



We see the world
through Black eyes

Racism invades MC

Portland's own "lynch the nigger" mentality comes to the surface occasionally, most recently at the Memorial Coliseum. The venom in the voices and the hatred on the faces of Portland fans when they boo Sidney Wicks and Lionel Hollins are too much to understand.

What could these two young men -- both fine athletes -- have done to bring on the hatred of so many Portland fans?

There is a simple answer -- they are both Black and they are both strong and proud.

Portland has not yet learned to live with Black dignity -- and that old southern mentality still runs deep.

Let Puerto Ricans decide

What is the reason for President Ford's sudden revival? Why in the last few weeks of his administration would he suddenly make proposals that he could have carried out anytime in the past two years?

After strongly opposing amnesty for draft resisters, he is now rethinking that decision. And without any warning, and apparently little thought, Ford has proposed statehood for Puerto Rico. Is he trying to commit a final act by which his lack-luster administration can be remembered? Or is he creating some difficult issues for the next president?

The proposition of statehood for Puerto Rico is an emotional and sometimes violent one among Puerto Ricans. Besides the apparent majority who favor the current Commonwealth status and those who favor statehood, there is a large segment of people who want independence.

The independence movement is deep and has at times been violent, spilling out in terrorist movements in New York and other cities where large groups of Puerto Ricans live.

The Puerto Rican government has not seen the need to apply for statehood and the issue has not been settled among the people. Perhaps they do not view statehood as a wonderful gift from a departing president. The United States has no business injecting itself into this issue, no matter what the motive, until the people of Puerto Rico have spoken.

An interview with Sidney Wicks

(Continued from page 1 col. 3)

Portland fans? "Yes, quite different. In Boston the fans are more knowledgeable, they're critical about the game and you can't fool the fans there. If you're not performing they'll let you know."

When asked how he felt when he heard about the New Orleans trade, Wicks said, "I'm a professional ball player. I knew I would be going somewhere. Portland's management offered me a contract and I gave them my idea of a reasonable deal. We couldn't agree so I did the thing I thought best, cut off negotiations. This infuriated them, but I believed I had certain rights as a professional and I was going to exercise those rights. Same thing in New Orleans; we couldn't agree."

"I haven't signed a contract yet with the Celtics. They're paying off my option year. If no agreement is made then I'm a free agent next year. It's as simple as that."

Wicks had been labeled by management as a troublemaker for his refusal to sign. Wicks is a good example of the new Black ball player. He's cold, bold, and together -- not letting anyone but Sidney Wicks decide what's best for him. Sidney Wicks was very outspoken and the following are his views.

Trailblazer management -- "They were never truthful in negotiations and finally when I broke off negotiations and refused to discuss it further. They flatly refused to discuss my going to a Pacific Division club."

Bill Walton -- "Bill's a great NBA center and if he had stayed healthy last year we would have made the play-offs. But if I, or any Black ball player, had presented the Blazer management with the problems Bill did his first two years... Well, I don't believe we would have lasted very long. We would have been driven out of town on our butts."

Lionel Hollins -- "What, you mean that stuff is still going on. After playing as well as Portland has... you mean they're still booing him? I can't understand Portland. Wow! It's good to be away from here."

Dave Cowens -- "It's tough when you lose an all-pro center. Dave is great to play with, but we'll adjust and play without him as best we can. I only had a chance to play four games with him. I know some have suggested that Sidney Wicks is the reason Dave left. The truth is I came to Boston late and only played a very short time with Dave. He played

well and so did I. I think I was averaging 22 points and 14 rebounds when he left."

There has been much said and written in the Portland press about Wicks. Why he's not allowed to disappear over the horizon is a mystery to both Wicks and this writer. When I stepped into the Memorial Coliseum Tuesday night all talk was of hatred, not praise. "How loud should we boo", said one fan. "When he's introduced let's just remain quiet", said yet another.

You know, listening to all this talk, one had the feeling that he had travelled back in time and instead of being at the Memorial Coliseum, and instead of being about to watch a basketball game between two friendly teams, he was at that now famous Roman Coliseum and was about to witness a bout between the Christians and the lions. It was particularly evident in the fourth quarter with Wicks on the bench and Portland ahead by 40 points. "We want Wicks! We want Wicks!" The chant rocked the Coliseum walls.

Now, more than ever, we all must know how those ill-fated Christians felt while feeling the powerful jaws of the lions. I've said all along that Portland's fans are different... they're disgusting.

Another Point of View China still a puzzle

from the New Pittsburg Courier

A reverse cultural revolution is going on in China, if any credence can be given to reports filtering out of Peking. The radical left seems to have lost its steam in the power struggle that Chairman Mao's death has precipitated.

