupils were asked to consider whether the United States is more or less unified since the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., what they think should be done to unify all people of the United States and what role the country should play in ending world conflicts peacefully.

Eighth-grade winners were awarded \$50; the other winners received \$25 each. ●

## Kris Rogers speaks to OASIS

*The following are excerpts from a speech by MHRC Commissioner Kristine Olson Rogers before a gathering of OASIS (Older Adults Services Information System, a senior citizens project sponsored by Meier and Frank) on January 28th, 1987.*

One 25-year-old college graduate today can expect a lifetime earnings of \$1/2 million; another fellow graduate can anticipate three times that much. Guess which one is the female?

As a Human Relations Commissioner for the City of Portland and Multnomah County, I was particularly inspired by Eleanor Holmes Norton's speech at the Women-in-the-Year-2000 conference ... Eleanor Holmes Norton began by reminding us that we women are in the majority! By the year 2000,

almost two-thirds of the population over the age of 16 will be women. In history and worldwide, women are the principal water haulers, fuel gatherers, food producers — now what, she asked, have all the men in the world been doing, anyway? ...

At the City Club last Friday, Irene Natividad of the National Women's Political Caucus described William Buckley's solution to unemployment. Buckley pointed out (in his typical high-handed fashion) that unemployment has risen over the last decade at the same time that more women have joined the work force. He suggested an "easy answer" — reducing unemployment by having 13% of the new female interlopers simply choose not to work!

As if working were a dispensable luxury for women! America is maintaining its standard of living on the backs of women going to work at low-paying jobs to supplement their husbands' wages. More and more single parents and displaced homemakers are struggling to support themselves and their dependents. We are witnessing the feminization of poverty ...

Perhaps the most poignant parts of Eleanor Holmes Norton's remarks came when she spoke about the women who had "made it." ... Her message is a constant reproach to those who would glory in the power successes of sisterhood. Progress for some is not enough!

She decries a sedimentation which is creating two classes of women workers — an elite that progresses and a majority who are stymied. The great middle class is history, because of an uneven growth of jobs at the bottom of the economic scale to which women are consigned. The poverty rate for Black women who work full-time is 13% — the same as for men who do no work at all ...

Eleanor Holmes Norton, speaking out on these issues ... doesn't have to do it to supplement her income as a law professor; she doesn't do it for fame or fortune — she does it, because she doesn't want us to forget. She does it to counter complacency.

And that's the community conscience we can all be. We can point out the wrongs. And we can work to remedy them. Much of that work will be volunteer — like yours.

The most worthwhile things that I do are unpaid. I think you have more moral force when your finances are not at stake in an issue. Not that I want to perpetuate the danger of

women becoming a cheap labor supply. But especially older women who are no longer competing to climb the corporate ladder can conscientiously point out the deficiencies on the upper rungs. Think of the women in history and in literature and in tribal societies today who function as truth-sayers (as squeamish as that may make the male leadership) ...

I'll conclude with what Norton characterized as a "snippet of poetry" she composed ... I'm not sure I got this all verbatim: I don't take shorthand!

A woman is a person who makes choices

A woman is a planner; a woman is a dreamer

A woman is a maker and a molder

A woman is a person who makes choices

A woman is a person who heals others; who builds bridges

A woman is a person who makes children and makes cars

A woman is a person who writes poetry and songs.

A woman is a person who makes choices

And then I would add one last stanza:

A woman is a person who makes others see what they would choose to ignore

A woman is the community's conscience

A woman is a person who makes people make choices ●

## Clarification

A phrase in the last *MHRC Newsletter*, referring to the police cultural sensitivity training as being "currently under contract with MHRC Commissioner Michael Benjamin," may have left the impression that Mr. Benjamin, who is in fact an MHRC Commissioner, was in some sense the agent of MHRC in this matter. The Police Bureau's contract was with Michael Benjamin & Associates, which is completely independent of MHRC.

## MHRC COMMISSIONERS

John F. Heflin, Ph.D., Chairman  
Rev. Rodney Page, Vice-Chair  
Paulette Peynet  
Sidney Galton  
Carolyn Leonard  
Jose Mata  
Sho Dozono

Jaime Lim  
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Janet Chandler  
Albert "Skip" Collier  
Kitty Purser (ex-officio)

## MHRC STAFF

Gregory L. Gudger, Executive Director  
Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator  
Robert W. Cowan, Secretary

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission believes in the dignity and worth of all human beings. MHRC's mission is to foster mutual understanding and respect, and to protect the human rights of all economic, religious, ethnic, racial, national origin, disability, age, sex and sexual orientation groups in Multnomah County.

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Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 (503) 796-5136

CAROLYN LEONARD  
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PORTLAND OR 97209-3107



# MHRC

MHRC



## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

CITY OF PORTLAND

SUMMER 1988

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

### Applause, Applause

In addition to Peyton Award recipient Gretchen Kafoury, the annual MHRC Human Relations Awards honors other individuals and organizations who contributed uniquely and generously to human relations in our community.

The 1987 Sonja Hilton Award was presented to Donald Schwehn. Don was selected in honor of his service as an advocate of the disabled. He is the former chairperson of the City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled.

A Special Recognition Award was given to the Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee. DMAC, an agency that monitors the Portland Public School District, has made a significant contribution to human and civil rights in our school system.

The Harriet Tubman Essay Awards are presented to students of public middle schools in Multnomah County. A cash award of \$50 is given to 8th grade recipients, and cash awards of \$25 are given to 6th and 7th graders. The 1987 recipients of the essay awards are:

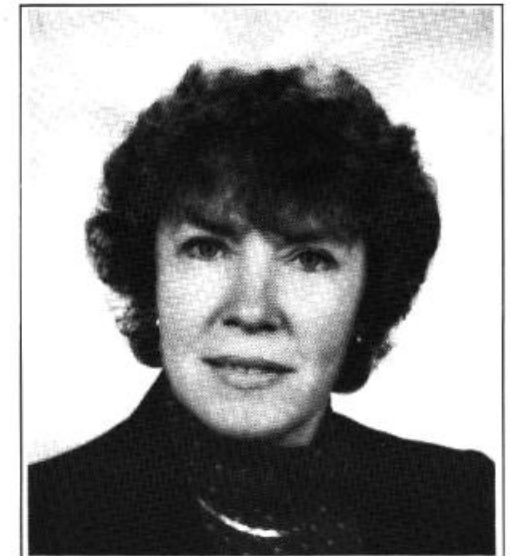
Carrie Jessen, 8th Grade  
Robert Gray Middle School  
Susanna Morse, 8th Grade  
Harriet Tubman Middle School  
Sara Ono, 7th Grade  
Harriet Tubman Middle School  
Carmen Thrower, 6th Grade  
Harriet Tubman Middle School

An essay Special Recognition Award was presented to Angel Bagley, 8th Grader at Harriet Tubman Middle School.

Excerpts from these exceptional essays are featured in this newsletter issue and in the 1987-1988 MHRC Annual Report.

### RUSSELL A. PEYTON HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD RECIPIENT

Each year, the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award is presented to an individual who has contributed outstanding commitment and service to human rights in the Portland metropolitan area. We are pleased to announce the 1987 Peyton Award recipient, Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury.



### Gretchen Kafoury

Commissioner Kafoury grew up in Walla Walla, Washington where she later obtained a degree from Whitman College; she has taken graduate studies at the University of Michigan, University of Colorado and Portland State University. During the mid-sixties, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer and served in Iran.

Ms. Kafoury was elected to three terms in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1977 to 1983. As a State Representative she worked for legislation to expand the role of nurses and to improve the quality of care for patients throughout Oregon. Other major concerns included programs to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence and legislation to establish credit rights and job flexibility for women. Additionally, she chaired the House Human Resources Committee from 1979-83 during a period of stressful cutbacks in federal and state funding for human needs. In this capacity, she was a significant advocate for programs to address the increasing human needs which were occurring.

Subsequently during the 1983 Legislative Session, she was a lobbyist for the Coalition for the Medically Needy and for the Coalition of Community Mental Health Centers. In 1984, as Human Resources Coordinator for the City of Portland she was responsible for the establishment of an emergency medication fund and coordinated the City's grant application for health care for the homeless.

Currently, as Multnomah County Commissioner for District 2, she has worked to increase county funding for prenatal care for low-income women, established Portland's first teen health clinic at Roosevelt High School, established primary prevention programs designed to reduce the incidence of cigarette smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, DUI, and teen pregnancy. She was instrumental in obtaining support for an annual grant to assist the efforts of volunteer community health clinics, initiated a teen parenting program, and initiated county funding to provide support services for persons with AIDS.

Commissioner Kafoury's main concerns are focused on minority and low-income issues. Her concerns also include divestment in South Africa, women and gay rights, and peace issues. She has been a strong advocate for health and mental health programs both in her community and statewide. Gretchen is also the founder of Oregon's Women's Political Caucus and was the first lobbyist for the Women's Rights Coalition.

**JEAN VESSUP  
Honored by  
Multnomah County  
Commissioners**

Citizens who volunteer for Multnomah County programs with their time, leadership and ideas were honored May 12, 1988 by the Board of County Commissioners at a volunteer recognition ceremony.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is proud to announce that MHRC volunteer Jean Vessup was selected to receive this public service award.

For over three years, Ms. Vessup has represented the MHRC on the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIIAC), a volunteer committee created by majority vote of the citizens of Portland. PIIAC members review cases in which citizens have filed complaints with the police bureau alleging police misconduct and were then dissatisfied with the outcome of the bureau's investigations. Citizens may appeal their case to PIIAC. The committee also makes comments and recommendations for change in the manner in which complaints are handled by police personnel.

Ms. Vessup was elected Vice Chairperson of PIIAC this year. She has demonstrated strong leadership in this role. In addition to auditing functions of the committee, Ms. Vessup has participated in shaping goals and suggesting procedures. She has drafted effective resolutions adopted by PIIAC for implementation by the Portland Police Bureau.

Jean Vessup has clearly made an exceptional contribution to our community, and MHRC is proud to join the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners in recognizing her efforts and her accomplishments.

**AIDS Forum Advises Rights and Resources**

AIDS and related diseases may be the single biggest challenge facing our nation. Right now, the challenge is:

- To protect ourselves and each other from infection by the HIV virus, and
- To guarantee the rights and dignity of people who have come in contact with the virus, and those who are members of groups identified as having a high risk of becoming affected.

