

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

American Dream : An illusion

Blacks in the middle

There are two political worlds today and Blacks find themselves in the middle. Democrats chant slogans for America to come home while the Republican Party solicits the "American Dream".

Blacks are still in the middle of these two political parties being manipulated from one generation to the next.

Democrats have brainwashed Blacks to the extent that the Democratic party now suffers from the illusion that they have the Black vote in their bag. The Republicans have projected a handful of Blacks who have made the American Dream a living reality. This is window dressing -- Black display images only. The public assumption is that Blacks participated because of their visibility.

Nobody will dispute the fact that the Nixon Administration made Blacks visible. However, many questions remained unanswered. "Does this handful of Blacks have any power to help the masses?"

Nixon brings visible tokenism

Blacks have always had tokenism visible in parts of the Nixon administration; but we have never had the power to really help the masses.

Public news media failed to send black journalists to the Republican Convention. Well known established black journalists omitted themselves. Those who were present were caught up too deeply in the financial arrangements of the Republican Administration. Because of the abandonment of public news media, Blacks were unimformed of the crucial highlights of the convention -- that Blacks do not have full participation in the Republican Party.

The Republican Party has depended on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln, who removed the shackles of Black bondage with the stroke of a pen and then left the slave in chaos by deserting the promise of 40 acres and a mule. Today the Republican Party has transformed this 40 acres and a mule into "Black Capitalism" by using methods of class and cost.

Floyd McKissick was the only individual at the Republican Convention free to speak on Black participation and which way Blacks must go. He was the only one who had the goodies to show what the Nixon Administration is doing for its supporters. The Republican Convention adjourned with black delegates unprepared to return to their constituents and inform them how to fit into the American Dream.

The land of the Empire Builders

Back home in Oregon, what blacks have the goodies to show? What black has achieved high state position or appointment to important commissions? What faithful Republican or Democrat has seen the fruits of his labor? We do not even have the small handful, as Nixon has, who can go out in the black community extolling the benefits of supporting the party in power. Could it be because nearly all blacks are Democrats and the Republicans share of appointments must go to those who are in a position to influence a block of voters or who have done so in the past. The Democrats, on the other hand, have not in recent history had state appointments to offer.

No visible tokenism in Oregon

In Oregon the Republican Party has been in power since the Reconstruction, and one would expect that to be black and Democratic would be political suicide. However, when you look at the black Republicans, just to name a few, Alyce Robinson, W.A. Graves, Roosevelt Rogers, E. Shelton Hill, W.A. Denton, Booker Lewis, Ulysis Plummer, C.J. McDonald; what type of power do these people have in the Republican Party in Oregon -- what political appointments have they received?

In Salem, not even visible tokenism is shown. On the city level, which is controlled by Democrats, again even black tokenism is not seen.

Dream is a nightmare

The American Dream Machine was designed to admit a selected few to participate. Its clogging mechanism allows the rest to keep on dreaming. The programmer has allowed the white ruling class to enter the land of fulfilled dreams but the minorities are engulfed in a nightmare. This nightmare will inflict those who have participated in clogging the machine. All of America will be submerged in a sea of nightmares.

Quit crowding us



No quotas-No jobs

President Nixon and Senator George McGovern recently adopted identical positions in opposition to quota systems to insure jobs for Blacks and minorities.

We are very suspicious of this position. It is beautiful in theory but if history is the master teacher of the future, it means no jobs for Blacks.

For more than 100 years, Black Americans have attempted to force private industry and governmental agencies to hire and promote our people on the same basis as white employees. Moral arguments, political pressure and economic boycott have at best only achieved limited results.

Most "affirmative action programs" have turned out to be just another piece of paper. Glamourously announced by the great white fathers (government and industry) with much "PR and fanfare" over the past five years, they have had little success or have been complete failures. Meanwhile, the economic conditions for the great majority of Blacks have not improved appreciably.

We believe that government and industry will really have to show us that this not just another method to keep Blacks out of the mainstream. We believe government should adopt and implement strategy that will guarantee a significant presence of Black employment in government and private industry.

