

ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher



EDITORIAL FOCUS

Make dream a reality

For the first time, the Black community has a voice in City Hall. Commissioner Charles Jordan, appointed by the City Council as the best person in Portland for the job -- will soon face the voters.

Black voters can -- for the first time -- present a united front and show Portland that we also believe Commissioner Jordan is qualified to serve.

Jordan is a man whom all ethnic groups and all persons who are interested in justice can support.

There are others who have set aside their own political ambitions for the time being, in order to prevent the usual "divide and conquer" tactics. We commend Ed Mitchell and George Rankin for their sacrifice.

Now the community must unite behind Jordan and help make a reality the dream that the Black people of Portland have worked for many years to achieve. We can present Commissioner Jordan as our candidate with pride.

No minority programs

Television is probably the prime entertainment and educational media in the United States. The latest figures available show that in 1972, 97 percent of American homes had at least one television set and the average American watched television 6 1/2 hours a day.

The television industry is big business. It has investments that run into billions and it influences Americans to buy all kinds of things they probably would not otherwise purchase.

TV helps establish values and determine how Americans feel about their society. TV has the potential for stereotyping groups or individuals in the tradition of Hollywood, which developed a poor record in its depiction of Blacks, Chicanos, Indians, Orientals and others. Minorities were the subject of humor or scorn, and were never taken seriously. TV today has the option to continue the Hollywood stereotypes or to deal realistically with minority cultures.

Unfortunately the Federal Communications Commission, the agency responsible for media regulation, has not consistently monitored the TV industry. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission in January of 1973 found that although FCC prohibits employment discrimination and requires that broadcasters be responsive to community needs, it does not strictly enforce the law.

The Civil Rights Commission has launched a study of the problems of minorities and women with the broadcast media. It will examine the decision-making process, equal economic opportunity rights, equal employment opportunity, and the relation of these factors to the image-making power of the broadcast programming.

In Portland, minority programming is almost non-existent. Although the four major TV stations occasionally touch on minorities in their regular programming, there are few programs for and about minorities and those are shown at times when the viewing audience is at a minimum.

KGW-TV shows a program about minorities and women called "Getting It Together", produced by Joan Biggs at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. KPTV-TV has "Modesto Rios", aimed at Chicanos, on Saturday mornings at 11:30 a.m. KATU-TV plays "Third World", produced by George Page, on Sunday night after the late show. KOIN-TV has no minority programming.

It is evident that the majority of minority people cannot see these programs. Sunday morning is certainly not a time when most people are available to watch TV. Page's program, seen around 1:30 a.m., is a travesty. Surely the powers at KATU do not believe that they are providing a service by presenting "Third World" -- a constructive and thought provoking program -- in the middle of the night.

This consistent ignoring of the minority communities is not only improper -- it is illegal.

OEO's first 10 years: Success or failure?

Ten years ago the Office of Economic Opportunity opened and the War on Poverty began. In Portland, many persons spent long hours developing plans, writing proposals and searching to determine what the citizens needed and wanted.

Since 1964 we have seen a series of programs come and go. Some were highly successful and others were not. Some programs continue to be funded and supervised by OEO, and others have been taken into other agencies and gained permanency.

There has been much criticism about these programs -- which were designed to bring persons living below poverty level into the mainstream of American life -- largely because they were initially proposed and operated by the poor. They have been the whipping boy of politicians of both parties. Publicity given to programs serving Black communities brought the usual racial tirades. The President has attempted to tear the agency limb from limb.

But those who have been associated with OEO have reason to be proud. Many have provided valuable services to the poor. The Foster Grandparent Program, Head Start, job training programs and Legal Aid come immediately to mind.

Many individuals have been provided job opportunities and have been able to move up into responsible positions. Others have received educational opportunities and have been able to seek professions. Parents have learned how better to care for their children. Work has been provided for students and young people. New philosophies and methods for the delivery of services have been devised and a new attitude toward the poor developed.

But probably the greatest success has been the political development of citizens. Individuals who could not discuss their own problems and did not know where to turn for help now use sophisticated political means to speak for their communities. Neighborhoods that had no political or social identity now have strength in city hall.

Although poverty and disenfranchisement still are rampant in this nation, the War on Poverty would have to be judged a success. The employers -- from administrators to trainees, and especially the volunteer members of committees and boards who give their time and energy without pay -- deserve our thanks.

Nixon must resign

Republican Senator James Buckley, the most conservative of conservatives, has called on President Nixon to resign. He joins his liberal colleague, Senator Edward Brooke, in charging that the President cannot regain the trust of the American people.

