



WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES



EDITORIAL FOCUS

It's Blanchard's problem Green says no

Principal David McCrea's remarks about Boise school, including his statement that the students create an atmosphere negative to learning, met with an immediate and nearly unanimous demand from the Black community for his removal.

Then some individuals began taking a second thought -- perhaps McCrea didn't really mean what he said; maybe he is doing a pretty good job, considering; maybe someone else would be worse; perhaps he should be forgiven for his racist words; maybe he is just a scapegoat.

Democratic as we profess to be, civil rights laws have never been passed by a vote of the people. Schools have not been desegregated by the electorate -- it took a Supreme Court decision and the U.S. Army. Equal employment opportunity does not come from a democratic election -- it comes through the threat of withdrawal of federal funds. Justice has never been popular in this country.

Some Boise parents feel that although they are unhappy with McCrea, they will handle the matter themselves, without the assistance of either the school district or the Black community. But a child is not only valued by his parents -- he is valued by all of society. Who will benefit through a child's education? Not only his parents and his parent's PTA, but the entire community. Who will be proud of a Black child's achievement? Not only his parents, but every Black parent. And who will suffer from a Black child's failure?

Some administrators said he must go. Others said he has only reiterated the unstated philosophy of the school board and administration. Still others were afraid of what might happen were the community able to have a principal removed.

So the decision became a popularity contest -- with letters from both sides being counted.

Now the administration has decided that McCrea will remain at Boise and the administration must take the responsibility. Superintendent Blanchard called McCrea's statements, as quoted in the newspaper, "stereotyped", but did not consider them grounds for removal.

Are we to conclude that McCrea's statements were factual -- that the atmosphere at Boise is not conducive to learning? Dr. Blanchard said "any school attended by a vast majority of low-income children is unsound educationally. Further, it is my social, as well as educational, conviction that this is especially damaging in the case of a low-income school that is also Black."

This gives the school district two alternatives: close Boise or transfer in an equal number of white upper and middle class children. Black children and their families have borne the burden of the transfer program. Now let the white families share the responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity for all of Portland's children.

Agnew resigns

The nation's "law and order" vice-president, Spiro Agnew, has resigned because he placed himself above the law. He has admitted to income tax evasion and is charged with additional crimes.

We predict the president will soon follow -- that personal use of campaign contributions will be discovered.

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Mrs. Edith Green became the first member of Congress to speak in opposition to the Home Rule Bill that would bring Democracy to the District of Columbia. Mrs. Green says she is opposed to home rule because she wants all of the people in the nation to control the capital buildings.

This is a rather strong argument for a Representative from Oregon, where so much land is owned by the federal government. Although located in the State of Oregon, these lands are in the control of "all the people". The same holds true of our state capital buildings -- although located in the city of Salem, they belong to all the people of Oregon.

The real issue is not federal control of the capital buildings and historic sites -- the real issue is whether the Black population of Washington, D.C. will control their own destiny.

Unfortunately, there are still people in the United States -- like Edith Green -- who cannot tolerate the idea of the capital city of the United States in the control of Black people.

AGC no authority

The board of the Associated General Contractors and U.S. Secretary of Labor Peter Brennan met Friday in a closed meeting to discuss minority hiring -- among other things.

Secretary Brennan's opinions and actions toward minorities are well known. He fought long and hard to keep minorities out of the construction trade in New York.

What is the excuse for the Associated General Contractors? What is their record on minority training and hiring? Every year AGC receives money from the Federal Highway Department for the training of minorities. Most of this money goes unused. We have seen no great effort on the part of AGC to assist minority contractors. In fact they have been a hinderance, not a help, in negotiations between the Albina Contractors Association and white contractors. They have not assisted their members to meet federal affirmative action requirements.

We do not consider the Associated General Contractors -- an association of white contractors -- to be authorities in the training and hiring of minorities for the construction trade, a trade that has long been open only to whites. We do not believe Secretary Brennan has either the interest or the expertise to do anything where minorities are concerned.

Therefore we consider this closed meeting to be a waste of the taxpayers money. If there was any interest at all by either of these two parties they would have included the Albina Contractors Association, the United Minority Workers and any other organization interested and experienced in the entry of minorities into the construction field. If there were any real concern, they would have sought the advice and assistance of the minority communities.

Vital election coming

Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen has announced that he will not be a candidate for reelection in 1974.

A number of persons have expressed interest in this position, among them: State Senator Bill Stevenson, State Representative Bob Elliott, Assistant Labor Commissioner John Gustafson, State Employment Division Administrator Ross Morgan, Sate Senator Dick Groener and County Commissioner Mel Gordon.

The Labor Commissioner is one of the most important elected officials to minority people. The Labor Bureau is responsible for the enforcement of the state's civil rights laws and is in charge of the Apprenticeship Program. Both of these functions are vital to the economic and political development of minority communities.

In this important election we must weigh each candidate carefully -- not only on his stated philosophy and proposals, but on his record.

This is one time that we cannot afford to enter a popularity or beauty contest and jump on the bandwagon of our favorite politician.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to the Mayor

Dear Mr. Goldschmidt,

The Ad Hoc Police-Community Relations Committee heard Clarence Harper, Jr. this morning describe his treatment by members of the Portland Police Bureau. I am assuming that you know by now the details of the incident which from our understanding would seem to be a clear instance of police mis-conduct.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to make this a case in point to illustrate for the police bureau and the community what is acceptable police behavior and what is unacceptable police behavior.