Quotas must be set and met. Government and private industry must be held accountable to some pre-determined numerical or percentage standard of minority employment. The best test or index of equal access or opportunity for employment among Blacks and Whites is the percentage or ratio of Blacks to employment as a whole in government agencies and business.

The offensive radical and religious use of quotas in the past to exclude ethnic groups from admission to schools, clubs, executive employment should not be equated with a requirement which will guarantee that Blacks will be included in government and private employment.

Don't give me a figure to show that we are anywhere near a quota on jobs and positions in government -- in the State of Oregon or nationally.

Give us some guarantee that we will have jobs. It would be better for you--city fathers, state officials, and private businessmen-- to start right now to show us that you can "Bloom where you are planted."

Letters to the Editor

Thanks

(Editor's note: The following is a copy of a letter sent to the judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by the Cheryl James Committee.)

Dear Judges:

The Cheryl James Committee, as well as the community, wishes to extend wholehearted thanks to the judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for granting Cheryl James a 20-day extension.

We assume you know that as a result of her prior incarceration, Cheryl James is expecting a child at any time.

We have been made aware that she was the victim of an assault while in federal custody on Terminal Island.

Expressing once again our thanks for the humanitarianism you have shown Cheryl James in granting the extension, we are

THE CHERYL JAMES COMMITTEE
Arthur C. Spencer, III,
Secretary

Likes book reviews

Dear Editor:

As a new resident of the Portland Metropolitan area, I am interested in discovering and reading about each individual community. Your newspaper has provided me in the few issues that I have read since my arrival--with an appreciative awareness of the black community. I am especially thankful for the informative and, often, intellectually stimulating articles written by James H. Rogers.

His treatment of Chester Himes' autobiography and May Angelou's novel extended far beyond the usual attention granted to recent literature. I consider his writing style and appealing approach, especially evident in his political overtures, highly comparable in quality with articles found in THE BLACK SCHOLAR and THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS. His reporting of the Oregon Black Caucus' meeting aided in my understanding

of the political movement in the black community; and I hope to hear more from him on this subject. Again, I would like to say that I consider Mr. Rogers one of the best additions to my reporting staff I have seen in any of the many publications I have been reading in recent years.

Sincerely,
Kay Johnson

give
YOUR
FAIR SHARE
THE UNITED WAY

As I See It

Albina Art Center: A community asset

by Lenwood G. Davis

I have been informed that the Albina Art Center will possible become defunct by the end of the year unless the community starts supporting it. Community support for the Art Center has been near non-existence to say the least. It must be pointed out, however, that it is not all together the community's fault. I am of the opinion that most people in the Greater Model Cities area don't even know that the Art Center exists and if they do, they positively do not know all of the classes and activities that are occurring there.

Most people do not know that the Albina Art Center offers classes in art, painting, creative dancing, music, sewing, karate, sculpture, basket weaving, drama, poetry, etc. Therefore, it goes without saying that this Center is a valuable asset to the Black community. Furthermore, many people have been working hard over the years to get a center in the Black community and it would be a shame and disgrace to let it become defunct. This one of the few places in the community that we Blacks control and can call our own. We must, however, support it.

I, for one, hope that the Black community will begin to support the Art Center and send their children there.

I am not unmindful that the outward appearance of the Albina Art Center is not too impressive. However, one has to look beyond the exterior and he will find a whole new world. In other words, the building does not make the center. It is what goes on inside of the center. There are many talented, gifted and dedicated brothers and sisters at the Center that are donating their time and creative energies and receiving no immediate monetary benefits for their services.

The Albina Art Center is a non-profit organization that has existed only because it received a few donations from a few "liberal" whites and a very few Blacks. However, they have stopped their contributions. The Center has also, I have been informed, gotten an insufficient grant from Model Cities. However, it will run out soon and it will not be restored.