This is indicative of growing unrest among Republican office holders. Although most are not yet willing to say publicly what they are confiding to each other, they realize that they will have to bear the burden of Watergate at the polls.

As more evidence comes to light and as the President becomes more vehement in his attacks on the Congressional investigators, an impeachment trial seems inevitable. As the American people ponder the Watergate, income tax, Ellsberg trial, ITT, milk fund, and other yet unknown scandals, and as evidence continues to be withheld or "disappear", the President's credibility must now be beyond repair.

It no longer matters whether the President is guilty of crimes. He is the leader of the most corrupt administration in the history of the nation. With most of his top staff members, and all of the policy makers of his election campaign under criminal indictment or already found guilty, it is reasonable to assume that the President was involved or he exhibits incompetence at its height.

If the President, who repeatedly states "I refuse to be a party to the destruction of the Presidency", has any concern for the American people and their government, he will immediately resign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grant High Principal strives for minority representation

Dear Mr. Henderson:

As you know, Grant High School is a subscriber to your *Portland Observer*, which is made available to members of our staff and to students through the school library.

My administrative and teaching staffs and I have found that through reading and sharing your publication we do gain worthwhile information and news about one part of our community which enhance our own perspectives and are helpful to us in our human relations work at Grant, where we have close to 400 students who are Black.

In this context I would be remiss were I not to call

your attention to an apparent oversight in your feature article, "Portland Public Schools: Why not Black men?", of the March 7th issue. In your listing of high schools with Black male teachers, Grant was left completely out and naturally we wondered why and felt even a little slighted, especially in view of the Black teachers who serve on our staff and the emphasis I have placed on hiring qualified Blacks to fill openings as they have occurred over the past four years.

Perhaps you would be interested in learning that although Grant had to reduce its staff drastically for this year by about 14 staff members, we presently have the following Black staff per-

sonnel who have continued to function most satisfactorily as teachers, counselors and as administrative assistants. They have also each contributed much to the successful progress in human relations at this school and many other programs and activities which are important to Grant as a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural urban school. The total Black staff comprises 11 men and women which breaks down into the following categories:

a. Three are certificated classroom teachers -- one each in Social Studies, Business Education and Art (two men and one woman);
b. Two are counselors (one man and one woman -- the latter having served as a top notch classroom teacher at Grant for five years);
c. One is a community agent (woman);
d. Two are administrative assistants (one man and one woman);
e. Three are non-certificated aides who counsel and supervise students in hallways and the gym areas (three women).

Although this represents 10% of our total staff and I will continue to add as openings occur and qualified Blacks for such openings apply at the district personnel office, please do not underestimate in terms of numbers the significant impact that these fine staff people have had at Grant. In many respects we have been fortunate that foresight and sound planning at this school have included the important addition of Black men and women who are good, knowledgeable and dedicated "teachers" of youth with faith in our school goals and trust in the school's administration and teaching staff to work out complex tasks for the benefit of all of our students.

You are welcome to share this information with your readers and I trust you will view this letter as indicative of my support of efforts which will bring more badly needed qualified Black educators into our public schools. I am personally content that the opportunities now exist and perhaps the real crunch is that the demand for the kind of teachers we are seeking, Black or white, exceed those who are being prepared for today's urban school challenges. I am hopeful that this gap will close in the near future as more young Blacks are encouraged to prepare themselves for classroom teaching

Go over Jordan

Brothers and Sisters of the Community:

An opportunity has come to all of us to assure a brighter future in city government for all minority people. This came in the appointment of Mr. Charles Jordan to a City Council seat by Mayor Neil Goldschmidt. The door has been cracked. It is up to us to make sure that it is thrust wide open.

As usual, when one of us is honored such as Mr. Jordan has been, many, or should I say a few of us, begin to bicker and fight among ourselves to indicate that he might not have been chosen by the people. I would suggest that we stop fighting among ourselves and give thins man, Mr. Jordan, the full support and loyalty that he deserves. The Mayor has shown faith in him and other people of the community have faith in him. I would suggest that we adopt the same kind of faith for one of our own that we show for so many of our

other people, if I may say, who are white. This time those people of Anglo descent and other nationalities have come out to support Mr. Jordan. It would be a shame if those of us of ebony would not give him the same support.
Black people have been crying and praying for centuries, "Lord, let us get over Jordan," but I think it is time to change that prayer to "Lord, help Jordan get us over the Willamette into City Hall to bring about change for Black people and all people of color." I hope we can really come to the realization that getting over Jordan is in the past, but helping Jordan get over is in the present and in the future, for with Jordan getting over in the City Council, City Hall will tune its ear to our needs. Brothers and sisters of Blackness, join together and help Jordan get over.

