



The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES.



A new vision?

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt is receiving both praise and criticism for his move to consolidate power in the office of the Mayor. The Commission form of city government, which Portland still uses, gives the Mayor little more power than the other four Commissioners. He has only one vote - and that only to break a tie. He has little authority except that to make appointments. For this reason it is nearly impossible to hold the Mayor (or anyone else) responsible for the city's failures or to give him credit for its successes.

Mayor Goldschmidt has, within the rules of the city charter, created power by keeping the planning and development and other areas such as the police, civil service and personnel, in his department. With the control of these functions, he can offer strong leadership and also can be held accountable.

Goldschmidt has been criticized for his quick move to request the resignations of the members of the Planning Commission, the Portland Development Commission and the Housing Authority, rather than letting them leave by natural attrition. But if there is to be, in fact, a new administration - this move was proper. If there is to be a new emphasis on the involvement of all the people in city government - this move was necessary. If Goldschmidt plans to loose city government from the control of the corporate heads and put it in the hands of the people, the initial thrust must be in the appointed boards. A gradual change would not do the job. The impetus would be lost.

Portland is entering a new phase with the development of the Bureau of Human Resources, police reorganization, the Downtown Plan, with emphasis on people oriented programs. This is a time that will decide whether the problems common to all urban areas will be solved - or whether Portland will be yet another ghetto, abandoned by all but the very poor who have nowhere else to go.

Goldschmidt's opportunity for leadership can be compared to that of John Kennedy when he took the presidency after eight long years of Republican rule. Kennedy brought to the nation a new vitality, a new vision. Neil Goldschmidt could bring such a vitality, such a vision to the people of Portland.

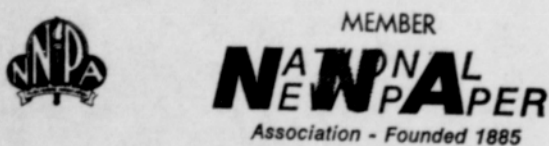
ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher/Editor

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WHITNEY YOUNG

BIGOTRY HAS NO HEAD AND CANNOT THINK; NO HEART, AND CANNOT FEEL. WHEN SHE MOVES, IT IS IN WRATH; WHEN SHE PAUSES IT IS AMIDST RUIN; HER PRAYERS ARE CURSES - HER GOD IS A DEMON - HER COMMUNION IS DEATH.

CORRELL



What will be his role..?

New Year should be a time for rededication

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
The year 1972 ended in much the same spirit of confusion in which it began.

It was a year that brought few victories to black people and to other minorities, and some setbacks. It was a year that saw the nation drift, without that sense of purpose that has categorized other, better years in its history.

The mood of drift and confusion was highlighted by a Louis Harris poll that reported early in December that over 4 in 10 Americans afflicted with the feelings of powerlessness and of being exploited.

Such feelings ran strongest among several key groups in the population - young people, and blacks.

No country can afford such widespread alienation, least of all a country with such tremendous world-wide responsibilities and impacts as the United States has.

But instead of taking steps to relieve the divisions in our society, many events in the past year only reinforced

them. Instead of concentrating its energies on improving education and on creating new job opportunities, the nation became obsessed by such artificial issues as busing and quotas.

OUT OF TOUCH
Many of the country's actions seemed out of touch with reality.

For example, unsubstantiated reports of racial killings by a black murder gang were headlined for many days a few months ago.

We are still waiting for any evidence of truth to such malicious allegations. But while this was a leading topic for the media, the real truth about racial violence came toward the close of the year, when a blue-ribbon investigating panel found that two black youths had been killed at Southern University through the irresponsible actions of police officers.

The next day, New York City's Commission on Human Rights reported that there was "a dangerous pattern" of violence against blacks in some

sections of the city.

This confirms what observers have often noted - that the North is showing signs of adopting some of the pathological signs of racism it had long charged the South with showing.

In 1972, the biggest outbursts against school desegregation were in Michigan and New York, not in Alabama and Mississippi.

PROBLEMS STILL HERE
While the nation seems to be slipping away from its past commitment to racial justice, the problems are still with us and are still in desperate need of resolution.

I was reminded of how much unfinished business there is still before us while attending the ceremonies and symposium commemorating the opening of the civil rights archives of The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Texas in November.

There, many people active in the civil rights movement, in law, the social sciences and politics, tried to assess the accomplishments of the

1960's. Some very great things were done in those few short years - official segregation was abolished, significant economic and political advances were made by minorities, etc.

But the atmosphere of the nation has changed so drastically since that time that it seemed as if we were discussing an era long past.

As we enter 1973, I believe there will have to be a determined effort to recapture, if not the specifics, then at least the mood of the 1960's.

