

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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A Black Owned Publication**

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INPA

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the Portland Observer will be cheerfully corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Editor.



The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

White responsibility to black business

What is the responsibility of the white community to the economic life of the black community?

Since the first white Americans settled the Oregon Country, their economic, social, educational, religious and political forces have combined to isolate black people from the economic mainstream.

When blacks began to come to Portland in greater numbers, in the early 1940's, the lines of separation were tightened and isolation made more distinct.

A coalition of business, labor and public officials has conspired to prevent blacks from taking their rightful pace. This was accomplished through refusal to hire blacks, discrimination by labor unions, and the elimination of blacks from public employment through manipulation of tests and civil service lists. Government has looked the other way as blacks have suffered discrimination in education, housing and employment.

White businessmen, union leaders and public officials are still in command. Black businesses and other economic endeavors must rely on white support or fail. And if this support does not come, they cannot exist.

Black business exists in a depressed area, with potential consumers who have lower than average incomes and must spend a higher percentage of their incomes on the basics - food, shelter and clothing - than white customers. Business expenses are higher due to inflated insurance costs, high rents, difficult to obtain credit and other handicaps.

Yet the same people who have systematically kept blacks out of the economic life of the community, accuse us of failing to have the initiative to become businessmen.

The responsibility of the white community is to encourage and support black business. The responsibility of the white corporation or industry is to spend some of its money, especially that provided him by the government, to purchase goods and services provided by black business.

Attention

Will the writer that mailed to us an "article" entitled "A Community Cries Out in Agony" (The Neil Goldschmidt Proposal for Merger of Poverty Programs) please come in and claim the article. We will print your view, if these are your convictions. Why not let the community know who you are?

Letters to the Editor

Racism at OSU

Dear Editor:

In both editions of the Oregonian and Oregon Journal of April 19, 1972, an article appeared accusing the baseball coach of Oregon State University of discrimination in denying Verdell Adams, an all-PIL baseball player, the right to travel with the school team. This is not the first incident of this kind on the part of this coach who has made public statements that he will not have black players on his team.

This is not the first time this has happened at OSU; ask Fred Milton, but this only seems to happen, throughout the entire system of higher education, at OSU.

These continual racial slurs demonstrate that there is clearly something wrong with this college and the mental attitude of the entire Corvallis community.

This will not once again stand a so-called "local investigation by a local citizen" but needs in fact a searching inquiry from the Governor's office and the State Board of Higher Education by a completely impartial body.

How do you convince black children not to be drop-outs, when on the highest level of education, they are dropped out. The state of Mississippi has over two hundred black students on its university campus. There is a message here somewhere.

Perhaps it is time for our community to organize and warn its graduating high school students, athletes and non-athletes alike, that they simply are not welcome in the Corvallis educational community.

J. Alton Page



Decisions Decisions of 1972



Decisions

Goldschmidt or deWeese, that is the question! Will either man remember us after he is elected? Or will candidates continue to give those decision making positions to whites saying that Blacks are not ready? And what about Ed Hamilton? Would he do better?

The Observation POST

Open letter to the school board

Mr. Robert Ridgley, Chairman
Board of Education
631 NE Clackamas Street
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Ridgley:

I cannot in good faith accept the position you asked me to fill on the committee to choose members for the district advisory committees.

I am honored by your consideration of me for this task. However, I strongly believe that members of the advisory committees should be chosen by members of the communities they represent. A committee chosen by the school board, no matter how objective it tries to be, cannot replace the elective process.

I hope you will in the very near future develop a process whereby committee members will be elected with safeguards to insure participation by all segments of the population.

I would be happy to serve you in some other capacity.

Very truly yours,

A. Lee Henderson

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.

Deadline

Pictures - Monday 5:00 pm
Stories - Tuesday 5:00 pm
Advertising - Tuesday 5:00 pm

Conference supports busing

The anti-busing proposals of both President Nixon and separatist groups who succeeded in adopting such a resolution at the recent National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana, were firmly rejected by the National Policy Conference on Education for Blacks.

Dr. Kenneth Clark, who is president of the Metropolitan Applied Research Center (MARC), was a keynote speaker at the conference. Not only did he denounce the Nixon plan as an attempt to slow the pace of public school desegregation, but also as a return of the civil rights movement to a point at or before the Plessy vs. Ferguson separate-but-equal stage. He contended that this plan would hold the federal court back from acting as an independent protector of the rights of minorities against the prejudices of the majority.

"While the President attempts to prohibit transportation of students for purposes of desegregation, he would permit transportation of these children for other purposes. He is using the power of his office in a racial controversy on the side of those who have been consistently opposed to equality of educational opportunity for racially rejected minorities," said Dr. Clark.

More than 600 delegates attended the three-day meeting sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, with U.S. Rep. Augustus Hawkins of California as chairman.

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism announced that Earl Caldwell of the New York Times and Robert C. Maynard of the Washington Post will be co-directors of the 1972 Summer Program in Journalism for minority group members.

The school said Caldwell's and Maynard's appointments mark the first time the program has been headed by journalists who are nationally known.

"We seek to find means through this program of eliminating from the lexicon of American journalism the phrase, 'couldn't find anyone qualified,'" Caldwell and Maynard said.

Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization that promotes registration and voter education campaigns among black trade unions, called for the election this year of any other Presidential candidate besides Richard Nixon or Governor George Wallace.

Rustin said, "As long as Nixon is in the White House, there can be no social progress in America. Nixon's economic policies produce scarcity, and as long as there is scarcity, people will fight each other for jobs, housing and medical care."

Rustin said any Democratic candidate except George Wallace was acceptable to his organization.

