

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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A Black Owned Publication

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

## The Editor's Desk

### Separate but not equal

Separate but equal is not a new concept in this country. For over a hundred years schools have been segregated under the guise that they would be equal.

For years busing has been used to promote segregation. Black children were bused past their neighborhood schools to inadequate segregated schools. It is difficult to understand why it is so wrong to use busing to achieve desegregation.

Busing does bring a degree of quality education to some children. It is not the ideal, but for the next few years it might be the only way to provide quality education for black children. It would be good if all schools for all children were quality schools, but this is not a reality in the United States. Schools attended by black children are not provided the necessities for quality - facilities, the interest and concern, and the teacher attitudes that promote learning. And they will not be provided these essentials until the black community gains political power.

The important thing now is that our children receive the best education possible. The government of Kenya, for example, decided to send its young people where ever in the world that they could best obtain the knowledge they need to help their country. We, too, must send our children to the best schools, even if it requires sacrifice, until we gain the political and economic power to control our own schools.

In Portland, we do not have the resources to operate a black school system. Aside from lack of money, there are only 106 black teachers and administrators out of 3400 in the Portland school system. Black citizens in Portland do not vote or participate in the political process. So we must demand the best of what the existing school system has to offer.

We have been effectively controlled by "Divide and Conquer". We cannot afford to let the busing issue divide us further. We must unite to become an effective political entity, because only through political power will we be heard.

The Observer's official position is expressed only in its Publisher's Column (The Observation Post) and the Editor's Desk. Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.



## New mountains to conquer

Ron Hendren  
IN WASHINGTON

Washington - The Rocky Mountains were formed slowly over hundreds of millions of years. But at the rate America is going today, mountains of unmanageable solid waste may dwarf these natural peaks within decades.

Americans now discard over 250 million tons of trash annually. This figure will double by 1980, and yet we have still hardly begun to deal successfully with the staggering problems of waste disposal. A full 94 percent of existing open dumping systems are inadequate, and 75 percent of municipal incinerators are not only inadequate - they are among the worst air pollution offenders.

In New York City, as well as in many other urban areas, the situation is already critical. Currently the cost of disposal in the nation's largest metropolis is twice that of the national average. Soon costs will skyrocket, however, when the city runs out of land fill space (in approximately 1975), and must then build new, expensive processing plants.

One of the most frequently mentioned solutions to the problem is recycling. Recycling, which means the reprocessing of discarded waste into raw materials suitable for industrial reuse, not only eliminates the need for solid waste dumping grounds or open air incineration, but also eases the cost of disposal. In New York City alone it is estimated that \$4 million worth of scrap could be retrieved from the municipal waste flow each year.

Although it has garnered considerable national attention over the past few years as a cornerstone of the new "environmental movement," recycling is by no means a new or untried scheme.

The secondary materials industry, as it is called, is well over 50 years old. Today over 700 companies throughout the United States are involved in recycling metals, glass, paper, textiles, rubber and other materials. In fact, 45 percent of our country's total available supply of copper is now recovered from scrap. Likewise, 30 percent of all aluminum, 18 percent of all zinc and 20 percent of all paper.

Despite these rather impressive figures, recycling industries are operating far below potential output and in many cases have actually been losing a considerable percentage of the market over the past 20 years.

According to the National Association of Secondary Material Industries this drop is due to a complicated tangle of "economic roadblocks" which favor products made from virgin materials. These factors include tax policies and transportation rates in particular. Clearly then the future of recycling depends largely on what actions Congress and the President take over the next few years. The key question of the National Urban League is whether the federal government wants to encourage recycling or, if not, what it will do instead to cope with our growing mountains of trash, a problem which unlike many others cannot be hidden very easily from public view.

## On to Oregon

### To Be Equal



VERNON JORDAN

past decade. He consulted with Presidents, governors, mayors, corporate and union leaders, and other people whose decisions affect our lives. To an incredible degree, he was successful in convincing them to open up opportunities for black people.

He was a driving force behind the war on poverty, federal civil rights actions, corporate and foundation support for the black-led rights agencies, and for the creation of many thousands of new jobs for black workers.

Much of this story is still untold and few people are fully aware of his great accomplishments in the face of overwhelming odds. Just as his tenure as executive director of the Urban League in the ghettos of America, so too did his tireless efforts result in changed attitudes among professional, business, and labor groups.

Take nearly any of the better known private programs of involvement - the Urban Coalition, the insurance industry's ghetto investment program, the architect's urban programs - and the chances are very good that they got their start through public and private persuasion by Whitney Young.



Whitney was a powerful mover in the events of the

## Letters to the Editor

### Appreciation

Dear Mr. Henderson,

I recently read an article on the Oregon National Guard which had been published in the Portland Observer. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your valuable contribution in a very important area. It is always good to know that our many friends in the newspaper world are helping us to tell our story to the U. S. public since, as I am sure you are aware, the Fed-

eral and State mission of the National Guard has never been more serious in nature.

We trust that association between your newspaper and the National Guard will continue.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Greenleaf  
Major General USA  
Chief, National Guard Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

### Displaced persons object

Letter to the Editor:

A great many people have asked about what happened to bring us to the point where we have been asked to move from our homes so the School District can use our land for their own purposes. This is not an attempt to give a date by date history but more to give a quick overview of the process.

Several years ago the Portland Planning Commission suggested our neighborhood to the School District as a logical location for parking and maintenance of equipment and other centralization of services. We were not asked for our opinion or made any part of the decision making effort.

The School Board voted to acquire the area. We were not aware of this action. The District started to acquire property piecemeal and mostly from absentee owners. The next step was to send in bulldozers to remove the houses they had purchased. This created muddy vacant lots and did much to destroy a neighborhood of people. We feel this action was also intended to "panic" the remaining property owners into selling.