The fight between the radicals and the moderates is an ominous sign of internal political instability that may well be reflected in China's foreign policy. Moreover, the outcome of this tug of war will determine China's future for more years than can be chalked on the calendar of political sequence of events.

It may be that China may never see again the golden days that Chairman Mao had ushered. Mao was a phenomenon of the 20th Century. He had total domination of a quarter of a million of mankind for more than a quarter of a century -- a period far longer than the reign of any modern ruler.

The secret of his leadership achievement is a mystery that the West may never unravel. Whether his long reign resulted from an oriental perception of democratic imperatives, has escaped thus far searching critical analysis.

What was a visible and convincing outlay of power, was Mao's absolute control of an anti-like society. The inevitable question is whether any person or body of people can maintain stability and allegiance in such a vast population without the almost mystical charisma with which Mao ruled.

His death is not only a consequence to China, it equally affects the political posture of the outside world. The two contending factions, radicals and moderates, hold the key to China's future. What worries Western statesmen is which of the two camps will emerge victorious. For, on that contingency rests the future relations of China's 800 million with the world at large.

Under Mao, China showed much sympathy with the African struggle for liberation. Chinese money and workmen helped build railroads in Zambia and Tanzania. China was getting ready to help Angola achieve its independence when Russia and Cuba stepped into the conflict. South Africa too, lost a friend in the death of Mao.

Amy Carter goes to school

By Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

I'll never understand people. What happened to the neighborhood school?

According to the newspapers, some parents have been phoning Thaddeus Stevens School asking how they can enroll their children. By now, we all know that Stevens school has a 60 per cent Black enrollment and is the oldest school building presently being used in Washington D.C. Why th clamoring to enroll at Stevens?

Amy Carter, 9-year-old daughter of President-elect Jimmy Carter, will soon attend Stevens. Calls come from the neighboring states of Virginia and Maryland.

Parents say they are willing to pay \$1,117 a year tuition.

Parents who inquire about enrolling their children are playing a good hunch. The age-old "association syndrome" is strong; that is, the possibility their child will benefit from being in the class or school of the president's daughter.

After all, we have read over the years about the play groups assembled at the White House for the Kennedy children and about the private school activities of the Johnson girls. None of us is so naive as to believe that it is "business as usual" when a child of the president is a part of a school.

Stevens school received three new teachers soon after it was announced that Amy was coming.

To be fair, it was announced that the extra teachers were planned for Stevens before any word of Amy's arrival. Be that as it may, it is not surprising that Amy's class has been reorganized and made smaller.

Amy's 22 classmates will certainly benefit. So will Amy. What a wealth of cultural exchange will take place among the 13 American Blacks, three American whites, two Latin Americans, two Pakistanians, a Bangladeshi and an Italian, all about 9-years-old and relatively unspoiled by cultural bias.

Thaddeus Stevens School has become a magnet school, an inner-city school with a special appeal. The concept is not new. Most parents cast around for educational and cultural advantages for their children.

How many parents drive their children to special music lessons, Little League practices and religious or cultural gatherings? All of us hope to enrich our children's lives and give them a foundation for a happy, successful adulthood.

Outside Washington, no parents are clamoring to enroll their children in inner city schools. Seldom do teachers ask voluntarily for assignment there. What we need are 10,000 Amy's to

distribute throughout the inner-city schools of this nation. Though the idea is titillating, there is only one Amy. We can't spread her candid Southern charm among our distressed inner-city schools. Nor should we need to entertain the idea.

The benefits at Stevens will be for all, Amy included.

Though the smaller class and carpeted floor are advantageous, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter know the greatest reward for Amy will come from her classmates.

This world has become a very small place. By enrolling at Stevens, Amy will not postpone until she is out of school to learn about cultures other than her own. She will have daily personal contact with children from all over the world and from inner-city America. What an extraordinarily fine experience for a child.

It is a tragedy that we do not value or feel comfortable with the cultural diversity of our cities. Because we don't, they are neglected. Neglect breeds a loss of self-image with its destructive consequences.

The Carter administration has raised the hopes of many of us, hope that the callous abandonment of the cities will be reversed. Somehow, attention must be focused on the cultural riches being ignored.

Amy has started the job. My hat is off to her.

Amnesty issue revived

By Vernon Jordan

President-elect Carter has indicated that one of his first acts of office will be to issue some form of pardon for Vietnam draft resisters as a step toward finally burying the searing divisions of that unwanted war.

My experience on President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board helped convince me that such a step is right and is long overdue.

