



We see the world
through Black eyes

Board messes up

The Portland School Board revealed two problems at their last Board meeting which seemed to have escaped attention.

A point of extreme importance is the fact that Jonathan Newman, school board member and attorney, has become legal counsel for Superintendent Robert Blanchard on a legal matter. This matter has nothing to do with school board business, but we question the advisability of this relationship. We do not question the honesty or the integrity of these two men. We do believe that a private business relationship between the two brings about a possible conflict of interest. We do not think Newman should put himself in a position where he has to abstain on important votes. He was elected because the people value his input and his vote, and he should be available for any matter that comes before the Board.

The Board also revealed their discomfort at the prospect of Wally Priestley joining the board. The school board, like any small board that spends as much time working together, can too easily become clannish, like one happy family. Paul Howe was a member of the group and was a respected member, but the people have selected Priestley to replace him.

Board discussion of the possibility of holding the school elections in April, so it won't happen again (Priestley was elected to three positions in the May election), is too much like saying they wish it hadn't happened. This subject apparently never has come up before and we question the amount of voter participation that would occur if the election was held separately.

Priestley is not the first to hold two offices: Representative Howard Cherry is a member of the Multnomah County IED board and the Portland Community College board; Representative Blumenaur is a member of the PCC board. Senator Frank Roberts was a member of the Mt. Hood Community College board until he was defeated by Representative Gustafson. Representative Ralph Groener is a member of the Clackamas County CC board, and there are probably others in other areas of the state.

We think the board might fear a man who has new and different views -- who might disagree. We recommend to the school board that they accept Priestley with open minds -- who knows, they might find he's right.

Define rules first

The problems developing over the Eugene McCarthy nominating convention is another example of sloppiness in the elections division. Candidates who represents parties other than the Democrats or the Republicans can be placed on the Oregon ballot by petition or by a nominating convention of 1,000 registered voters.

John Callahan, coordinator of the McCarthy campaign, said he was told by the Secretary of State's office that he need only have 1,000 registered voters at the convention. After the convention had been held and over 1,000 persons had been present, he was told that he needed signatures so the status of the persons in attendance could be determined.

It seems logical that voters participating should be asked to leave their names and addresses. How else could it be determined whether they are registered voters -- or whether they are participants or spectators? Is it reasonable to allow 1,000 unidentified persons to gather together and nominate?

The really sloppy procedure came, however, when conflicting interpretations of the law were given. It should not be too much to expect that clearly written instructions be provided to any group that expresses an interest in holding a nominating convention. Determination of procedure should not be left to the person who happens to be in the office at the time, and must not be changed after the fact.

Every vote counts

Bill McCoy's election to the State Senate has been affirmed by a recount of the votes, mandatory in such close elections. The final count gave McCoy an edge of ten votes.

We hope this close race points out the urgency of voting. Blacks in Oregon have been negligent in voting and in party participation. The only way to have a voice in government is to vote and to participate at the grass roots, where policies and candidates are made.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oswald murder CIA coverup

To the Editor:

There has been so much written about the assassination of President Kennedy lately that I am moved to make the following comments:

The key to clearing up the mystery that has developed around Harvey Oswald's assassination of President Kennedy (that is, was there a conspiracy to place Oswald at the window in the book warehouse) is the Quaker lady who befriended Mrs. Oswald. Without her, Oswald would not have been in the book warehouse on the fateful day, let alone in Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Oswald had been living with her for some time because the Oswalds had separated and Mrs. Oswald desperately needed a place to stay. She is also the one who directed Oswald to the job in the book warehouse about a month before the day he assassinated Kennedy. She did this so that the Oswalds could be back together.

The Kennedy trip was not planned very long in advance. It was a hastily organized campaign trip to help then Governor Connolly and Vice President Lyndon Johnson who were in trouble politically. At the time Connolly was running for re-election. For security reasons

the route was layed out just long enough in advance to ensure a turn out. This was long enough, however, for Oswald to go back to New Orleans where he had been living to get his gun.

If there was a conspiracy in the classic sense, (I distinguish her from a social conspiracy where people are emotionally moved by politician's demagoguery and/or the various news medias hate mongering. I understand that the main newspaper in Dallas stirred up a lot of hate against Kennedy's visit.) the Quaker lady had to be involved months before. Without her and the chain of events she effected, the assassin would not have been in place on the fateful day. I have never read any reference to her being involved in a conspiracy.

The solution is to simply apply intelligence-orientated analysis to the facts we have. Others call this mental process common sense. After all, at this point we are not trying to prove a case in court. The mystery and conspiratorial cover-up becomes quite clear today in light of recent scandalous revelations involving the CIA and the FBI.

We now know that the CIA has been involved in covert activities that at times included assassination. Africa's Patrice Lumumba's death, the death of Allende in

Chile, and the death of Martin Luther King here at home attest to this fact.

Oswald was in Russia for several years. The Russians were only too glad to get rid of him, even allowing him to return to the United States with his Russian wife. This was even more unusual than that it is now. We know that he tried to enter Cuba and failed.

We also know that he was excellent shot. The extra shot, by the way, was an echo. As a roofer hammering shingles on a roof, I used to mistake the echo from the last of a series of hammer blows for another roofer working in the area. I have looked for him all day long until finally realizing what was happening.

My point is not that Oswald killed the President on orders from the CIA. I am saying that he was hired by the CIA to kill someone in Russia and probably Castro in Cuba. The assassin just happened to get himself worked up enough to kill the President of the United States.

The mystery and the conspiracy developed around the attempt to cover up Oswald's CIA connection: a coverup that the FBI was more than willing to cooperate with for reasons of its own. If I were them, I'd try to cover it up, too.

