



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

No death penalty

It should be an embarrassment to the people of Oregon that they would even consider the death penalty. However, in this time of increasing social and economic pressures crime is increasing and people are afraid. They have been led to believe that killing the criminal will prevent the crime.

There is no evidence that the death penalty deters crime. Most murders are crimes of passion, involving members of a family or acquaintances, and will never be repeated. The death penalty will not deter this kind of murder. There is evidence that the murders increase just before and after an execution, which apparently triggers a sick mind.

For those who are interested in saving money by killing criminals, it actually costs more to execute a man than to keep him in prison for a lifetime.

Perhaps a more compelling reason to reject the death penalty is that mistakes have been made — the wrong man has been executed. Right now a man sits in Oregon State Penitentiary — sentenced to life in prison for murder — while another man has recently confessed to that murder. If the confession holds up, the man will go free. But what if he had been executed?

And there is the fact that the vast majority of those executed in this country have been Black. The death penalty is used on those who are too poor to buy competent attorneys; are uneducated and unable to express themselves; or who are minorities. There still is no justice for Blacks, Indians and Chicanos in the courts of Oregon.

The most compelling reason to vote against Measure 8 is that it is as morally wrong for citizens as a group to commit murder as it is for an individual to commit murder. The death penalty is a barbarous act which cannot be committed by civilized people.

Measure 7 - No

Measure 7 is an effort by some persons who for their own religious or moral reasons are opposed to abortions to prevent the U.S. from providing abortions.

The U.S. Supreme Court has determined that abortion is legal in this country and every woman has the right to decide if it is the best solution for her.

This right is only deterred by inability to pay. The woman with financial means is able to purchase an abortion if she wishes, but if this measure is passed a poor woman will have no choice.

Measure 7 does not and cannot prevent abortions. It merely says that the state cannot provide abortions for the poor. Therefore, rather than address the moral and religious issues of abortion, it advocates discrimination against the poor.

This measure deserves a no vote from both those who believe abortion to be the right of every woman, and from those who oppose abortion on moral or religious grounds but who oppose discrimination against the poor.

Support public power

Many years ago the federal dams were built on the Columbia and Bonneville Power Administration was established to provide low cost electricity to homes and farms in the Northwest. In Oregon, stringent laws and powerful private utility lobbies brought most of the customers into the hands of private power companies. Across the river in Washington, more lenient laws allowed the formation of publically owned utility districts.

Today a majority of the homes in Washington use low-cost public power, while most of Oregon pays double the amount or more for private power.

Measure 4 changes the procedure to allow citizens to decide in a single election if they want to form a public utility district, to issue bonds and to elect directors. It does not force public power on anyone; it does not put private utilities out of business.

Measure 4 merely sets forth a simple and logical method to simplify the voting procedure. We recommend a YES vote on Measure 4.

Measure 9 - Yes

Measure 9 - "Limitations on Public Utility Rate Base" - prohibits utility companies from charging customers rates based on the cost of construction or acquisition of property.

Oregon law permits private utility companies to charge their customers -- in their electric bills -- for future construction of power plants and other facilities. These facilities can be unnecessary or a poor economic investment since the company cannot lose -- the customers are paying the bill.

Current electric users are paying for plants that will not be producing electricity for years, perhaps after the customer is dead or has left the state.

Isn't it more fair to make the owners -- the decision makers and the profit takers -- to pay the bill. If a plant is needed and if it is economically sound, private money can be found to build. The stockholder would take some element of risk, but they are the ones to reap the profits.

Note YES on Measure 9.

VOTE NOVEMBER 7



Youth Leadership Conference

A Good Idea

by Herb L. Cawthorne

Lucius Hicks should be commended.

He deserves our thanks and our appreciation.

The active director of the PSU Educational Center, housed in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Facility, has proven that a persistent approach to the education of Black youth produces results.

Last Spring, Hicks conducted the first Black Youth Leadership Conference. It was held at Camp Adams, about an hours drive east of Portland. The Conference aimed to motivate Black youth to think more deeply as to their roles in the Black community. The three day conference attracted only fourteen youngsters. It was a disappointment.

As the various speakers came to participate, Hicks apologized. He anticipated their disappointment. His expectations had been high, but the turnout was low. The frustration showed.

Hicks could have hung his head and, seeking to save his own pride after having overestimated the impact of his first conference, he could have let it end right there. But he did no such thing.

He listened to those who encouraged him onward. When some of the speakers assured him that they did not mind the numbers and that

progress and learning cannot be measured by a head count, Hicks listened. He made up his mind to try it again in the Fall.

At Camp Collins, near Oxbow Park, the second Black Youth Leadership Conference was held this last weekend. More than sixty (60) young high school students attended. They came from schools throughout the city. They all came for a purpose -- to learn about themselves, to reflect on the meaning of leadership, and to better discover their place in the affairs of the future.

The conference was a success. I made an opening presentation, in which students assisted me in defining the meaning of leadership. Darrell Milner, a PSU professor, completed the first evening with a workshop on Black history. The next day, Carolyn Murray of PSU taught students about values, while Lewis Merrick discussed the myth and reality of education. Joyce Marshall, the new director of BOOST Talent Search, worked to encourage youngsters toward higher education. And Nick Barnett of the Human Relations Commission talked about community organization and action.

The conference was a success. Those parents and teachers who supported it by encouraging Black youth to attend should be commended.

And, of course, Lucius Hicks and his staff deserve a world of credit in acknowledgement of a difficult job done well.

