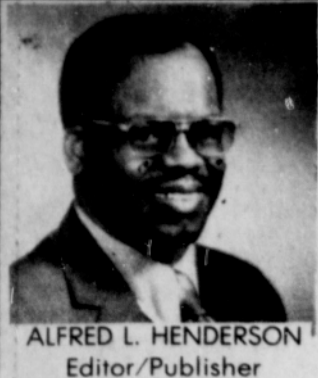




**WE SEE THE WORLD
THROUGH BLACK EYES**



EDITORIAL FOCUS

Commissioners - who created Boise? wake up!

The Portland Development Commission continues to ignore the pleas of the people. While agreements and promises are made and broken by the staff, harassment goes on. While staff spends weeks perfecting a complaint system, the people remain unheard. The people of the community have nowhere to turn. No one seems to take responsibility for the actions of the Commission.

We know the majority of the Commissioners are new to their positions. With as complicated a program as they are attempting to direct, it is natural that they would be overwhelmed with the magnitude of their responsibility. It is no wonder that they are helplessly mired in the details of financial shuffling -- not knowing where the money is going or where it's coming from. It is no wonder that they are at the mercy of their paid staff. But somehow they will have to get themselves beyond the financial details, the decisions between the benefits of grass seed vs. grass sod, and see the needs of the people.

Somehow the Commissioners will have to look beyond what the staff wants them to see -- to tackle the real problems that face the community and their agency.

We believe the Commissioners are sincere and dedicated citizens. We hope they will meet the challenges of their positions before it is too late. For they -- not the staff -- are ultimately responsible for their agency.

First Elk was Black

The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks has voted to open its membership to Blacks and other minorities. The members of over 2,000 lodges voted nearly 4 to 1 to drop the "white only" membership clause from their Constitution.

It would be nice to think that this action was taken because the members of the Elks, the nation's largest fraternal organization, had decided to judge applicants according to their personal qualities rather than according to their racial heritage. It would be nice to believe that "Brotherhood" had come to the brothers of the BPOE.

But the truth is that the move was brought about by economic necessity. The lodge had lost a series of court decisions, including one in Oregon that made Elks Lodge liable for taxes, and one in Maine that made them ineligible to hold a state liquor license because of their exclusion of non-whites.

So the BPOE will soon get their first Black members -- or so they think -- for we know that one of the two founders of the BPOE was Black.

A plea for the fans

Wrestling in Portland has taken on a new look. Color TV has come to the Portland Sports Arena.

With this exciting new era for the television viewer, we would like to suggest a bonus for the faithful fans who see the matches at the Arena every Saturday night: broadcasting the television interviews with the wrestlers over the PA system. Often the interviews are as exciting as the action in the ring, and the paying customers miss the fun.

The broadcasting of the TV interviews with the popular Frank Bonnema is delightful to watch on TV and also exciting to hear at the Arena from the crowd's nest.

There are many reasons why match-maker Don Owens should have the TV interviews on the PA system for fans attending the match:

Fans anxious to hear the television interviews between matches often crowd around the crowd's nest and disturb the television crews and equipment;

It would give the television advertisers an extra boost in audience;

Having the interviews on the loud speakers for all the fans to hear would also create added interest in the "grudge matches"

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David McCrea, principal of Boise Elementary School, said Boise has an atmosphere that is not conducive to learning. He claims that no white child can excel at Boise. He cannot explain the reason for this atmosphere, but thinks it might come from the children's homes.

For many years Boise has been a subject of controversy. For many years it has held last place, or close to it, in the academic achievement of Portland's students. Parents say things have improved. The population is down from 750 to 350, the children are more manageable, the community is more involved. Yet the principal states that a white child cannot excel, that the atmosphere is opposed to learning, that the expected standards of behavior are lower than those in white schools.

Who is to blame for the situation at Boise -- the community or the school board? The community has long requested and demanded desegregation of the schools. In 1963 the NAACP pointed out Boise as a segregated school and demanded relief, as have other organizations many times since. The Model Cities Education Committee presented a plan for desegregation that was accepted by HUD but rejected by the school board. So Boise remains an all-Black school.

During the past few years the school board has carried on its system of "voluntary" busing -- sending out the students that are most likely to adjust -- and leaving those with academic or social problems.

The school board has created a "ghetto school" where one need not have existed. It has created a Black school in a district where 90 percent of the students are white. It has created a school where a white student can't excel and a Black student doesn't want to excel.

It has created Black students who have problems when they are sent to schools where proper behavior is demanded and where learning is expected. It has created Black students who cannot adjust when they meet white students for the first time at Lincoln or Madison or Cleveland. It has created Black students whose initiative and motivation is destroyed by the age of 7 or 8.

David McCrea has brought the controversy to a head. For his insensitivity to the needs of Black children, he must be removed.

Then let the school board take positive and immediate action to solve the problem it has created!