These issues were addressed April 15th at the MHRC sponsored forum "AIDS & DISCRIMINATION" with nearly 150 people in attendance to hear 17 experts explain rights and resources for persons who are HIV positive, those with AIDS or ARC, and those who are perceived to have AIDS.

The incidence of AIDS and related diseases in Oregon is relatively low compared to other large cities. Still, government agencies, advocacy groups and attorneys are reporting cases of alleged discrimination. We can only expect the problems to increase as the number of people with AIDS grows.

The forum, held at the Northwest Service Center, featured Julia Hale Harbaugh and Carmen Polomera Rockwell of the Region X Office of Civil Rights, and Dr. Jim Sampson, director of primary care at Good Samaritan Hospital and member of the State of Oregon's HIV/AIDS Policy Committee and Oregon AIDS Task Force.

Topics also included the need for policy development in schools, protection of individual rights in the workplace, and discrimination in medical care and insurance.

"Yes, I will be somebody. I will be me! I am a Black child of my black race, honoring my black families, friends, and instructors, who will provide for me a way to the mountain top. I will go all the way!"

**Angel Bagley**

"My family has adopted children from different racial backgrounds. It never mattered to me for a single second what color they were or what race they were.

**Carrie Jessen**

"I dream of a place where we learn to appreciate different cultures, races, and religions."

**Carmen Thrower**

"At times it can be hard having a culture and religion different from that of others, because many times others do not understand me, and I tend to have to explain myself."

**Sara Ono**

"My parents have played a very large and important role in my growing up to accept all kinds of people. I have been raised not to judge a person you do not know."

**Susanna Morse**

**CITY MAKES COMMITMENT  
TO HEARING IMPAIRED**

The Portland City Council approved installation of a system that would enable hearing impaired persons to participate in city government meetings and hearings. Today, that system is available and working in three conference rooms of the Portland Building, and the Mayor's Conference Room and City Council Chambers in City Hall.

It is called the "Loop System".

Technically, here is how it works. The electromagnetic induction process operates from thin wire cable installed around the floor or ceiling of a room. The system connects the speaker output of a microphone amplifier to the speaker of a hearing amplifier. The hearing impaired person turns the hearing aid to the "T" position and this allows speech signals to be enhanced and background noises to be eliminated. The Loop System is not affected as the number of listeners increases, and energy radiated by the loop is harmless. The system can be portable or permanently installed.

The Loop System is not of use to the deaf, but it is a help to the millions of people in the country with minor to severe hearing losses. The System will help break through a barrier of silence for many individuals who are hearing impaired and allow them the same opportunity that hearing people now have to participate in city government and public meetings.



Photo by Gerry Levin

**Barrier Awareness  
Day Proclamation**

**WHEREAS:**

Four out of five Americans will experience some form of disability during their lifetime. Currently, there are 37 million Americans who are disabled, approximately 150,000 of whom reside in Multnomah County, and

**WHEREAS:**

In as much as attitudinal, architectural and communication barriers are being addressed, much work is still required to remove these obstacles from throughout our community, and

**WHEREAS:**

We as a community should strive to make this year the year in which individuals with disabilities achieve access to full participation in our society, to maximize their independence and to access opportunities for developing and using their abilities:

**NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That May 7, 1988 is hereby declared Barrier Awareness Day in the City of Portland.

Be it further resolved that we hereby urge all of our citizens to participate in this week, and to pledge to use the information and sensitivity we gain to remove these barriers and to promote equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities.

J.E. Bud Clark, Mayor  
City of Portland  
Gladys McCoy, Chair  
Multnomah County Board of  
Commissions



## MHRC COMMISSIONERS

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Rev. Rodney Page, Vice-Chair  
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Robert Cowan, Secretary  
  
The MHRC Newsletter is published quarterly by  
the Public Information Committee.  
Paulette Peynet, chair Joe Fitzgibbon, editor

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## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO WORK WITH MHRC?

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is always looking for qualified residents of Multnomah County who want to volunteer to work with one of the five standing committees of the Commission. The committees are:

1. Advocacy Committee which organizes and oversees advocacy and mediation efforts for projects MHRC identifies as part of its current programs and convenes public hearings and workshops throughout Multnomah County. [For instance the committee coordinated relations between MHRC and the Oregon Coalition against the Death Penalty, and planned and conducted a forum on discrimination against persons with AIDS.]
  2. Research Committee which organizes and oversees research efforts for projects MHRC identifies as part of its current programs. Obtaining public input and testimony through interviews and presentations are an important part of research projects. Recent projects include the city and county's Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action programs, and data on Portland Public Schools student discipline.
  3. Public Information Committee which has as its goal to increase public awareness of the concerns and needs of the groups for whom MHRC advocates, to increase the visibility of MHRC so that the Commission can be a more effective advocate, to promote the policies of MHRC, and to increase MHRC's ability to listen to and hear the concerns of our constituency groups. Present projects include producing the four quarterly newsletters, the annual report, and the annual Human Relations Awards.
  4. Advisory Committee on the Disabled which promotes equality of opportunity and provides technical assistance so that people who are disabled can have the opportunity to live a better life. Projects include disabled employment, barrier free facilities, and disabled awareness programs.
  5. Personnel/nominating Committee which seeks and evaluates candidates of the MHRC board and Executive Director's office. Additional projects include selection of candidates for recognition of significant contributions to civil and human rights.
- Simply mail in the enclosed form and return to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland 97204. Phone: 796-5136.

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### METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

CITY OF PORTLAND

FALL 1988

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## The Resolution

Unanimously approved by the 5-member board of Multnomah County Commissioners reads as follows.

**WHEREAS**, our community, like all others, includes persons who have a high risk of becoming afflicted with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); and

**WHEREAS**, these persons, and others with whom they associate, are sometimes branded as modern day lepers and are denied human and civil rights to which all people, regardless of disability, are entitled; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Multnomah has delegated to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission the responsibility of researching any denial of civil and human rights within the boundaries of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has conducted research and completed its report of discrimination against persons who have or are perceived to have AIDS;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the MHRC formally presents its research report to the Board of County Commissioners for its acceptance and consideration for establishing, amending or reinforcing policy to ensure that impermissible discrimination against person affected with AIDS or perceived as such, is terminated where it exists in Multnomah County and prevented where possible.

Gladys McCoy, Chair  
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT MHRC REPORT AIDS AND DISCRIMINATION: A LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

On August 11, 1988, the board of Multnomah County Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the MHRC report, **Aids and Discrimination: A Local Government Response**. In accepting the report from Executive Director Gregory Gudger, Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, liaison to MHRC, said, "I want to thank the commission for their hard work in fighting this disease and their continued efforts in this area."

According to the report, 240 residents of Multnomah County have been diagnosed as having AIDS since the county began keeping records of this illness — and of these, 131 have died. AIDS cases in Multnomah County represent 67 percent of the people known to have AIDS in the state.

The State Health Division projects that by 1991, 1689 individuals in Oregon will have been diagnosed as having AIDS. Although the extent of the disease has not reached crisis proportions in Oregon, as it has in other parts of the nation, the continuing increase in AIDS infection is projected to put stress on the full spectrum of human resource services — from health care providers to counselors, to providers of housing, food and other emergency services.

One of the greatest challenges for advocates and governments is to reduce the fear that accompanies the AIDS virus — a fear that often breeds hatred and anger. A byproduct of that fear is discrimination.

The MHRC report offers evidence that many Oregonians are unaware of their legal rights with respect to AIDS. An important court case that establishes an individual's rights in AIDS-related public health policy is **Arline vs the School Board of Nassau County**. The U.S. Supreme Court determined that an infectious disease can create a handicapping condition, warranting legal protection of the individual as handicapped. Many civil rights advocates and judicial officials believe that People with AIDS are included under existing laws offering protected status to people identified as handicapped.

(Continued on next page)





{Continued from front}

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 reads:

No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States as defined in section 706(7) of this title, shall, solely by reason of his handicap, . . . be denied the benefits of . . . any program . . . receiving Federal financial assistance."

A "handicapped individual" is further defined as:

"any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

Thus it is possible, the report says, that discrimination occurs regularly but is not reported:

- because the individual involved is afraid of exposure to publicity,
- because he or she lacks awareness of existing protection against discrimination, or
- for a combination of both reasons.

MHRC members felt that problems related to AIDS will likely increase in the next few years, so they initiated research, conducted forums and developed this report to examine all available material about AIDS-related discrimination. Existing policies and procedures involving such discrimination were reviewed and MHRC offered 15 recommendations (See "Summary of Recommendations" on this page) to combat AIDS-related discrimination in Multnomah County. These recommendations and the MHRC report offers areas in which MHRC can be an advocate to ensure that Multnomah County is both a safe and non-discriminatory environment for all of its citizens.

Copies of the complete report may be obtained through the offices of MHRC.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS: "AIDS AND DISCRIMINATION: A LOCAL RESPONSE"

The MHRC recommends the following activities relating to AIDS and discrimination. The recommendations cover MHRC activities for the next fiscal year, as well as activities of other government, private and non-profit organizations.

1. Creation by the MHRC of public education and outreach efforts about rights and obligations related to AIDS:
  - Create an informational brochure on AIDS and discrimination.
  - Create an on-going public information campaign.
  - Assist in preparing bilingual material, outreach to non-English speakers.
  - Target employer groups, medical providers and others who should be made familiar with the civil rights aspects of AIDS.
  - Establish a method to track AIDS-related discrimination cases.
  - Serve as clearinghouse for information on civil rights legislation, statutes, ordinances and administrative rules.
2. Establishment by the City of Portland of an employee policy on communicable diseases.
3. Passage of a county resolution supporting creation of communicable disease policies by private employers.
4. Passage of state legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
5. Examination of potential local legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
6. Development of anti-discrimination policies by private organizations.
7. Creation of a Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) outreach project to inform people of their rights and obligations with respect to AIDS-related discrimination, and to publicize the Civil Rights Division process.
8. Creation of an expedited process of AIDS-related civil rights claims.
9. Planning for better distribution of AIDS-education material.
10. Support for federal anti-discrimination legislation, including AIDS-specific protections and protecting against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
11. Monitoring of Social Security Administration activities, contacting Congressional delegation to encourage improved policies and training.
12. Prohibiting use of HIV anti-body tests for insurance underwriting purposes. It may be appropriate for government to assist with health care costs related to the AIDS disease in addition to appropriate insurance industry responsibility.
13. Improving school district policies, training, as necessary.
14. Bar association groups' participation with the Cascade AIDS Project and other advocacy organizations in developing knowledgeable pool of attorneys.
15. Establishment of policies throughout city, state and local governments to protect the confidentiality of individuals who have tested HIV positive.

## CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR THREE COMMISSION POSTS

Commissioner Sid Galton, Chairperson of the Personnel/Nominating Committee, announced that vacancies exist for three members for the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission and that applications are available through his office. The Commission is comprised of 15 non-paid citizens, each serving on the Commission for three years. Seven members are appointed by the Mayor and seven by the Multnomah County Chair. One member is appointed by the board itself.

The following are requirements for those interested in serving on the board:

- 1) Be a resident of Multnomah County;
- 2) Be able to attend monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month;
- 3) Be willing to serve on two standing committees (Personnel/Nominating, Research, Advocacy, Advisory on the Disabled, Public Information);
- 4) Have a strong interest in civil and human rights.

Applicants are encouraged to contact MHRC (796-5136) 1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520, Portland, OR 97204 for an application.

## SPOTLIGHT ON JAN CAMPBELL, DISABILITY PROJECT COORDINATOR

Chances are pretty good that if you haven't seen Jan Campbell around Portland, you've at least seen her handiwork. As Disability Project Coordinator, Jan works with a committee of 25 volunteers who determine the location of 100 curb cuts each year, cuts which open entire blocks previously inaccessible to those in wheelchairs and those unable to mount the 6" to 8" sidewalk curbing.

Jan is also an advocate for the Advisory Committee on the Disabled, a group that not only reviews architectural barriers but also all plans for renovation of facilities owned, operated, leased or occupied by the city and county to determine accessibility for the disabled. Equally important, her committee monitors all city and county programs and services so that people with disabilities will have access to the same programs as the general public.

"I love this job," she says. "When I grew up, many of those people we now advocate for were institutionalized. That's what I want to do most — deinstitutionalize those who are disabled and help them become independent."

Jan's own life has been a testament to independence. At age 3, she was struck with transversemyelitis, a rare virus that paralyzed both of her legs. For several years, she struggled with leg braces before deciding on a wheelchair during her sophomore year in high school. She began her education at Catlin Gable School but transferred to Lake Oswego High in 1962 because it was the only school in the area that provided access for disabled students. She says that she was lucky that neither her mother who is an M.D. nor her twin brother pampered her.

"Mom was a real pusher for me to be independent," she says. "When I talk with families today, that's what I tell them. No matter what their disability — hearing loss, loss of sight, or mobility, they can learn to be independent."

Jan cites as an example a 17 year-old cerebral palsy woman that she took into her home.

"When she moved in with us, she did not do anything for herself," she says, "We helped her through her therapy and encouraged her to become independent. That was three years ago. Now she is married with children of her own."

Jan decided on a career as an activist at an early age, in part she says because of the inspiration of her mother who practiced medicine until she was 89. Jan says she not only wanted to work with the disabled but also in civil rights causes for minorities and women. She worked in the Affirmative Action Agency at the University of Oregon and later, when she transferred to Portland State University to complete her education, volunteered to work in rehab centers and care facilities. She graduated from PSU in 1977 and began working with MHRC shortly thereafter. Jan is currently working on her master's degree in special education.

Jan says that recent advances in technology have provided the path of independence for many of the disabled. She talks about the T-switch, in hearing aids which allows the hearing impaired to understand presentations and performances with no distractions to the rest of the audience, and she points to plastic replacement joints and wheelchairs which allow an individual to stand as further advancements for the disabled.

When Jan is not being asked to speak to a group of students or conduct a workshop for the disabled, she is out promoting and educating for the disabled. She's busy this month promoting Employment of the Disabled Week to take place in October and thinking ahead to Barrier Awareness Day in May. She talks proudly of Portland's brand of wheelchair basketball and discusses life in the metropolitan area with the disabled every Friday morning on KBOO radio station. Never satisfied with success, she is now urging the public to learn about "invisible" disabilities such as epilepsy and mental illness.

Where can you find Jan when she's not in her office? Most likely out lending her expertise and encouragement to community support groups. Or planning her next promotion. One of her favorite activities is a women's support group she joined some months ago.

"But that one's for me," she says with a smile. "We don't talk about being disabled or our personal struggles but what it means to be a women."

If you would like to volunteer with Jan, call her at the MHRC office 796-5136.



## Research Underway to Study Juvenile Justice Services

One of the functions of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is to conduct research concerning human relations issues. Recently, MHRC contracted with a research firm to assess both juvenile justice services for minority youth and the use of such services by minorities.

Four years ago, on December 15, 1983, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution stating that "... minorities are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system at the intake and commitment levels." The Board indicated that it would consider establishing a minimum percentage of the dollars dedicated for youth services to be used for services for minority youth. They also directed the MHRC to monitor funding and service provision for minority youth.

Since much has happened in the last four years in the juvenile justice system, MHRC determined that now would be an opportune time to evaluate how juvenile justice service have impacted minority youth. Preliminary conclusions are that minorities, especially Black males, are overrepresented in the juvenile system; that Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians need more of a voice in the Juvenile Services Commission; that the JSC should be commended for positive actions toward minorities; and that juvenile service agencies need to do a better job of maintaining and reporting information on services to minority clients.

## Equal Employment Opportunity Evaluation In Progress

An assessment of the Equal Employment Opportunity efforts of Multnomah County and the City of Portland is now underway. Since a quantitative assessment has not been made in several years, MHRC has undertaken the project and expects to have a summary of the study and recommendations available soon.

When completed, the study will examine how much and to what degree progress in correcting the underemployment of women and minorities during Fiscal Year 1987-88 been made, how well county and city divisions have succeeded in reaching their hiring goals, and to what degree parity in salaries for men, women and minorities exist. Information will be gathered from reports, statistical analyses, interviews, spot checks, and written surveys.

Preliminary findings presented to the MHRC board in July suggest that the affirmative action plan that was developed in 1987 was quite ambitious and that a number of agencies have not met equal employment goals.

**VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM FOR THE  
METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Present Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Current or past volunteer/civic activities:

Organization/Address	Dates	Responsibilities
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4. Describe why you are interested in serving on the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. Include information not already mentioned about yourself and your experiences and background that supports your interest; attach separate sheet if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Areas of Interest:

_____ Public Information	_____ Research
_____ Advocacy	_____ Disability

6. I am interested in serving as a:      Committee Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_  
   Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed interest form to: The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission  
1120 S.W. Fifth Ave. Room 520, Portland, OR 97204. Phone: 796-5136

# MHRC



## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

CITY OF PORTLAND

SPRING 1989

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

### Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Recognition Awards



Reverend Mitchell Jacover Accepts MHRC Special Recognition Award for Raphael House

Raphael House, providing emergency shelter, food, and clothing for women and children was selected to receive the MHRC's Special Recognition Award for 1988. Raphael House was selected because of its provision of care and counseling for women and children, most of whom have experienced violence or loss of income and home. Over 100 volunteers provide 24-hour referral service, housing, employment, medical and legal assistance for women, children and men.



Jan Dixon Accepts the Sonja Hilton Award On Behalf of Friend, Cindy Callis-Oberg

Cindy Callis-Oberg was posthumously awarded the 1988 Sonja Hilton Award for her outstanding work promoting human rights for the disabled. Jan Dixon accepted the award from last year's recipient, Don Schwehn. Ms. Oberg taught courses, such as "Issues in Disability" and "Assertiveness for the Disabled" and worked as Handicapped Student Services Coordinator for Portland State University.

She was employed with Tri-Met and represented the interests of consumers with disabilities on a policy level. Ms. Oberg will be remembered for her passionate desire to promote independent living for those with physical disabilities.



Carol and Ed Edmo Receive Russell A. Peyton Award from Portland City Commissioner Dick Bogel

Carol and Ed Edmo were awarded the 1988 Russell A. Peyton Award by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for their work with Native Americans in schools, the arts, the public defender's office, and in community programs.

Carol Edmo was born in Connecticut and educated at Denver University, University of Chicago and the New School for Social Research in New York City. In 1972 she became a strong advocate for the fishing rights of Northwest Indians and helped break open the New York market of Indian-caught salmon. Upon moving to Olympia, Washington, Carol continued to fight for Native American rights. Now a Portland resident, she is the Alternatives Outreach Coordinator for the Metropolitan Public Defender's office where she provides resources and education about alternative programs to incarceration. One of her pet projects is the Multnomah County Restitution Center.

Ed Edmo, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock, was raised at Celilo Falls, and watched the destruction of the tribal fishing grounds at The Dalles Dam in 1957. Memories of his own past and extensive reading and research have provided Ed with material for a number of books, poems, and plays. His subject matter is often autobiographical, as with his one-man play, "Through Coyote's Eyes: A visit with Ed Edmo" or poignant, as with his treatment of abuse and alcoholism in his recent creation, "Raintree, the Play." He is in constant demand as a consultant for agencies working with Native Americans. According to Ed, however, his greatest thrill is working with children in schools.

## MHRC WELCOMES 4 NEW COMMISSIONERS

Four new MHRC Commission members representing a diversity of backgrounds and interests were appointed by the Portland City Council and Multnomah County Commission. Here are brief profiles of each new member.

**Adriana Cardenas** holds a law degree from Willamette University. She is an administrator for the Housing and Urban Development Committee for the Oregon Legislature and serves on the board of Bradley-Angle House and Oregon's Community Corrections Advisory Board.

"My main interest is in youth. I worked as a Hispanic youth counselor and learned that if we don't get our youth into the system, we will be spinning our wheels with them later when they are adults."

**Luis Macharro** is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the state of Oregon. He has directed Manpower Training Programs in Mexico, been a bilingual instructor and has worked as a financial aid and job placement counselor.

"With the new Immigration Law, more Hispanic migrants will be moving into the city. I hope to be able to do more things for them through the MHRC, especially with the Advocacy Committee."

**Donald Schwehn** is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the state of Oregon. He is a National Rehabilitation Association Member, serves on the City/County Advisory Committee for the Disabled and is a board director of the Oregon Head Injury Foundation.

