



*We see the world  
through Black eyes*

## Racism in the white press

We are often asked, "Why a Black Press?" The current news blackout of a prominent Black citizen answers that question.

Cleveland Gilcrease is currently in Canada, one of forty Americans selected to represent the United States at a major United Nations conference attended by 142 nations. This kind of honor seldom comes to an Oregonian, and even more seldom to a Black Oregonian.

And what does the white press have to say? Nothing. Although the *Journal* has taken every opportunity to attack Gilcrease -- to charge him with criminal acts -- it does not see this appointment as worthy of print. Although the *Journal* was interested enough in the HABITAT conference to send a reporter to cover it in person, it is not interested enough to mention that Gilcrease is there.

And the *Oregonian*? A mere one paragraph carefully placed below the obituaries. Any significance in the placement? An item of news surrounded by obituaries?

Not much has changed since the old days when Portland's white dailies, as a matter of policy, only printed news of Blacks in crime or sports. Oregon's Black citizens are still largely absent from their pages -- a little feature story now and then to placate.

It should be clear why Blacks do not trust the white press; and it should be clear why there is still a need for the Black press.

## A time for new dedication

It is graduation time all over the country and our high school and college graduates are going to be seeking new frontiers in a world different from that they are leaving.

Millions of words are being said at their Commencement Exercises by well-meaning speakers who are challenging them to go forth and be productive for the good of themselves, their families and their nation.

Jessie Jackson recently said, "It's not enough to be young, gifted and Black if you don't face up to the responsibilities that entails. If you don't face up to it, you renege on all the hard-won struggle of the 60s, the promise of everything that Martin and Malcolm

## A healthy Walton?

"If Bill Walton stays healthy, I'll have a winning team," Lenny Wilkens thought to himself two years ago when he came to Portland to coach the Trailblazers.

But Walton didn't stay healthy, and Wilkens is out in the cold.

"If Bill Walton stays healthy, I'll have a winning team," Jack Ramsay, Blazer's new coach, said to the press.

Wilkens showed that he could produce a winning team. During the period that Walton was playing, the Blazers beat all comers. But it was hardly Wilkens' fault that Walton could not play the whole season.

We don't believe Wilkens got a good break. He blames his downfall on the lack of relationship between himself and Blazer President, Larry Wilkens. We wonder if this relationship would have been better if Wilkens had been white.

