

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

Portland/Observer Thursday May 25, 1972

**The Northwest's Best Weekly
A Black Owned Publication**

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 N. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217
Subscription \$5.25 per year in Tri-County area by mail. Outside the Tri-County area - \$6.00 per year by mail.
Phone 283-2486.

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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

Blacks rejected again

Once again the voters of Oregon have cast their ballots and once again we will have white city and county governments. With his nomination to House District #15, Bill McCoy could become the first black in the Oregon Legislature if he wins again in November. Other black candidates have gone down to defeat. The strongest wins were those of Judges Brown and Deitz, both formerly appointed to judgeships.

The voters of Oregon are not ready to judge a candidate on his qualities, his ideals, his potential as a public servant. The voters of Oregon are still concerned with race and color. We must reiterate our position that the only way black people will obtain positions in the law making and regulatory agencies in Oregon is through appointment.

Since the voters have failed, it is mandatory that the elected officials - the Mayor and city commissioners, the county commissioners, the Governor - use the power of their offices and demonstrate the leadership expected of them by appointing blacks and other minorities to policy making and law making positions.

The results of this election bring up once again the fact that the black community was gerrymandered into four legislative areas, making impossible the unified effort of the community to elect a black representative to the legislature. The State of Oregon has denied to its black citizens the protection guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prevents the states from denying equal protection to all citizens. The State of Oregon endorsed the policies of white real estate organizations which isolated black citizens into a small area of the city; the State of Oregon has not used its powers to enforce laws designed to prevent the restriction of jobs to blacks; the State of Oregon has stood by while black children have been isolated from their white counterparts in segregated schools. Now the State of Oregon has drawn the district lines to divide the black community into four districts and to integrate the few black voters in each into an overwhelming white electorate, and there, to deprive us of representation. In every case the State of Oregon has used its powers to enfranchise whites and to disenfranchise blacks.

If the state wants to integrate us, let it begin by redrawing the school district lines to allow black children to attend the best schools. Let it enforce the law to permit integration in employment and in housing. The State of Oregon is willing to integrate us in a way that will deprive us, but is not willing to integrate in those areas that will help us.

We now call upon the new Mayor of Portland and the Governor of Oregon. Show us your real commitment to the democratic ideals of self government, your real concern for government for all the people. Use the powers of your office to accomplish what the democratic process has failed to do.

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Vietnam: Is the way out deeper in?

Ron Hendren
IN WASHINGTON

By mining the harbors of North Vietnam and striking at rail and other transportation facilities within that country, President Nixon has clearly enlarged the Indochina conflict in what he and his advisors readily admit is a risky fashion. In so doing, he has become the second American President to stake his reelection hopes on the outcome of his war policies.

There is no question in anybody's mind that this latest step-up poses a confrontation of potentially serious dimensions with the Soviet Union and China. At the same time, there is real doubt in the minds of some experts within the Defense Department and elsewhere about the military effectiveness of closing the harbors. Most admit that at best it may buy time, a commodity of which the North Vietnamese have proven to possess a great deal.

At any rate and in spite of the seeming failure of his Vietnamization program, the President has determined to pursue this fight to what in his judgement is an honorable conclusion, both in the interests of protecting remaining American troops and South Vietnamese and in quest of what he calls a generation of peace.

Certainly it is fair to note that the Vietnamese have already fought the war longer than the generation of peace which the President seeks. Indeed, American troops have themselves been engaged in Indochina for nearly half a generation. And we are apparently no nearer success now than at the beginning.

But perhaps what hurts most, even for the President's supporters, is that the people for whom we have fought are of

such questionable will, so much so that their recent defeats came as no real surprise. How we could have expected the South Vietnamese to do alone what they have been unable to do with the help of 500,000 American troops and a virtually endless pipeline of equipment, supplies and support remains a mystery, equal only to that of why we got involved in an Asian land war in the first place.