"My understanding, education and experience working in the fields of education and rehabilitation would hopefully enable me to provide meaningful contributions to efforts to achieve fairness to all in regard to law and human rights."

**Cathy Siemens** has been a community activist in Portland for 15 years. She is currently Executive Director of the Lesbian Community Project and directs the media campaign for public awareness for gays, "Margins to the Mainstream." Cathy is an advocate for the ACLU Commission on Lesbian and Gay Rights and is on the planning committee for the NW Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

"Sometimes in the community, we get isolated and tend not to relate to others. I am excited about serving on the MHRC and see this as a unique opportunity to offer some solutions to this problem and provide additional leadership for civil rights."

## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

The following are some of the current activities of the MHRC committees through June, 1989. Additional details can be gathered from individual committees.

**Advocacy Committee** Janet Chandler, Chair.

- Researching issues facing Hispanic migrant workers and developing a strategy for addressing them;
- Developing a model for enhancing translation services for the Hispanic migrant community in East Multnomah County;
- Reviewing progress made toward accomplishing goals set in the 1988 MHRC Discrimination and AIDS report.

**Research Committee** Carolyn Leonard, Chair.

- Studying the impact of the various components of the juvenile justice system on minority youth;
- Studying the progress in accomplishing the goals regarding education of minority children developed in 1978-79 in the study, "Equity for the Eighties."
- Conducting an annual review and evaluation of the City and County Equal Employment Opportunity programs, including affirmative action efforts, reporting performances, and making recommendations on the findings.

**Public Information** Paulette Peynet, Chair.

- Developing a directory of professionals who provide human relations training in the Portland Metropolitan area;
- Conducting the annual Harriet Tubman Essay Competition;
- Publishing two newsletters and MHRC Annual Report.

**Personnel/Nominating Committee** Sid Galton, Chair.

- Interviewed and nominated five new MHRC members;
- Interviewing candidates for one additional MHRC position.

**City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled** Kitty Purser, Chair.

- Conducted a legislative workshop for the metropolitan area to present bills that will be introduced in the 1989 legislature affecting people with disabilities;
- Reviewed and submitted comments on the final draft of Multnomah County's Affirmative Action Plan for 1989-91;
- Reviewed accessibility of bus stops with Tri-Met and city engineers for the disabled;
- Began working with the U.S. Forest Service to establish standards for accessibility for national parks.

## THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE "NORTHWEST COALITION AGAINST MALICIOUS HARASSMENT"

Portland will host the third annual convention of the "Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment" October 27-29, 1989. Participants will share ideas for facing the challenge of promoting the rights of all persons and countering hate group activities. A pre-convention day will be offered to train educators, law enforcement personnel, neighborhood activists, religious personnel, and legislators in ways to prevent bigotry.

Some planning committee representatives include:

- Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
- Portland City Council
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Japanese American Citizens' League
- American Jewish Committee
- Portland Police Bureau
- Urban League
- Mayor Bud Clark's office
- Native American community

Volunteers may contact Joan Weil at 295-6761 to help plan the convention.





1988 Harriet Tubman Essay Contest Winners

Six students were selected as winners of the 1988 Harriet Tubman Essay Contest and were awarded cash prizes at the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission Awards Luncheon at the Red Lion Inn, Lloyd Center. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from Multnomah County were invited to submit essays that addressed the following topic:

"You have been appointed by the new President of the United States as his advisor on civil rights. What advice are you going to give him to make sure that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equality for all people is achieved? How should the President get this done?"

Two-hundred and seventy-three students submitted essays which were read by a panel of judges. All entrants received a Certificate of Participation, and winners received \$25.

Here are excerpts from the winning essays:

"... I would suggest to the President that we need tougher laws governing discrimination. . . . It seems almost as if our government agencies feel that discrimination is no longer a pressing issue in our country. But I think that discrimination in housing and employment still exists on a wide scale." Tracy Williams, 7th grade, Gordon Russell Middle School (Gresham)

"People should know that race problems are not just between blacks and whites. The truth is that there are also problems between other non-whites and whites. . . . The government should tell the people not to allow the hopes and dreams or lives of any people, or race of people to be put to death as a result of racial hatred or racial mistreatment. We must be strong individuals and strong as a nation." Tova Joanna Johnson, 6th grade, Beaumont Middle School (Portland)

"Now I will answer your question. Maybe I am a fool to say this, but I think we should begin to split things up for one day out of every month, so minorities and whites will understand what Martin Luther King, Jr. did for all of us. What I am trying to say is, we should put white signs and black signs on things such as tables and bathrooms. This will bring students to a better understanding of what Dr. King saved all white and minorities from." Karellen Lloyd, 6th grade, Harriet Tubman Middle School (Portland)

"I would tell him that he should put an effort into stopping job discrimination by enforcing laws that say that people should be hired for a job because they are the best qualified. . . . I would tell him the way I think he could stop discrimination against women in politics. I would tell him to tell little kids in school that it is o.k. to vote for women in politics because they have the same qualifications as men. . . . We should also pass a law that says if a male and a female have the same qualifications and education, they should get the same pay for the same hours." Latia Avery, 8th grade, Harriet Tubman Middle School

"Here are some ideas on things that need to happen to make the dream of equality a reality: • As a country, state and city, we must work on improving neighborhoods and to prevent the selling of drugs. • As individuals, we can encourage parents to ask questions like 'Do you have homework today?' and 'How was your day?' • A good project is Saturday School, which helps children feel good about themselves and their work." Aaron Wheeler-Kay, 7th grade, Harriet Tubman Middle School.

"I think, Mr. President, that some of the money we are spending should go for people on welfare, to get them better jobs. I don't think that we should be spending millions and millions of dollars for all this Star Wars stuff. . . . All the money they are spending on Star Wars can be spent on helping to build every homeless person a nice little shelter that could be their home until they got a job. The homeless could help to build the shelters, this way they could work off the cost of building the shelter." Jason Coulter, 8th grade, Jason Lee School

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator, reports that Portland City Council passed a resolution requiring as a priority public benefit the inclusion of adaptable design features in at least 20 percent of apartment units for projects applying for the county ten-year property tax exemption.

An adaptable dwelling unit is one that is accessible and adaptable through minor renovations and additions for people with disabilities. It does not look any different than other housing, and the basic features such as door widths and ground level entrances are already part of the unit. It makes possible the adaptive features such as removable base cabinets for clear knee space. Segments of counters can be adjusted so that non-disabled and disabled people can use the surfaces. Grab bars can be installed if necessary. Developers can now build more units that meet the needs of the disabled, non-disabled, or elderly.

The city-wide policy will be effective until the Fair Housing Amendments Act is implemented in March, 1991. One requirement of the act makes it unlawful to design and construct most multi-family dwellings for first occupancy after March 31, 1991, in a manner that makes them inaccessible to persons with disabilities. All premises within such dwellings are required to contain several features of adaptive design so that the dwelling is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

## MHRC GIVEN AWARD BY JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZEN LEAGUE

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission was one of four organizations recognized by the Japanese American Citizen's League for its contribution to the successful effort to convince the United States Government to redress injustices to Japanese Americans who were stripped of their property and interned during World War II. JACL President Joe Wahl presented MHRC with a certificate of appreciation.

## MHRC COMMISSIONERS

John Heflin, Chair  
Sidney Galton, Vice-Chair  
Paulette Peynet  
Carolyn Leonard  
Sho Dozono  
Jaime Lim  
Karen Powell

Cathy Sleight  
Ramona S. ...  
Janet Ch...  
Don Schw...  
Adriana C...  
Luis Machor...  
Kitty Purser

## MHRC STAFF

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Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator  
Robert Cowan, Secretary

Newsletter is published quarterly by the  
Public Information Committee,  
Paulette Peynet, chair Joe Fitzgibbon, editor

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is committed to the dignity and worth of all human beings. MHRC's mission is to foster mutual understanding and respect, and to protect the human rights of all economic, religious, ethnic, racial, national origin, disability, age, sex and sexual orientation groups in Multnomah County.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In the last few weeks, some of our neighborhoods have been canvassed by hate groups, seeking to sway the populace to adopt a social policy of exclusion. Leaflets and other publications espousing philosophies of race, religious, sexual and sexual orientative inferiority have been showing up on car windshields, utility poles and, as in one case, on the doors of the homes of some citizens. The central theme of the literature is that white heterosexual men are superior to all people in our community, and have the obligation to rid society of, or control, anyone who does not belong to that particular minority group.

Though logically flawed and morally bankrupt, these messages, coming from within our community, with seemingly growing numbers and as this mental affliction is, the message is protected.

Article I, Section 8 of the Oregon Constitution states: "This provision is both a blessing and a curse. If there is no hatred, the Constitutional provision promotes the democratic notion of the "marketplace of ideas."

Thomas Jefferson, one of the first credited with the concept of free speech, was a citizen of Portland who expressed their concern and would be proud of the newspapers which published their views. We choose that which had logical and moral force over

### Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 520  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 (503) 796-5136

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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CAROLYN LEONARD  
MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION  
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Sidny Galton, Vice-Chair  
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Carolyn Leonard  
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Irene Richman  
Ramona Soto Rank  
Janet Chandler  
Don Schwehn  
Adriana Cardenas  
Luis Machorro  
Kitty Purser (ex-officio)

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Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator  
Georgia Owens, Staff Assistant  
Connie Jackson, Secretary  
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Paulette Peynet, chair     Danielle Fischer, editor

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**Experts agree that hate crimes are under-reported. By reporting hate crime you are joining other citizens in combatting malicious harassment and intimidation in our community.**

### Report Hate Crimes To:

- Portland Police Department - 911
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office - 911
- Victims Assistance - 248-3222
- U.S. Postal Inspector - 294-2263
- State Police - 1-800-452-7888 (Voice/TDD)

Metropolitan Human  
Relations Commission  
1120 SW Fifth, Room 520  
Portland, OR 97204-1989  
796-5136 (Voice/TDD)

U.S. Justice Department,  
Community Relations  
915 Second, Room 1898  
Seattle, WA 98174  
(206) 442-4465

**Don't dismiss a hate crime as a harmless prank. It is a violation of the law.**

**Be responsible,  
report hate crime.**

### Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

1120 SW. Fifth Avenue, Room 520  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 (503) 796-5136

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# MHRC



## METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

CITY OF PORTLAND

FALL 1989

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

### YOU CAN COMBAT HATE-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- Lobby for new laws that require tougher measures for racial violence.
- Contact your police department or sheriff's office to determine if a person has been assigned to take reports and track supremacist groups in your community.
- Join or organize community groups that combat the spread of supremacist organizations.
- Report acts of vandalism, harassment and other suspicious acts to the police. If possible, document the damage and follow-up on your report.
- Insist that authorities enforce the law as it relates to extremist activity. If the acts are in violation of municipal ordinances, bring the matter to the attention of the district attorney.
- Start a neighborhood watch in your area.
- Check with your local schools to see if they use programs designed to counteract the spread of racism.
- Volunteer to work with your victims assistance program.

