



We see the world  
through Black eyes

## VA makes wrong move

The Veteran's Administration has announced its intention to build a new hospital on Marquam Hill. The present hospital and Barnes Hospital in Vancouver will be closed.

There have been ten separate proposals for the location, and among them the VA selected Marquam Hill - the stated reason is that it will be near the medical school.

This selection has been made in spite of higher costs to the government—since the hospital will be built on the side of a hill—and to the city which will have to provide for sewers, lighting and access. To date the city has not been consulted, although the siting of the hospital on the hill will add not only to expenditure of funds but to traffic hazards and inconveniences. It seems only logical that the VA would consider the wishes of the people of Portland before building a \$155 million project.

The logical site—based on access, building cost, supportive services—is the Emanuel site. At the center of the freeway system, this site has suitable access from all directions - as opposed to the narrow, windy road up the hill. Commissioner Jordan and Congressman Bob Duncan have advocated this site.

Of more importance is the human side. Patients and their families at an Emanuel site would be part of the community and would have easy access to community services. They would not be put away - isolated and forgotten.

The federal government has invested a lot of money in the Model Cities area, including purchasing the proposed Emanuel site from many unwilling sellers. The government has an obligation to use this property for the benefit of the community - and what better way than a VA hospital that would bring jobs and development to the community.

## Schools need citizens

The Portland Public Schools, in the face of a narrow defeat of its four year, \$38.4 million levy, will probably schedule another election. The money is needed to continue operation of the schools at the present level.

The school district did little to educate the public as

to its needs - little was heard about the pending election until the end of December. There appeared to be no broad-based effort to reach the public.

There is much disenchantment with the public schools. Rumors are rampant and many citizens hear only about the behavior problems and the children who don't learn to read. Many complain about the "frills" and courses that seem to go far afield from the "three Rs".

The school district needs more than a crash campaign before the next election. It needs to involve the public in all phases of planning. It needs to invite citizens into the schools to find out what is happening. For many years parents and others were not welcome at the public school. They still have little voice in the operation of the schools.

A real effort of citizen participation is needed if the schools are ever to get adequate funds to run a quality program.

## Another Point of View Andy Young's choice

from the Atlanta Inquirer

Fifth District Congressman Andrew Young has been "rewarded" by President-elect Jimmy Carter for his support and influence in helping the former Georgia governor become the country's top leader.

Young gave up a "safe" seat as a congressman from Georgia's Fifth District to become ambassador to the United Nations, "a Cabinet level post," Newsweek magazine says, "that traditionally bestows honor, headaches - and not much power - upon those who hold it."

Rep. Young must have agonized over his decision which leaves us a little poorer and has initiated what has already developed into an interesting scramble as to who his successor will be.

We accept our Congressman's decision and wish him well in his new position. We remember other observations of his such as in late 1972 when he predicted "Nixon will resign before Easter" (it actually happened four months later) and his counseling of the people that Gerald Ford would be a pretty fair president.

Young is perceptive and we accept his decision, believing that he has seen a chance to be of greater service to us all.

## Inauguration Day

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Copely News Service

Inauguration Day is always cold. It may be bright and crisp or snowing or bitterly windy or raining. But all are variations of cold.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison stood bareheaded, without overcoat or gloves, in the piercing northeast wind to deliver his inaugural address. His speech was the longest and his term of office was the shortest of all presidents. He caught cold that day and died soon after.

This year, rain or shine, Jimmy Carter has vowed to bring the inauguration to the people.

He's not the first president to make this statement. Andrew Jackson in 1829 held "People's Day" at the White House where it was announced he would receive his fellow citizens. Men with muddy boots stood on satin-covered furniture and smashed crystal and china. The drunken brawl ended for the president when he escaped through a window. Jackson spent his first night as president in a hotel because the White House was in shambles.

For Blacks, Inauguration Day has traditionally been thin fare. Blacks were excluded from any participation until Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural on March 4, 1865. On that day two companies of Negro troops and a lodge of Negro Odd Fellows marched in the parade. Also rumor had it that day that tickets for Lincoln's inaugural ball had been sold to Negroes. Certainly not. The rumor was promptly denied.

