

WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES

Police bears burden

Many groups in the community are searching for ways to open communication with the Police Bureau. They are meeting with police groups, with the Mayor, and with the Human Relations Commission. All of this is good, and the community does have a responsibility to do all that is possible to prevent a confrontation with the police.

The real effort though must be made by the Police Bureau and the City. Although there are many serious problems that can be solved by advisory committees, the root of the problem is the racist attitude of the police officers themselves.

Police officers must be sensitized to the culture, habits, aspirations of those they serve. Training in human rights and responsibilities must be given all police officers, not just the new recruits. The top administrators choose and train recruits and as long as racist attitudes prevail among these men, it will trickle down to the line officers.

The first move toward a responsive and responsible Police Bureau is to retrain the bigots, and this failing, to remove them. This applies to the chiefs and their helpers as well as the patrolmen.

The Police Bureau will meet with the leaders of the Black community and advise them of what they must do to stop police violence. We must respond that we did not create the violence and demand that the Police Bureau begin to clean its own house.

Need fast action

Having waited for a Democratic governor for sixteen years we had hoped for decisive and rapid action in the field of affirmative action -- both in the hiring of personnel and in appointments to commissions.

Governor Straub has appointed one Black, Gladys McCoy, to the position of Ombudsman. He has made no appointments to boards and commissions although he has assured us that this is his intention.

We might seem to be impatient but we have been waiting since the 1840's to have the opportunity to participate fully in Oregon government. The "Empire Builders" determined that Blacks would not be a part of the social, political and economic life of Oregon, and we are still struggling to become a real part of this great state.

We can have a meaningful place in Oregon only if the head of state makes affirmative action a top priority.

Food policy wrong

April 17th is Food Day, a day set aside to contemplate the value of food and the serious problems of feeding the world population.

The United States government protests the use of oil as a political and economic weapon by the Arab nation, while it continues to use the shortage of food for political gains.

Since 1954 the United States has provided direct food shipments and loans for purchasing food. This food has not been allotted according to need, but to buy political favor. In 1974 more than half of the food went to Indochina to the political regime the U.S. was supporting. Less than fifteen percent went to the famine starved areas of the sub-Sahara.

The State Department has continued to support the policy of using food for blackmail and has refused to support a realistic plan to assist underdeveloped nations to develop their agricultural resources. The technology exists to remove hunger from the world of humanitarianism rather than political notions.

Between twenty and forty million Americans are starving or are malnourished. This problem also could be solved if shortages were not essential to increase the projects of agribusiness.

The United States government needs to seriously contemplate the food shortage in this country and throughout the world, and the imbalance in distribution of food supplies, and move to set aside selfish motives in the interest of survival.

Harassment continues

How much harassment must a man suffer? Cleveland Gilcrease has had enough to fell a lesser man. Many wonder why he would stay to struggle and fight when political opponents have been "out to get him" for so long.

We wonder too, why the constant attack on Cleveland Gilcrease. Haven't there been sloppy accounting procedures in both city and the county government that have produced deficits of millions of dollars? No one is calling for the removal and conviction of the Commissioners. We wonder why. Could the city or the county or the state undergo the numerous audits that PMSC has had and come out unscathed?

Is Gilcrease getting special treatment because he is Black? Are the people of Portland unable to allow a Black man to control these large amounts of money? Or is it because Gilcrease is an egotistical man, and Black men are not supposed to be egotistical in Oregon. Perhaps a milder, quieter man, one who would be content to sit in the background, could be more acceptable.

The Oregon Journal began its expose', according to editor Don Sterling, to make sure that justice prevailed...nothing personal. A number of audits and an investigation by the United States Attorney followed, and are still in process.

While these investigations continue, the character assassination continues. The latest is an expose' about an employee of the Concentrated Employment Program who embezzled funds. This matter was reported to and investigated by the FBI two years ago. If Gilcrease had been involved surely the FBI would have said something by now. If directors were responsible for the criminal activities of all the employees, we would find a few prominent bankers and corporation presidents cooling their heels in jail.

