

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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A Black Owned Publication

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18-year olds vote

The passage of the amendment to permit 18 year-old to vote in national elections and the acceptance of similar laws in many of the states, including Oregon, allowing young voters to participate in state and local contests, can and should have a great effect on the political climate.

For the first time, young men and women have a better way of expressing their discontent with the existing situations than by battling the police. If enough citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 go to the polls, informed and dedicated to putting right those matters they consider inequitable, the results will show when the votes are counted. Politicians deemed unworthy will go out of office and laws will be changed towards the ideals expressed by the youth of America.

But these fine reforms will never appear unless the young voters make sure their power is used and felt. Although many adults consider the young a giddy lot, interested chiefly in having a good time and smoking pot, the high school and college age Americans have indicated in the streets and on platforms their deep concern with the way the nation is going. They have taken dangerous ways of expressing their displeasure, using violence and risking jail to make their point. They have suffered physical abuse from authorities in order to let others know of their beliefs.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Burger complains about rudeness on the part of young lawyers, indicating that he equates good manners with reforming zeal. However foolish such complaining may appear good manners rarely have corrected previous wrongs --- there is one way of making changes acceptable to the fussiest believer in observing the niceties of life. And that, of course, is through the ballot box. But the needed changes desired by the young cannot appear until all young voters are involved in exercising their rights as voters.

We cannot urge too strongly that every young man and woman here in Albina hurry to the Multnomah county courthouse as soon as that 18th birthday comes around to register to vote - and then to make sure to vote in every election. Registration is not enough - it's the vote that counts.

If young people really desire change, they can make those changes, but they must make those changes, but they must all register - and vote. It's no time to hang back and let somebody else do the voting. Always remember, it's your vote that counts, every time.

Bike paths

The prospect of bicycle paths across the land around Portland and through the Willamette Valley brings a wonderful picture to mind, of pleasant travel on protected byways, far from the dangers of automobiles and huge trucks that crowd the streets and highways.

Bicycling is one of the most efficient, inexpensive and unpolluting means of getting from here to there. Its one disadvantage is a lack of shelter in Oregon's justly famed rainy weather.

In flat cities in Europe, especially Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam, the bicycle is the ONLY way to go. With gasoline roughly twice its cost in this country, even the economical European cars are expensive for getting to work. The bicycle is the answer. People in those cities look happy as they surge down the streets and across the squares, hundreds abreast, pumping away, getting fresh air and exercise along with heading towards their destination. The girls have a cheerful manner, extremely becoming, and their excellent figures, maintained from bike riding. Use of the bike has increased on Portland's downtown streets. It hasn't outnumbered the automobile yet, but more downtown workers are using it.

Two major points can be mentioned in praise of bikes: when traffic is snarled, the bike rider goes around the congestion and beats everybody home, and the saving on parking cost is enormous.

As time passes, we'd hope to see more and more bicyclists on the streets, overcoming pollution, congestion and ill health from lack of exercise.

Best of all, the bicycle might even put the meter maids out of business. And that's a goal every Portlander should wish to attain.

We have moved to 2201 N. Killingsworth to serve you better phone 283-2486



A. L. HENDERSON

June 6 our press will arrive here in Portland. We take a lot of pride because we will not only be the only "Black Owned Press," in the Northwest but also in the West Coast.

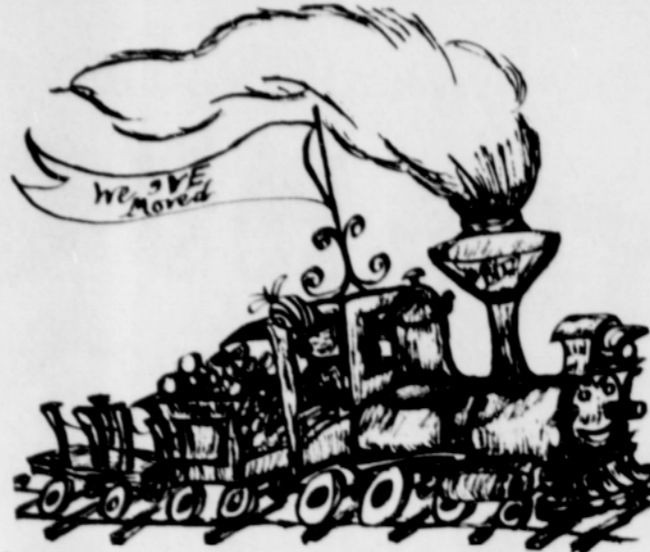
Through a recent survey we have facts that our statement is true. We are the only Black Press on the West Coast. This has been done because of you the readers, the advertisers the volunteer laborers and those who have contributed so generously. We thank you.

Our success would not have been possible without the assistance of the Albina Ministerial Alliance.

Words cannot express the thanks for the time and advice of Mr. Hugh McGilva of the "Forest Grove Times," Mr. Glen Cushman of "The Albany Democrat Herald." These men are always ready to give advice along with the Parkers of "The Sheridan Sun" and Richard and Polly Keusink, Editor and Publishers of "The Pilot," Brookings, Oregon.