Reviewing the cases that came before the Board, I found that many of the draft evaders and resisters and deserters were not pampered middle class kids seeking to evade responsibility but that they fell largely into two categories. The first was made up of large number of young men whose personal problems and experiences were such that they should not have served at all, while the second group consisted of persons whose convictions should have enabled them to win conscientious objector status.

Not enough people took advantage of the Board's existence. Some were distrusting of any official group, thinking it was a trap. Others were put off by the requirements attached to clemency. Still others had a multitude of personal reasons for refusing to apply to the Board.

So the Clemency Board really didn't do the job of burying the Vietnam divisions. Nor did it begin to tackle the big hidden problem of the Vietnam era -- the more than 350,000 veterans of the Vietnam era

who got less than honorable discharges.

The real losses to individuals holding such discharges are enormous. A less than honorable discharge means its holder is disqualified from a wide range of veterans' benefits ranging from G.I. Bill educational and employment aid to Veterans Administration medical care and civil service point preferences.

Since so many of the less than honorable discharges are held by men who served for significant periods of time in the armed forces, and many who saw combat duty, this is a sad situation. But it is made worse by the fact that such discharges are often administratively imposed, the fruits of personality conflicts with superior officers, minor frictions that would be meaningless in civilian life, and -- too often -- racism.

How else explain that in the Vietnam era blacks were twice as likely as whites to receive less than honorable discharges? Just as Black GI's were more likely to find themselves in combat, more likely to be wounded, and more likely to die in action, so too did being Black place a man in greater jeopardy of being separated from the service with the stigma of a less than honorable discharge.

Recognizing the serious injustices of many such discharges the Army has begun outreach programs to grant hearings reviewing such discharges, but such a piecemeal effort still leaves many untouched.

Any amnesty program should include provision for dealing with the larger

problem of veterans holding less than honorable discharges, and it should also spur changes in the way we treat those who fought and returned to find joblessness and discrimination.

It sometimes seems as if the national guilt over the Vietnam involvement has been directed against those who served there. Somehow the image of drug-taking trigger happy attackers of innocents has taken root as a stereotype inspired by My Lai and similar incidents. In this war, when Johnny marched home, he marched into public indifference to his problems of adjusting to civilian society and to job discrimination.

Veteran's unemployment is higher than for their civilian counter-parts at almost every age level and for younger veterans, the number are devastating. Black veterans suffer astronomical jobless rates -- over a third of young veterans are without jobs. And disabled veterans often have the rawest deal of all -- about 60 percent are unemployed and they need special help to regain economic independence.

Amnesty is essential if we as a nation are to put the Vietnam war finally behind us. It should be as broad and sweeping as possible. It should not only include wiping the slate clean for draft evaders and resisters, but provide for justice to deserters and holders of less-than-honorable discharges. And it should be accompanied by improvements in G.I. Bill benefits and by special efforts to employ jobless veterans.

Geoff Petrie left Portland because he made certain demands and would not sign a contract until they were met. Well, subsequently they weren't met so exit one Geoff Petrie. But wait until Petrie returns to MC... this writer will bet that you'll not hear a single boo and will probably see a five minute standing ovation. What a difference color makes!

Wicks performed well during his stint on the floor and it drew boos from Portland's fans everytime he touched the ball. He was tight and it showed.

Wicks' departing words were, "I'm away from Portland now. They should forget me; I've certainly forgotten them. It's just a memory, a very unpleasant one." So long Sid and good luck next year in Los Angeles with Kareem.

Babe Wilson

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) cars and watch -- and have kicked down his door." Or perhaps it is because he has been too successful in diverting the addicts, whom the police arrest, away from the jails and into drug programs.

A legal defense fund has been established. Those who are able to contribute are asked to send their checks to: Babe Wilson Defense Fund, Box 10681, Portland, Oregon 97210. Anyone who can volunteer time and work should call 283-2487.

Ride - A - Long

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

asked were answered, some quite candidly. Dan feels that the PPD is among the top 2 or 3 police organizations in the country and this feeling, along with other examples of a healthy morale (all-important!) I saw, does a lot towards keeping it near the top.

Of course, I saw only a very small part of the total police picture during my 4-hour ride. For that reason I hope to get the opportunity to go again when the Ride-Along program isn't so busy. I was told that a large number of the people taking these rides are high school kids. There couldn't be a better way for them to learn respect for the police. It wouldn't hurt some older people either. If you're interested call 226-7551 ext. 251 and ask for Lt. Coffey. He will give you full information. 10-4?

"In doubt if an action be just, abstain." Zoroaster

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