The new year should mark a new beginning, a rededication to the goals of freedom and justice for all. The spiritual vacuum must be filled by concern for the problems of poverty, of racial disadvantage, and social progress.

The reason for the drift and confusion among so many people is their perception that the society is rigid and unwilling to make the constructive changes so necessary and so long overdue.

We enter 1973 divided and troubled but firm leadership, a rediscovery of democratic values, and definite action to deal with our real problems, can help turn that attitude around. It's time to start fresh.

As I See It Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

By Lenwood G. Davis

Within a few days millions of people all across America will observe Martin Luther King's birthday (January 15th). Plans for commemorating Dr. King's birthday are being made in Atlanta, his home town, Pittsburgh, New York and other cities. In Atlanta, at 11:00 a.m. commemorative service will be held Monday, January 15th, at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Reverend King was co-pastor with his father. A benefit will also be held in Atlanta for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change. The public schools and city government offices in Atlanta will be closed for an official holiday and a documentary film on Rev. King's life and work will be shown on educational television.

In Pittsburgh, the New Image NAACP will present the Fifth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Day Program on January 15th. On hand will be: The Stepping Stars, N.S. Youth Ensemble, North View Heights Choir, Knoxville Acquarius Peabody High School Choir, Herron Hill Jr. High School Choir, Bonnie Parks, etc. A fashion show will also be presented. A number of public schools as well as social and

clubs, in New York, are planning commemorative services to honor the slain civil rights leader. Many Black Colleges and Universities are also planning observance services for Dr. King's birthday.

A drive was begun in 1969 to have Congress declare Dr. King's birthday a national holiday. However, as of date Congress has not acted upon the millions of signatures that call for such a holiday. Congress has reportedly declared that the nation has enough holidays now and it can not see adding anymore. Obviously, Black people in America do feel the need for a national holiday to honor a Black man. Therefore, Black people must continue to support the continuing drive to make each January 15th a national LEGAL holiday. Many state and city governments, as well as school systems, have either recognized the birthday as an official holiday or arranged for official observances. A number of trade unions are also negotiating for January 15th as a paid holiday in their contracts, and some unions have already won this benefit.



Lenwood Davis

King's widow, stated her position, on the nation commemorating Dr. King's birthday: "The purpose of observing my husband's birthday is to involve people meaningfully in the celebration of his life, the perpetuation of his teachings, and the continuation of his work..."

Martin Luther King, Jr., gave the answer to the problems of the world and his teachings, when he declared: "Nonviolence, the answer to the Negroes (Blacks) need, may become the answer to the most desperate need of all humanity." Needless to say, those words are still relevant today!

"Peace is at hand" but war is not over

By Benjamin E. Mays

Twelve days before the November 7 election Henry Kissinger made a dramatic announcement, "Peace is at hand." The world, certainly Americans, rejoiced because the people believed that at long last, peace was in sight. Even if Kissinger had not made his dramatic statement, I believe Nixon would have won the election.

Although bombing and mining of the waters were in evidence, the people believed that in bringing so many Americans home that he had shown tangible evidence that he was trying to bring peace to Hanoi, Saigon and the United States.

I believe that Kissinger had enough evidence to justify his phrase "Peace is at hand." It is difficult, however, for many people to believe that politics was not involved. It came too close to election time. The timing was perfect. It is also difficult not to believe that the war in Vietnam could have come to a close earlier in the Nixon administration. This war

started in the White House and there it remains. Congress has never declared this war and Congress seems helpless to end it. If the war drags on, it is conceivable that peace demonstrators will take to the streets again as they did in 1968 and the families of the prisoners of war organize a protest movement.

As long as the war goes on, vital problems here at home will be neglected and the war budget will increase while we cut the budget on the home front.

Despite it all, certain questions remain unanswered: Why did we go to Vietnam in the first place? What were our objectives? Why do we stay here after ten years, the longest war in our history? What have we gained and what do we hope to gain?

This writer feels that the American people have never been told why we are there and nobody has told us what we have gained. Probably nothing. Thousands dead, more thousands maimed for life, billions spent and a debt that will hang over our heads for decades to come. And yet we say we are civilized.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Black Expo defended

To the Editor:

Being a regular subscriber to your newspaper I could not help but get upset and respond to the "letter to the editor" from Rosemary Allen, labeling the first Black Expo as a mess and her claim that the originators for the event exploited local Blacks for profit. Ms. Allen does not know how "dead wrong" she is in some of her claims and it's only a result of her not getting full knowledge of what has been going on. Although the first Black event did not reach her standards, there were many people who were delighted in attending and participating in Black Expo/Soul Bowl '72. As one of the head originators for the affair, I am sure that Ms. Allen was not even aware that all of the people that helped put together the far from perfect Expo worked entirely at no salary. Many of these were Black people that took leave from their jobs to help.