Our hats are off to the Seattle Facts and their staff for their helpful advice and my home town paper which is really a great paper--"The Los Angeles Sentinel." Incidentally, Mrs. Ruth Washington the wife of Leon Washington, the Publisher, is the sister of Mrs. Bernadette Plummer.

John Sengstacke of the Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender and the Race Relation Reporter have all been very helpful to give advice and words of wisdom. Also Biscoe of the NNPA.



Atlanta's Vice Mayor Outlines America's Ills; Offers Cures

Myra Owens

America is suffering from problems which "threaten to consume us," the 500 guests of the Urban League of Kansas City were told Monday night.

Diagnosing America's ills at the League's 51st annual meeting and dinner at the Muehlebach hotel was Maynard Jackson, vice mayor of Atlanta. Jackson said that the American malady is not terminal, and prescribed a number of remedies. Key phrases associated with the Nixon administration were conspicuous in his remarks, though the President's name was not used.

"A policy of neglect has absolutely no place, benign or otherwise..."

"...There is no more time for hypocrisy. There is no more time for those who go around and talk about law and order..."

"Black Capitalism is not our panacea. Although we must have the power of money and other forms of wealth, economic power alone cannot save the day..."

Elaborating more on the last statement, Jackson said that economic power alone carries no guarantee of survival. He used the example of the Jewish millions destroyed during the Nazi reign in Germany as an illustration. Be-

ing white is also not enough, the youthful official said.

"If the power brokers of our country have not allowed tens of millions of white Americans to have economic power," he said, "blacks should not expect that it will be given to them."

"As long as we have a leader who has made an art of giving with one hand and taking away with the other, our task remains undone," said Jackson, who recommended a coalition of blacks and whites.

"Racism is not the major issue, though it is the most immediate one now. The dominant, ultimate issue is economics," Jackson claimed. In order to win their share of a place in America, he proposed that blacks first become united among themselves, then unite with "every available ally, including poor whites."

"We must convince whites that we are mutually afflicted - that ours is the business of both races. Cooperation for mutual benefit and protection is a must."

Jackson attributed the strength of his showing in an unsuccessful campaign against U. S. Senator Herman Talmadge in 1968, and his successful campaign last year in Atlanta to a combination of black and white voters who



Portland Observer
The Wise Old Owl Sez:

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"begin to think alike." He advocated political power as the kind needed by blacks. "Ballots, not bullets, are the answer to political oppression. Soul power, not gun power, is the answer to cultural oppression." Other measures recommended by the speaker were a holiday for national elections, universal voter registration, and the amendment of laws to make racism a crime, punishable by imprisonment or fine, or both.

Jackson was a friend of Whitney Young, the late executive director of the Urban League in whose honor a memorial tribute was read by Judge Lewis Clymer at the start of the dinner.

Plans for the Whitney M. Young Jr. Memorial building were announced by Louner Pemberton, executive director of the Kansas City Urban League, who promised plans for developing the Armour and Troost location of the building, and greater dialogue with younger members of the Urban League board.

Pemberton also took a stand on the May 18 school levy election, saying, "...When somebody talks about not passing a 90-cent levy in this town, they're not harming anyone but our future leaders. We can have a good school system if we fund it, and 90-cents is not too much to talk about."

Urban League officers elected were J. McKinley Neal, president; Karl Rogers and Dr. Leroy C. Lewis, vice presidents; Mrs. Olivia Shaw, secretary; Mrs. L. V. Miller, treasurer, and Clair Schroeder and Isadore Gross Sr., trustees.

Kinsey hot line

The 56th Legislative Assembly is moving rapidly toward adjournment, with a prediction that we'll be finished by the end of May. With only another week of legislative business left to complete, the calendars in both the House and Senate have been long and tedious.

The House has approved a bill which would give property tax relief to homeowners over the age of 65 with income under \$6,000 a year. This measure limits the amount of property tax to a percentage of income. As an example, a homeowner with an income of \$3,000 basically would pay no more than \$105 in property tax to a maximum tax relief of \$300.

Based on average current tax rates, a person with an annual income of \$3,000 and a home valued at \$15,000 would get 4300 in property tax relief, and the same homeowner with an annual income of \$6,000 would get \$150 relief a year. This plan is estimated to provide about \$11 million in tax relief during the next biennium, and will be financed with a 5¢ increase in the cigarette tax.

More than 300 people crowded into a committee room to hear testimony and give their views on House Bill 1991, the measure which would return the state's abortion statutes to the pre-1969 level when Oregon's abortion law was liberalized. Those testifying in favor of the bill contended that abortion can now be had on demand in Oregon and that it is being used as a contraceptive in direct opposition to the intent of the Legislature. Those who appeared to oppose the measure cited the need for freedom of choice by women, and said that liberalization of the abortion laws was needed "to protect woman from unnecessary mental and physical hazards."