Some of our concerns which our committee hopes you will deal with point by point are as follows:

1) We believe mace was used improperly. Mr. Harper says that while he was in the police car at the scene of the incident and while he was handcuffed with his hands behind his back he was subjected to macing. This seems to be conduct that is without excuse.

2) When Mr. Harper's mother posted bail he was not released. What explains this?

3) Twelve hours after he was picked up Mr. Harper was allowed to make a phone call. We want an explanation for this delay.

4) It was not until 11:30 p.m., according to Mr. Harper, that he was informed of the charge against him. He was picked up at 7:30 p.m. This time interval badly needs explaining.

5) When he requested medical treatment after being beaten Mr. Harper says it was denied to him.

6) Throughout this experience Mr. Harper tells us he was subjected to abusive language reflecting on his racial origin and that provocative language was resorted to by the officers involved and the corrections personnel.

Our committee would be very curious to know what the content of the report of Lt. Brown was to your office. Mr. Harper indicated this officer investigated the inci-

dent at your request.

What this case of presumed mistreatment by police of a citizen points up to us is the need for procedures to deal with such cases that are clearly spelled out. We believe the issue here is police accountability. What assurance can be given to us that in this instance there is police accountability?

We have heard one side of the story; if the police have a side of the story that needs to be told we would be very happy to hear their side.

I hope you can relieve some of our anxiety concerning this entire matter and that you might encourage Chief McNamara to direct Lt. Brown at our request to explain how the police investigative procedures function and how the police bureau responds to complaints of "police brutality" such as is being alleged by Mr. Clarence Harper, Jr.

Sincerely yours,
Reverend Austin Harper Richardson

School publicity not justified

Dear Sir:

I do not believe that schools in transition should be stigmatized by unfair publicity. I feel that it is essential for all students that an atmosphere conducive to learning prevail.

As a concerned citizen, I spent most of the October 2, 1973 school day visiting six classes at Boise School to observe and evaluate classroom conditions and student behavior. I found teachers in control of their respective classes with obvious student rapport in an atmosphere conducive to education. Students demonstrated interest, cooperation, and discipline. Profane or obscene language was not evident. Students were energetic but not unruly; I observed only one disruptive student (an eighth grader) whose teacher demonstrated capability in handling that situation. One disruptive student is not unusual for any school.

I urge other interested persons to visit Boise and personally evaluate the academic atmosphere. I realize the impossibility of assessing the quality of the instructional program under the circumstances of a visit.

I trust that Boise parents will closely monitor the academic progress of their chil-

dren and communicate to school personnel whether a different kind of performance standard is worth diminishing future circumstances regarding equal opportunity.

I found the academic environment at Boise comparable to Lewis and Woodstock (schools for which I have served as room representative and as a volunteer in Portland Public Schools). I did not observe undue activity in the hallways of Boise. To me, Boise appeared to be a school in which all children, irrespective of race, can safely benefit from the education program. In my opinion, the earlier negativism reported in a daily white newspaper regarding Boise is unjustified!

Sincerely,
Mrs. O.J. Gates

McCrea ok
Gentlemen:

Boise School is not likely to get a better man than David McCrea.

I believe his letter published in your October 4, 1973 issue.

Yours truly,
Philip H. Lowthian
Attorney at Law

Power Structure at fault

To the Editor:

Several recent issues hit at the core of what's wrong with Portland. The articles about the Portland Development Commission expose a conspiracy against low-income people in Portland. The grants that are supposed to help those in need go to the ones with the greed. The PDC is like urban renewal in that respect.

Special interest groups actually make money by inflicting additional misery on people. Programs which are supposed to help people are used to bankroll fly-by-night contractors. The hard-working quality craftsmen lose the fine reputation they deserve because some crooks swindle people.

The problem with Boise Elementary certainly goes beyond the office of David McCrea. The same white school board made the decision to funnel children into Boise until it is swamped by the flooding traffic from the Fremont Bridge.

The school board has certainly abused its authority to condemn property for public use by tearing down neighborhoods to put the land into a land-speculation bank.

The school board will probably "make a few bucks" by selling out the neighborhoods so that "big shots" can build homes and office buildings on that property.

In a time when political corruption is rampant in the highest offices of our nation,

it is not surprising that the little crooks don't get as much attention (tar-and-feathers) as they deserve.

The vicious attacks of Emanuel Hospital, Lloyd Center, the School District, and the Portland Development Commission form a pattern of injustice and persecution.

Our children will not be

safe in the streets when the Fremont Bridge starts funneling rush hour traffic through the neighborhood. The smaller business along Union Avenue will be forced into bankruptcy if the traffic is intensified.

Very truly yours,
Ralph LaVelle Blondell
4806 N. Haight

PTA wants no help

Dear Dr. Blanchard:

Speaking on behalf of the parents of Boise, by no means do we accept the actions of our principal, Mr. David McCrea, but we feel that this is our problem and we should be allowed to solve it ourselves. We, as parents, have a lot at stake trying to help our children

get a better education. We would appreciate you giving us a chance to solve our own problems. If we find that we cannot, we would appreciate your help in the future.

Respectfully yours,
D rothy Hardy
Boise P.T.A. President

ACLU asks impeachment

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 9) fied prosecutions of dissenters and corrupted the constitutional function of grand juries to make them instruments of political surveillance and harassment.

He has perverted and attempted to pervert the operation of various federal agencies including the Department of Justice, the National

Security Council, the Secret Service, the State Department, the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency by engaging them in political surveillance and in the falsification of information made available to Congress and the American public.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Gloria Fisher
Business Manager