



We see the world through Black eyes

## Is Jordan next?

We have watched and wondered when it would happen, for we knew it would. And scanning the Portland dailies over the past few weeks we knew the day was near! The stage has been carefully set.

A review of the Portland dailies shows an unusual attention to Black people — usually an element in the community that is strangely absent. We've seen Black vice and prostitutes discussed — the community accused of non-cooperation with the police. The alleged problems a minister who takes in alcoholics, addicts and the ill and infirm who have no where else to go were given a page and a half coverage — an unusual amount of space to devote to any Black person.

Of course nationally there was the trial and conviction of Congressman Diggs — one of the nation's most influential Black men, and the investigation of the nation's only Black U.S. Senator — only another chapter in the persecution of all Black officials, including Barbara Jordan, Representative Ford, Merv Dymally, Andy Young, Jack Tanner, etc, etc, etc.

In Gary, Indiana, a Black public official has filed in federal court to attempt to prove conspiracy on the part of the white press and the government in his indictment.

Last week the vultures got their wish as after years of persecution and harassment Cleveland Gilcrease was indicted — not for misuse of funds as was smeared over the front pages for years — but all else failing, for mail fraud. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to bring this man to court. Why? Because he is a Black man who used his office to bring about opportunities for the oppressed and who stood up like a man and refused to bow and scrape.

And who cares if Mr. Gilcrease is found to be innocent? His name has already been smeared to the point where one of Oregon's highest elected officials could refer to Gilcrease with "his hand in the bucket," only to admit that he did not believe Gilcrease had stolen any money. If a responsible, public official automatically thinks of Gilcrease when he talks about misuse of federal funds — what chance does this man have in the eyes of the general public? And will "they" be satisfied when he is behind bars — on one charge or another?

And then we come to today. Yes — the day has arrived. In its Wednesday issue an *Oregonian* editorial discusses the recent errors made by Commissioner Charles Jordan's office and by employees of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. Jordan's staff had mailed an endorsement of Governor Straub on city stationery while Jordan was out of town. The MHRC staff had included a "news article" in their newsletter about Barnett seeking public office.

Says the *Oregonian*, "Obviously supervision of

city employees needs tightening in Commissioner Jordan's administration. He oversees the Human Relations Commission and Barnett.

"The public not only deserves to have its funds spent for legitimate public needs, but also deserves to have effective and full-time accounting by its elected and appointed administrators."

We predict that this is only the beginning. Commissioner Jordan served quietly during his first term of office. Only recently has he become more visible — flexing his muscles a bit. And there has even been talk of running for Mayor!

So watch your daily papers. You will soon see the innuendos and then the allegations.

We can only hope that Portland's Black citizens will not sit idly by as they did when Gilcrease was accused, but will finally stand up and say "enough."

## Arrogance exposed

The Community Coalition for School Integration has asked the Portland School Board for an estimated time-line for consideration by the Board of the Coalition's recommendations.

Many citizens would like to know whether the Board will deal with the recommendations expeditiously, whether there will be a stall until after the April 1979 Board elections, or whether the recommendations will just be shelved. In light of the general attitudes of the Board toward the public, these are valid concerns.

The Board responded to the Coalition by refusing to even discuss a possible time-line until after the final report is made. Mr. Neuman also brought up the opinion that some of the data might be incorrect — although the data was provided by the school district.

This foretells an extended hassle over the facts, interpretations, motives, philosophy and any other factors that can bring about delay. Many people never had any faith that the Portland School Board would respond positively to a citizen group. The Board's action Monday night did nothing to change their minds.

It appears that, rather than use this opportunity to genuinely contemplate its failures and its successes and with the assistance of others move on to an equitable desegregation system, the Portland School Board will entangle itself in years of litigation, accusation, hostility and perhaps violence.

When the people find they have no recourse — no way to influence public decisions — they find themselves in a position of opposition. When constructive efforts are spurned, destruction becomes the only alternative. It is unfortunate that, for the sake of ego, the Portland School Board would put the people of Portland in this position.

