



We see the world
through Black eyes

Why not Hollins?

Many sports fans are amazed to see, day after day, what they believe to be a boycott of the Blazer's Black players by the local press. Those excited fans who eagerly purchased the Wednesday Oregonian, hoping at last to see Lionel Hollins featured on the Sports Page were not surprised to once again find not Hollins -- who was the outstanding star of Tuesday night's game -- but two photos of Bill Walton. And you guessed it, the Journal also featured Walton.

Hollins was repeatedly booed by the fans last year and was ignored by the sports writers. This year he has fared better -- finally getting some of the acclaim he deserves. Bob Robinson of the Oregonian says of Hollins' Tuesday night effort, "Lionel Hollins has a heart almost as big as a basketball and that was all that saved the Portland Trailblazers Tuesday night at Memorial Coliseum in a miraculous 92-90 victory over the Chicago Bulls."

In Tuesday night's narrow win over the Chicago Bulls, Hollins saved the game with a steal and two baskets in the last ten seconds of the game -- after an outstanding performance throughout the game. Hollins had also made an 18 foot jump-shot with 29 seconds to go. His total for the night was 27 points, 17 in the last quarter.

It would seem that Hollins might have been

honored by a photograph on the front of the Sports Sections.

In the olden days, when it was generally believed that Blacks could not excel, the accomplishments of Black people were ignored. Then, when a Black's performance was so outstanding that he could not be ignored, somehow his Blackness disappeared. This is why some of our American heroes -- Jim Beckwith, for example -- do not appear in the history books as Black men. It has remained to the latter day historians to search out and find these heroes and determine that they were Black.

Of course, now that photographs are so prevalent, that would be more difficult to accomplish. But by reading the Sports Page of the daily newspapers, one could forget that the Trailblazer team is made up of Blacks and whites.

The Trailblazers are one of the best local examples of Blacks and whites working together as a team to excel. They have furthered the cause of "Brotherhood" in the Portland area as they have become heroes to many people who could not accept the concept of racial equality.

It is too bad that the local press has not taken advantage of the consistent news value of the Blazers' championship and the current successful season to promote the concept of unity.



Vernon Chatman: A hard man to replace

by Herb Cawthorne

Today, perhaps more than ever, Black youngsters are helped by the efforts of some to encourage them to think about the future as early as possible. They are helped because they begin to realize that what one does today will bring rewards and honor and victories in the days to come.

For this reason especially the Urban League's Career Awareness Day is significant. It is an activity which asks young Black students to begin now to set the course. Nonverbally, it says, "You are worth something; you must believe in your heritage and keep the faith that tomorrow holds a better day for yourself, your people, and the world we live in."

Last November 5th, at the University of Portland, the Urban League held its fifth annual Career Awareness Day. There were 170 students involved, an impressive improvement over the previous year. More than 20 companies were represented, many times by Black employees who were familiar with the circumstances of the students involved.

The career day was the result of a unique man's thought. Vernon Chatman, the director of education and youth incentives for the Urban League of Portland, realized the need to bring young Blacks together early in their high school careers.

"In my visits to different high schools, talking with students about plans for the future, I found them to be thinking in very narrow terms, especially the Black students," the education director told me.

Mr. Chatman, a nine year veteran of the education department of the Urban League, noticed after brief contact with local students that "there was a tremendous need for them to be involved with people who represented a wide range of interests. Their scope needed to be broadened. This was the motivating force behind the Career Awareness Day, and it has proven very successful."

Others agree, it has been successful. An administrator at Pacific Northwest Bell, Linda Johnston says this about the effectiveness of the experience this year, "It was very well done, very productive. I was impressed with the students and their responses. The Career Day is important because it joins education with business. It's more than classroom learning -- it's firsthand interaction with people who are doing significant jobs everyday."

