

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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The Northwest's Best Weekly
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

The party and the black candidate

Many persons would say that it is not proper that a person should be elected to office solely because of race or color. They would say that we should not recommend to you the election of a candidate because of his "black experience" or that we should choose among equally qualified candidates on the basis of race. They would say that candidates should be elected on the basis of their individual endeavors, that it takes long hard work for the political party to deserve that party's nomination. In many respects this is true.

But in Oregon we have a peculiar situation that does not lend itself to the usual political platitudes. There has never been a black in the Oregon Legislature in the State's 113 year history. There has never been a black-elected state, county, or city official. In the history of the State we have elected one black judge (previously appointed) and one black school board member.

There have been several black people, who over a period of years, have worked diligently for the party of their choice, have served the community in various capacities, and who have sought public office. They have been defeated solely because of race and color.

These examples have not inspired other black people to spend their time in party politics, which would prove fruitless. They have channeled their energies in other efforts, have served the community in other ways.

No, not many blacks are active in the party. And not many blacks will be active in the party until they see some results from the efforts of those who are.

So, in the meantime, we must recommend to you the election of black candidates - not based on party activity or offices held - but on ability, promises, and the need for black input in the halls of government.

Is Portland next?

A precedent setting case has been filed in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. The San Francisco Branch, NAACP, is requesting that damages be paid to black children who are still enrolled in segregated public schools in San Francisco.

Research shows and the U.S. Supreme Court has determined, that black children are damaged by attendance in inferior, segregated schools. These children, who are handicapped for life within the first three years of their schooling, should be compensated for this damage. A child who is not taught, and when interest in learning is destroyed by the second or third grade, cannot go on to reach his full intellectual potential. He cannot attend the college of his choice, enter a profession or go into a meaningful career. He will never reach his maximum earning power in this money oriented society.

Portland also has relegated more of its black children into segregated schools. All but a few black children attend schools with up to 99% black enrollment. And although federal money has been put into the "Model Schools" for the past 8 years, and teachers have been given "combat pay" to teach in these schools, a recent survey by the Oregonian shows these schools still at the bottom in scholastic ranking. The Coleman report and other studies have clearly indicated that the factor most relevant to children's learning is the teacher's attitude. If the teacher believes the child can learn, he will; if the teacher believes the child cannot learn because he is black or "disadvantaged", he will not learn. These schools are not inferior merely because they are black, but because in the United States the best efforts and skills are not found in the black schools.

So Portland keeps its black students in segregated, inferior schools, causing them irreparable damage. Research, morality or commitment has not induced the Board of Education to correct this situation. Racial isolation is more prevalent than it was when the "desegregation" plan began. Perhaps money will be the motivation. If the court should award damages in this suit, or even if it does not, perhaps the threat of financial reparations will bring action.

The Observation POST

Deiz favored as Judge

The Portland Observer recommends the election of Mercedes Deiz for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court, Court of Domestic Relations.

The Court of Domestic Relations is one of the most important courts in the lives of individuals. This court handles custody proceedings, support, divorces, adoptions, dependent and neglected children and delinquency proceedings. This court removes children permanently from their parents, places them in the custody of agencies or approves their adoption, commits children to correctional institutions and treatment centers.

There are few blacks associated with the Court of Domestic Relations or the agencies it looks to for recommendations. There is one black practicing attorney in Portland. There are no blacks in the Justice Department in Portland. There are no black social workers with the Court of Conciliation which determines custody. There are no black counselors at the Juvenile Court, which recommends custody, adoption, and commitment of children and juveniles. There are four black social workers with the Children's Services Department in Portland, which investigates and makes recommendations in cases of child neglect and abuse. Black families who come to this court or these agencies needing help or asking judgement, find only a maze of white middle class social workers and counselors. We believe that black families and children coming before the court have the right to find some blacks among these "helping" persons, and we believe that in this case, that black person should be the Judge.

A Judge not only applies the law, but also interprets it and determines its constitutionality. A Judge can set the atmosphere in which the law will be administered and can apply it fairly to all citizens. In a state like Oregon, where there are no blacks in law-making positions at any level - city, county, state or federal - and where blacks have no input into the legislative process, it is imperative that blacks be among those who interpret and apply the law. Judge Deiz has proven her ability. She was a successful private attorney, was a hearings officer for the Workmen's Compensation Board of Oregon and was appointed and elected to the District Court of the State of Oregon, where she has served well. She belongs to a number of professional and legal organizations.