**Hate crimes** are criminal acts. They are directed against people, property, institutions or businesses because of the race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation of the people, property or owners. These crimes may be directed at people who are neither members of target groups nor clearly affiliated with them, but who have refused to adopt the supremacist philosophy imposed on them.



MHRC Commissioner Carolyn Leonard (right) adjusts microphone as staff assistant Georgia Owens (center) reviews notes and KGW-TV's Sharon Mitchell (left) prepares for "NW Faces" interview on hate crime.

### "Study shows increase in hate crimes"

An MHRC study has found that the number of hate crimes has risen steadily in Portland since the racially motivated beating death of an Ethiopian man in November 1988.

This rise is contrary to national trends, said Georgia Owens, the author of the Hate Crime Report. According to figures from the U.S. Justice Department, levels of hate crimes usually decrease in an area after a hate-motivated crime is committed, she said.

The report, which was released in July and covers the period from May 10, 1988, to May 10, 1989, was the first comprehensive study of hate crimes issued in the state.

Previously, no central reporting agency had compiled complaints of malicious harassment or hate group-related violence in Multnomah County, Owens said. The report was the MHRC's attempt at filling that void.

Data for the report, in part, came from the Multnomah County sheriff's office, Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, the Multnomah County district attorney's office, and Rep. Ron Wyden's office, Owens said. From this data, Owens compiled the report and constructed 17 recommendations to help track and stop the spread of hate crimes.

"(The report) defines the problem for the first time," Owens said, "And it starts to touch on some of the solutions."

## HATE CRIME UPDATE

As of October 3, 1989, the State of Oregon requires the reporting of crimes based on race, color, religion, national origin and sexual orientation. It also requires the Department of State Police to provide annual statistics on the incidence of such crimes. It requires all police officers to be trained to investigate, identify and report these crimes.

### How to report hate crime:

\* **INTIMIDATION:** Call 911, where available, or the police, if you are the target or a witness to intimidating behavior. Tell the operator you want to report an act of intimidation. Have a police report taken and ask them to record any racially intimidating factors. Ask for the incident number of the report and, if the perpetrator is caught, **FILE CHARGES** through the police department or with the District Attorney's office.

**THREATENING MAIL:** If you receive threatening mail or literature, notify the police and the U.S. postal authorities. Do not throw away the envelope. Do not excessively handle such literature. Place it in a plastic bag (with talcum powder, if available) for authorities. Keep a copy for yourself.

**THREATENING PHONE CALLS:** Notify the police and the telephone company. Many phone companies have employees available for assistance to victims of threatening phone calls. This help can include changing the phone number, establishing an unlisted number and placing a tap on the line. If the threatening phone calls are recorded on an answering machine, save the tape for the police.

**LEAFLETING:** Alert your neighbors and the police. Organize a neighborhood watch and check with the police to see if there are municipal ordinances that apply to leafletting in your community such as trespassing laws.

## "Report finds deficiencies at city, county levels"

MHRC Research Committee, chaired by Commissioner Carolyn Leonard, is charged each year with the study of Equal Employment Opportunity programs in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. This year, the two studies found that additional steps must be taken by both city and county to ensure that EEO and Affirmative Action goals are met.

The City of Portland was criticized in the report for a "substantial lack of progress toward effective implementation of Affirmative Action over the past few years."

The study found that although the percentage of women and minorities in the city workforce has risen to match the previous peak level of 1979-80, women and minorities are still under-utilized in nearly every occupational category.

At the time that statistics were gathered for the report, the city employed about 4,230 workers. Of that total, about 21.7 percent of the workforce were women and 7.8 percent were minorities.

The study, researched and compiled by Marcia Perkins-Reed, found other deficiencies as well.

The city was criticized in its failure to provide utilization percentages for disabled or Vietnam veteran employees, both of which are subject to federal regulations with which Portland must comply.

The city has shown signs of improvement, said Perkins-Reed. Planned reorganizations and structural changes are being implemented to make stronger efforts to comply with AA requirements. Outreach is being increased and the Regulatory Committee required by City Ordinance is being formed, she said.

The report contains recommendations for the city, including the following:

- Increase accountability for the Affirmative Action function.
- Simplify selection procedures and eliminate barriers to minority applicants.
- Make Affirmative Action training mandatory for all managers and supervisors.
- Implement procedures to increase representation of females and minorities in the higher salary ranges.
- Increase representation of females and minorities in its overall workforce.
- Implement specific procedures to increase representation of handicapped or disabled employees.

Multnomah County fared better when evaluated in the report. The county met its goals for minorities in the workforce for the first time, and once again exceeded its goals for women in the workforce.

The report notes, however, that the county continues to under-utilize Hispanics, Asians and disabled persons. The report states further that although the utilization goal has been met by the county, utilization of Native Americans has decreased slightly. The county also was criticized because women and minorities continue to cluster in the unskilled and traditionally "female" lower salary ranges.

Additionally, the report questions the validity of the selection and testing instruments currently used by the county. While the report does not accuse the county of wrong doing, it does recommend that validation be a priority in the coming year to insure that bias does not exist.

The report also includes the following recommendations for the county:

- Increase utilization of Hispanics and Asians in the workforce.
- Increase utilization of minorities in the categories of technicians, protective service, and service/maintenance and of females in the service/maintenance category. Also, the county should increase representation of females and minorities in the higher salary range positions.
- Include data concerning utilization of disabled employees on its quarterly progress reports.
- Institute a more standardized, computerized applicant tracking system.

## An Open Letter to the Community

I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts with you, the community.

While I am new to the executive director position, I have been working in the area of human rights for some time, and I am keenly aware of the issues and problems facing our communities. I see what lies ahead, given the increase in incidents of violence and harassment, and more importantly, I feel what is happening in our communities: the frustration, the anger, and the dissatisfaction. I also see that we have internalized much of the anger, and we have allowed it to create divisions within our communities, between our communities, and within our families.

I ask you to join us as we work to turn that anger into energy which will empower us and allow us to build coalitions — the bridges that will enable us to achieve our goals. Yes, we have a right to be angry and dissatisfied, but we also have an obligation to find the way out.

We all have a choice to make. We can come together and speak in one empowered voice, or we can allow the system to continue to divide and conquer us.

To speak out together on issues related to human rights and the quality of life will not dilute the voices or identities of our many diverse communities. Instead, it can empower them through support and the strength that is found in unity.

I believe the MHRC can exemplify what can happen when people from different communities come together to address a common goal. I believe the commission can speak loudly, act decisively, and help move this region forward. It cannot, however, do this without you, the community. Therefore, I ask all of you to push the commission; make certain it listens, hears you, meets your needs, and advocates for you. By coming together, we can find the energy and the support that are necessary to meet the challenges confronting us.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at moments of challenge and controversy." In these trying times, I hope that we will be working together, breaking the silence, and moving forward.

My door is open. I invite you to come and talk with me and share your perspective; I will share mine in return. My phone number is 796-5202. I look forward to hearing from you.



**Jeannette Pai**  
MHRC Executive Director



**Laurie Sitton** Chair, CCACD

The City/County Advisory Board on the Disabled has elected its officers for the 1989-90 fiscal year. Laurie Sitton will chair the committee, while Janine Delauney fills the position of vice chair.

As the committee members look forward to the challenges ahead, we also look back and offer many thanks to Kitty Purser who chaired the committee for two years. We truly appreciate the many hours she spent in representing the Committee and her commitment to assuring human rights of individuals in our community.

CCACD has set an agenda for the coming year which focuses on four main issues: housing, legislation, architectural and community barriers, and awareness.

CCACD will consult with private and public agencies to increase accessible and adaptable housing, so persons with disabilities can integrate into society and live independently.

The committee will also review and comment on proposed legislative bills that affect the lives of persons with disabilities. Also it will network with the community in enforcing laws prohibiting discrimination against the disabled, so they may achieve the societal goals of equal opportunity and full participation.

CCACD also will advocate for the removal of architectural and communication barriers to make areas accessible and useable by persons with disabilities.

And finally, CCACD plans to develop and evaluate methods to promote acceptable media coverage of issues pertaining to the disabled.



As with many groups and organizations, we are facing budget cuts and fiscal constraints that could hamper our efforts to carry out our mission. In response to this possibility, and acting as responsible citizens, the Commission has decided to contact foundations, charitable trusts, and corporate donors who might be interested in assisting us in carrying out our mission. We shall seek grants and donations from these groups in an effort to carry out specific projects that will help us to achieve the goal of "eliminating bigotry, and enhancing a sense of community." This will be a new area of development for the Commission which will hopefully open up new opportunities for growth and expansion throughout the community.

## HELPFUL BROCHURES

The Commission has some helpful brochures available by dropping by our office in the Portland Building or sending a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**"Choosing Words with Dignity: Communicating with and about People with Disabilities"**, produced by the Oregon Department of Human Resources.

**"Teaching Young Children to Resist Bias: What Parents Can Do"**, produced by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

**"What if it Happens to You?: A Guide for Lesbian and Gay Victims of Violent Bias Crimes"**, produced by the Citizen's Crime Commission.