The investigation of PMSC is in the hands of Sid Lezak, U.S. Attorney, and that is where it belongs. We are sure if any evidence of criminal activity is found, indictment and prosecution will come quickly.

In the meantime, if there is serious questions about Gilcrease's integrity or his ability, it seems that he would have been quietly pushed aside and control of those millions of dollars taken from his hands.

If this man is guilty, then let the law take its course. If he is not, then let the character assassination and the petty innuendos cease.

The racist attitude of the power structure will insure that if any grounds for conviction can be found, Gilcrease will soon find himself in jail. No one should have any fear that this man could have either misused federal funds or made serious errors and get away with it. The system insures that the criminal justice system acts decisively and unsympathetically toward a Black man who has risen above his accustomed place in society.

If the City of Portland or Multnomah County want and need the PMSC funds, they can legally take them by invoking the Green amendment. This would be better than smearing a man's character.

Look, then leap!

County Commission Chairman Don Clark has withdrawn his recommendation to close Edgefield Manor, the county's nursing home and home for the elderly.

The decision to close Edgefield Manor was made without adequate planning and preparation for the immediate care of the patients and for the long-term involvement of the county in medical programs.

Now, after much time, money and energy being used up by both proponents and opponents of the move, it has been called off. No one can measure the damaging effects of the confusion and tension on the patients. It would have been better to do the research first, before the decision was made.



HUD Secretary Carla A. Hills signs the HUD statement of rededication to the principle and policy of equal housing opportunity, launching HUD's observance of the seventh anniversary of the Fair Housing Law (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968).

Dr. Gloria E.A. Tooté (right), HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and hundreds of HUD employees participating in the ceremony also signed the rededication statement.

Mrs. Tooté was recently fired by Secretary Hills.

Letter to the Editor

Bill seeks exemption

To the Editor: 890,000 Oregon taxpayers will pay the State of Oregon \$9,000,000 in additional taxes.

The federal tax rebate of \$100 to \$200 for the American taxpayer was granted for the sole purpose of stimulating the economy. The Congress passed the bill in the hopes these funds would help get America moving again.

To assure that all those funds are available to the taxpayer, I have introduced SB 619 to exempt Oregonians from paying state income tax on the rebate. Under present law, the rebate is counted as taxable income.

It is estimated that unless SB 619 is passed, Sincerely,
Blaine Whipple
Senator

United Way
of the Columbia Willamette



A new name for a Northwest Tradition

FROM THE EYES OF MR. W.

by Harold C. Williams

Brothers and sisters of the community, a voice that cries out in the wilderness is seldom heard and the light that's flickering at the end of the tunnel, is seldom seen. But we are fortunate to have a person that hears the cries in the wilderness and sees the flickering light at the end of the tunnel.

This man has been on the battle field in the State of Oregon for six years. He has caused many doors to open for many people and opportunities to flow their

way. The face of Ebony, the smile of faith, the ability of King Solomon and the will of God. All of these traits make up this great man.

Some of us have disagreed with this man violently and some of us have stood by his side as faithful soldiers. But too many have not yet noticed his presence.

In a way he is a maker of ladies and men, he takes all creeds and colors, all races and makes them interwoven

into one in the struggle of the human race. We have known Whitney Young, we have known Malcolm X, and applauded Martin Luther King, all of these men were great.

Their dreams and ideas live on, but we need someone to hear our cries in the wilderness and to lead us to the small light at the end of the tunnel. For we know that the economy and social struggle that we are faced with today is one of great difficulty and a few

of us are still too blind to see and unwilling to hear.

But despite it all, there is one that we should take note of and hear what he has to say and take heed from his directions.

The chosen one that will carry our message from the wilderness and point our way to that flickering light, is none other than the Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, editor and publisher of the **Portland Observer**, the chosen one Reverend A. Lee Henderson.



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