



ALFRED L. HENDERSON  
Editor/Publisher



**WE SEE THE WORLD  
THROUGH BLACK EYES**

## EDITORIAL FOCUS

### Nixon bares true self

What many of us have been saying for many months now appears to be a public fact -- that Mr. Nixon is not a man deserving of the honor of the Presidency of the United States. Again, we call for his resignation or impeachment.

In attempting to clear himself from the crimes of planning and carrying out the Watergate burglary, Nixon has revealed to the nation the side of his personality that he has always attempted to keep hidden -- a scheming, self-centered, and paranoid personality.

Whether the tapes will conclusively prove criminal activity or not, they have revealed a man who showed no concern for the people he was elected to serve. In the tape transcripts, which he released himself, there is no hint of concern for morality or legality, or for the good of the nation. The only expressions were of concern for self. This is not a man who should sit in the White House.

It is evident that it was Nixon's own perverted need for immortality or his paranoia that caused his present dilemma. How can he plead for the confidentiality of presidential conversations when he recorded those conversations without the permission of the participants. Is this confidentiality? We wonder how many times Nixon has wished he had not dreamed up the idea of recording his every gasp for posterity.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Poem misses truth

Dear Sir:

The second poem in the May 5, 1974 "Oregonian Verse" column shows a lack of understanding regarding minorities, particularly line 5 which is "Say your prayers and hope to die." I find that cruel distortion disgusting!

Even poetry should have some obligation for honesty. The above-mentioned item of "Oregonian Verse" shows an

apparent ignorance of current birth rate statistics or population trends which do not reveal any "hope to die" advice regarding minority mothers. I therefore feel that poetry should not be a vehicle for racism!

Sincerely,  
J.M. Gates

(Editor's note: Oregonian Verse appears in the Oregonian newspaper.)

#### Likes Betty Roberts

To the Editor:

I was terribly disappointed by your May 2nd editorial, which implied that all of the major Democratic candidates for Governor were adequate, but that Jim Redden was a little more adequate because he had one Black person employed on his staff.

It is my understanding that Mr. Redden hired his one Black employee only because of intense editorial pressure from the **Portland Observer**, and not because of any spontaneous, personal commitment to affirmative action.

As a staunch supporter of Senator Betty Roberts for Governor, I think you have done her a disservice in this area. If you check her voting record for the 1973 Legislature and past Sessions, you will find that she has consistently and strongly advocated and voted for a wide variety of bills dealing with affirmative action and bills prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit based on race or sex. Jim Redden has no such recent voting record to

examine. Betty is, also, the only one of the three major Democratic candidates for Governor who has any in-depth background at all in the social services, such as child care, programs for the Aging, welfare, health and mental health. Such programs, of course, are of special interest and benefit to minorities and poor persons.

As for my own personal credentials in affirmative action (and, therefore, as someone who can judge Senator Robert's commitment to equal employment opportunities), I was recently fired from my job with Multnomah County, just two weeks after I publically testified in support of the United Affirmative Action Committee's demands to the Multnomah Board of County Commissioners for an aggressive affirmative action program.

Sincerely,  
Margot Perry

(Editor's note: The **Observer** has not endorsed Mr. Redden, but pointed out that his record in affirmative action hiring exceeds those of his opponents.)

### ■ NNPA papers speak ■

#### School decision in jeopardy

It is ironic that as we mark the 20th anniversary of the 1954 Supreme Court school desegregation decision, there is a determined move in Congress to set the clock back to the segregated status of 1953.

On March 26th of this year the House passed the Esch Amendment by a vote of 293 to 117. It proposes that Congress find as a fact that transportation of students creates serious risks to their health and safety.

2. It holds that assignment of children to public schools on a neighborhood basis is NOT a denial of equal educational opportunity.

3. It would forbid the implementation of any desegregation plans that would require the transportation of any student to a school other than the closest to his residence.

4. It proposes the modification of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which authorizes civil actions in Federal Courts for denial of equal educational opportunity.

Another amendment offered by Representative John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio) would forbid the expenditure of Federal funds for busing to achieve desegregation.

Comparable amendments are being offered in the Senate. One of them, submitted by Senator Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.), would prohibit busing, reopen all court-ordered desegregation plans submitted by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and forbid new desegregation orders. The Gurney provision would be substituted for Title VIII of S. 1539 -- the Education Amendment Act of 1974.

This being an election year, when the Watergate cloud hanging over the landscape sends politicians scurrying for issues to divert the voters' attention from their own credibility problems, busing and school desegregation are sure-fire issues to seize upon and delude the electorate.

It is demagoguery at its worst. Not only is it immoral, it is further damaging to Black and brown children already handicapped by years of being disadvantaged.

It is an intolerable situation that calls for collective action. The member papers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association hereby go on record to say to the Congress of the United States, "Stop playing politics with our children's lives and their welfare."

Those who support such reactionary legislation as the Esch Amendment must be regarded as the enemies of Black and brown children and, indeed, of all children and America itself.

Their actions must be remembered at the polls in November of 1974. Respect for law is just as incumbent upon lawmakers as it is upon ordinary citizens.

### Station finds jobs

Portland Public Schools radio station KBPS (1450) will feature a special radio presentation this summer on jobs and job alternatives for Portland area teenagers.

The program entitled SUMMER SOUND '74 is prepared by and for Portland high school students. It will be heard from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday beginning on Monday, June 10th. The program will include news, job information, music and interviews for students.

KBPS studios will hold auditions for positions as SUMMER SOUND '74 news-

casters on Monday and Tuesday, May 13th and 14th from 1 to 4 p.m. at KBPS studios in Benson High School. Students interested in the program may call KBPS to arrange an appointment for auditions.

Each student applying for a newscaster position should bring a 3-minute tape of a news or sportscast he or she has prepared and recorded on reel tape for the interview.



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