Money available now

Students needing money to enter advanced schooling this year have a new source of financial assistance which they should take advantage of. It is the new Basic Educational Opportunity Grants Program, administered by the U.S. Office of Education.

More than \$122 million is available under the program to first-year, first-time students attending approved community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, vocational schools, technical institutes or hospital schools of nursing.

Students have until February 1, 1974 to obtain and complete applications for this school year. Applications are available at student financial aid offices of post-secondary institutions, high school guidance offices, post offices, state employment offices, county agricultural extension offices, and many other agencies and organizations dedicated to serving youth, or by writing Basic Grants, P.O. Box 84, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Completed applications should be mailed to P.O. Box B, Iowa City, Iowa 52440. The student then will be notified of the amount his family is expected to contribute. The student should then submit this notification to the school of his choice which will calculate the amount of the Basic Grant.

The amount of each grant is determined on a uniform nationwide basis which assures that students who most need financial assistance are able to obtain it. Basic Grants are not loans and do not have to be paid back.

Every student entering an approved school for the first time this year is urged to apply now.



IN HIS SECOND MESSAGE TO CONGRESS
HE PLEDGED TO

WORK WITH THE
CONGRESS IN AN
EFFORT TO
ENACT LEGISLATION
WHICH WILL END IN--
VOLUNTARY BUSING
FOR THE PURPOSES
OF RACIAL BALANCE."



Political incitement ...?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excuse me please

Dear Mr. Henderson:

In the September 24, 1973 Oregonian, an article on Boise School by Mr. Bill Keller includes several quotes from me that have justifiably outraged the community, the parents and the students and damaged the image of Boise School. While admitting certain of the key statements, there were other con-

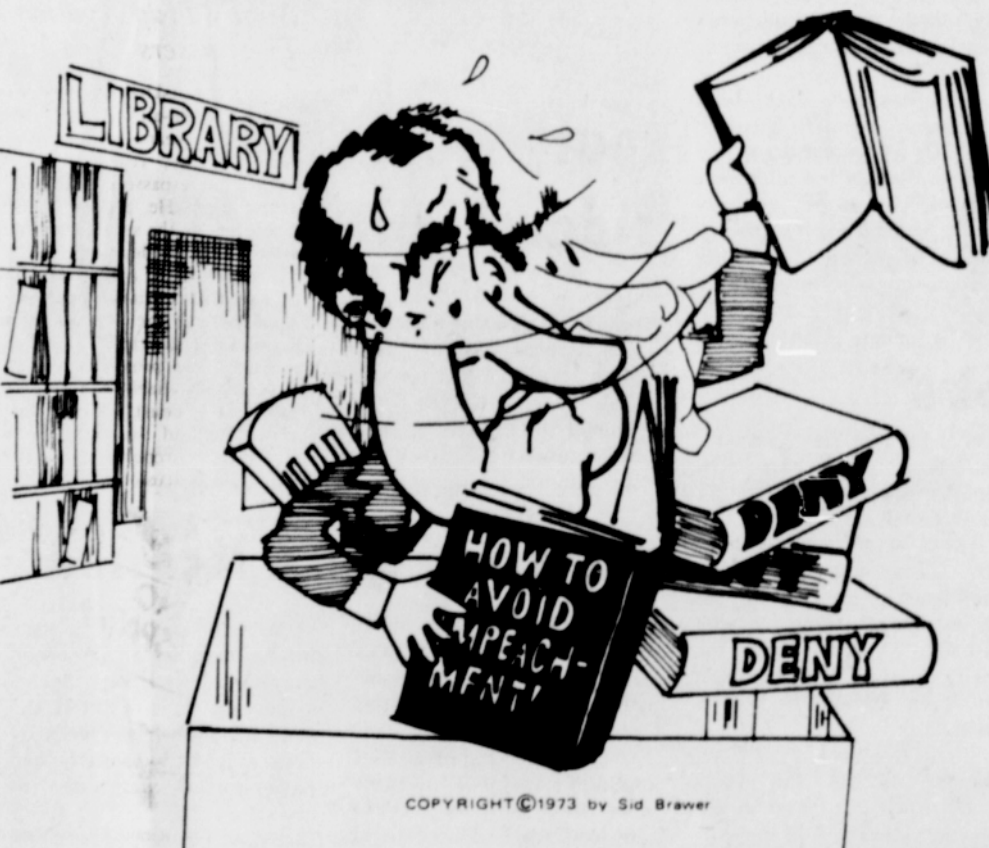
cepts developed in the article for which I am not responsible.

In looking back, I realize the words were badly chosen and did not, in fact, convey what I really feel, especially in attributing to Blacks generally the characteristics of some whose behavior we treat affirmatively and actively when it occurs. I must emphasize that defiant behavior is not accepted or

condoned by the school staff. I wish to formally apologize to the members of this community and to all concerned citizens. I am more proud of Boise School, its students, its patrons and its staff than any effort in which I have ever been associated.

Very respectfully yours,
David McCrea
Principal, Boise School

It just has to be here



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