



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Press promotes racism

A recent survey of eighteen major newspapers has proven once again what Black people have inherently known -- that the white press continues to practice racism against the Black Community in three major areas -- employment, news reporting, and reporting of community attitudes.

In his book, *The Black Press, U.S.A.*, R.E. Wolseley wrote: "As Roi Ottley has explained, the white press and news services earned the suspicion of Black citizens in the first half of this century because they could not be trusted to tell the truth about Blacks. These white agencies were accused of favoring whites against Blacks, i.e. tailoring the news to fit the publications' prejudices or at least those of their owners."

Wolseley concludes in his 1971 book, "complaints about the white press treatment of Blacks' news today, however, are no less numerous, perhaps more selective because they single out regions, and merely differ in nature from those earlier years."

The Congressional Black Caucus said in a recent position paper: "The mass media has failed miserably to adequately and accurately portray Black people and Black perspectives. The media and its allies also have failed to allow equal access to information necessary for full participation in a democratic society."

It is possible to read the daily press and not be aware that there are Black people in Portland, Oregon. In addition to the "blackout" against some Black individuals, and the negative reporting about others, there is a genuine absence of news of Black people, organizations and events. We still find major news events tucked away behind the classifieds or under the obituaries.

Another aspect of this racism is the failure to report on the current thought and philosophy in the Black Community. There is no outlet in the white press for attitudes and points of view -- only the most inflammatory words are given expression and only in times of conflict. The idea of education, religion, politics, economics, etc. of thinking Black people are not given the credence of that of their white counterparts.

In the area of employment, a national survey shows the newspaper industry to be one of the worst -- especially in the professional and administrative ranks. Blacks fare no better in Portland.

We call on our white brother newspapers in Oregon to end this attitude of ostracism and racism. We believe your white readers, as well as Black, have the desire and the right to read the news about Black people and Black culture in Oregon. You have a hundred years of racism to overcome, but a little effort would go a long way.

The white daily press has long been the strongest influence on Oregon's citizens. How good it would be if, in the Bicentennial year, this influence were used to bring about an end to the racism we have experienced for so long.

Investigate unfair, unnecessary jailings

In recent weeks we have heard a clamor coming out of the District Attorney's office and from other public officials demanding more jails. Our jails are filled and overflowing.

Before the taxpayers get stuck for bigger and better jails we need to take a look at who is in our jails. Many of the men and women locked behind bars do not belong there and could be out supporting themselves and their families.

A good example is a Black man who is currently serving a one year sentence at Rocky Butte with no opportunity for parole, work release, or good time.

The man's problem began two years ago when his wife charged him with assault. They were separated at the time but by the time he went to trial they were back together. On the advice of counsel he pleaded guilty expecting a light sentence. He was sentenced to fourteen days in jail so he appealed. He went before Judge Beatty and was sentenced to five years probation -- on a misdemeanor and a domestic problem at that.

The following December, during the process of divorce, his wife complained to the judge about her husband's behavior. A revocation hearing was held and he was sent to a psychiatrist who pronounced him sound. On the advice of the psychiatrist and the probation officer he was released -- but had served several weeks in jail.

In January he parked his car and left it. He says it was stolen. The police and the car were involved in a high speed chase. The driver was not caught but a warrant was put out for our prisoner. In April he surrendered and had another revocation hearing. More domestic complaints had been received by the Judge, so he had another revocation hearing. His wife did not appear at court and sent a note saying she did not think he should go to jail.

Failing to have verification of the domestic charges, Judge Beatty used the alleged traffic offense to send him to jail, although this matter had not come to trial so there was no proof of guilt.

He was sentenced to one year at Rocky Butte with no possibility of parole, no work release, no time served and no good time off.

He remains in jail. For the past nine years he has worked and supported a family. He is employed and the company agreed to hold his job for a reasonable time.

Why should this man sit in jail. Most domestic court judges and even social workers and counselors have learned to distinguish family problems for criminal offenses. Even police officers do not lightly involve themselves in family problems.

Before we go out and build bigger and better jails we had better clean out the ones we have. Although the judges' decision is final, it is not always right. We suggest a review committee that could look into harsh sentences and conciliate the matter without the enormous costs and time involved in the appeal process.

Displaced Homemakers

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Suddenly she is alone. Those years are gone when her day was locked in to kindergarten, Little League, PTA carnivals, company parties, music lessons and dental appointments. Her children have lives of their own. She and her husband are separated, sometimes by divorce, sometimes by death.

She must work to support herself. How? She has never worked outside her home. She is a "displaced homemaker." Women in her category have the highest unemployment rate of any sector of the work force.

She is ineligible for Social Security benefits because she is too young, or she may never qualify for benefits because she has been divorced from the family wage earner. She is ineligible for federal welfare assistance because she is not physically disabled and has no children under eighteen years of age. She does not qualify for unemployment insurance because she has been engaged in unpaid labor in the home.

She has lost her rights as a beneficiary under an employer's pension and health plans through her divorce or widowhood. Private health insurance is often unavailable because of her sex and age and, if available, is limited in coverage and prohibitive in cost.

More and more women are finding themselves displaced homemakers. The changing status of the family has left older women unprotected.