Peace and freedom,
Harold C. Williams

Is President Nixon whistling in the dark?

by Benjamin E. Mays

President Nixon said recently that he will not resign, that he will serve out his second four years, and besides the Republicans will be in office for eight years after -- that is through 1984. Spiro Agnew boasted a few days before he resigned that he would not resign. The vice president was whistling in the dark. Is it possible that this is what the president is doing, whistling in the dark? If the president does not resign, he has confidence that Congress will not oust him.

I am of the opinion that the president is right. I doubt that Congress will try the president in the Senate and get enough votes to put him out of office. Even if the data reveals that the president is guilty, the Senate would hardly vote him out, even if the House impeaches him.

The constitution is not clear on what offenses are impeachable. Treason is clear, and bribery is clear. If these can be proved, the case would be won. High crime and other misdemeanors are not so clear.

I do wonder why the president, the vice president, and his legal advisors keep saying that the president can be impeached and tried only if he is convicted of crime. Not only laymen, like the writer, are confused, but lawyers seem to be equally confused. Is the president so certain that he has done nothing that is criminal in nature that he can insist that his case rests solely on the commitment of crime? Is misconduct in office an impeachable offense? Can

the Chief Executive bomb Cambodia in secret and answer to no one? Is the president free to sit on billions of dollars which Congress has appropriated for specific purposes and be answerable to no one? If it can be established that the president had a hand in the Watergate coverup, is he answerable to any one? If perjury is found, then what? Warren Weaver, Jr. says in the New York Times "Virtually all criminal law authorities agree that the president is not subject to legal process while in office, cannot be compelled to appear in court and is for all purposes not triable. Thus any attempt to indict him would be doomed from the start." These may be the reasons the president insists that he can be impeached only on criminal charges, definitely proved.

This is a serious matter facing the nation. The White House lawyers and the president insist that only charges of crimes are legitimate reasons for impeachment and ouster from office, while the Judiciary Committee feels that gross misconduct is reasonable grounds for impeachment. The best legal minds are divided. It may be that when all this is over, the Congress will have to write into law stating clearly when a president is impeachable or can be ousted from office.

One thing is clear: if the courts and the Judiciary Committee reveal enough evidence that is damaging to the Republican cause, the Republicans themselves will see to it that the president resigns. If they think that the president will hurt them in 1976, they will get Mr. Nixon out.

and school communities recognize their important contributions as teachers to a total pluralistic society.

Sincerely,
Gust Kanas
Principal
Grant High School

[Editor's note: We apologize for our error in missing Grant's two Black male classroom teachers. We commend Principal Kanas for his sincere efforts on behalf of Black students and teachers.]

Will not run

To the Editor:

I feel that I owe many people an apology, an explanation, and a tremendous vote of thanks.

Through events over the past three months, I developed the opinion that I might be the answer to the Black community's desire as a candidate for political office. If conditions had remained as they were prior to Monday, March 4, 1974, I would have filed for Frank Ivancies' City Council seat, and we would have won. But the chain of events, Ivancies' return as the incumbent, Lloyd Anderson resigning, and Charles Jordans' appointment, caused many people to regroup. Including one George Rankins.

I am not sure that I want to be a city councilman or

hold any other political position, but I consented to run in hopes of helping our community succeed in "step one" of its many goals; that is, getting Black representation for the first time in a decision-making paid position.

Now, however, I feel with the appointment of Charles Jordan, a gentleman I respect, admire and offer my 100% support in this new assignment, caused us to complete "step one" in our community's goals.

Therefore, this correspondence is to announce to my many friends and supporters "I will not run for a political office." I apologize to those I may have disappointed, and many, many thanks for their support and dedication.

Sincerely,
George Rankins

Program trains vets

Dear Editor:

In January of 1972 the escalation of the Vietnam War began and the post-Vietnam syndrome began. In light of the growing rate of inflation and the rising rate of unemployment here in the United States, the problems of the Vietnam veteran, able or disabled, were only to be passed by the government here in the United States.

The rate of unemployment and lack of education plagued minorities all over the country, especially the Blacks. There is a program at the Mt. Hood Community College Extension Center for low-income minorities who lack the equivalent of a high school diploma, or for those who desire to go to college, but whose high school GPA was relatively low. The program entitled the Veterans Educational Center of Oregon was established in June of 1973 through the coordinated efforts of Gerald Potter, ex-captain in the U.S. Army. The program is now fully staffed by veterans who have served in the Vietnam war.