One thing the Community Coalition for School Integration has taught us is that Black children are mercilessly scattered and isolated. They attend schools in small numbers. They are misunderstood. They seldom interface with people of their own kind. Therefore, their visions of leadership are narrow. The narrow vision stifles their motivation to work hard and achieve. A Black Youth Leadership Conference is one positive means to get Black children in touch with Black people so they may be exposed to the Black past and the Black future.

Like the Urban League's Career Awareness Day scheduled for November 4th, the Black Youth Leadership Conference renders a fine service to our youth. Both should be supported as a means to help our children develop the vision to help themselves.

Lucius Hicks deserves a good round of applause. His staff deserves a standing ovation. And the youngsters who devoted three days out of their lives to think together about the meaning of Black leadership deserve our respect and admiration.

Through the Eyes of Mr. W.

by Harold C. Williams

There are few people in today's society who have the field or the special touch needed to get at the deep feelings of the people. Mary Roberts, Oregon's next Commissioner of Labor, has the feeling and understanding of the people. She has been a student of politics for many years and has been in elective office since 1972. If there is anyone who can bridge the gap on improving understanding towards all people, she is the one who has that potential. In these times, Black people must support and help elect persons to office that will speak to needs of Black people. Mary Roberts is that kind of person and is deserving of the Black community's support. Below is a little background on Mary Roberts to introduce her to those of you who might not know of her work and to re-acquaint those who have known her through the years.

Mary Roberts first held elective office in 1972 when her East Multnomah County district elected her State Representative. At that time she was the youngest woman ever elected to the Oregon Legislature. Two years later she ran for State Senator, District 11, and won. In

that race she received both parties' nomination. Mary has served in the Senate for nearly four years, holding positions on the Labor, Consumer and Business Affairs Committee, Local Government and Elections Committee, and Human Resources Committee. She served four years on the State Emergency Board. Roberts was a member of the Legislative Task Force on Apprenticeship and the Affirmative Action Subcommittee. Both of these committees deal in areas which fall under the Bureau of Labor's jurisdiction.

In her legislative career, Roberts' work on the Ways and Means Committee established her reputation as a mover and doer. Roberts achieved as much through amending budgets and initiating inquiries into agency policy and procedure as others achieve through expensive legislation. For example, Roberts directed the establishment of the Secure Treatment Unit for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem. This program has substantially improved the lot of such children in Oregon and saved the state money by avoiding inappropriate (and more costly) placement of children in

already crowded correctional facilities.

Mary Roberts' legislation includes the Department of Human Resources reorganization bill SB 951 (1975), a version of which (SB 8) was passed in 1977. Under this bill, the various divisions of Human Resources are pulled together under firm administrative control, making possible a common accounting system and reducing program overlap and costly duplication. Other pieces of legislation include: the Dual Driving Records for Professional Drivers bill (1973), the Natural Death Act (1977), Property Tax Relief and Homestead Property Tax Deferral at 62 (1975), repeal of the Relative Responsibility law, and passage of numerous bills on day care, discrimination in housing and employment and labor. Her legislative record earned her high marks from the Oregon AFL-CIO, environmental groups and civil rights organizations.

On October 23, 1978, at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Terry Williamson are inviting the public to meet Mary Roberts at their home at 6420 N.E. 41st Street, Portland.

Letters to the Editor

Minority business gains exaggerated

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to provide an equal-time viewpoint on the article in *The Skanner* dated October 5, 1978, with the caption -- "Sea-Port Surpasses Goals."

As a concerned minority businessman with about three years experience in wholesale/supply. I am aware of the multi-faceted problems that minorities face in trying to lift our heads above the rough sea of the business environment.

Consequently, I welcome any programs that offer results-oriented technical assistance to minority business enterprise leading to the creation of more viable and successful entrepreneurs. It is in this regard that this letter is addressed to.

At least five other MBEs' and myself were very disheartened by the fantastic claims made by Sea-Port Business Development Center. As a sub-contractor of the Economic Development Administration, Sea-Port's role is to provide lists of MBEs', plans and specifications and which had a congressionally-mandated ten percent MBE requirement imposed on the grantees and contractors. In most instances, the MBEs' did their independent marketing or utilized the services of other private community business intermediaries or government agencies to obtain these contracts.

It seems to me that many of the successes of these independent MBEs are being subverted by the statistical game-playing that Sea-Port is rendering on the unsuspecting public. Myself and at least five other MBEs who have worked hard to obtain contracts under the EDA-LPW and other government projects without an iota of help from Sea-Port, therefore, we are completely refuting

their claims. We challenge Sea-Port to use taxpayers monies to go out to private industries, corporations and government agencies and show that they can obtain the goal of \$5 million of contracts before we can truly applaud their success in catering to the needs of MBEs. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,
Mathew Akom

Smith, Sithole visit

(Continued from page 1 col. 4)

known fact that Sithole was most unhappy with the secret Nkomo-Smith meeting in Lusaka, Zambia and that as a result, he had leaked the news to the press. Monday night, he denied he had ever voiced any displeasure at the meeting and insisted that Smith had informed him beforehand. As for the news leak, he blamed that on an "overzealous assistant." He seemed overly anxious not to annoy Smith. Asked what he would do if Smith was removed as prime minister and replaced by a more reactionary white, he had the nerve to say then he would continue with the guerrilla warfare. He had claimed control

over thousands of guerrillas but, when asked why then was there still so much fighting, he could not come up with a logical answer. For that blunder, I wondered what Smith said to him after they got off the air.

The U.N. has just voiced its displeasure with the U.S. for issuing visas to members of the rebel government of Rhodesia. As usual, the U.S. along with Britain, France and West Germany abstained. New statistics coming in show that 1,000 people were killed in the month of September alone, 1,000. Somehow, I wish I could draw the curtain on this tragicomedy: the blood is beginning to soak even the audience.



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