The divorce rate has nearly doubled over the last decade and a half. In 1960, there were 35 divorces per 1,000, and by 1974 this figure increased to 63 per 1,000. One-fourth of the divorces filed are after fifteen years of marriage. The trend is toward no-fault dissolution of marriage and spousal support for limited periods, if at all.

There has been an increase of 46 percent in the number of households headed by women in the last decade. In 1973, one in every eight families was headed by a woman. Forty percent of poor families had a woman at its head.

Hays

(Continued from p. 1 col. 3) and Labor committee, the announced purpose of which his subcommittee was created.

"But Mr. Hays wound up his work by investigating and making public in the press only the alleged abuses of Representative Adam Clayton Powell," said the ministers.

Ten years prior to that Hays had been battering Powell and in June 1957 went after him on the House floor in what was termed a "vicious attack" while Powell was in the hospital suffering from a heart attack. This time he was carrying on "sniping" that began the previous year, 1956, when Powell decided to announce support of Dwight David Eisenhower for President, a Republican.

Hays had wanted the Democrats to deny Powell his House committee chairmanships, but had not taken such a strong position on Mississippi Democrat John B. Williams who had backed a state's rights presidential candidate. During this particularly bitter attack, Hays had recited a lot of information from the files of the House Un-American Activities Committee of which he was a member.

Powell spent more than 25 years in political life. He was first selected to the New York City Council in 1941 and, in 1943, he won the endorsement of Democrats, Republicans and the American Labor Party for the Congressional nomination.

The 1967 House denial of Powell's seat came in the same year that Thurgood Marshall became a U.S. Supreme Court Justice and in the same month that Julian Bond was seated in the Georgia House after having been denied his seat over statements on Vietnam.

Powell, who urged Blacks to pursue excellence, once said during the height of the popularity of "Black Power" slogans: "Black power is not anti-white. Black power includes everybody who wishes to work together, vote together and worship together."



generate more than the tax revenue to sustain it.

Of dividend importance, however, is the dividend coming from the well-being of persons leading productive lives who might otherwise fall into the disheartening social problems that plague those who suffer from loneliness, inactivity or a diminished sense of self-esteem. The time is past due for a full program aimed at helping the displaced homemaker.

Too Late to Classify

SECRETARY

CLERK-TYPIST

Familiarity with college procedures, accurate typing and shorthand. Hourly wage, paid vacation, health insurance. Applications accepted until June 24 at Office of the Controller, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR 97128. 472-4121, ext. 239.

Half-time, to coordinate job placement for students. Typing, filing, correspondence capabilities. Hourly wage. Applications accepted until June 24 at Office of the Controller, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR 97128. 472-4121, ext. 239.

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action
Employer

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action
Employer

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Sometimes a little concern on behalf of those persons who are so dedicated and citizen minded would help our community if they would be concerned and do something about the young thieves who are shopping in Fred Meyer, Penney's, Wards, and Safeway Stores. A few who think they are justified in stealing from these stores because of the high prices, if they would use their intelligence and simply stop buying from these stores and go some place else where the prices are lower. Many of these same thieves would

and could be productive citizens if concerned parents would only take the time to see that they get the proper skills in school and actively seek career opportunities for all our youth.

Many of us are sitting by and watching the women do what the Blacks started and are willing to just sit by and grumble about the situation at home. The Black male is not liberated and never will be liberated until he can take his rightful place at the head of the family and as a productive citizen. These things we can not do until all of us who have children will go to the schools and places of em-

ployment on behalf of all our youth and see that they are properly equipped with the tools needed for survival. We can work harmoniously with the women and share equally in the opportunities provided, if we are all equally prepared educationally.

The challenge is to all you responsible adults and citizens who would like to live in a safe and comfortable neighborhood. If you see a thief, report him/her because that same thief may be the one who will rip you off next.

Walter F. Morris, Jr.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher

Portland Observer

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Telephone: 283-2486.

Subscriptions: \$7.50 per year in the Tri-County area, \$8.00 per year outside Portland.

Second Class Postage Paid at Portland, Oregon

The *Portland Observer's* official position is expressed only in its Publisher's column (We See The World Through Black Eyes). Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Portland Observer*.

1st Place
Community Service
ONPA 1973

1st Place
Best Ad Results
ONPA 1973

5th Place
Best Editorial
NNPA 1973

Honorable Mention
Herrick Editorial Award
NNA 1973

2nd Place
Best Editorial
3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1975



**\$2.50 of your new subscription to
The Portland Observer will go to the
Oregon Black History Project**

Tri-County area **\$7.50** other areas **\$8.00**

Name

Address

City

Mail to:
Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland, Oregon 97208

OREGON'S TRAFFIC LAWS ARE DYING OF OLD AGE.

A lot has changed since most of Oregon's traffic laws were written some 45 years ago. In fact just about everything has changed except the laws. Those long overdue changes are going to be made July 1. New laws. Simplification of the old laws. Elimination of the obsolete laws. A new vehicle code that will make sense for today's driver. It's all in the new Oregon Driver's Manual. Pick up your copy today at any Motor Vehicles Division office, U.S. Bank and most police departments.

Or send in this coupon and we'll mail you one.

THE BOOK TO DRIVE AND LIVE BY

DRIVER'S MANUAL 1976-77

Please send me the new Oregon Driver's Manual

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Send this coupon to:
Motor Vehicles Division
Department of Transportation
Salem, Oregon 97314