After the School District mutilated the neighborhood, they acted like they were doing us and the whole city a favor by removing the rest of the homes from the "blighted" area. The final blow to the few owner-occupants remaining was the price the District offered for our homes. It was generally just over a half of our cost of replacement. They told us they were offering "fair market value." We say there is no such thing when there is only one buyer and that buyer has the power of condemnation.

If the "poor environment" effected the "fair market value" it is ironic because the buyer - the School District - created the "poor environment" by ripping up the neighborhood.

As a general rule, we are not opposed to selling our proper-

ty to the School District. We simply feel that we should not be asked to take less than it will cost us to relocate in another neighborhood. We are not even asking to be compensated for the heartache, the worry, the frustration or the agony caused by the whole unpleasant process.

We did not ask to be moved. We had no part in saying what would happen to our neighborhood. Place yourself in this picture and tell us how you would respond.

Statement adopted by The School District Displaced Persons Association  
March 9, 1972.  
Mrs. Leonard Charles,  
Chairman  
Mrs. Dillard Hudson,  
Secretary

The Portland Black Caucus will hold a meeting Friday, March 31st, 7:00 p.m., at 220 N.E. Russell for the purpose of adopting by-laws and electing officers.

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## As I See It

### Is Portland ready?

By Lenwood G. Davis



Lenwood G. Davis

Ellis H. Casson recently announced his candidacy for the City Council of Portland and one must wonder about his chances of being elected. He stated that he would bring a new vision to the City Council if elected. Needless to say, Mr. Casson faces the same hurdles as other candidates. Namely, finances and a viable and effective political organization. At this juncture, he has neither. However, his campaign is in the organizational stage and it will take time and a lot of hard work before it can become effective.

Even if Mr. Casson has sufficient financial backing and an effective organization his biggest obstacle will be to defeat Connie McCready, the incumbent, whom he is running against. It is a political reality that seldom is an incumbent defeated. Because of confidential information about that particular complicated situation this writer deems it expedient and appropriate not to discuss the matter in detail.

The candidate stated that he is running to win. However, like others running for public office, he has some liabilities. One is that his previous association with certain programs may sway some people not to support him. Another is that he is not as well known as some of his opponents. And there is the problem of finance. Also most people are not aware of his "vision" for change at City Hall.

Mr. Casson has several assets. He has the reputation as a "doer," and has worked tirelessly for social change.

He has held a number of administrative positions. The candidate has the reputation of being a fair, honest, and just man. Mr. Casson is a member of the City Planning Board, President of the NAACP, and a minister. His greatest asset is that he will appeal to the average citizen, minorities, and cannot be bought by special interest groups.

Mr. Casson's chance of winning is a long shot, to say the least. Because of overt and embedded racism in Portland the citizens will view the candidate as a Black running for office rather than as an individual running for office. Racism in Portland and Oregon is so deeply enshrined in society that to think that it does not exist is the "epitome of absurdity." As I see it, Portland is not ready to elect a Black man to the City Council no matter what his credentials. To think otherwise would be to suffer from delusions of grandeur.

## Democrats meet

March 18 - East Central Democratic Club Cocktail Party & Carnival - 8 to 12 p.m. - Timberlaine - 4030 N.E. Halsey - \$2.50 per person.

March 19 - Annual Southeast Pancake Breakfast - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - John R. Leech, YMCA - S.E. 60th and Foster - Adults, \$1.50, Children, 75¢, Family Rate, \$5.00.

April 12 - North Portland Democratic Forum Sixth Annual Chicken Dinner & Candidates Fair - 5:30 to 8 p.m. - Polish Library Hall - 3832 N. Interstate at Failing - Dinner: Adults, \$2.50, Children under 12, \$1.50. No charge for Candidates Fair. Everyone welcome.

## UL backs busing

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, declared his unqualified support for busing as a means to achieve integrated schools in a statement over nationwide television.

Jordan declared in part: "The long-simmering controversy about busing to desegregate the public schools has flared into a full-scale debate that is being used as a political football to divide and polarize the nation. Constitutional amendments have been proposed which would re-create a system of dual schools, separate and inherently unequal. By appointing a top-level group to study ways to circumvent recent court decisions ordering integration and busing as one of the means to achieve it, the President has lent the weight of his office and the dignity of his position to those who have been defying the law."

"And he has completely undermined his own statement of two years ago, when he said: 'Quality is what education is all about; desegregation is vital to that quality.' It is clear that attempts to inflame public opinion against busing, which is but one tool to desegregate the schools, represent a cease-fire in the moral and social revolution this nation has been struggling to achieve. By politicizing the issue, parents and children are being used

as pawns in an effort to roll back and nullify the historic 1954 Supreme Court decision. "But almost 20 years later half of the black children in Chicago, for example, go to all-black schools. To the extent that desegregation has been achieved, it has been in the South under court-ordered plans that frequently include busing. The courts have spoken loud and clear on this issue.

"Busing is now controversial because it is a racial issue. America's school systems have always bused children; about forty per cent of all students are bused to school for reasons that have nothing to do with desegregation. Black people need only think back a few years to recall how they were bused far from home, past nearby predominantly white schools, to attend all-black ones.

"And many white parents today put their children on school buses that drive past integrated public schools and stop at all-white, segregated private schools. Anyone who proposes that the current opposition to busing is not based on racial grounds is deceiving himself.

"The hysteria over busing obscures the fact that what is at the end of the bus ride is what matters. White children in an all-white school environment are deprived of the diversity that reflects the world in which they will have to live.