She attributes the credit for the positive influence the event has on both the business community and students to Vernon Chatman, the soft-spoken gentleman whose daily work breeds confidence in the next generation. Ms. Johnston says of Vernon: "He's fantastic! What amazes me is that he can relate to every kind of student. His whole life is devoted to young people. I think he is a remarkable man."

For those involved in the function, there seemed to be only positive things to say. Belton Hamilton, the administrative law judge and member of the Urban League's Board of Directors, said "I

simply can't say enough good things about the Career Day, and especially Vernon Chatman. He is a person whose effectiveness is understated. At first, one might get the impression that he does not know what he is doing. But later it becomes obvious that he is extremely effective in his work."

While many Blacks in Portland wonder about the leadership of the Urban League, particularly in these days of retrenchment, Vernon Chatman is singularly appreciated for his contribution to the development of a new generation of Black youth. As Belton Hamilton put it, "He is an unsung hero. The youth program at the Portland Urban League was close to nothing until Vernon came. He will be hard to replace."

"It is essential that the older generation communicate with the young," emphasizes Mr. Chatman. At 64, he is a sparkling example of what can be produced when one believes that, though perhaps misguided, our youth are the good foundation of a good future. The burden is on us, according to Mr. Chatman's belief that "if you have something that is of value, they will listen and respond."

He continues: "The key is to convince young people that you have something of value to say, and that you are sincere in a way which they can understand. Then they will appreciate what you are saying."

I agree with Belton Hamilton: Vernon Chatman will be hard to replace.

Vote in Congress a must for D.C.

by Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy

The Declaration of Independence that revolutionary document of human principles -- which serves as one of the underpinnings of American society states: "...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

That is true for all American citizens, except those of us who live in Washington D.C. -- the capital of the U.S., and the "Free World."

We are the only citizens in our great country who cannot elect our own voting Representatives to the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate. It is simply a case of Democracy denied!

It is not time to complete the work of our Founding Fathers and provide liberty and justice for the three quarters of a million District of Columbia residents (70

percent of whom are Black) who have no voting voice in Congress.

The 750,000 residents of the District made it larger than ten of our states: Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. But these states have 34 Congressmen; the District, none. And we pay more than a billion dollars annually in federal income taxes -- more than is paid by the residents of fourteen states.

The issue of Federal District representation is even more enlightening when considered in the context of the international community. Of the sixteen Federal Districts in other countries, only Brazil and Nigeria deny the residents full representation. London, Paris, and Bonn residents are represented in their national legislatures. Is the United States less democratic than England, France, or West Germany?

On Wednesday, September 21, 1977,

President Carter made history. He became the first President ever to support full Congressional representation for the District of Columbia.

With the President's support and the leadership of Members such as Representative Don Edwards (D-Calif.), we are moving toward achieving full democracy for the District.

Excluding District residents from this process and privilege is simply a case of democracy denied that must be corrected now if this Nation is to ever fully implement that principle of our Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..."

Certainly foremost among those "Rights" is the ability to say who shall represent us in the Halls of Congress. As American citizens, we cannot accept anything less.



Letters to the Editor

Just a matter of money?

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading the Oregonian article about burdening Columbia County by the Trojan protesters.

Mr. Sells very effectively used misdeed charges as a felony to send me here, and as Mr. Ed Jones stated, Mr. Sells could have made other charges. So Mr. Sells crying to Representative Ma gruder for Legislative help in drafting new laws is nothing more than another cry of wolf to the flocks. Whatever his purposes, I also don't understand this \$200 per day to empanel a jury for a single case. Can't he be food that is expensive, stale cheese sandwiches and a bowl of beans? Can't he be the court appointed attorneys, mine projected

about a dollar and thirty cent's worth of representation. I'm sure they can afford this.

It sure seems funny to me that in the 62 days I was in jail in St. Helens, I saw hundreds of Mexican aliens brought in from all over the States of Oregon, Washington and two from Idaho. If they have money to hold and feed these people, why are they crying "poor mouth" about a few protesters.