The Senate has now passed and sent House Bill 1059 to the Governor for his signature. This is the bill which would accomplish a major overhaul in Oregon's public assistance program and create a Department of Human Resources. The bill, which passed the House earlier in the session, includes budget for higher education, the Department of Human Criminal Code revision, various Resources a newly created tax relief proposals, etc. Children's Services Division Plans are holding firm to not and the present Public Welfare increase taxes any more, and Division, as well as the therefore these problems will Corrections, Vocational Re-hab have to be resolved on the habilitation and Mental Health basis of no new taxes.

Also recently passed in the Senate was a bill to upgrade the standards in migrant labor camps in Oregon. Senate Bill 492 requires that each living unit be supplied with electricity and with water for bathing and washing, as well as separate sleeping rooms for parents with children over six years of age and mattresses and covers for each occupant. The bill directs local health officials to close camps and places of employment which they consider to be a public health menace.

A bill which would require complete destruction or erasure of juvenile court records upon application of the person involved was approved by the Senate this past week. House Bill 1555, which was passed by the House earlier in the session, provides that after two years have elapsed since final discharge of an individual, as long as he has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude during this two-year period, all previous records will be erased. The purpose of this bill is to prevent a juvenile who had exercised poor judgment in his youth by committing some unlawful act, from having to suffer the consequences of this youthful act for the rest of his life. The bill has now passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Both the House and the Senate have passed the Fair Insurance Plan bill, HB 1377, which provides for a system whereby an individual or business can secure fire and property insurance in high risk districts. This bill is an implementation of a Federal program known as the Urban Property Protection and Reinsurance Act, and is designed to make it easier for people who live or have their businesses in locations which are deemed to be poor risk areas to receive insurance coverage.

During these last few days of the session there is still some very important legislation which must be voted upon, such as state employee's salaries, budget for higher education, the Department of Human Criminal Code revision, various Resources a newly created tax relief proposals, etc. Children's Services Division Plans are holding firm to not and the present Public Welfare increase taxes any more, and Division, as well as the therefore these problems will Corrections, Vocational Re-hab have to be resolved on the habilitation and Mental Health basis of no new taxes.

Clean up campaign

The Elliot Neighborhood Program Association has launched a clean up campaign in the Elliot area from Broadway to Fremont St. and from 7th St. to the river.

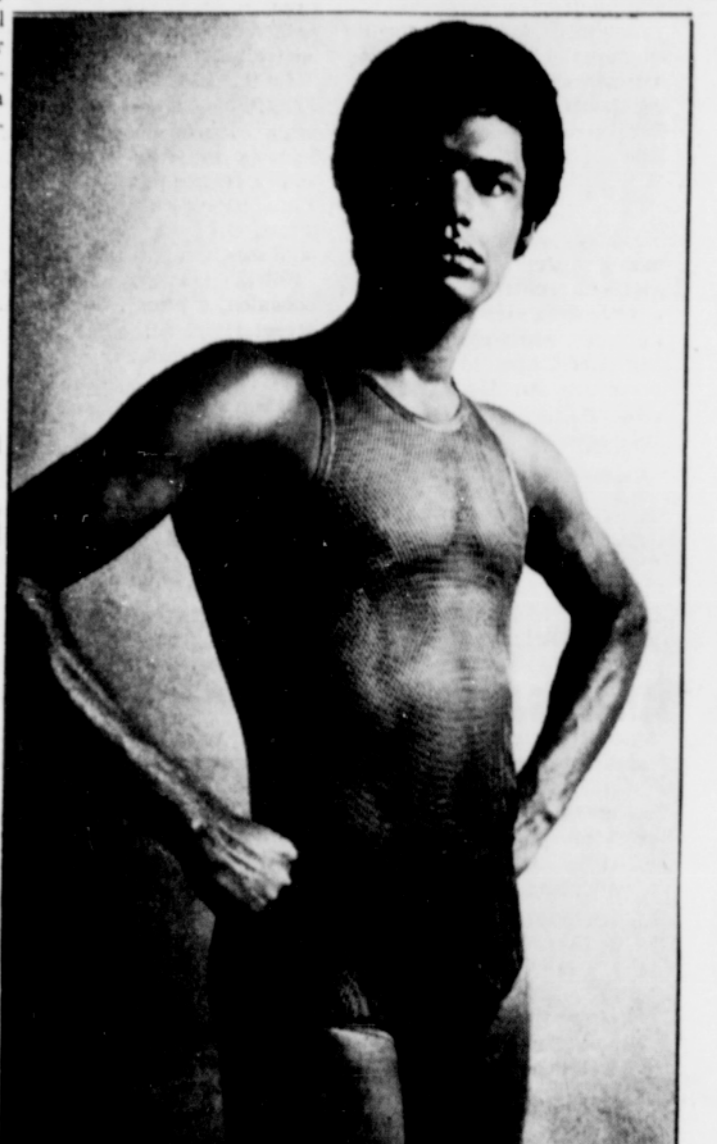
All residents are urged to place rubbish and debris in containers. Drop boxes will be placed at the following Street intersections: San Rafael and Rodney, Thompson and Union, Sacramento and Rodney, Stanton and Union, Monroe and Union, Fargo and Williams.

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