But there we are, and still we are told that the only way out is deeper in. Thus the quest continues for a generation of peace, an eminently worthy goal but a phrase as elusive in its meaning as its attainment. All wars were fought in the name of peace. It's just that different sides in different times had varying ideas about the conditions that made peace acceptable.

As for honor, that too has many meanings. Certainly there can be no denying that we have given South Vietnam ten years of our time, 50,000 of our men forever gone, and a staggering percentage of our national treasure. Indeed, during the course of this conflict we have spent more than \$12,000 each for every man, woman and child in that country, enough even in these inflated times for the best of college educations for each of them. Yet after such sacrifice we are told that honor still is at stake.

Finally, there is the idea of defeat, which is not to say that there are any winners in war, but rather to recognize that some lose more than others. And the key to the outcome on that score has always been the degree of South Vietnamese determination. They have given us clue after clue that their hearts were not fully in this

fight, nor enthusiastically with their various leaders whom we have supported over the long course of this struggle. Mining or no, that hasn't changed.

The President also resurrected the domino theory in his May 8 address. If he really still sees a monolithic communist movement which is posing a serious threat to all of Asia, Western Europe and the Middle East, then surely his trips to Peking and Moscow are, as some of his critics charged, little more than drinking and eating with the enemy.

How the mining ensures the safety of American troops in Vietnam, including prisoners of war in the North, is also cloudy. Not only are alternate supply routes and means apparently available to the enemy, what is more immediately significant is that they have stockpiled enough munitions to carry on the present offensive for at least three weeks and the war itself for perhaps two to three months. So his decisive step, as the President called it, is not immediately decisive in terms of protecting American lives, the only grounds on which Congress has authorized him to act in Vietnam.

Nothing more than war removes the decision-making process in a free country further from the people. And during three administrations and the longest conflict in our nation's history, the people's role in that process has been continually eroded. We can hope that it will not be forever so, but until Vietnam is resolved that erosion is not likely to stop.

Black Agenda

(Continued from page 1)

a sense of black unity. The Agenda addressed itself to eight areas of black concern: (1) Political Empowerment; (2) Economic Empowerment; (3) Human Development; (4) International Policy and black people; (5) Communications; (6) Rural Development; (7) Environmental Protection; and (8) Self-Determination for the District of Columbia.

We see the implementation of the Black Agenda as being a matter of primary priority. The Oregon Black Caucus, along with similar organizations in each of the 50 states, as well as several National Black organizations will work toward implementation of the Agenda.

Similarly, the Gary Convention approved the creation of a National Black Assembly composed of representatives from each of the 50 states and representatives from the National Black Organizations. The National Black Assembly will be a permanent structure designed to press the issues addressed in the Black Agenda.

Many of the issues addressed in the Black Agenda are issues relevant to Oregon. For example, the Oregon

Black Caucus strongly condemns poverty in the midst of affluence. We see the state of medical care in this country as a disgrace. We want a system of public education where our children can grow and develop. We do not see advanced education as being for the elite only. We want decent housing for all of our people. We demand the eradication of heroin from our community.

Finally, we see the nation's inability to deal with domestic problems as being closely related to the illegal war now being waged abroad.

In closing, we are reminded of the words of the Honorable Richard Hatcher, Co-Chairman of the Gary Convention: "The sixties were an exciting decade, loaded with ferment, freedom rides, sit-ins, marches. It was all there - from the strains of 'We Shall Overcome,' sung warmly with arms linked - to the penetrating cries of black power, with fists raised."

"We buried some wonderful brothers and sisters who strode like giants across the decade, sweeping away injustice before them."

During the '70s we shall continue to work toward the alleviation of all injustices. Thank you.

Advisory committee sets meet

Dr. Lee Brown, chairman of the City-County Comprehensive Personnel Review Citizens' Advisory Committee, announced that the next public committee meeting will be held May 25 at 7:30 in the Cascade Center of Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth, Portland.

The subject of the meeting will be an examination of the problems faced by citizens seeking employment with the city and county. Opinions are solicited from those people who have had particular problems in trying to get jobs in Civil Service. Comments from former civil servants will also be invited.