Perhaps, as in the case of Mr. Earl Haas, a little attention to the economic problems in Columbia County is needed. What did happen to monies from the alien situation? Is this an emulative action for future potential?

Columbia County residents should per

haps contact the Board of Commissioners for explanatory purposes before yet another reason is found to raise taxes. Can this be a foot in the door for requests for additional personnel and higher budgets for the District Attorneys Office? Maybe the Legislators should pass laws reverting back to the cat-o-nine tails. It would sure save money, but I am afraid too many of our public servants would grow rich with sore backs if justice was served, that is.

Protesting, like hitchhiking, has simply become too big a money making actuality for public officials for the State to curtail.

Clayton L. Keene

Role for Black psychiatrists

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

One of the hidden issues facing American medicine is the death of Black psychiatrists. This is an issue that goes beyond the narrow one of ensuring equal access to all professions for Blacks and other minorities; it has a bearing on the social and educational issues affecting the Black community.

With mental health occupying an increasingly larger role in the public consciousness Black underrepresentation in the field becomes more crucial. There are only 450 Black psychiatrists in America today -- a mere 1.7 percent of the more than 26,000.

The importance of increasing those numbers becomes apparent when we realize that the mental health needs of minority communities are largely unmet. The stresses produced by racial discrimination, poverty, and deprivation result in many instances where individuals need professional help.

Psychiatrists play a major role in determining the placement of children with special needs, in forensic programs, and direct psychiatric departments in community general hospitals. Such hospitals control large budgets, jobs for new professionals, and often decide in a given community who is "mad" and who is "bad", and who will get what kind of help or treatment.

Help has to come from professionals with a sympathetic understanding of the social roots of personal mental health

problems. In most instances, a Black psychiatrist who has faced similar social and racial stresses, is better able to help.

At the same time, there has to be greater efforts made in psychiatric training to acquaint professionals with the special problems faced by Blacks and other minorities. The Black Psychiatrists of America have helped develop a curriculum on Black psychiatry that includes studies of the Black family, Black culture and other areas that impact on the Black psyche.

This is a development that should not be limited to centers of Black medical education, but should be adopted by predominantly white training centers, whose graduates will be dealing with minority patients in a variety of settings, from office consultation to institutional care.

Developing more Black psychiatrists and sensitizing white professionals to the special problems faced by Blacks will also impact on the educational system. This was brought home by a recent court case in San Francisco that seeks to bar the use of IQ tests to place children in classes for the mentally retarded.

The suit was brought on behalf of six Black children who scored 75 or less on the standardized IQ test. Such tests purport to measure intelligence. In actuality they only measure cultural and language experiences. That's why middle class white children tend to score higher on IQ tests than do minority children.

When the six were retested by Black psychologists who reworded the tests to

reflect the children's cultural and language experience, they scored from 17 to 38 points higher.

Those kids should never have been stigmatized as retarded, and the work of committed Black professionals established both the bankruptcy of the tests and the need for an expanded role for Black mental hygiene personnel.

People in our society are labelled and categorized through IQ tests and similar culturally-biased scientific means that are really ways of legitimizing racial discrimination and supportive of the myths of white supremacy.

The San Francisco case illustrates the need for a double effort -- to increase the numbers of Black mental hygiene professionals and to reform medical education so that all doctors and psychiatrists are more sensitive to Black patients and to issues affecting the mental health of minorities.

That also cuts across the board to other professions as well. Our society operates on the split level assumption that it is color blind while at the same time continuing to discriminate against Blacks and other minorities.

With so few Blacks in professions like psychiatry, minorities are forced to depend on white professionals who may not fully understand their needs. We see this principle operation in education, law and other fields as well as medicine. So long as there is a crucial shortage of Black professionals the Black community will be underserved and subjected to abuses.



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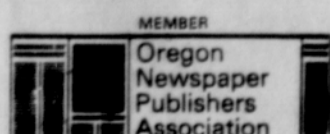
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