

# 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, Publisher/Editor



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## The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

### Unity in diversity

Representatives of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP and the Urban League selected two black men to be presented to the city council for appointment to Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt's seat. In selecting two candidates, the organizations sought to avoid giving the commissioner's an easy way out of one candidate does not meet their approval.

There is some advantage to uniting behind one candidate and presenting a solid front on his behalf. There is also advantage to providing a number of acceptable candidates from among whom the commissioners can make a selection. With three or more candidates, each with the support of a portion of the community, it will be difficult for the city commissioners to say a qualified black cannot be found.

The white press and the white power structure can use this opportunity to say the black community is divided. But the black community is not divided -- it is the city council. It is only natural that in a diversified population of over 20,000 persons there would be differences of opinion as to who would be the best person to serve in this capacity. And we can no longer govern our actions by what we expect to be the reaction of the white press.

The action of AMA, NAACP and the Urban League are in no way a reflection on the Black Caucus or on Chalmers Jones. The Black Caucus is an organization of individuals and each person who attended the Community Convention, whether a member of the Black Caucus and/or other organizations, voted as an individual. Attendance at the Conference was small, but the vote reflected the opinion of those present. This vote could in no way be binding on all black citizens. The Black Caucus is an important movement for the future of black people in Oregon. We look to it with great hope, particularly in the political area. But it is a young organization and at this time cannot speak for the black community with one voice.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, representing nearly 50 churches, the NAACP and the Urban League, through their elected officials, represent approximately 18,000 black people and a number of whites. These three organizations have a long record of accomplishment in Portland and have a reliable constituency.

AMA, the NAACP and the Urban League are not attempting to negate the action of the Community Council or to force their wishes on the community -- they merely want to be involved in the political life of the community.

The important issue is that the city council knows that we, the black people of Portland, want and believe we are entitled to representation and that the only way that representation will come in the foreseeable future is through appointment. If any of these black men, or any other black person is appointed, the community must unite behind him to provide the encouragement and support he will need. And the appointee, on the other hand, must understand that he was put in his position by the black community and that his decisions must reflect the needs and aspirations of black people as well as the overall benefits of the PEOPLE of Portland.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

This is an open letter to protest the so-called community convention held on Saturday, August 26, at the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

We are asking that the city council and the Mayor of Portland disregard what happened because there is reason to believe that the election was rigged, and that our Black community is quite capable of getting more than seventy people out to a meeting if it is open and well-publicized.

It was rumored at least a week ago that Dr. Lee Brown had decided that Mr. Chalmers Jones would be the person elected at the convention. It was also rumored that Dr. Brown would not allow other "serious" names to be placed into nomination. It was further rumored that Dr. Brown would personally prevent the nominations of any

individual whom he felt to be "unworthy".

Hearing these rumors, but not really believing them because we thought we knew the man, Dr. Brown, we young people attended the convention and stayed until the voting.

After observing the proceedings and talking to many of the people there and those living within two blocks of the church, we found the following things to be true:

1. Many people there were there to rally around Mr. Jones;
2. Many of these people were personally informed of and invited to the meeting by Dr. Brown;
3. People living on the block of the church were unaware that there was a "community convention";
4. Dr. Brown did prepare letters to discredit individuals and to keep certain names out of nomination;
5. At least one such letter

was voted off the convention floor;

6. Dr. Brown did not attend the convention, but had selected certain people to introduce the letters in the event certain individuals accepted a nomination from the floor;

As residents of this community, we say this was Dr. Brown's convention, and that it should be labeled as such. As former students of Dr. Brown, we say we are deeply disappointed in the man. As concerned young people, we say if a convention is necessary, let's plan one and have hundreds of people from our community making a respectable decision.

Our community has never been controlled by one man, and, Dr. Brown, nothing has changed.

Ms. Anne Davis  
M. Collins  
2611 N.E. Union  
Portland, Oregon



## Black Republicans called status seekers

For many decades within the Republican political arena the Black Republican continually found himself in a state of non-existence, having to be the "Invisible Man" which is equal to being a "Quasi Man": meaning in name only. His political situation has not allowed him to establish power among his constituents within the general population.

The Black Republican is now and always will be a minority in the Republican Party. He found himself supporting Black Democrats who are the majority. This is why it is hard to distinguish between the Black Republican and the Black Democrat.

As far as we have been able to learn 40 some odd states have produced 60 Black Delegates for this 1972 convention. The meaning of the above statistic if it holds true is that out of 1300 Republican Delegates only 60 are supposed to be representing the Black masses. This would be five per cent and would be representative of the "Quasi Man", with an approximate addition of one per cent representation of other minority groups across this nation.

The Black observers who will be attending this 1972 convention will find as their companions highly expert public relations advisors brought together by the President's top aide Robert J. Brown. These expert public relations advisors task will be to extend into the Black community and register Black people so that they will vote. Another task of the public relations advisors will also be to make available small business opportunities, and a promise to fulfill those broken dreams of our Black sons and daughters that they will now be able to participate in the main political and financial mainstream of the American way of life.

Attending this convention are Black display "status seekers" who are meeting

here in Miami. President Nixon has summoned these "status seekers" in order to make an impression and an impact on the 30 Black urban colonies.

Some of the well known personalities who are attending this convention are: Floyd McKissick - civil rights lawyer; Roy Innis - Congress of Racial Equality administrator; The Reverend Manie Lee Wilson - Convent Avenue Baptist Church; Dr. William Herst - head of Malcolm X College; the Financial Secretary of Muslim Mosque No. 7; Mr. James Farmer - former President of CORE and a past member of the Nixon Administration, along with many other well known Black personalities.