The public meetings which are being held monthly by the Committee play a vital role in the study now underway of Civil Service and personnel systems in Portland and Multnomah County.

All individuals having experienced difficulties with county or city in applying for Civil Service jobs are urged to attend.

As I See It

Portland's Black Middle Class: A Disappointment!

PART III

by Lenwood Davis

Over the past several weeks I have literally castrated Portland's Black Middle class with a can opener and, to my dismay, many of them didn't even know that they had been cut. In this writer's opinion, it is a sad state of affairs when anyone can write about any group of people and they take it lying down. Therefore, one can only conclude that they did not believe that the things I said applied to them or they just do not care. I believe the latter. However, I will continue to state my opinion about Portland's so-called Black Middle class with the hope that one day they will see themselves for what they really are.

There is one group of people in this so-called middle class that is worse off than the Black ministers, Black physicians, Black dentists, Black public administrators, Black businessmen, Black judges and Black Civil Rights leaders and that is the Black educators. Historically Black educators have been considered part of the Middle class. Now more than anytime in history they can practice what they preach by getting involved in social movements. They no longer can sit in the classrooms and theorize and philosophize about what is occurring in society. They no longer can say, "I do not do what I do, but do what I say to do." Their students expect them to set examples by actually participating in the social process.

There are a number of educators in Portland who have just recently become "Black" since it has become profitable. Many educators have become "instant" authorities on Black history and culture, even though they have never taken a course in Black history. When asked about their course of study, they usually evade the issue by surmising that their credentials are that they "live the Black experience everyday." Can't twenty-five (25) million Black people make that same claim?

Most of these "instant" experts have graduated from universities in Oregon over the past three, four, five or ten years. A close examination of ALL the colleges and universities in Oregon reveals that Portland State University is the ONLY state institution that has a Black Studies Center. Several private colleges have Black Studies Centers on paper but not in fact. How can two teachers make up a department? After all two professors can only humanly teach so many courses. Portland State University's Black Studies Center has only been in existence for three years and it was only this year that Clarence Berry became the first person to graduate with a Black Studies certificate. Therefore, where did all of these Black "experts" get their training? These "experts" are doing the very same things that whites have been doing for 300 years. Running games on Black people. These "experts" are doing more harm than good to the Black cause because they are exploiting it. These "instant" EXPERTS ARE ACADEMICALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY DISHONEST!

I took my first course in Black history in 1958, when there were only about 10 colleges in the United States teaching Black history. I have studied Black history for seventeen (17) years and have written several articles and books on Black history, including my master's thesis. I have studied in Africa at the University of Ghana and travelled in several African countries. I have done numerous book reviews on Black history as well as been a Black studies consultant for several colleges and universities in North Carolina, as well as in Oregon. Yet, I still do not consider myself an expert!



Lenwood Davis

Community College; Dr. William Jenkins, Dean - School of Education, Portland State University; Dr. George Guy, Professor of Education, Portland State University; Lois Sayles, librarian, Roosevelt High School; Ellen Law, acting Principal, Jefferson High School; Heloise Hill, Mary Henderson, D.A. Johnson, Edgar Mitchell of Portland Public Schools. Also, Martha Jordan, supervisor of Early Child Education and Ben Talley, School of Education, Portland State University. What these and others do not understand is that the main reason for them being in those positions is because they are BLACK (at least in skin coloration). For these so-called Middle class people to believe that they have acquired their position because of their own initiative is grossly asinine to say the least and apparently they are suffering from cerebral. The Black educators are really and truly miseducated and desperately need to be REEDUCATED immediately if not sooner!

In conclusion I would like to say that I am not unkind that some of the Black so-called Middle class, as well as the N.A.A.C.P., the Urban League, the Black Panther Party, the Albina Ministerial Alliance, and others have been fighting racism for many, many years and they should be commended for it. The question is not what they did last year or five or ten or twenty years ago, but what are they doing NOW in 1972. That is the issue! The Black so-called Middle class must realize that no Black man is FREE until ALL Black men are FREE!

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