



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

School Board ignores community concerns

The prediction of the people has come true. Members of the School Board, after interviewing candidates for the School Board vacancy, have selected the person who reportedly has Gladys McCoy's blessing, plus two additional candidates.

Since the possibility of a vacancy became apparent with Mrs. McCoy's primary victory in the County Commission race, there has been no contact by the board with the leaders of Black organizations or with those who have been concerned about current education problems and school district policies. During this time, Evie Crowell has been promoted as Mrs. McCoy's choice to fill her position.

The deadline for candidates to file was Monday. The selections were made Tuesday following a twenty minute interview with each of the fifteen candidates. There was no time for reaction from the Black population — no time for expressions of support for any of the seven minority candidates.

So the Board has done what they were asked not to do. They have placed themselves — six whites — in a position to select a person to represent minority interests without bothering to find out that person's standing in the community, without finding out whether that person can gain the support of the Black community which the Board so badly needs.

In so doing the Board has ruled out Darrell Millner, who not only is eminently qualified but who has been active in the community and has a broad base of support. This is a man who people trust to represent them.

The Board has ignored the wishes of the Black community for too long. Its schools have been raped, its children destroyed. In the past it has been too small and too divided to fight. But those days have ended. If the Board fails to recognize a valid Black interest in this School Board appointment and continues to select what it believes to be best for Black people, it will find that the mood has changed, in Portland. The detent will have ended and the war begun.

PSU minority hiring not acceptable

It is with regret that we note the departure of the Affirmative Action Director at Portland State University. At a time when equal opportunity is being questioned, when the thrust for reversing historic discrimination is being weakened by splintered court decisions, Portland State was beginning to make progress under Dr. MacArthur Darby's leadership. But the progress was slow. The commitment has never been as aggressive as it should have. And now Dr. Darby is leaving for an appointment at the University of Louisville.

The efforts to bring progress to PSU's affirmative action office should not be lost with Dr. Darby's resignation. The PSU Black Caucus will be a watchful eye. The Urban League and the NAACP both have strong Education Committees which ought to monitor and criticize the direction

PSU takes. According to the PSU Black Caucus, the affirmative action process is weak in terms of a positive philosophy, graduate recruitment, meaningful establishment of goals, enforcement procedures, undergraduate recruitment, as well as efforts to make the PSU atmosphere more attractive.

There can be no great institution of higher learning in the Portland metropolitan area which does not embrace the aspirations of the Black community. Our community needs the activism, ideas, and independence of strong educators working in a comfortable atmosphere at PSU. The *Observer* hopes that Black organizations and individuals will make greater efforts to monitor PSU's response to affirmative action in the future.

Apartheid: Nazism revisited

(Continued from Page 1 Column 6) leaves us disenfranchised and subject to arrest, harassment, beatings, torture and outright murder. Far from weakening apartheid, the Sullivan Principles would actually strengthen it by providing badly needed foreign cash.

Bishop Sullivan, who dreamed up the Principles, is a member of the Board of Directors with Ford, one corporation that has refused to pull out of South Africa. As such his judgement is determined more by economic considerations than concern for the human rights of his fellow

Blacks. Another oft stated rationalization for the West's continued cooperation with the Nazis of South Africa is the West's apprehension with Africa's growing "enchantment with communism." What the champions of these school of thought fail to point out is that the Black struggle in all of Southern Africa has never been an ideological one. We have accepted help from wherever we could and, generally, the U.S. and Europe have been less than enthusiastic in coming to our aid.

There is a war going on and we

have to take arms wherever we can find them to fight that war. We have, however, not mortgaged our countries in return for that aid. On the other hand, the U.S., Britain, France, West Germany, NATO, South Korea, Taiwan, Israel and Iran continue to arm the enemy. So, how can they seriously expect Africa to regard them as allies? Western policy has got to come into line with Western rhetoric. If you are truly supportive of our liberation effort, stop arming and financing the enemy, then you won't have to worry about the "communist threat in Africa."



Another Black leaves PSU

Affirmative talents will be missed

by Herb L. Cawthorne

"I am a bit disappointed. They say they are sorry to see you go, that they wish things could be different, but they don't mean it. I think most are happy to see me go, and their behavior demonstrates that to me. When I look at my situation in light of what has been said by other Blacks and minority faculty, I realize that I have the same reaction. That is to say, if the Portland State University administration is so unhappy to see someone leave, then why does it not respond positively and with sincere concern in the first place?"

Dr. MacArthur Darby, Director Office of Affirmative Action Portland State University

After little more than a year, the affirmative action director at Portland State University is leaving. The departure of MacArthur Darby, PSU's energetic administrator of fair employment, highlights once again a vicious syndrome and a serious deficiency — both of which play upon one another and stifle progress in Portland's Black community.

The vicious syndrome involves the exodus of Black professionals from Portland's major public institution of higher learning. The atmosphere is not right; the genuine concern for reversing decades of racism is not well developed; and the thrust of the system is designed to grind the strong Black soul down to nothingness. The syndrome is pervasive.

The serious deficiency is found in our community's inability to challenge Portland State University to rectify — not tomorrow but today — its discriminatory atmosphere and its biased system of reward so that more of our people can thrive within its structure. We are deficient in our will; we are lax in our efforts; and we contribute to the vicious syndrome of Black professionals leaving our city.

