



We see the world  
through Black eyes

## Plan needs evaluation

Next Monday the Board of Education will decide whether or not to pass the Revised Newman Plan—a plan to lower minority enrollment of Jefferson High School to below the 50 percent requirement set by the State Board of Education. This school year Jefferson's enrollment was 51.5 percent.

Judging from the public statements of Board members Jonathan Newman and Gladys McCoy, the board plans to pass the new policy in spite of overwhelming community opposition.

Many questions remain to be answered by the Board of Education. The reported statement given is that if the 50-50 requirement is not met, state money will be withheld from the district. The School Board has not informed the community whether the State Board has notified the Portland district of its intent to bring sanctions to bear, nor has the Board informed the public whether it has asked the state for an extension of time in which to involve the community in planning.

The Board has not informed the public whether the federal government has directed it to proceed with immediate further desegregation or whether there are any pending federal sanctions in addition to the Title VII discipline non-compliance finding.

In the absence of state or federal directives it is difficult to determine why this change must be pushed through so quickly in the face of community opposition.

The Board has not explained sufficiently why the parents were not brought into the planning process or were not at least informed of the pending change. Mr. Newman has said that desegregation is a Board responsibility—but isn't all policy the responsibility of the Board? Isn't it even more essential to include parents and citizens in planning in an area as volatile as desegregation?

The district has been involved with desegregation for 12 years and yet has provided no statistical evidence of either education achievement or social benefits to minority children. Surely this information is available and could be shared with the public.

Why can't the Board require that white students living in the Jefferson area follow Board policy and attend Jefferson? If this were accomplished Jefferson would be only 25 percent minority and busing would be unnecessary. What is the district doing to educate white students and their parents in human relations so that they will not refuse to go to school with Blacks?

Why is the Board so ready to face a suit or, at a minimum, a federal investigation just to prove its point? The parents are told that the district is fortunate not to be under court order because of the emotion and disruption court ordered desegregation can bring. Why are they so willing to go to court that they have already sought and received their attorney's opinion that the policy is "legally defensible"?

Parents have gone beyond just wanting to stop this

policy change. They are asking that the Board set aside a year to evaluate their current desegregation program and to develop changes where needed with community involvement.

They now want to know how the federal money is used, the proportion of minority suspensions, expelled students and dropouts, teacher training, curriculum, etc. Parents will not be satisfied now until the entire situation is revealed.

Parents are angry and upset, and the School Board pushing this into a court suit will not help. No matter who wins, all will be hurt.

## Senate bills threaten community control

Current pending federal legislation would greatly endanger the relationship of parents and community with the school district.

All federal education grants address specific areas and school districts must guarantee that they will meet the requirements and guidelines of the program. These requirements, the federal audit procedure, and the threat of loss of federal funds serves to insure at least some adherence to what is determined to be the educational and legal factors necessary in educational programs.

Senator Packwood has introduced legislation that would set up new block grants, eliminating the 34 existing grant programs. School districts would be eligible to receive three block grant categories—one for special education for the disadvantaged and handicapped; another for vocational, adult education and manpower; and a third for "everything else."

Once these grants were received, their use would be totally up to the school district—with no federal guidelines.

Currently, not only are criteria for use of federal funds specific, but at least nominal parent advisory participation is required in the planning for and use of Title I and Title VII and certain other Federal funds. Packwood's bill would eliminate this requirement.

Another bill that holds similar dangers has been introduced by Senator Ribicoff that, in creating a separate Education Department on the cabinet level would place Headstart in this department—therefore placing local headstarts under local school districts. Currently Headstart, although funded by HEW is controlled through the Community Service Administration (formerly OEC). Not only does the control of the money rest with local community boards (PMSC in Portland) but parent policy boards—not advisory boards—are required.

The Ribicoff bill would take control of Headstart—recently judged one of the most successful programs of the War on Poverty effort—out of the control of parents and placed in the control of school boards. This would be a step backward and could destroy a successful educational program.

## Organizations hold national conventions

The National Urban League will open its 67th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, July 24th as it addresses the problems of "Revitalizing Our Cities: A National Challenge".