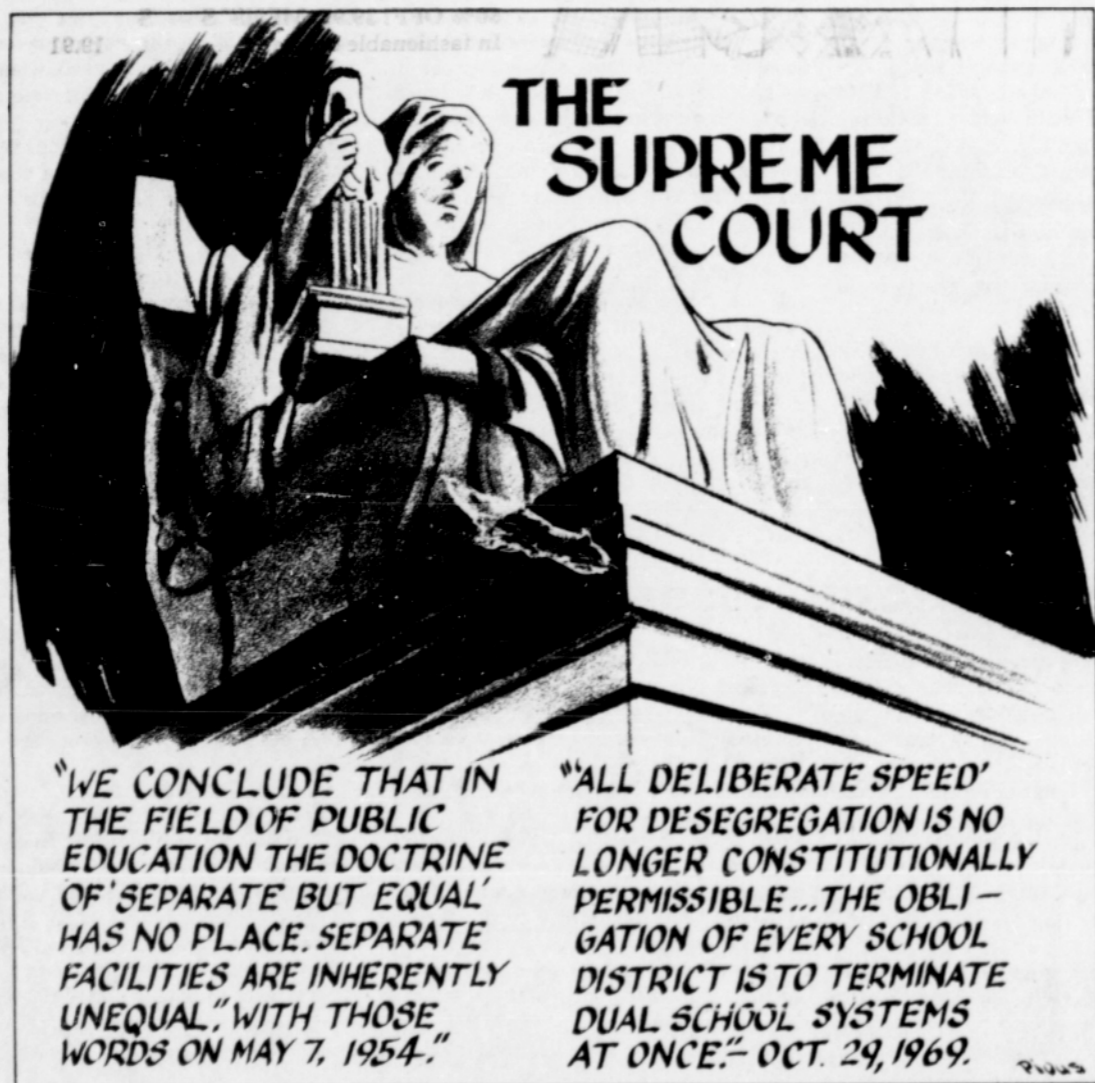
We wish Ramsay luck. We don't predict his success if he is dependent on a healthy Bill Walton -- that won't happen. It's not that Walton doesn't try -- he just can't seem to avoid disabling injuries.

Maybe next years coach will hear another coach say, "If Bill Walton stays healthy, I'll have a winning team." The Blazers will never build a team with a constant merry-go-round of coaches. We hope Ramsay gets a little more understanding and opportunity than was given Lenny Wilkens.

and thousands of others marched, sat in and fought for from Bogalusa to Boston.

He wasn't speaking to students alone. He was telling us to work together, that Black is Dutiful as well as Beautiful.

"What does it matter if the doors of opportunity swing open and we are too drunk to stagger through? What does it matter if we're given an airplane and try to fly it on 'soul' rather than on science? What does it matter if we can get into the university and it does not get into us? Shall we raise up idioms to the level of the university and conquer others? Where is our vision? What is our agenda? A revolution in values is in order. A push for excellence."



"WE CONCLUDE THAT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THE DOCTRINE OF 'SEPARATE BUT EQUAL' HAS NO PLACE. SEPARATE FACILITIES ARE INHERENTLY UNEQUAL," WITH THOSE WORDS ON MAY 7, 1954."

"ALL DELIBERATE SPEED FOR DESEGREGATION IS NO LONGER CONSTITUTIONALLY PERMISSIBLE... THE OBLIGATION OF EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO TERMINATE DUAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AT ONCE." - OCT. 29, 1969.

Attention Mr. President



ALFRED L. HENDER  
Editor/Publisher

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## The need for full employment

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Full employment is an issue for all Americans whatever their color or ethnic background. However, it is in the Black communities, where unemployment continually exists at astonishingly high rates, that we must all emphasize and reiterate our particular concerns.

Over time our youth are being robbed of their self-respect, their belief in this society, their ability to subsist, and their very future as useful people. The social and psychic havoc being wreaked by joblessness is truly immense.

Many of these idle hands turn to crime to make ends meet; family breakups increase, mental illness further decimates families, and social groups are brought into conflict with each other as they struggle for the few jobs that are available.

Over time, this creates a permanent jobless class, and it is my belief that the Black community is bearing the brunt of this frightening return to a caste system.

