



We see the world
through Black eyes

The Black Press: The agenda of the future

Each year at this time we pause to pay tribute to the tradition of Russwurm and Cornish and all the journalist stalwarts that followed.

No one can deny the critical role the Black Press of America has had in the shaping of social change in this country. Long before the turbulent Sixties when many think the revolution started, the Black pioneers of journalism were blazing trails with little more than a paste pot, knobby pencils and just plain raw courage. It was in this tradition that the real soul of the Black Press was born. Conceived in the womb of adversity, nurtured in the stress of overt bigotry that dogged footsteps, it reached a kind of maturity in the mainstreets of the asphalt jungles we call urban America.

The Black Press, in its relentless crusade for freedom, has never failed to answer the clarion call of the needs of the nation. Sometimes voluntarily and too often in chains, Black men and women have left their indelible mark upon the acres upon acres of the country. As the Black Press vigorously protested poll taxes and lynchings, floggings and burnings, its readership was distinguishing itself-paying the supreme sacrifice.

They were in the boat when Washington crossed the Delaware; was present and affixed a signature to the Constitution and we stood on the bloody decks at Pearl Harbor proving our mettle and our worth. Throughout this time, *Freedom's Journal*, the *North Star* and those that followed were attempting to tell America the error of its ways. Not only that, but they spoke loud and clearly of the inequities of a system that kept a substantial number of its people enslaved and half-free. Despite its sustained articulation, the whole of America chose not to hear.

The Black Press has always recognized the urgent need for its readership to participate and share in the vast resources of this country. This comes with the full knowledge that Black sweat, suffering and sacrifice are interwoven in the soil upon which America grows its grain and raises the steel towers of its urban centers.

It comes with the full knowledge that Black hands and minds created much of what we enjoy today. We chartered the streets of the District of Columbia. We helped McCormick construct the reaper and we discovered the medicinal virtues of blood plasma. We put the chime in the striking clock and shed our blood in every war which history records. Is it any reason to debate a rationale for Blacks to say, and without equivocation, "This land is MY land?"

But given all this, what lies ahead?

Throughout the development of the Black man in America, the struggle has centered itself on many fronts: education, public accommodation, fair employment, voting, etc. But a concentrated search fails to show a programmed effort to bring the American Black man into the economic mainstream that marks the cornerstone of the American system.

Our brothers and sisters wander aimlessly and futility in great areas of poverty, not by choice, but by circumstances. The Federal Government at both the executive and legislative levels, has given scant attention to the Black poor. Such conditions, cry out for remedy.

This is the kind of crusade to which we must address ourselves. There must be the kind of commitment of (Robert S.) Abbott's call to leave the south and (Robert L.) Vann's relentless crusade against the poll tax. These new goals may not move the emotions as the more overt, acts of the past, but the objectives are clearly as important.

With the ever shrinking world around us, the Black Press must insist that its government give the proper respect to the emerging countries of Africa. It is inconceivable that a Secretary of State would serve under one and a half Presidents, gain the reputation for extensive travels and never set foot on the continent of Africa.

The American Black man must reach out and establish his rightful bonds with his African brother, neither expecting him to adopt our culture or our finding it necessary to relate to him, except by a singleness of purpose and historical perspective.

The paltry sum of the advertising dollar that finds its way into the Black Press annually is a travesty on the economic intelligence of the marketing experts. Only a myopic view of the \$69.9 billion earned by Black people, could cause the systematic by-passing of this tremendous buying power. The Black Press, through whatever means, must aggressively pursue that dollar, as much to stabilize the economic growth of this country as to participate in a system to which you belong.

Black Americans can prosper as other Americans, only when true parity is spread among the totality of the American people. This will not come as a gift or through paternalistic acts or programs. It will be achieved when all men share and share alike in the goodness of this country. That story must be told, over and over again.

This must be the agenda for tomorrow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regard to the recent announcement of the reassignment of Dexter Henderson to the Albina Human Resources Center as Assistant Manager. Mr. Henderson has recently been suspended from the Corvallis Center after a great deal of controversy and adverse publicity concerning his ability to manage the Corvallis Center. I question the wisdom of this decision since it implies a double standard concerning qualifications and standards for the Human Resource Centers with the Albina Center coming out second best.

Sincerely,
William Rose

Dear Editor:

Garbage is garbage no matter from where it comes. We do not want garbage from Washington D.C., Salem or Corvallis.

We are the taxpayers and this is our community. SB 951 should be reconsidered now, I think. Maybe further study should be given before we give Mr. Davis more power.

Stanley Cage

Dear Editor:

I am appalled that Dexter Henderson is being reassigned to the Albina Human Resources Center. I am even more appalled that Mrs. Hazel Hays, Manager of the Albina Human Resources Center would accept this. What makes Mr. Davis and Mrs. Hays think the Albina community will accept Corvallis' cast off.

Reverend John Jackson, President
Albina Ministerial Alliance

Dear Editor:

I could not believe it when I heard that Dexter Henderson, the recently dismissed Manager of the Corvallis Center, was being reassigned to the Albina Human Resources Center. Mr. Henderson's failure to perform in Corvallis adequately insures that he cannot possibly serve in any positive manner in Albina.

Again we find Albina being used as a Goodwill box.