Dr. Darby, who came well recommended from the University of Indiana, leaves a job not quite done. In spite of this, however, his accomplishments are many. Against the resistance of an institution soaked to

the brim with middle-aged male tenured white faculty members, Dr. Darby struggled for meaningful change. In less than a year's time, he transformed the affirmative action office from a decentralized structure, accountable to no one, to a centralized structure, accountable to the director of affirmative action. This was his major achievement.

The transformation was not easy. It took nearly a year. PSU's Black Caucus has to engage in discussions with several administrators to strengthen the persuasion. Above all, deep in the trenches of the academic structure, it was MacArthur Darby who labored to persuade the president of PSU that no solid affirmative action program could take place under a loosely coordinated decentralized approach. Dr. Darby relentlessly argued that the power to enforce against discrimination was placed in the hands of those who had been, over the years, responsible for the exclusion of Blacks and others. The decentralized system had never worked before. It certainly would not work in the future when we can anticipate the spirit of affirmative action changing into the philosophy of every (white) man for himself.

In July, with a somewhat surprising move, President Joseph Blumel consented to the centralized process of affirmative action administration. He moved, as appears to be his course in equal opportunity matters, reluctantly. Clearly, it was the persuasion of MacArthur Darby which strongly encouraged the President to move in the right direction. Now the caution must be noted: With Dr. Darby leaving, there is an invitation to the PSU administration to slide cleverly back into a stagnant attitude toward equal employment. We must not allow this to happen.

MacArthur Darby cautions us against this very real possibility: "I think that unless Black folks and other minorities learn how to put group pressure on organizations and institutions we are going to start going backward in the near future. The courts are not a solid ground on which to rest. The key is to make

clear in an aggressive manner that there cannot be retreat; we must make progress. In this sense the Black community is key, and that has been missing here in Portland."

The departure of the affirmative action officer, coupled with Dr. Mel Henry's resignation from the School of Social Work recently, is part of the vicious, revolving door syndrome at PSU. While the existence of such a syndrome tells on the atmosphere at PSU, it also points to our own deficiency.

We lack the ability to investigate employment practices and procedures at PSU. We pay little attention to the disgraceful figures. We ignore a discriminatory promotion process. We remain silent as our friends and neighbors are chewed up in search committees which are already stacked against them. We minimize the fact that most Blacks at PSU are employed in the lowest paying occupations. We are deficient when it comes to fighting for a better future in our city through an improvement of PSU's response to our educational requirements.

It is clear that the syndrome and the deficiency are linked. The link is appreciation in the following context. On a campus entrenched with a history of exclusion and racism, those who fight are isolated. The fight is lonely, the victories are few. There is only one sure way to endure the struggle and gain the modest victory: Community organizations and individuals must provide support. Unfortunately, such support has not been provided.

It is with sorrow that we note the resignation of MacArthur Darby. His talents will be missed. I have worked alongside him. He is extremely thorough, staunchly forthright, and as principled an administrator as I have ever known. I hope we will heed his warning:

"If we do not learn how to come together and work together, the little progress we have made will not be maintained. I cannot say that I have seen such coming together here in Portland at this time. I hope it will develop in the future."

Letters to the Editor

Prisoners demonstrate lack of priorities

To the Editor:

Since I'm at the prison annex and unable to communicate with the O.S.P.'s Correspondent, Mr. Larry Baker, I have taken the initiative to forward this communication direct.

After reading the August 3rd, publication ("Behind the Wall" section) I felt an overpowering need to inform the public and the readers of the *Observer*, just where things are really at. In this article, the public was exposed to a misrepresentation of facts, a poorly constructed list of grievances, a frightened convict mentality and the glorification of prison officials who's merit isn't justified.

Here we are, the inmates at Oregon State Prison, with a prime opportunity to get constructive changes made through the Justice Department and look what happens. We present a list of grievances such as, asking for greater access to legal envelopes and a notary of public, asking for religious diets to be placed on the menus, equal choice in selection of outside entertainment, employees not being willing to escort minority inmates out on speaking engagements and projects. Hell! What we should be asking for and literally screaming about, is for prison officials to discontinue searching a MANS' rectum and other dehumanizing practices, to provide a better and more accessible medical and dental facilities, to give us due human rights and respect, to raise standards for hiring prison guards, opening the prison up and giving us the general responsibilities of human beings, providing vocational training programs that will be meaningful to a man and that he can take pride in, to do something about the parole board and their new matrix system! In short, ask for the necessities that will instill pride, self respect, and productive skills that will benefit a convict returning to society. These are the issues that should be of paramount concern.

The Warden says that he welcomes, and that his office is always open for these kind of suggestions. What Warden wouldn't be when a frightened man asks for more legal envelopes and a notary of public,

when he should be asking for respect and dignity?

As I said previously, we have a prime opportunity to demonstrate the power of collective efforts. We have finally brought the conditions, the riff-raff, and the racism to the public. We have the support of the NAACP, the Department of Justice, and representatives from the Governors Office to deal with the issues we present. Please, do you hear me, PLEASE! don't let this opportunity

get away from us, behind petty fears and down right plain lack of manhood.

To all my minority brothers inside the walls, I want to remind you, "for your efforts in our struggle for human rights, they may hassle you and try to intimidate you into hurting yourself for being a man and speaking out. But they sure as hell can't mess with the affirmed date baby!" Remember, if we can get our full human rights, respect and dignity, everything else will fall in place.

Respectfully,
Stevie Hoggans #38921



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