James O. Brooks, Executive Director of the Urban League of Portland, said, "We expect that this year's Conference will be one of the most challenging ever and will make a major contribution to the search for solutions to the problems facing American cities, and particularly their minority citizens."

Attending from Portland will be Ms. Geri Christian, President of the Board of Directors; Ma. Gertrude Ras, Deputy Director - Fiscal Operations; Nathan Nickerson, Deputy Director - Field Operations; and Brooks.

Among the speakers will be Alex Haley; Alexis Herman, Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department; William G. Milliken, Governor of Michigan; Kenneth A. Gibson,

Mayor of Newark; Attorney General Griffin Bell; Eleanor Norton, Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Vernon Jordan, Executive Director of the National Urban League will deliver the Keynote Address.

SCLC

The 20th Annual Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be held August 16 to 19 in Atlanta, the city where SCLC was born.

The Convention will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the founding president and the remaining active founders: Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, and Reverend C. K. Steele of Tallahassee. The major business will be the selection of SCLC's third president.

Dr. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King in April, 1969, resigned the presi-

dency earlier this year. Dr. Joseph Lowery, Chairman of the Board of Directors, is acting president until the convention selects a new president.

PUSH

"PUSH for Excellence" is the major theme of the 1977 6th Annual National Convention currently being held in Los Angeles. The Convention features presentations by authorities in education, government, labor and affirmative action, supplemented by EXCEL workshops on the media, model building, the administrator, the teacher, the home, the church, and research and development.

Among the speakers are Executive Director Jesse Jackson and National President, Bishop H.H. Brookins.

On Friday, an awards banquet will honor Alex Haley and Quincy Jones.

## Manuel Martinez: A self made success

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working on a franchise for prefabricated steel building, a field in which he has ten years experience.

Currently Martinez Construction is working on Environmental Protection Agency funded jobs at Lebanon and Corvallis, a Corp of Engineers site at Bonneville, and several private jobs. "The company has grown to the point where I have a supervisor in each job and I can spend my time working on bids and doing the paper work. But when I go to a

job site, I always get in and help with the work."

Martinez says that being a minority business man has not been an advantage. "I tried for five years to get on the Small Business Administration's list for minority set-asides but every time they wanted more information. I finally got an attorney, and then the government cut off any new work." Martinez was informed by SBA that no new contractor can be added until the current federal investigation of SBA is completed.

Another problem faced by small companies is bonding. "I didn't understand why I should be required to have a \$1 million bond for a \$25,000 job."

A strong believer in organization, Martinez was one of the founders of the Northwest Minority Contractor's Association. "Only by working together can we improve the conditions for all of us."

Regardless of the handicap of starting small, Martinez is on his way up. "I know I will be successful," he says confidently.

## Jefferson victim of white flight

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

have to do?" He also said that the district has to make more of an effort to encourage white students and students with "richer" backgrounds to attend Jefferson.

Contrary to what people may believe, the Jefferson area is predominantly white. According to Barrett, the Jeffer-

son area was only 28 per cent minority in 1970, although in 1972 Jefferson High School itself had a 42 per cent minority population.

Superintendent Robert Blanchard also expressed dissatisfaction "with the degree of success" of efforts to attract students to Jefferson, noting that he is

currently looking into the absorption of students by Benson High School. Blanchard indicated that he will make a statement concerning his findings and options next week.

The coalition will hold a press conference at Jefferson High School Friday at 10:00 a.m. to detail its findings.

## Small Business administration under fire

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

59 per cent of the total money loaned. Included in the thirteen Oriental company loans, eight were restaurants, most serving Chinese food, and one was a bakery.

Seven Black owned companies received loans. They included the consultant firm, the same contractor (now bankrupt), an economic development company, a clothing company, a cleaners, a garbage

service and a bicycle shop. One Black firm received 33.6 per cent of the monies loaned to Black firms.

The loans to Oriental companies and the one Black firm totaled \$1,296,000 or 70.3 per cent of the total loans to minority enterprise.

Two construction companies owned by Spanish Speaking persons received loans, as well as several restaurants.

Two firms listed as minorities—Hood

River Plumbing and Heating and Colonial Heights Appliance Center—stated that they were not minority, but were owned by Caucasians. They received \$90,000.