(Mrs.) Alberta Polk

Dear Editor:

Dexter Henderson coming back to Albina. Not so. We will not have him. We want the State of Oregon and the world to know that Albina is not a garbage dump.

Mae Richie

Dear Editor:

This community is tired of decisions being imposed upon them by the bureaucracy. Clay Myers, Secretary of State, chopped up the community and left it politically powerless.

Now we find the decision has been made to send a Corvallis reject to the Albina Human Resources Center. This is unacceptable to this community. We will not accept a reject from anywhere.

Sincerely,
Preston Richie

Dear Editor:

I am a white female and I work in the Albina community. I was dismayed when Clay Myers, Secretary of State, chopped up the community in four sections, leaving this community politically powerless. I was even more dismayed when I read that Dexter Henderson, former Manager of the Corvallis Human Resources Center, is being reassigned to the Albina Human Resources Center. This is after his failure in Corvallis.

I am looking forward to the day when all people can be treated with dignity.

Alice Talbot

Dear Editor:

If Dexter Henderson, former Manager of the Corvallis Human Resources Center, had been Black and goofed in Albina, he would not be reassigned to Corvallis.

What happened to Leon Harris, Black former Manager of Albina. In the most liveable city in the country, he had to seek employment in another state. Why could he not have been reassigned in the state system.

With the vacancy, Mr. Dick Davis could send for him and assign him to that Center.

The Corvallis community has spoken loud and clear and the state responded to their wishes. Now we wonder will the wishes of Albina be met or will their voices be a tinkling cymbal or sounding brass.

Dr. George Wallace Maize, Pastor
First AME Zion Church

Dear Editor:

The previous Corvallis Human Resources Center Manager is returning to the Albina Human Resources Center as Assistant Manager after failure in Corvallis as Manager.

Tell me, Mr. Editor, in the absence of the Albina Human Resources Center Manager would he not again be Manager. If so, it sounds like the same old game is being run on Albina.

Willie Jenkins

Dear Editor:

I fail to see the logic of sending an employee who has failed in his job as Director of the Corvallis Human Resources Center back to another Center as Assistant Director.

In this case, the Albina Human Resources Center is the loser. Why should the people of Albina be blessed with second-rate help. Or is it the "Siberia" of the Human Resources Department and considered "punishment to fit the crime?"

Doris Simpson

Dear Editor:

It was shocking to read the recent news regarding the decision to assign Mr. Dexter Henderson as Assistant Manager of the Albina Human Resources Center. Inasmuch as Mr. Henderson was demoted and suspended as manager of the Corvallis Human Resources Center, I oppose the exploitation of the Albina community, the AHRC director, staff and clients it serves.

Bobbie Nunn, Vice Chairman
AHRC Advisory Board

Dear Editor:

Dexter Henderson returning to Albina. Somebody must be kidding! The Albina Human Resources Center is not a rehabilitation center for unsuccessful managers from Corvallis or anywhere else.

Spencer Barrett

We, the undersigned, wish to protest the appointment of Dexter Henderson as Assistant Manager of the Albina Service Center. We feel his past record as Manager of the Multi-Service Center in Corvallis and previous experience as Assistant Manager here, make this appointment unacceptable to most personnel.

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Baker acquitted

(Continued from p. 1 col. 6)

parently investigated Baker's report of bribery in about November, contacted Nelson and friends, and were told about the alleged robbery.

Nelson, his wife and his friends related a confused and conflicting story in court. Baker, who was represented by Attorney Richard Helzer, took the stand to give his account of the events that took place. His testimony was corroborated by several witnesses, including John Minus, a practicing student, who said he heard Baker report the expected bribe and that he kept records of the events until December, when he destroyed his records since no investigation seemed to be occurring.

Also testifying for Baker were Judge Richard Jones, who was Baker's last sentencing judge, and Judge Pat Dooley, both of whom related Baker's good reputation among the judges. Judge Jones has often said that he considers

Baker to be "rehabilitated."

Upon hearing the jury's verdict of not guilty, Baker expressed the opinion that the state will attempt to find another charge against him. "The county or state will try to bring another charge against me to discredit my Civil Rights suits against them. They will try anything to get rid of me."

"The jury took me as an individual, not as merely a Black ex-felon, but I have to thank Judges Jones and Dooley for that. This trial does not prove justice can be had by a Black ex-felon because I had people to testify as to my character and honesty that most Blacks off the street would not have. It took two white judges to convince the jury."

"I will have no chance to get a job in Multnomah County or the State of Oregon. There is still no opportunity for a Black man to work in corrections or criminology when he has a background like mine."

"I have spoken out on the injustices and I intend to keep on speaking out. I intend to insist on my civil rights."

"There are a lot of unanswered questions in this case. Why wasn't it investigated at the time? Why, if there was a question of my honesty, did I receive a favorable evaluation and a grade of A for my work with the county? No, they just cannot let a Black ex-felon be rehabilitated."

Baker intends to continue his suit against the county and the state. He applied for several correction positions through CETA VI funding and was denied employment because he is on parole.

Baker explains that the stated purpose of the corrections division is rehabilitation and that if he is a product of that rehabilitation effort, the division is negating its own effort by refusing him a job merely because he is on parole.