Mrs. Deiz' opponents are well qualified. Ron Gevurtz reorganized and administered Lega' 'id, where he had experience with the legal problems of the poor and of minorities; Hal Hart has served as Deputy District Attorney with the Court of Domestic Relations and has created constructive programs for young people; Richard Knapp is a Referee for the Juvenile Court. But Mercedes Deiz has a special experience and knowledge gained by being a member of a minority group in the United States. She will bring to the Court of Domestic Relations the unique point of view of a black woman.

Toran is the One

For State Representative, District 16, the Portland Observer recommends the election of John Toran.

John Toran has been a practicing attorney in Portland for the past ten years. He is concerned with quality education, reorganization of the tax structure to provide more funds for schools while easing the burden of taxes on citizens, and with the rights of consumers.

There are eight other candidates, some well qualified to hold office, most notably, Wally Priestley. He has served three previous terms in the House, with a favorable record.

John Toran, however, offers his experience as a lawyer and his ability to relate legislation to the individual. He offers an awareness of the needs of all people while understanding the special problems of minorities. He is a man capable of representing all people, though never forgetting the needs of individuals. The Portland Observer hopes John Toran will be among the first black men to sit in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Repeal Section 5

One item to be brought before the voters of Oregon on May 23rd is the repeal of Article IV, section 5, of the Oregon Constitution.

Article IV, Legislative Department, Section 5, Census: "The Legislative Assembly shall in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five and every ten years, after, cause an enumeration to be made of all the white population of the State."

For over one hundred years, and at the present time, this discriminatory provision has been and is a part of the Constitution of the State of Oregon.

Although the actual census was repealed in 1915 by the Legislature, the Constitutional provision was not. The state census is made unnecessary by the federal census that is held every ten years.

To erase this blot from Oregon's Constitution vote "Yes" for State Ballot Measure No. 2, the ballot title of which reads, "Repeals Requirement For Decennial State Census."

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.

For our new District Six Senatorial district:
 "The Oregonian recommends to the Democrats, Rep. Keith Burns."
 -April 28, 1972

"Rep. Burns, who earned appointment to his legislative post to fill a vacancy by many years of hard work in his community, established himself as a competent legislator and deserves the Democratic nomination."

Oregon Journal - May 3, 1972

Keith Burns knows our area, knows us, and knows our needs in the Oregon Legislature. Keep him working for us.



Representative Keith Burns for State Senatorial Committee. Bob Olsson, Director, 6430 S.W. Miles St., Portland, Oregon

REPRESENTATIVE
KEITH BURNS
 FOR STATE SENATOR
 DEMOCRAT

Greetings from Yugoslavia

Harold C. Williams

My brothers and sisters of Portland, I would like to introduce you to brothers of color of black nations that I have met in Yugoslavia and to give you a little background on their stay in this great nation of Yugoslavia.

The African nations and Yugoslavia have certain educational agreements which are advantageous to the people of those African nations. The Yugoslavian educational system is socialist, therefore it tends to be comparatively inexpensive. The African nations have universities of their own, which are of a high standard, but they do not have enough schools to accommodate all of their students. Therefore, those students who would like to further their education, have no alternative but to go to other countries for their educational training. Yugoslavia being a nation that has a cross culture of that of the west and the east gives its educational system a rather interesting appeal to those who would like to study in the system. Also, and probably most important, it is most inexpensive in comparison to Germany, England, and of course, America. These students that come from families that are in the lesser economy bracket who can not afford to go to Germany, France or America and have a great desire to further their education have no choice but to study in Yugoslavia. Most of these African students have stipends available to them which they receive in Yugoslavia.

When the students first arrive in Yugoslavia they spend one year at the Philosophical Faculty where they learn the language, Serbo-Croatian, before they begin their study at the faculty of their choice. During that first year of language study, the students are given the possibility of sitting in on classes and even registering for their own study, be it Dentistry, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, etc. They are encouraged to get acquainted with their future faculty and even to attempt some basic exams in this new language. As a whole, most of these students do attempt to get a head start on their studies, as most of them are anxious to complete their studies and go home to their own countries. Even so, the disadvantages of studying in a foreign language are obvious. It is of course extremely difficult to learn a foreign language - especially one completely unrelated to ones own mother tongue - on a college level in just one year's time. Because of this their period of study generally lasts from five to eight years.

The FBI without Hoover

Ron Hendren
 IN WASHINGTON

For almost half a century J. Edgar Hoover ran the Federal Bureau of Investigation with ironclad personal control. While his policies and views were often the subject of controversy, particularly in later years, even his severest critics saw him as a superb administrator, a tenacious crime fighter, a totally dedicated public servant and a patriot of unquestioned integrity. Therein lay the sources of much of his unprecedented power. Perhaps there has never been a more efficient department head in the history of American government. He could, as one congressman put it, tell you not only how many automobiles were assigned to his Chicago office, but give you the mileage on each of them on any given day - and do so at a moment's notice.