## OTHER RESOURCES

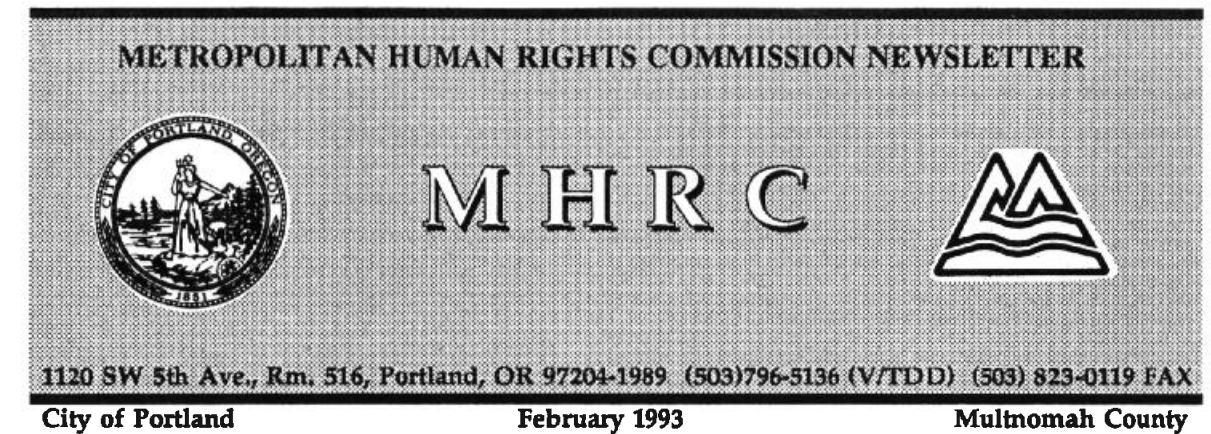
**"When Hate Groups Come to Town"**, published by the Center for Democratic Renewal, Atlanta, GA. May be purchased from the Coalition for Human Dignity, 227-5033.

**"Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those who Died in the Struggle"**, a 38 minute video on the Civil Rights Movement and a 104 page book, with a lesson plan for teachers. Twenty-five dollars for the set, no charge for schools. Available from the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL, 36104. Material may be viewed by appointment at the MHRC Office.

**"Person to Person: Improving Communications with Persons with Disabilities"**, a video focusing on improved communications with persons with disabilities. May be borrowed from MHRC.

P382  
City of Portland  
Metropolitan Human Rights Commission  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Room 516  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 653



## MISSION & PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission believes in the dignity and worth of all human beings. MHRC's mission is to foster mutual understanding and respect, and to protect the human rights of all persons in the City of Portland and Multnomah County regardless of socioeconomic status, religion, ethnicity, race, national origin, disability, age, gender, and sexual orientation.

The Commission is organized to help citizens and government in the City of Portland and Multnomah County to achieve the goal of embracing and celebrating diversity, eliminating bigotry, and enhancing a sense of community.

MHRC is comprised of 15 members; 3 Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary and 12 Commissioners. Nine members are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Portland and six members are appointed by the Chair of the Multnomah County Commission. The Chairperson of the Commission is appointed jointly by the Mayor and the County Chairperson. The terms for all members are for three years except for initial appointments to the Commission.

### MEET THE MHRC COMMISSIONERS:

Iris Bell, Chair  
Greg Asher  
Elizabeth Baxter  
Catherine Collier  
David Farber  
Donald Frazier, Sr.  
Minje Ghim  
Nadia Kahl  
Ken Klepper  
Charu Manchanda  
Claudia McDuffie  
Samuel Pierce  
Frances Portillo-Denhardt  
Malgorzata Sobieraj  
Laurie Sitton

### MHRC STAFF MEMBERS:

Helen Cheek, the Executive Director was hired mid-September.

Jan Campbell, Disability Project Coordinator has been with the City for ten years.

Jeanetta Polk, Community Relations Assistant was hired January, 1993. She was an Assistant to Mayor Clark.

Nan Wire, Secretary Clerk II was hired January, 1993. She came from the Fire Bureau.

Anne Wittmayer, Assistant to Disability Project Coordinator.

## MHRC HISTORY

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission (MHRC) is building a firm foundation and developing a clear vision of its role in the community. The Commission was reorganized and came into its new existence on July 1, 1992. The newly appointed Commission held its first meeting Sept. 29, 1992. The meeting was followed by an all day retreat. Officers were elected and committees established. The three new Committees, Diversity, Hate Crimes, Civil Rights, have met to develop work plans and strategies and are currently recruiting volunteers. The City County Advisory Committee on Disabilities was already organized and producing.

### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The goal of the Diversity Committee is to implement the Future Focus Diversity Action Plan. The Harmony Committee (a project of former commissioner Dick Bogle), has joined the committee. A specific action plan is being drafted in an all day session in February.

### HATE CRIMES COMMITTEE

The Hate Crimes Committee is using a "social definition" of hate crimes, which expands upon the legal definition to include mistreatment and injustice to human beings by individuals and institutions. The subcommittees are: Education/Training, Victim's Assistance and Hate Crimes statistics (from non-law enforcement sources, such as hot lines.) The Education/Training Committee has already begun research into the history of desegregation in the local public schools to gather data for a project.

### CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Civil Rights Committee plans a series of Forums and Focus meetings to elicit information which would form the basis for specific proposals for action by MHRC and local government agencies. They are placing special emphasis on the non-English speaking communities.

### CITY COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE DISABLED (CCACD)

The CCACD under the umbrella of the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission (MHRC), continues to be at the forefront on issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities. CCACD is committed to reducing and removing barriers, and promoting awareness, equality and accessibility. CCACD has assisted the City of Portland and Multnomah County in developing a self-evaluation and transition plan for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), compliance. A team from the committee has assisted in Diversity Training for Portland, Multnomah County and Gresham. A data base has been started to assess the accessibility of the community. Consumers are being trained to use a tool developed by the committee to measure architectural, attitudinal and communication accessibility. The committee has established a tri-county network to track legislative issues. This component of the CCACD creates awareness in the community about proposed bills in Oregon's 1993 legislative session that will impact the lives of persons with disabilities.

Chair Laurie Sitton feels that advocating, providing technical assistance, and information and referral by dedicated and determined members of CCACD can create a society free from architectural, attitudinal, and communication barriers.

## RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE: MODELS OF UNITY PROJECT

The Portland Metropolitan Human Rights Commission and the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Portland are collaborating on a project titled "Models of Unity" and would like to request your assistance. The purpose of the project is to collect information on intergroup cooperation, fellowship and understanding in order to identify models of positive interaction. Far more attention has been placed on intergroup conflict than on intergroup harmony, and we wish to redress the balance.

The study will involve interviewing individuals and representatives of organizations in order to collect information on examples of intergroup amity, particularly inter-racial efforts. Frequently the best experiences of intergroup harmony result when people come together to work on mutual concerns such as the education of their children or the safety of their neighborhoods. Sometimes routine interactions, such as computer education classes at work, prove to be effective forums for bringing diverse people together. We are interested in any and all such interactions.

Once the interview process has been completed and information has been collected, we plan to publish a magazine-styled report on these examples of unity building. We seek to inform the public about the positive efforts that are going on in Portland and to counter-balance the common emphasis on negative interactions.

If you would like to participate by identifying potential models of unity for us to interview or would like to receive further information about the project, please call Jeanetta Polk, Metropolitan Human Rights Commission at (503) 796-5136 (Voice/TDD) or Michael Sears for the Spiritual Assembly at (503) 225-0255.

***"History, despite its wrenching pain, Cannot be unlived, and if faced With courage, need not be lived again."***

***(segment from text of inaugural poem written by Maya Angelou)***

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR: Iris Bell

As the Commission moves forward to fulfill its mandates, we seek volunteers who can assist us in broadening our role and promoting our ideals throughout the community in matters related to human rights and civil rights. But it is a shared responsibility that includes the citizens of both the City of Portland and Multnomah County. We seek your assistance in working with our issues Committees: the Hate Crimes Committee, the Diversity Committee, the Civil Rights and the City County Advisory Committee on the Disabled.

We note with great enthusiasm the number of organizations and groups that have begun to approach us for sponsorship, endorsement and participation in major events throughout the metropolitan area. We are pleased at the renewed sense of fellowship and trust that has been bestowed upon this newly formed Commission. We shall endeavor to maintain and build that trust as we work closely with the community on plans and projects that promote human dignity and understanding among groups and individuals.

Continued on next page

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
VOLUNTEER FORM  
1993-94**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE:(DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select committee(s) you are interested in:**

- ☐ Diversity Committee
- ☐ Bias Crime Committee
- ☐ Civil Rights Committee
- ☐ City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled (CCACD)

**Below are examples of volunteer work, please circle area(s) of interest:**

- Supervised research
- Assisting with events
- Office support
- Assisting with bulk mailings
- Telephone follow-up
- Art projects
- Serving on committees
- Letter writing/testifying
- Facilitating group meetings
- Surveying of facilities for accessibility

**Time availability:**    ☐ one time only    ☐ short-term    ☐ long-term  
                              ☐ weekday            ☐ evening            ☐ weekend

**Special skills/training:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your interest(s):**

- ☐ Schools            ☐ Law Enforcement            ☐ Victim's Assistance
- ☐ Legislature        ☐ Community Education        ☐ Youth
- ☐ Diversity

**Other interests:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for showing an interest in volunteering to work with the MHRC. Please complete the form and mail it back to us.**

**City of Portland  
Metropolitan Human Rights Commission  
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Room 516  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989**





**Spring 1995**

**SPECIAL EDITION**

This special edition is produced by the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission (MHRC) which is entirely responsible for its contents.



## **MHRC IS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

Thank you **Citizen Involvement Committee** for giving the *Metropolitan Human Rights Commission* (MHRC) the opportunity to introduce itself to readers of the CIC grassroots newsletter. It is at the local level, through grassroots involvement that bigotry, injustice and discrimination will be eliminated. One on one conversations around the kitchen tables, can change hearts and minds. MHRC's neighborhood contacts in the daily business of life, in schools, churches, and neighborhood associations can change political outcomes. Grassroots influence on political institutions and elected officials is a major factor in social change. It is the role of MHRC, through its diverse membership, to gather and use information from grassroots communities to take positive action.

MHRC's mission is: "to foster mutual understanding and respect, and to protect the human Rights of all persons in the City of Portland and Multnomah County regardless

of socioeconomic status, religion ethnicity, race, national origin, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation." The Commission was redesigned to its present form in July of 1992, and given the new name of Metropolitan Human Rights Commission. The Commission has established itself as a central resource for information, assistance and advocacy in Multnomah County.

The Commission maintains dialogue with a broad range of community and cultural groups, develops and implements policies based on that dialogue and conducts projects which further human rights protection.

MHRC provides volunteer opportunities to deal with important issues of the day -- protecting human rights, eliminating bigotry and enhancing a sense of community.