Earlier, the famous Freedom Fighter, orator and former slave Frederick Douglass went to the White House reception to pay his respects to President Lincoln. He was detained at the door until the president called out a welcome from which he gained entry.

It wasn't until Marian Anderson sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" in 1937 when Dwight D. Eisenhower became president that Blacks were again included in inauguration festivities. Today, Blacks from all parts of the country are joining Jimmy Carter in celebration of his inaugural.

On January 20, 1977, Mr. Carter, our first president from the Deep South for over 100 years will assume the awesome responsibilities. He has vowed to put an end to the "imperial presidency". We, as a nation, have put our trust in his judgment.

On Inauguration Day we will attend the usual festivities, but the presidency has changed over the years. No president today can be expected to be an expert in every highly technical problem from nuclear technology and energy to transportation.

President-elect Carter will be surrounded by the Cabinet he has chosen to run the government. These men and women are largely unknown to us. The American people elected the president, but many of the important decisions will be made, ultimately, not by the elected president but by those who surround him. Watergate made this clear to us. We have put our faith in Mr. Carter's judgment to select competent, honest people.

With Jimmy Carter we have a Southerner who knows Blacks as people rather than as an abstraction. Through him let us pray that the cold of Inauguration Day will be just and will not extend to a year-around freeze for Blacks.

My prayer for our new president: Give him the patience to accept the things he cannot change.

The strength to change the things he can, And the wisdom to distinguish between the two.

## 1976 a momentous year

by Vernon Jordan

The twelve months now drawing to a close have been rough ones. The depression of 1975 receded to recession levels, but the selective improvement in the economy still left millions out of work.

The so-called "pause" brought a halt, hopefully temporary, to the recovery. Last month official unemployment figures were up to over eight percent. Translated into real bodies, that means about 15 percent of the labor force was out of work.

1976 was the year in which it was announced that the number of poor people increased by ten percent. It was a year that saw continued slack in housing construction, with new homes priced higher than most Americans can afford and older homes rising in price to exclude larger number of people from decent housing.

On the civil rights scene, it was a year of controversy over affirmative action programs, lessened enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, and signs of further retreat on issues like busing.

Cities continued in trouble, with major urban centers like Detroit, New York and others closing schools and hospitals. It was a year that saw many people hatched off to "planned shrinkage" as an urban strategy—kick poor people out of the cities and bring in the middle class, luxury apartments and offices to replace them.

Given all this, it's hard to be optimistic, but it is possible that we have not just seen the end of a pretty bad year, but also the end of an era.

It was a year of the electorate's rejection of a President who was hesitant about inaugurating programs to deal with our problems is a sign that the election of 1976 was a mandate for federal activism to cure a sick economy.

Whether it will in fact be the end of the era of benign neglect depends in large part on President-elect Jimmy Carter and his new Administration. Carter and his transition team have a plateful of choices before them—appointments to be made, altering plans for federal spending, new policies on manpower, health, housing, and a host of others.

As those decisions are made, we'll have a better idea of whether the era that brought such a wide-scale retreat in social progress is over. Meanwhile, Black people, working people, and concerned citizens have to apply the pressure to ensure their interests are taken into account.

For Black people the period since the election has been a time of hope.

1976, like the years preceding it, was characterized by a policy of "benign neglect" of our national problems. Decisions and policies were made based on what will produce short-term stability

and not what will cure longstanding problems.

The attempt to resolve race and class conflicts was abandoned and in its place came a concern with a supposed "silent majority" of middle class citizens that just wanted lower taxes and less government.

That the majority was not so silent and not so negative became apparent in the election results. Just as the years preceding it have been years of increased hardships, the malfunctioning economy has caused erosion in the plans of Black businesses and the still too small Black middle class, and has been catastrophic for the Black poor.