His employees were hand-picked and served at Hoover's pleasure. None of my people can be bought, he used to say. And it was the high standards he demanded that helped build the F.B.I. into the world's top law enforcement agency. A hard-driving, tough boss, he was at the same time fiercely loyal to his employees.

He never sought a higher office and never suffered a credibility gap. When he spoke, he did so with authority and from the position, generally, of knowing a great deal more than he was telling. Indeed, he amassed the most thorough and awesome files in the history of criminology, files which were themselves a center of significant and sometimes heated controversy.

Already the speculation is high about his successor. Partly because of the immense power he attained over 48 years as director and partly due to the criticism he received in his later years, Congress determined in 1968 that

any replacement named by the President should also be confirmed by the Senate. President Nixon, unless he is uncommonly careful in his selection, is likely to run into considerable trouble there. Any nominee is certain to be scrutinized at least as thoroughly as candidates for the Supreme Court or even Attorney General. Nixon has had poor luck so far in both categories.

Moreover, the Bureau itself, without Hoover's dominating presence, will probably encounter some of the same difficulties other agencies regularly face when seeking money on Capitol Hill. Congress will doubtless want a more effective handle on F.B.I. operations, probably through a more diligent exercising of its oversight responsibilities.

The Department of Justice, in which the Bureau is administratively located, is almost sure to try for greater control now that Hoover is gone. The man who served under seven Presidents and reported directly to all of them, was at least on an equal basis with the many attorneys general who were nominally his immediate bosses. That, too, may change.

For J. Edgar Hoover was a legend during much of his life. No man in government, past or present, can match his long record of service. It is likely that none ever will. And when he died, a large part of the organization he built also died. Hoover was the F.B.I.

When a successor is finally confirmed he need not have ambitions about filling Hoover's shoes. The only way to do that is to make the shoes several sizes smaller. And that is exactly what Congress and the Justice Department have in mind.

This problem is a great one for Yugoslavia, let alone foreign students. A few of them are lucky enough to receive a place in the student dormitories, but unfortunately, the dormitories lack adequate space and the majority are forced to find private rooms. But still in all, Yugoslavia offers a rather casual atmosphere in which students of Africa can study and live rather comfortably.

One country that is not represented at all in color, is America. I have found during my stay in Yugoslavia that in order for American Blacks to fully appreciate the value and struggle to make our nation truly the land of the free, we must have an opportunity to come to a country such as Yugoslavia and meet people of color from other countries. This will give us a broader perspective of the world and America, one of the greatest forces in the world.

Portland State University has offered one inroad to Yugoslavia that will allow, I hope, for other young American Blacks to come to Yugoslavia. I thank Portland State University for such an opportunity and that I was chosen to be one of the first black American representatives in Yugoslavia. Now I offer Portland State University the challenge to send more, for, for a nation to truly grow, its people must have a broader understanding of world affairs; in order for black people of America to contribute more to America,

we must understand the roles of our other brothers of the world who are black. With this it will give us a greater pride to reach higher and to make our presence in the world count. Also, the opportunity for other American Blacks to come to Yugoslavia would help both countries in that Yugoslavia only knows White America and would have thus an opportunity to know Black America. From this Yugoslavia and the world will know America is one people no matter whether they are black or white. Again the door has been opened for other blacks to come and Portland State University gave us the key. I hope that other brothers of blackness will use it.

Peace to you and love,

McCoy

Democrat

State Representative
 District 15

Elect McCoy Committee
 7433 N. Lombard St.
 Dennis McCormack, Treas.
 Portland, Oregon 97203
 (286-9144)

Benefit Dinner for
Highland Community Center
 May 20, 1972
 284-5480 11am - 5pm price \$1.50

Retain The Incumbent
JUDGE William L. RICHARDSON
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Bill Cosby
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Man And Boy

"You're begging for a rope. Black... horsethief... and a blue belly in the wrong town!"

Color

Bill Cosby in Man and Boy co-starring Gloria Foster, Laila Freckson, George Spill, Douglas Turner Ward, John Anderson and Yaphet Kotto as Nate. Featuring Shelley Morrison as Rosita and Henry Silva. Produced by Marvin Miller. Screenplay by Harry Essex and Oscar Saul. Music arranged by Quincy Jones and Composed by J.J. Johnson. Directed by E.W. Swackhamer. J. Cornelius Crean Films, Inc. Presentation. A Jemman, Inc. Production. Distributed by Levitt-Pickman Film Corporation. ALL AGES ADMITTED. ORIGINAL SOUND TRACK ALBUM ON SURESEY RECORDS.

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