The Ford Administration recently expressed optimism over the decline in the national unemployment rate to 7.6 percent. Somehow it was not emphasized that Black unemployment actually rose from 13.2 percent in January to 13.7 percent in February. The administration also forgot - to point out that Black

unemployment has been above 6 percent since 1954.

I believe that even these figures understate the seriousness of the problem. They ignore the underemployed person, persons working part-time but looking for full-time work. They also ignore those too discouraged to continue to seek work and who are no longer counted by the Labor Department as unemployed. The National Urban League, in its December, 1975, Quarterly Economic Report on Black workers, estimated Black unemployment at over 25 percent. In many of our central city areas, that rate is higher still.

As chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, I recently testified before the House Education and Labor Committee, Equal Opportunities subcommittee, in support of The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1976, which is a strengthened version of the original Full Employment bill (HR 50) introduced by Representative Augustus F. Hawkins, D-Calif., who is also a caucus member.

In my testimony I stressed the urgency with which Congress must respond in passing this important legislation, for it is not just the unemployment rate and lack of work that I fear, it is the growing destruction of the moral and social fiber and those families who are experiencing



this debasing condition in a society that places high value on the work ethic.

As I indicated earlier, although it is in the Black community where unemployment is highest, unemployment is an issue for ALL AMERICANS whatever their color or ethnic background. We must all, therefore, urge Congress for the quick passage of legislation remedying this problem.

## A time of graduation

Some 255 students received degrees from Pacific University at annual commencement on May 16th. President James V. Miller presided.

Black students graduating included: Bachelor of Science, Vanessa Ann Blocker; Bachelor of Arts, Robert Elijah Cochran, Carmon Cunningham, Daria Lynn Gary and Gregory Allen Taylor.

The degrees were divided among Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Master of Science in Teaching, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Science, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Optometry.

Speaker for the commencement was Charles C. Hirt, chairman of the choral and church music departments in the School of Performing Arts, University of Southern California. Pacific awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters in recognition of his long service to education and music.

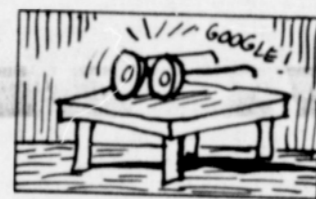
A Baccalaureate Service was held earlier in the day.

Also honored during the day were Ralph H. Shumm, Vice President and Trust Officer of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon, a Pacific Trustee, University Service Award, and Albert C. Hingston, Pacific professor since 1942, Distinguished Professor Award.

Laura Jerri Williams, a counselor at Waldo Junior High School in Salem for the past two years, has recently been awarded a doctorate degree in counseling and guidance from Western Colorado University.

The degree was conferred over spring vacation, after Ms. Williams dissertation on "The Compassion of the Grade Point Average with the Score Obtained on Coopersmith Self Esteem Inventory at Waldo Junior High School," was accepted. Ms. Williams did most of the research for her dissertation at North Salem School.

Ms. Williams is the mother of Mr. Vertis A. Williams, Jr. and Mrs. Cruith White of Portland, Mr. El Vaughn Williams, Minneapolis, Minnesota and four grand children. She is the sister of Mrs. Tressie Dixon, Portland, brother Henri John of Portland.



Goggles are believed to derive their name from the old English term for squinting.

The Kindergarten class from Grace Collins Memorial Community Center, will graduate on Sunday, June 6th, 3:00 p.m. Mr. Stan Johnson assistant Director of the Ceta II program and member of the Albina Lions Club will present the Diplomas and Challenge to the "Graduates." The children have learned hundreds of words, they add, subtract, tell time, count money, and much more. You will enjoy them as well as be an inspiration to them.

Mothers and fathers will be honored: oldest, youngest, and those with most children. All mothers will receive a plant.

## NAACP honored

Ellis H. Casson, President of the Portland Branch NAACP received word this week from the National Office that the Branch will receive a "Thalheimer Award" at the Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, at the end of June.

The "Thalheimer Award" is the highest Award given to Branches for an outstanding job during the year (1975) for the NAACP in the local community. This will be the fifth year in a row that the Portland Branch has received this prestigious award under the leadership of President Casson.

The Portland Branch will host the 1978 National Convention.

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