Fifteen Commissioners, appointed by the Portland Mayor and the Multnomah County Chair, serve three year terms. Commission terms begin in September, however, applications are accepted at any time.

The City of Portland and Multnomah County maintain a pool of qualified applicants in the event of a resignation before the term expires. Appointees to the Commission can expect to spend eight to ten hours a month on MHRC business. Application forms, and pertinent information are available at the MHRC office or can be sent to you by calling, **823-5136 (Voice/TTY)**. We welcome an opportunity to discuss the Commission with you.

## Citizen Volunteers Present "Dynamic Differences" Workshops

"Dynamic Differences," a MHRC volunteer and community based diversity training program, is offering eleven community workshops. Each workshop is presented by a biracial team of two "Dynamic Differences" trainers. "Dynamic Differences" trainers are volunteers who have special training and experience in presenting workshops to the public.

Workshops are two hours and fifteen minutes long and focus on helping participants understand how people are oppressed or oppress others, the importance of building allies and networking with community members and groups, and how to embrace the benefits of a diverse society. Workshops are free of charge and open to the public, but space is limited. To register for a workshop, please call MHRC at 823-5136 (Voice/TTY). If you are a person with a disability and need an accommodation to attend the event, please call at least 48 hours in advance.

### 1994-1995 Workshop Dates and Times

Date	Time	Location
April 27th, Thursday	6:30 p.m.- 8:45 p.m.	Aging Services, 2900 SE 122nd
May 24th, Wednesday	6:30 p.m.- 8:45 p.m.	NE Precinct, 449 NE Emerson
June 24th, Saturday	9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Multicultural Center, PSU's Smith Center Room 126

### Speak Out for Immigrants

Multnomah County and the City of Portland have passed resolutions condemning legislation such as *Proposition 187* in California, which denies undocumented immigrants access to health care, education and social services. The proposition also requires health care providers, educators, social workers, police and others to inform the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of suspected illegal immigrants.

The resolution, introduced by **Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury**, contains strong language which clearly affirms the commitment to upholding the basic principles and values on which our nation was founded, including respect for individual rights and freedom from persecution.

**Commissioner Mike Lindberg**, in response to the resolution said: "At the root of this mo-

ronic hysteria is fear, selfishness, racism, and the human weakness for scapegoating. And, as is too often the case, we have no shortage of self-serving, cynical little bullies who know how to curry favor with an angry mob by serving up a vulnerable, powerless target. The bullies have decided that we should blame undocumented foreigners for our economic problems. Shamefully many Americans have been suckered in by that big lie."

Lindberg went on to trace the effect of "embarrassing examples of hooliganism in public policy" such as Proposition 187 and *Oregon House Bill 2933*: "It starts with permission to be suspicious of a group of people based solely on an accent. Then, comes encouragement to make accusations. Then, comes random and irrational official indictment. Then, comes the sense that acts of hostility and even violence towards the

*Continued on the next page*

# MHRC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Metropolitan Human Rights Commission Brochure** - Describes MHRC's mission and committees. Free.

**Diversity Sayings Booklet** - Thirty-nine cogent sayings to spice up a newsletter, provide a central theme to a speech, or just to sit back and enjoy! Free.

**Civil Rights Is The Issue** - Informational packet that explains that Civil Rights laws protect everyone from the harmful effects of discrimination. Free.

**This Is A Hate Crime!** - Brochures available in 10 languages to describe what a hate crime is, and what steps can be taken to report hate crimes. Free.

**Sharing Our Sidewalks** - Brochure that shows businesses how to make the sidewalks accessible and friendly for all pedestrians, wheelchair or other mobility device users, strollers and people with canine companions. Free.

**Human Rights Advocates Posters** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Harvey Milk, Abigail Scott Duniway and César Chávez worked to eliminate discrimination against groups of people. These attractive posters highlight their dream with quotes and other information that promotes the acceptance of diversity. Available at the MHRC office of \$5 each, \$10 by mail. Discounts for quantity.

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Checklist** - A checklist of everything from parking to restrooms, from curb cuts to water fountains, relating to barriers for people with disabilities. Just reading over the checklist is an education and helps create an understanding of how to make the physical environment more accessible. Free.

**MHRC Database** - The MHRC Database consists of over 3,000 community organizations and individuals involved in human rights issues. An excellent tool for outreach and networking. Certain restrictions apply.

**Have You Been Discriminated Against?** - Brochure that explains the civil rights protections in the City of Portland. Free.

**Parent-School Involvement Information** - Information on the responsibilities and rights of students and parents, with a list of resources for parents. Free.

**Advertising Guidelines** - Questions a business should ask itself before advertising to avoid offending its customers. Free.

**Diversity Training Resource Guide** - Brochure that helps organizations determine what type of diversity training they need and identify the most effective diversity trainer for their organization. Free.

If you would like to receive one or more of these resources, please call the:

***Metropolitan Human Rights Commission  
1120 SW 5th Avenue Rm. 516  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 823-5136 (Voice/TTY)***

# It's the Law and You Are Protected!

Laws exist which protect citizens from discrimination in areas that profoundly affect the quality of life: housing, employment and public accommodation. If you are refused a rental, fired from a job or refused service in a restaurant because of characteristics listed below, the discrimination is illegal and you may seek remedies through the legal system.

The Portland City Council, in an effort to expand protection against discrimination to every individual in the city, passed a **Civil Rights Ordinance** in 1991 which protects basic human rights in areas of employment, housing and public accommodation. The ordinance extends protection to include not only race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, but also sexual orientation and source of income. "Sexual orientation" includes actual or supposed homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality. "Source of income" includes income from employment, unemployment benefits, welfare, social security, or other legal, non-employment income. The ordinance covers employment, housing and public accommodation.

If you think you have been discriminated against because of any of these reasons, you may file a complaint with the **Civil Rights Division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries**. The Bureau has the responsibility for enforcing the Civil Rights laws for the federal, state and city government.

You will be responsible for documenting the

situation that led to your complaint. The documentation should include dates, names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses. The intake officer will decide, based on the information you provide and their own investigation, if you have the basis for filing a complaint. The time line varies for the handling of different types of complaints. The process for resolving complaints can be lengthy, therefore, the sooner the complaint is filed, the better. Possible outcomes of a successful complaint include reemployment, back pay or other benefits, rental of property, out-of-pocket expenses, and compensation for emotional distress.

You may reach an intake officer in the Portland office of the **Bureau of Labor and Industries** by calling **731-4075 x421**. Ask for the free handbook which provides details on Civil Rights Laws and information on the step by step process.

If you want an additional information on discrimination in housing call the **Portland Housing Center** at **282-1964**. For a copy of the City of Portland Civil Rights Ordinance, call **MHRC** at **823-5136 (Voice/TTY)**.

The Portland City Council believes that discrimination poses a threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens. It is the intent of the Council that every individual shall have an equal opportunity to participate fully in the life of the city and that discriminatory barriers to equal participation in employment, housing, and public accommodation be removed.

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## *Speak Out for Immigrants, continued from page 2*

selected scapegoats is at least permitted, if not encouraged by society at large."

MHRC Commissioner Lowen Berman, gave testimony in support of the resolution. He warned of the danger of attempting to solve legitimate social problems by dividing the world into "them" and "us." Solutions to problems of unemployment and crime are not solved by the exclusion of others. He concluded by saying: "In the meantime, understanding and compassion, not meanness and hatred, must be the guiding principles of our response to the newcomers among us."

Copies of the resolution, originated by MHRC have been widely distributed throughout Oregon. MHRC has asked other human rights organizations and municipalities to adopt similar policies.



## Making Multnomah County Universally Accessable

The City/County Advisory Committee on the Disabled (CCACD) is a 25-member volunteer committee interested in disability issues. The Committee advocates for universal access to public and private facilities and citizen programs so that person with disabilities can participate fully in society. Universal access is becoming increasingly important as the percentage of senior citizens in the U.S. population rises. CCACD achieves their goals by:

- ◆ Helping citizens and organizations understand the laws that protect people who have disabilities;
- ◆ Monitoring our city and county governments to ensure that they are providing equal access in employment, programs, and services; and
- ◆ Providing awareness and sensitivity training to public and private organizations.

CCACD works on several community projects. Some of these projects include:

- ◆ Working with consumers to identify barriers in our city and county;
- ◆ Letting the owners/managers of these facilities know about the barriers and possible obligations to remove them;
- ◆ Advising the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau as they renovate their facilities; and
- ◆ Helping plan the annual President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities conference, held in Portland in May 1995.

You can help! We need your comments, concerns, and suggestions. If you want to be on our mailing list, work on our projects, or join our committee, call 823-5136 (V/TTY).

### MHRC In East Metro

The "M" in MHRC stands for Metropolitan. It also, symbolically, stands for Multnomah County. MHRC has been involved with many events in the East Metro area.

"The east county metro area faces considerable growth in the near future. This presents us with new challenges and new opportunities. It's in everybody's interest to create a comfortable human environment for long-time residents as well as newcomers," says Gretchen Schuette, Vice President of Mt. Hood Community College and an active member of the MHRC.

A sample of MHRC's events include, sponsoring an *Anne Frank* and *Differences and Discrimination* exhibit at Gresham City Hall with East County Human Rights Coalition. Holding two *MHRC meetings* in Gresham and participating in the *Gresham Multi-Cultural Fair*.

### Community Input

MHRC's Civil Rights Committee holds community focus group meetings to get citizen input regarding City and County Services. The Committee met with several communities, including Native American, Immigrant and Refugee, Persons with Disabilities, and Southeast Asian. Each group gave MHRC valuable recommendations to improve the effectiveness of City and County services. For example, the Native American community recommended that the County develop brochures that explain social service eligibility and procedures. The disability community suggested that City employees receive sensitivity training to give them a better understanding of issues facing the disabled. The Immigrant and Refugee community suggested that social service brochures be translated into different languages so their communities could better understand public services and programs. Call MHRC at 823-5136 (Voice/TTY) for more information.

# A Source for Community Outreach

## MHRC Database

MHRC has developed a database that includes over 3,000 community organizations and individuals involved human rights protection. The database, with certain restrictions, is available to non-profit organizations for use in community outreach. Generally, individual's names and addresses are not given out, unless they are identified with a particular organization. Home phone numbers are never released.