The main priority of the Expo was to unveil Black businesses, talent and resources throughout the Northwest. It's people such as Ms. Allen who didn't have a damn thing to do with the originator, nor offered to help make the Expo more of a success is the reason why similar affairs are only a one time thing. I'll be the first to admit that the entire event did not go as scheduled and this was only due to the fact that the brothers and sisters that said they were going to participate, either arrived late or did not arrive at all.

Part of the Expo, built on hopes and promises, from other Blacks in echelon po-

sitions claiming that they could arrange for top name performers to attend, fell completely through. As far as the money was concerned, the Black Expo was a financial failure. Although we received thousands of dollars in donated talent and time and other services, in reality we did not even gross enough money to help even one Black continue their education or any thing. The net proceeds from the event would have gone to the Clark County Community Congress in Vancouver to implement other much needed activities, services and assistance for particularly the Blacks in Vancouver - Portland area.

I personally did not see where the price for admission \$1.50 for the Expo or \$3.00 for the Soul Bowl was too much to pay. I certainly did not read anything about Ms. Allen nor anyone else complaining about the \$4 to \$6 a person had to pay to see the 5th Demissions or other

groups that have come to town. Besides Black Expo was for a purpose and it definitely was not to put greenbacks into white's pocket, so Ms. Allen you have been wolfin' on the wrong folks.

Personally I am proud of the attempt. The entire event was financed on a merger \$850 plus money that the originators donated personally to help make the affair the most memorable event for 1972. In return we didn't expect any profit for ourselves personally, but we did hope that we would be able to raise funds to further other activities catered toward Blacks and others for 1973, but thanks to the bad weather and the hundreds of brothers and sisters that stayed home thinking that the Expo was just a dream, then that was all it stayed financially.

Roy Harris

(Editor's note: Miss Allen, as a member of the Black Arts Society, was a participant in Black Expo)

Thanks expressed

To the Editor:

This letter is an expression of gratitude for the many kindnesses and good wishes shown us in these past few months as our new company has become a working reality.

Many people have asked who actually owns our company, and we feel a clarification is in order for those who were intentionally misguided, as well as for us who were misrepresented. Mr. Robert T. J. Olive has been, and still is, sole owner and operator

of our company. We feel that in the last few months, as we began our new enterprise, and problems arose that seemed insurmountable, just taking the time to analyze the situation and working them out with sound logic and advice of our friends has given us new direction and incentive to work for our community in any way we can.

Very truly yours,
Robert T. J. Olive
North Portland Special Patrolmen, Inc.



With Ron Hendren
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

AN END TO A TWO-BIT WAR

WASHINGTON - If Richard Nixon doesn't achieve his "peace with honor" in Vietnam sometime in January, he may well have had his last chance to do things his way, because Congress, at long last, is really fed up.

The end of 1972 marked this nation's thirteenth year at war in Southeast Asia, years of countless broken promises leading to an ever-deepening sense of anguish at the futility of it all.

Now, even men of the President's own party, Senators like William Saxbe (R-Ohio), are questioning the Chief Executive's sanity at resuming the bombing of North Vietnam, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of innocent civilians, wrecking homes, farms and hospitals, even endangering some of our own prisoners of war in the heart of Hanoi - all without a single briefing for any member of Congress and all without a single military objective.

I, for one, will no longer give the President the benefit of any doubt in judging his Vietnam policies. For years, while steadfastly opposing the basis of our involvement in Indochina, I have nonetheless argued my position calmly and with reason, holding on to the dim hope that the President and Dr. Kissinger were indeed close, as they have said on many occasions, to achieving peace.

No longer. This is a two-bit war run by two-bit politicians, and President Nixon's recent electoral sweep notwithstanding, Congress simply must cut off appropriations for Vietnam if the struggle persists

even one day beyond January 31. After all, Mr. Nixon's 49-state mandate came virtually on the eve of the administration's firm pledge that "peace is at hand" and that only a few minor details remained to be resolved.

Almost by the time ballots were counted those hopes were smashed with the announcement that peace was not so near after all and with the resumption of the most brutal, intensive bombing attacks in the history of man. All of this came about without a word from the President, and one of two conclusions must be drawn: either he and Dr. Kissinger are monumentally inept or they are guilty of gross fraud against the American people and the entire world.

No matter which conclusion you choose, the course for Congress is the same: cut off the funds and end the killing. That course, which Congress has repeatedly rejected, may now be possible. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Montana) says he thinks an end-the-war resolution is likely to be introduced early in the session, and that he feels it has a better-than-ever chance passing.

At this point, we had all better hope so: That better-than-ever chance is beginning to look like our only chance.