Now the observer should be aware that these Blacks who are attending this convention are not delegates who can participate in the decision making nor can they change the tide which is presently pulling the masses of poor downward. The point that should be raised is, "Can these Black 'status seekers' deliver the untapped Black vote?" These Blacks have become closely identified with this present administration and gobbled up all of the patronage and have accepted its financial tokenism (goodies) for themselves. Now the Black "status seekers" will return to their homes and persuade the untapped Black voter to vote the straight Republican ticket. The "status seekers" will return with their talent and explore the possibilities of their political persuasion in November.

The fact is that most of these "status seekers" have escaped from the realities of their local ties. They know little of the sufferings of the grass-root masses and the masses' mentality is now focusing in their direction questioning the reliability of Black Leadership. They cannot return for the untapped Black voter that the Democratic and Republican parties are both seeking.

This is due to the neglect shown to the masses by the Black personalities whose aim has been transformed into "fortune seekers," while the unfulfilled dreams of the masses and the frustration of these dreams continue to exist because of the authority entrusted to these "status seekers" being neglectfully forgotten.

The "status seekers" are a major cause of: drug addiction, prostitution; high crime rates; police brutality; prison riots; ghettos; inadequate hospital care; poor educational facilities and curriculum; broken homes; continuous exploitation; genocide; confusion; birth defects due to poor nutrition; mental illness; traumas; immorality; etc. They have failed to challenge the true issues.

The "status seekers" also insure the white ruling class that their sons and daughters will continue to work, making money off of the masses inflicted problems, such as: school teachers; doctors; lawyers; judges; social workers; wardens; guards; policemen;

firemen; psychiatrists; psychologists; inspectors; charities; food stamps; public assistance work programs; drugs; administrators of the world; welfare; social services; corrections officers; poverty programs administered by the 94 per cent ad infinitum.

To allow the finances to go directly toward the problem would mean an equal balance in this country's wealth. Freedom is not the rule in the political arena, be it Republican or Democrat.

But to the "status seekers" who have no power and will not acknowledge this fact to the public, and to those who still have a surge of consciousness, I say that there is enough Black gold and talent within the Black community that tokenism should not move you towards its grip. Reaching out towards your own people for support is the absolute power. Unity exists but tokenism has continuously brought you away from this unity. Unity without a leader is manpower without a brain. Should we sit around the mahogany table and discuss how to acquire mass tokenism for the masses of poor across this nation? You "status seekers" have not as of yet thanked your people for the easy comfort that you now enjoy because of their support.



### Meddling with Merchandise

To lift her spirits, Virginia decided to become a bleached blonde. She stirred two bleaching products together and applied the mixture to her hair. Result: scalp burns.

In short order, she demanded damages from one of the manufacturers. But at the trial, the company pointed out that its directions warned against mixing the product with anything else.

"The fact remains," said Virginia, "that a bleach should not become dangerous merely by being mixed with another bleach."



However, the court turned down Virginia's claim. The judge said she had meddled with the merchandise at her own risk.

With increasing frequency, manufacturers are being held liable for harm inflicted by their products. But if the consumer had substantially tampered with the product before using it, that usually will let the manufacturer "off the hook."

This is true even if there is no specific warning against tampering.

Another case involved a ladder which collapsed under a man's weight, throwing him to the ground. But before using it, he (Please turn to pg. 7, col. 7)

## As I See It The Oregon Black Agenda Part II

by Lenwood G. Davis



Lenwood Davis

As most people know the Oregon Black Caucus issued the Oregon Black Agenda and, needless to say, only time will tell if it will be implemented. I for one have faith in the Oregon Black Caucus and believe that it will insure that all of its demands are adopted.

In my opinion, the section on Education could have been stronger. However, the preface set the tone of our Black awareness as it relates to the educational process in America and its double standards for people of color. The Education preface surmised:

In every phase of our history in America, we have been seriously impeded because of unequal educational opportunities and inferior educational programs. Our children have been exposed to racist teachers who are more dedicated to controlling than teaching. Our schools are the most poorly equipped and maintained. Our children are either forced out of the schools, mis-educated, or ill-prepared. Furthermore, the racism that runs rampant in our society is perpetuated by the educational process.

White-controlled, White-run, and White-valued schools have pursued goals that are contrary to the well-being of Black people. Therefore, if we are to achieve a new era of Black development, we must define the educational process which we need, and we must move to create the necessary conditions for its realization.

The Black Agenda believes that busing should be considered only when it meets the needs of Black students. Furthermore, if Black children are bused, there shall be:

- (a) A mandatory and continuous in-service training program for teachers covering human relations and ethnic culture;
  - (b) A human relations program for parents;
  - (c) Transportation schedules which allow for participation in extra-curricular activities;
  - (d) Provisions to care for any illness that occurs at school.
- The Black Agenda called for the development of a Black Educational Resources Center and an extension of comprehensive child care centers in

the high schools. The Black Agenda also demands that the State System of Higher Education aggressively recruit Blacks for enrollment in the various professional schools throughout the state; for example, medical, dental, nursing and law schools. The essential point in the Education section is that the Agenda WANTS QUALITY EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

It must be stressed that the Oregon Black Agenda believes that these changes will also liberalize our Brown, Red, and Yellow Brothers. Indeed, even those white Americans who truly believe in freedom, justice and equality will join us in forming a beautiful Kaleidoscope of colors, moving like giants into this decade, sweeping away injustice before us.

NOTE: Part III of "THE OREGON BLACK AGENDA" will appear next week.

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