Two additional firms were owned by minorities but are now white-owned.

During fiscal 1976, Oriental firms, one Black firm and the two white-owned companies accounted for 86.6 per cent of the loans, leaving less than twenty per cent for all other minority businesses.

## Letters to the Editor

### Prison justice not fair

To The Editor:

A classic example of "Government in Oregon."

Can one justify wrong? Can one give a legitimate reason for being incompetent?

In a society such as ours (which is under "God") should one be committed to the "right" of policy or to the "left" of policy? Or should one be committed to the Truth?

Take for example the incident that took place in the shower area on May 6, 1977, that resulted in three (3) Black men being put in the hole (S&I) for four months. Harold Hammick, William Farmer and myself, Johnny Polite. It all started when an officer stepped up to two men who were showering next to me and told them to shut up. The men were talking to each other about sports. Then a few minutes later he (same officer) approached two more men (both Black) and told them to "shut up" and they too were

talking about sports. But Harold Hammick refused to stop talking, so the officer told him to "shut up" or else. At which time I said, "There is no rule against talking in the shower and it's done all the time without any complaints from anyone else. William Farmer confirmed my statement. But by then there were several more officers standing around us. Sgt. Good told us to back away because the officer gave the man (Harold Hammick) a direct order, so we moved away. At this I started to explain to Sgt. Good what had happened and that I thought the officer was wrong. Sgt. Good told me that "even though the officer was wrong they were forced to back him up because of us (the inmates) who spoke out against the verbal exchange."

They (the administrator) gave us a "hearing" and they also had an "investigation". During which time they interviewed seven or ten inmates, witnesses and four or five staff members (officers)

who couldn't get their stories right. After we had spent six (6) days in the hole (S&I) they sentenced the three of us to four months in S&I. We have been here in the hole for (68) days for "saking" to be treated like men and human beings.

Ask yourself these questions: Is it the out of date and congested design of the shower room?

Was it intentional or an accident? Is racial prejudice a part of the cause? Is it ignorance and/or incompetence? Or is it all of the above?

The decision is yours (The Observer readers) but, I ask—Any responsible citizen out in the free world—I dare you! I dare you to pick up your phone and call down here to Salem (the prison) to see if this is true or not. Mind you! I asked for a responsible citizen. Now, ask yourself, is this you?

Johnny Polite  
Box 3855

### Justice a game of chance

To The Editor:

I'd like to offer another view from prison.

What does justice look like to men behind the wall?

One 22 year old man came into this prison with a sentence of five years. His crime: breaking into a coke machine. Now if you were to come here, look at the records, talk to the people involved, they might tell you the coke machine was in a building, they might tell you he has prior convictions, they might tell you he is wanted in another state, but strip it all down to basics: the man broke into a coke machine and stole \$31.30.

To bring this man to trial it was necessary to extradite him from another state. I don't know the costs. He had a jury trial. A fingerprint expert testified, a janitor testified, a teacher testified. The costs were probably at least a few thousand. Several thousand have been spent to keep him so far and several more thousand will be spent in the future.

An older man in his late thirties came into this prison with a sentence of seven years. His crime: he murdered a three year old child. Now if you were to come here, look at the records, talk to the people involved, they might tell you he was a man who when to church, a tax payer, a home owner, a voter. But strip it all down to basics: he killed a three year old child. This man has money; the first man did not.

A third man in his sixties went into a Federal prison in Alabama with a sentence of 2 1/2 to 8 years. His crimes: white collar crimes. A golf course borders the compound he lives in and acres of lawn surround it. There are no walls, no fences. He had money.

What can justice mean through our eyes? The man in the Alabama prison will walk free before long. The man who killed a child will walk soon. (Murderers are good risks) But the 22 year old kid will still be in prison, will still be going through the "rehabilitation" games. The man in Alabama will probably never go to court again; the man who killed a child might never be heard of again. But they



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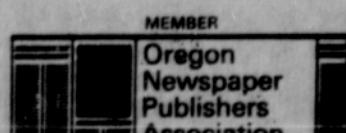
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