The database has been used by the Mayor's Office, Tri-Met, Metropolitan Arts Commission, and the U.S. Coast Guard office. They have used it to invite people to city-wide budget hearings, gather input on light rail projects, invite minority artists to a City sponsored workshop, and to notify communities about employment opportunities. The database has helped MHRC become a resource for organizations and community groups who want to network with one another and citizens.

The Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) was created by the vote of the people in 1984. Our mission: to inform residents of Multnomah County of their opportunities and rights in the decision-making process of all aspects of county government; to create meaningful citizen involvement opportunities; and, to integrate citizens effectively into the decision-making process of their county government. To reach CIC call (503) 248-3450.

[CIC EDITS FOR LENGTH, GRAMMAR, LABEL. CIC SUPPORTS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT; THE PROCESS IS IMPORTANT TO US. HOWEVER, THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON ISSUES ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, NOT CIC].

## ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?

M 903

Call CIC at 248-3450 and find out.



### Citizen Involvement Media Committee

Kay Durtschi, Outreach Chair

Angel Olsen, Media Chair

Margaret Boyles

Winzel Hamilton

Robert Sacks

Joy Al-Sofi

Derry Jackson, CIC Chair

J. Legry, Staff

Multnomah County Citizen  
Involvement Committee (CIC)

2115 S.E. Morrison #215

Portland, OR 97214

(503) 248-3450

*"I know of no safe depository of the powers  
of society but the people themselves..."*  
Thomas Jefferson, 1821

## Multnomah County (1990)

Population by Race

497,700 (85.3%) White



6,122 (1.0%) Native American

18,390 (3.2%) Hispanic

26,629 (4.6%) Asian

34,415 (5.9%) African American

Total Population, Mult. Co. 583,258

\*Graph Source: PSU Population Research and Census Department.

### WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

If you'd like to volunteer to work with Multnomah County to help friends and neighbors in the county-wide community, please call: CIC at 248-3450 or the Chairs Office at 248-3308.

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Portland, OR  
PERMIT # 5522

Library

RICK HARMON OR HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1230 SW PARK AVENUE  
PORTLAND OR 97201

RECEIVED

MAY 22 1995

Oregon Historical Society

## Hate Crimes Presentation

The threat of white supremacist activity is ever present in the Northwest. The recent hate violence in Denver where two people were slain, and the renewal of distribution of Aryan Nations materials in North Idaho are examples of recent white supremacist activities. Recruitment is occurring in several places in Oregon.

Bill Wassmuth, Executive Director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, says: "This increase in racist skinhead activity is of concern. It appears that this group never goes away; it just goes quiet sometimes. Then, for some unknown reason, they can erupt into violent activity again. This recent rash of crimes reminds us again of what appears to be a truism: where there are racist skinheads, there will sooner or later

*"...where there are racist skinheads, there will sooner or later be violence and criminal activity."*

*Bill Wassmuth*

be violence and criminal activity. They should not be viewed as a harmless fad that will go away if ignored.."

Wassmuth will speak at a **free community meeting Thurs., February 5 at Lutheran Inner Cities Ministries, 4219 N. E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. from 7 to 9 PM.** The event is sponsored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center and the ONA Crime Prevention Program.

Wassmuth will address the City Club of Portland at noon Fri., Feb. 6 at the Multnomah Athletic Club, on the topic of militias. Call the City Club at 228-7231 for cost and reservations. Space is available for guests who do not wish to eat lunch.

## Helen Cheek Retires

Helen Cheek, who has served as the Director of the Metropolitan Human Rights Center (formerly Commission) is retiring in January after five years of service.

"I believe MHRC has earned the respect of government, business and community leaders. MHRC staff is looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of the City of Portland and Multnomah County by building and maintaining relationships and developing coalitions with a wide variety of community groups," says Cheek.

Steve Freedman, who has been with MHRC since 1993, will be Interim Director.



# METROPOLITAN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

City of Portland  
Multnomah County

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Rm. 516  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989

(503) 823-5136/Voice/TTY Fax 823-0119  
Email: mhrc@ci.portland.or.us

**Winter 1998**

## National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations

MHRC, in partnership with the Urban League of Portland, is participating in the National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations. From January 14 to 19, hundreds of facilitated dialogues on how to improve race relations will take place in schools, churches, homes, businesses and community organizations in cities throughout America. The Dialogues will emphasize listening, mutual respect, and the importance of focusing on common ground.



MHRC Dynamic Differences Trainers (l to r), Trisa Kelly, Mary Pauli, Charmaine Roberts, Monique Wortman are all volunteers.

The central question at the heart of the National Days of Dialogue is: ***"How can we increase understanding and cooperative actions between citizens of different races and ethnic backgrounds in our community?"***

"Plenty of people who are interested in racial unity can have different ideas about how to get there," says former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, co-chair of the national event.

The Portland presentation of the National Dialogues on Race Relations will be on **January 15 at the Lutheran Inner Cities Ministries, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from 7 to 9 P.M.** Please call the Urban League at (503) 280-2600 or MHRC at (503) 823-5136 to register.

## "Living Voices" Comes to Gresham

The East Metro Human Rights Coalition, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, is offering two **free** innovative and creative presentations on race relations.

"Living Voices" programs are unique interactive video and live performances, combined with audience discussion. They are designed to transport participants to another time and enable them to make important discoveries for today.

The first presentation, on the internment of the Japanese during World War II, is entitled **"Within the Silence."** It will be presented at **Gresham City Hall on Jan. 29 from 7-8:30 P.M.** The second presentation, **"Right to Dream,"** features a teenage African American in the late nineteen fifties. It will be presented on **February 18, also from 7-8:30 P.M. at Gresham City Hall.**

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The Metropolitan Human Rights Center is a program of the  
Office of Neighborhood Associations

City Information & Referral 823-4500	Crime Prevention 823-4519	Mediation Services 823-3152	Metropolitan Human Rights Center 823-5136	Neighborhood Associations 823-4519	Outreach Coordination 823-3044	Refugee/Immigrant Coordinator 823-4519
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# Dynamic Differences

*Dynamic Differences* workshops are presented to the community by experienced, bi-racial teams of volunteers who believe in the dignity and worth of **all** human beings.

*Dynamic Differences*, sponsored by MHRC, provides participants an opportunity to explore the theory of oppression and discover ways to help stop the cycle of bigotry and hate.

Identifying and respecting the dynamic differences within our community is an important step toward creating a universal network of social justice and friendship.

Workshops are **free** and open to the public, but space is limited. To register for a workshop, call the Metropolitan Human Rights Center at **823-5136/Voice/TTY**.

## 1998 Workshop Dates and Times

Date	Time	Location
Jan 22	6:30 PM -9:00 PM	Jackson Community School Library, 10625 SW 35th
Feb 19	6:30 PM.-9:00 PM	SE Precinct, 4735 E Burnside
March 12	6:30 PM -9:00 PM	Hollywood Senior Ctr., 1820 NE 40th
April 20	6:30 PM -9:00 PM	Mt. Tabor Community School, 5800 SE Ash
May 21	6:00 PM -8:30 PM	King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th
June 17	6:30 PM -9:00 PM	St. John's Community Ctr., 8427 N Central

## Community Dialogues on Race Relations

*Community Dialogues on Race Relations* are sponsored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center at least once a month. The Dialogues are open and honest discussions on race, stimulated by examining a different topic each session.

The Dialogues are a good source of information on race and culture and provide an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect and develop partnerships for positive change.

All of the *CommunityDialogues* are held from 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.

The next **Community Dialogues** are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday, Feb 5  
Mt. Hood Community College, Town & Gown Rm, 26000 SE Stark, Gresham  
Thursday, Mar 12  
St. Philip Neri Paulist Center  
2408 SE 16th  
Wednesday, April 22  
Parkrose H.S., 12003 NE Shaver  
To register for a *Community Dialogue on Race Relations*, call Linda Hunter at 823-5136 (Voice/TTY).

If you are a person with a disability and need accommodation, please call at least 48 hours in advance.

# History of Discrimination in Portland

Did you know that at one time in Portland there was a law that stated that if a person was living in a building that contained less than 550 cubic feet of air per person, that everyone in the building was subject to arrest? How about the fact that so many people were arrested under this law that the police were in violation of the laws regulating jail space?

Did you know that after WW II some of Portland's bankers and businessmen asked the national office of the Urban League how much it would cost to send the black workers in the shipyards back home? (The Urban League representative walked out, saying that if they wanted to talk to him about employment, give him a call).

It's also true that the oldest European names for places in Oregon are of Spanish derivation

(Cape Blanco, Cape Sebastian), even though the Latino population was very small at the time.

Did you know that Japanese people were not allowed to own land, due to a law passed by a Ku Klux Klan dominated legislature in 1923? Or that in 1916 there were women who had

broken out of the stereotype and were hunters, dentists, and electricians?

These and many other interesting facts are in the chapter on "Ethnic and Gender Discrimination in Portland: 1844-1980," which is a part of the Oregon

Regional Disparity Study which was funded by five local governments, including the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

The 72-page chapter on discrimination is highly readable, filled with interesting facts, and is available without charge from MHRC.

*"Native Americans were not considered citizens until 1924, even though many served with distinction in the army during World War I."*  
*Oregon Disparity Study*

## Low Floor Buses Come to Multnomah County

In September 1997, Portland became the first city in North America to have light rail cars with low floors, which allow users of mobility devices to board MAX without having to use a special lift. Volunteer and staff members of the City/County Disability Project, which is part of MHRC, were instrumental in bringing the low floor MAX cars to the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

In December 1997, the first low floor buses also began serving Tri-Met riders. All new buses placed in service will be low floor models.

The Disability Project, has been serving the needs of the community for over twenty years. Information on the rights of people with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any other human rights issues is available at the Metropolitan Human Rights Center office at 823-5136 Voice/TTY.

## MHRC to be on the White House Website

"This is the White House calling."  
That's how the conversation began when MHRC was contacted about the success of Dynamic Differences and the Community Dialogues on Race Relations that MHRC has been doing for the past two years.

After President Clinton raised the visibility

of race relations as a topic of critical importance, the White House began to look around the country for successful models that other communities could copy. That's how they found MHRC.

Look for MHRC soon at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica/OneAmerica\\_Links.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/OneAmerica/OneAmerica_Links.html)