But Black people will remember 1976 as the year Black political strengths were at their highest point. Black votes elected the President and made a crucial difference in many other state and local elections. Thus we see how reforms of one era pay off in another, for the Black vote in '76 was the direct result of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Oh yes, in case anyone missed it, 1976 was the Bicentennial Year. While that meant some people could play-act about the past, it also gave impetus to a movement of Black self-discovery, as seen in the new stress on the Black past and in such voyages into that past as Alex Haley's exploration of his - and our - "Roots".

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Opposition to our country's intervention in the affairs of other nations runs very deep in America today. Equally strong is the American people's abhorrence of the racist apartheid system in South Africa. It is an outrage that our own government remains the greatest prop to the white minority regimes in southern Africa as a whole.

We all are faced with an urgent responsibility in this regard it is our duty to help educate the American people and mobilize them in a massive movement to end American complicity with the white racist regimes in southern Africa.

Many of us understood and responded to this same responsibility not long ago when the U.S. government hurled its military and economic might against the people of Vietnam. A massive antiwar movement was built, which eventually

won the support or active participation of the vast majority of Americans. This broad movement helped to force our government to end its involvement in S.E. Asia.

Today we must unite once again, to defend the fight for freedom and equality being waged by the Black majority in southern Africa. Our best defense of their fight is in ending our government's complicity with the racist regimes that oppress them.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism conference of 1,100 which met in Boston on November 19-21 has issued a call for two days of national protests against U.S. complicity with the racist regimes in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia on March 25 and 26. International protests are also expected, March 21 being the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South

Africa.

Already this call has been endorsed by the American Committee on Africa, Joe Madison of the Detroit NAACP, South African student leader Tsietzi Mashinini, and Congressman Ronald Dellums.

Won't you join us in forming an ad hoc committee to plan Portland's response to this national call?

Our PLANNING MEETING will be held on Tuesday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart School, 26 N.E. Morris. For information call: 284-4042, or 225-8954.

Peace,  
Elizabeth Groff  
Joel Shapiro  
Roger Yockey  
Phoebe Friedman  
Reverend John H. Jackson

## Sykes

(Cont. from p.1 col.3)

Inquiry Clerk for the U.S. Postal Service, is Chairperson of the Postal Service Women's Advisory Board, is a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Portland Public Schools, and is a member of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Group for the Multnomah County I.E.D.

She will appreciate any assistance offered and can be contacted at 221-3473 during the day or 287-0025 evenings.

## Hagen

(Cont. from p.1 col.6)

was employed as a management analyst and business development specialist. My duties as a management analyst were basically to identify, analyze and assist solving problems facing Model Cities business people.

After leaving Media, Hagens and Larry Buyers founded RAMCO. The idea was conceived while attending a business class at Portland State.

Hagens is involved in the community. He is the Chairman of the Board of Boyce Neighborhood Improvement Association and is Chairman of the Board of the Family Action Federal Action Credit Union. He is a member of the Black Justice Committee, and a member of the Royal Esquires.

A man to see is Chuck Hagen, when business or Tax Service problems arise.



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.

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York

1st Place  
Community Service  
ONPA 1973

1st Place  
Best Ad Results  
ONPA 1973

5th Place  
Best Editorial  
NPPA 1973

Honorable Mention  
Herrick Editorial Award  
NNA 1973

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



## Citizen of the Week



Mrs. Hazel G. Hays is completing three years as Manager of the Albina Human Resource Center.

Mrs. Hays is involved in many facets of the community. At present she is a member of the University of Oregon Health Science Center, the State Board for Library Associations, the executive board of the Northwest Regional Lab, the Tri-County Governmental Commission, the Rocky Butte Relocation Task Force. She is vice chairman of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

She is a member of the Urban League and a subscribing Life member of the NAACP.

She is married to Chauncey and considers one of her greatest accomplishments that of raising four daughters - all of whom have completed college. Her interests include gourmet cooking and travelling.

Use all you need  
but save all you can . . .  
The People at Pacific Power

"The hen is an egg's way of producing another egg."  
Samuel Butler

\$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