Moreover, if the Albina Art Center is to survive and become a truly community asset, several things must happen. First, the center MUST launch a massive publicity campaign and actually sell what it is doing to the community and show the community that it is to the community's benefit to support it. Secondly, before and after this massive community campaign, the community MUST support the center by visiting the center, by sending their children there and by giving donations to it. Thirdly, the community organizations MUST show their concern for the Art Center by encouraging all of its members to support the Center. Fourthly, the Churches in the community MUST also take an active role in seeking that the Albina Art Center stays in existence. Fifthly, if the community does not support the Center, not only morally, but financially, then the community deserves whatever happens to the Art Center and the community residents MUST be held responsible for the fate of the Albina Art Center.



Lenwood Davis

As I see it, the community can ill afford to let the Albina Art Center lose because it is more than a place where talented Blacks can express themselves, it is (or can become) a Black community institution. And needless to say, there are few of them left in the Black community!

To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

To what extent will busing become a major issue in the 1972 election campaign? Some people suggest that since court-ordered busing for purposes of desegregation affect a very small number of people and communities, it may play a far smaller role in the campaign than the headlines indicate.

Others say that the issue touches an exposed nerve of the electorate and is bound to be a key issue once the campaign heats up. While only relatively few cities are immediately affected, they argue, the issue hits on basic racial attitudes in such a way that it is bound to increase in intensity by fall.

Basically, this comes down to a question of political strategy, but there are others who view the issue as one of morality and as a threat to racial peace and progress. They make a persuasive case for the removal of the busing issue from the political campaign scene.

This argument is founded on several key points. First, the busing issue is one that could be exploited by demagogues to heat up anti-black sentiments and thus shatter the very shaky racial peace that exists. If busing be-

comes an issue that splits the electorate into pro- and anti-busing camps. The result would be further fragmentation of our society and greater irrationality, all at the very moment when the country is crying for unity and thoughtfulness.

A look at who is bused and for what purpose reveals that barely three per cent of the nation's twenty million children who are bused to school are bused for reasons of desegregation. So the case against "massive busing" is really dependent on distortion of the facts and the manipulation of ill-founded fears and mythical stereotypes. These have no place in a campaign in which people should make rational choices for leadership.

Still another argument given by those who would like to see a moratorium on the busing issue is that busing is a question of constitutional rights. The courts have ruled that segregation is unconstitutional and that busing is one acceptable means of desegregating the schools.

So a political campaign is not a place in which people's

constitutional rights should be argued. Debates on whether a segment of the population should or should not enjoy rights granted by the constitution to all, are legally and morally demeaning and have no place in an atmosphere so charged with emotion as an election campaign.

Further, the issue is one for the courts. An election is not the place for a referendum on constitutional rights. The Constitution reserves these issues for the courts. Making busing a political hot potato undercuts the authority of the courts and, ultimately, the whole government process.

The foes of busing are launching an attack on the guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment, and insofar as they have been successful, they have undermined much of the progress achieved so far. The prospect that the busing issue is a wedge to deprive black citizens of other recently-won rights is yet another reason advanced for neutralizing it in the campaign.

The prospect is excellent that the onslaught against

busing will be followed with attempts to suspend other constitutional rights of black people. If the right to equal educational opportunity is successfully attacked, how long will it be before the right to vote becomes a target? Rights related to housing, jobs, and access to public places will then be ripe for rollback and the country could well find itself in a spate of constitutional apartheid, with all the implications for internal disruption and bloodshed that implies.

So many people are coming to the conclusion that busing must be removed from the super-heated political arena this important election year. There is ample precedent for this view. During World War II and in the decade following it, both parties decided that politics stops at the "water's edge" and agreed to remove foreign policy from the campaign arena because divisive debate might weaken the country's position in a tense international situation. The same good sense seems called for in relation to busing.

CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES, CHAIRMAN OF THE BLACK CAUCUS, CRITICIZED PRESIDENT NIXON, SENATOR MCGOVERN AND PHILLIP HOFFMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, FOR REJECTING QUOTAS TO INCREASE JOB AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES, AS "HIGH-HANDED AT BEST AND RACIST AT WORST."

"IF I FIND IT DISTRESSING THAT... THESE THREE MEN HAVE ATTAINED COMMON GROUND WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING THE GROUP WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BEAR THE BRUNT OF THIS MUTUAL ACCORD."



Blacks destiny in own hands...