Rustin urged blacks to join labor unions and pointed out that the 2.5 million blacks who belong to unions earn 50 per cent more than blacks not affiliated with unions.

Some insight into the ways in which ghettos are bred and maintained is provided in a current suit brought by the ACLU against Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk. The suit charges that 62 per cent of the city's public housing is predominantly black areas. It also contends that blacks are being isolated from the white community.

If successful, the suit will bring a moratorium on the future construction of public housing in black areas until there is a balance of the units in all wards of the city.

The life of Dr. William Nkomo, who died at the age of 57, covered the whole spectrum of the fight for the African people of South Africa - from black power to peaceful dialogue.

As a young man, he was expelled from the African National Congress (ANC) for his militant beliefs. In later years some blacks spurned him as an "Uncle Tom" for advocating dialogue and compromise with whites.

Nkomo was born in 1915 in an African township near Pretoria. The son of a Methodist minister, he gained a bachelor of science degree at Fort Hare University and travelled to the United States just before World War II to attend the World Youth Congress.

In January, he was elected first African president of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

As I See It

Portland's Black Middle Class: A Disappointment!

Part 1

By Lenwood G. Davis

I would like to preface this article by stating that I feel that I am in a good position to analyze Portland's Black Middle Class because I have been designated as being part of it. Therefore, I cannot be accused of being envious or jealous of it.

Having traveled in 40 states, 10 countries and 3 continents, in this writer's opinion, Portland's Black Middle Class is the most COMPLACENT, most SATISFIED, most APATHETIC, most CONSERVATIVE, most PROVINCIAL, and most TRADITIONAL of any Black Middle Class that I have seen ANYWHERE! Now let's examine those allegations. Most of Portland's Black Middle Class are under the sad illusion that we have acquired our status because of our abilities and initiatives. That is an invalid assumption. What we do not want to admit is that we did not make it altogether because of our own abilities, but because other Blacks have paved the way for us. Most of the Middle Class Blacks are out of touch with reality. We have failed to realize that we will swing together or we will all swing separately and that NO BLACK man is free until ALL BLACK men are FREE.

Most of the Blacks here are too fragmented. There is no unity. We are too divided and are not working together. Too many of us are only concerned with maintaining the status quo. Most of us are too concerned with projecting our own self image and are NOT concerned with what happens to the masses of Black people. Most are more interested with being part of their own social clubs, fraternities, sororities and peer groups than trying to do something for our Black brothers and sisters. Granted that some of these social groups do give a few scholarships and make some minor contributions to the community. However, these acts are mere gestures and somewhat nil. We are not doing one iota of what we can and should do. We have the N.A.A.C.P. going in one direction; the Urban League in one direction; the Black Panther Party in one direction; the ministers in one direction; the average citizen in one direction; and the Black Middle Class in another. All of us should support one organization that can be the voice of the Black community. At present the Oregon Black Caucus is the logical organization to speak for the community. All of us should support the efforts of the Black Caucus.

Very few so-called Black Middle Class people have supported the Oregon Black Caucus. Several, however, have, such as Lee F. Brown (when he is in town), Charles Jordan, John Toran, Ocie Trotter, Gladys McCoy, David Nero, Jettie Wilds, Hazel Warren, William McCoy, Kay Jernigan and etc. Others have participated occasionally, such as George Rankins, Paul Knauls, Chalmers Jones and etc. Others have been conspicuously absent, such as Cleveland Gilcrease, Leon Harris, Mercedes Deiz, Aaron Brown, E. Shelton Hill, Ellis Casson, Hazel Hays, H. Belton Hamilton, Brenda Green, Martha Jordan, William McClelland, Alvin Estiste, Joe Bowman, Jerry Fuller, William Newborn, Russell Dawson, William Gerardi, Arthur Cox, C. Don Vann, William Jenkins, Henry Scott, Albert Scott, Vernable Booker, George Christian, Herman G. Plummer, Ellen Law, Nathan Nickerson, Evin Roberts, William Hilliard, D.A. Johnson and Heloise Hill. There have been NO BLACK PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, PHARMACISTS, MINISTERS or BUSINESSMEN involved except David Nero. We find that a few of them have the time to visit Geneva's, Fred's Place, Ebony Club, Upstairs, Jade West, Thunderbird Inn (Jantzen Beach), Ramada Inn, Sheraton Inn, Holiday Inn, Candlelight Inn (formerly Smitty's), and a few out of the way places. Yet some do not have the time or will not take the time to attend the Black Caucus meetings.

In some cases what we find is the Black Middle Class being only carbon copies of the white middle class in their thinking, behavior, dress, speech and being white oriented with all of their values. The Black so-called Middle Class in Portland can no longer sit idly by while the masses here are oppressed. They MUST RISE AND BECOME A VOICE OF DISSENT. And if they continue to perpetuate myths of whites, then the Black masses don't need them. They must realize that UNTIL ALL BLACKS ARE FREE, NO BLACK IS FREE. The future of Portland will never be



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changed as long as the Black Middle Class continues to suffer from delusions of grandeur and fail to face reality. Things will not change in Portland until ALL Black people can be respected as fellow human beings and first-class citizens. For Portland's Black Middle Class to believe otherwise is for them to suffer from cancer of the brain and diarrhea of the mind.

Part II of "Portland's Black Middle Class: A Disappointment!" will appear next week.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Editor of the Observer has attended meetings of the Black Caucus, however, I suggest that the Black Caucus coordinate its meetings at either another day or at a different hour.

Whatever your profession maybe, if the meetings are scheduled during your working hours you cannot attend.

Although the black church has a seven day a week responsibility, most of its input is on Sunday and most ministers find it impossible to attend.)

McCoy

DEMOCRAT

For State Representative

District 15

Responsible Knowledgeable Concerned

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