The program operates in two phases: Phase I serves the GED training component of the program and Phase 2 is incorporated into the college sampling component of the program. Veterans who enroll in the VECO program are authorized under guidelines of the Veterans Administration Act to receive up to nine months deficiency money which will stimulate any part of their certified entitlement of eligibility. Upon enrolling the veteran will receive a stipend check from the University of Oregon to supplement his income until his check arrives. Upon completion of the college sampling component of the VECO program, a veteran may attend any institution of higher education in the State of Oregon, as stated in the guidelines of the program. Any veteran who wishes to contact the VECO program for more information can write to VECO, 10100 N.E. Prescott, Portland, or phone 256-3434 or 256-3430.

Jerome Griffin

Black turnover

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 6)

to get prior approval for purchases. He had problems locating the persons who gave approval and many times this delayed the job, which were the work assignments for the students. Eventually he had the owners bring their own parts. The next problem was payment for the work. He was not allowed to receive the payment, but often the bookkeeper could not be found and the customer could not take the car until he paid.

Of a more serious nature was the continual hassle over lesson plans. Although Speigener made specific and detailed lesson plans, they were never acceptable. He said he asked for assistance and suggestions, but that the curriculum vice president of fered none.

Speigener had 3 double periods (or 6 periods) of class with from 20 to 35 students in a class, but had no aide and no preparation time. Speigener had students of three age groups -- Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in the same classes. He had first year automotive students and those who had already had a year of automotive shop -- in the same class. e also had a disproportionate number of "potential dropouts".

Speigener also had problems over his choice of courses for his career development. At one point he asked to take Educational Psychology but was told it did not apply to his classes, but later was told to take general learning psychology. Speigener describes a long series of harassments, ending

in his refusal to sign an evaluation he considered to be incorrect and unfair. In December he was removed from Jefferson and sent to the area office where he compiled notebooks and was under observation. He was sent to a physician and a psychiatrist. Finally, in January he was terminated by the school board.

Speigener believes his problems stem from a conflict between the academic and career education proponents. His own thinking was to train students in a trade, but also to interest them in general education. He tried to teach them how to study, how to make judgments, and how to develop their skills. He does not believe that he was intended to be successful in this endeavor. He believes that the administration attempted to force him to resign or to react in such a way that they would have grounds for dismissal.

Speigener's insubordination charge did not stem from defiance or refusal to do as ordered, but from his just not have some of the the paperwork completed to the satisfaction of the administration. The main charges against him appear to be his inability to write satisfactory lesson plans and the administration's disagreement over how much time should be spent on lectures and how much on experience. Speigener maintained that more lecture time was made necessary by the mixed classes, but that the students did get enough "hands on" experience.

Other teachers who have witnessed Speigener's struggle to stay in the system have two theories -- one, that Speigener, like other Black teachers hired in 1969 to quiet down the Black students, was never intended to attain tenure but that while Marshall was principal he determined that Speigener would stay; and two, that Speigener, who is now 60, will not be allowed to remain in the system until he is 65 and can retire with full benefits.

This antagonism toward Speigener, which lasted over a 5-year period, is an example of what many teachers call differential treatment toward Black teachers. Whether or not any of the administration's complaints against Speigener were justified, his peers believe the matter could have been settled equitably in less than 5 years. Apparently his success with the students was not questioned but his mannerisms or his attitude toward the administration at Jefferson were a matter of contention.

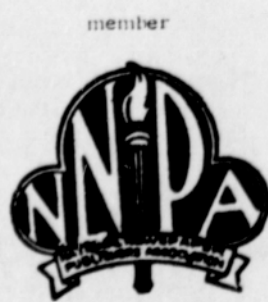
The school district now has a percentage of 4.7 Black teachers with a student enrollment over 10 percent Black. As of January of 1973, with about 3,000 certified teachers in the Portland Public Schools, only 137 were Black. Black teachers and other Black staff have been terminated or resigned during the 1973-74 school year and will continue to leave for a variety of reasons until they feel that they are treated with respect. In the meantime, Portland's Black children are deprived of their opportunity for a quality, integrated education.

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NAACP REGIONAL CONFERENCE BANQUET
April 6th Beginning at 6:30 p.m.
SHERATON HOTEL
Tickets \$10.00
For reservations, call: Joelette Hargo, 288-5075, or Francis Walker, 288-8187. Reservations limited -- call before April 1st.