Herb Simpson

Reverse discrimination

By Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
U.S. Congresswoman

"Reverse discrimination" is a phrase we often hear. How many times have I seen a person shrug his or her shoulders and say, "You have to be a woman or a minority to get a job -- or admitted to a school." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Federal civil service is a typical example of the problem. Since I serve in Congress, I see the inequities firsthand.

When you and I go into a federal agency, it appears that the goals have been exceeded in the employment of women and minorities.

Actually, what we are observing is that minorities hold a disproportionate number of the lowest-paying jobs in federal civil service. Minorities do make up nearly half of those holding GS-1 positions, nearly a third of the GS-2s and GS-3s. These are the lowest-paying entry level jobs.

But such is not the case at the decision-making and managerial levels. Minorities hold only 5.5 per cent of the GS-13 positions, 4.1 per cent of the GS-16s and 4 per cent of the GS-18s. For whatever reason, minority employees have been excluded from the top jobs.

How does this happen? The Civil Service Commission is responsible for civil service employe selection standards. It is charged to act affirmatively, under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, to bring about a more reasonable representation of minorities and women in civil service at all levels.

I must report that Robert Hampton, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, appears not even to understand his job.

When questioned by Representative William Clay, D-Mo., about the gross underutilization of minority employes in federal facilities in the St. Louis area, Hampton denied jurisdiction.

Within his own commission, Hampton was party to a flagrant example of race and sex discrimination. A complaint filed by Peggy S. Griffiths was upheld by the Civil Service Commission's director of internal Equal Employment Office.

Griffiths, GS-15, a member of the Appeals Review Board and CSC's highest-ranking Black woman, was passed over when a nonboard member had been improperly chosen deputy chairman of ARB in July, 1974, and again when the post of chairman had been filled in February, 1975. She was passed over despite her superior qualifications and long experience.

In addition, an ad-hoc committee appointed to review the selection engaged in a cover-up that developed selective criteria after the position had been filled.

Hampton seems better qualified to perpetuate patterns of racial discrimination than to be responsible for employe

selection standards.

The systematic exclusion of minorities and women has long been standard practice in Washington. Prior to 1965, Blacks were prohibited from working for the federal government. By 1960, however, Blacks employed by the federal government had increased to six per cent and rose to twelve per cent during World War II, always concentrated in the lowest paying jobs.

During the administrations of Presidents Taft and Wilson, racial segregation was established in the Census Bureau, the Treasury Department and the Postal Service.

Many of us remember the segregated facilities, including government cafeterias, which faced Blacks during the 1940's.

What seems to have escaped Hampton is that the federal government has a responsibility to move affirmatively to remedy the effects of past discrimination.

The issue is not that we must have quotas, or that we are practicing reverse discrimination. The issue is that, based on the reasonable expectation that minorities and women are equally desirous of and able to serve their country, that there should not be a significant disparity between population figures and work force figures.

Women and minorities have been denied equal opportunity in employment for so long that a clear-cut dramatic effort must be made to bring change.

The procedures and attitudes of the past must be carefully scrutinized and changed so that women and minorities gain their fights to jobs. Change has to come at all levels.

I suggest that the Civil Service Commission should be in the lead rather than shirking the mandate of its job. If that is labeled reverse discrimination, so be it.

Contract Management Association Inc.

Business Success Clinic

Tuesday 2:00 pm

Conducted by Tom Booth

288-8469

3933 N.E. Union Portland, Oregon



CINEMA 30

(30th & Alberta)

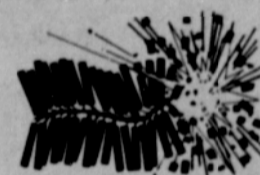
Presents

The Bi-Centennial
Spectacular

7:30 July 4th

1st. Foxy Brown * : Pam Greer

and Truck Turner * : Isaac Hayes



"Then"

"Live Entertainment"

Featuring

"After the Rain"

"Fresh"

The Burnside Bombers

and special guest star

Thara Memory

Hosted by "Uncle Sam"

\$3.50 advance 4.00 at the door



Gilchrist

(Continued from p. 2, col. 3)

jobs followed by four months of walking the streets in search of a permanent job. Gilchrist finally sought help from Penn State's academic coordinator, who is the daughter of Geneva Jones, an employe of Pacific Power in Portland.

In an effort to help the determined young man, the daughter called Mrs. Jones, who turned to PP&L's personnel department to find out if a job would be available.

Within a week's time Gilchrist was on the plane heading for Oregon, the money for the ticket coming from Mrs. Jones' two daughters in Pennsylvania. Did he have second thoughts on the flight West?

"I didn't have much going for me back there," he said, recalling his feelings that day, "and once I was on the plane there was no turning back."

Gilchrist moved in with Geneva Jones and her family, started to work in Pacific Power and Light's general offices in the mail room in February, 1975. By September, he was enrolled in Portland State University full-time and had worked up to an after-school job in PP&L's engineering department as an aide.

With some of the financial worries off his back and a future ahead, Gilchrist has earned grades at PSU that he "thought I would never see."

Pacific Power and Light's assistance will see Gilchrist through to a degree in mechanical engineering and, after graduation, he hopes to become a regular employe.

Too late to classify

ASSISTANT RAPE

VICTIM ADVOCATE

Assists rape victims through

initial reporting & investigation & through adjudication; informs & educates

the community. MIN QUAL:

Must demonstrate ability & knowledge in dealing with

people in crises. Some evening & weekend work. Due to

immediate need to continue the project, the deadline is

July 6 at 4:30 Pm. All resumes will be screened as they

are submitted. Oral exams will be conducted on

July 7-8 for the most qualified applicants. Submit resume to

Multnomah county personnel, 426 SW Stark,

7th Floor, Portland, Or. 97204. 245-5035 An equal

Opportunity Employer.



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