We hope we are wrong — but we haven't seen many signs of change.



Desegregation: Lawsuit vs Political Pressure

## Determined unity brings change

by Herb L. Cawthorne

Already, you can hear the faithless. We should take the Portland School Board to court over the unfair desegregation program, they say.

The threat is being spoken about as though it's a foregone conclusion. Before the Community Coalition for School Integration submits its report, before the School Board had had a chance to act, some are ready to move immediately into a legal battle.

The legal strategy has played a large role in the national struggle for better education for Black Americans. No doubt, it will eventually loom a large factor here in Portland. Nevertheless, the suggestions of a legal suit now reflects more than a dreamy-eyed belief in the fairness of the federal court. It reflects, more importantly, a lack of faith in the willingness of the Portland Board of Education to take positive action to insure an equitable desegregation program.

Perhaps the legal card is being played too soon. Perhaps the card to play now is the one which will always be trump — that is, the willingness of the Black community to stand together and fight the political forces for change.

The political road, as opposed to the legal, requires a determination to achieve change that is expressed in every element of the community. A few relentless voices can file a legal suit; but it takes numerous people working together, defining the problems, applying pressure, and

demanding solutions to bring about political change in education.

Do we have the determination? Can we come together to forcefully present our wishes to the Board of Education?

If we continue to have some key Blacks employed by the School District who serve, albeit unwittingly, as the errand boys of the Divide and Conquer principle, the answer will be no.

If we continue to have a few Blacks in the school system who think our arguments are *against* them, rather than *for* our children, community efforts will be undercut and the board may fail to hear us.

If the religious leadership in the Black community continues to show a disinterest in this struggle, it will be hard to mount the kind of political support required to demonstrate our determination.

If the Urban League and the NAACP do not come forward with strong statements and a readiness for action, the job of convincing the School District will be extremely difficult.

If Black parents will not speak out, the hope dims. If they simply dismiss the present inequitable situation because our people are accustomed to carrying an extra load, then we may not be able to count on the mother who, for example, has her children sent to four *different* schools and cannot possibly be an involved parent. Without her voice, the argument is not as strong.

The talk about a legal court battle, before recommendations have been submitted to the School Board, may indicate that many people do not believe we have a trump card. They do not believe in the determination within this community. And, perhaps, they are right.

But, on the other hand, perhaps they are wrong.

If the elements of this community can stand together, pointing to the facts and offering a vision for change, then maybe more will have the patience to allow the political process to take its course, thus postponing a legal challenge until a later date. If the members of the Community Coalition for School Integration and School District personnel get on common ground, which they can do, then progress is right around the corner.

If the ministerial leadership communicates with parents, at the same time as the Urban League joins with the NAACP, then the work of those who have been fighting in the trenches will be productive.

Admittedly, I have mentioned only a few of the many elements which must come together and present a united voice to the Board of Education. Nonetheless, you get the picture.

The question needs an answer. Will this community have the determination to achieve an equitable change in desegregation policies in Portland? There are many, many people who hope the answer is yes.

## Fluoridation: A preventative practice

by N. Fungai Kumbula

There are now so many measures scheduled for the November 7th ballot that the voter can be pardoned for throwing up his/her hands in exasperation. Such slogans as "No on 6," "Yes on 11," "No on 5," "Yes on 6," "No on 11" have been bombarding us for so long a lot of people now utterly confused and thoroughly turned off. Add to that the number of candidates running in the various offices, each clamoring for your vote and the Portland voters have more than they can stand.

With all that in mind, however, I would like you to take a closer look at one particular measure. I would like you to do that because, after you have done so, you will no doubt be as sold as I am. The measure in question is Ballot Measure #51, the measure designed to fluoridate Portland's water system.

The idea in fluoridating Portland's water is to cut back the ever spiraling cost of dental care. With inflation the way it is, you and I would agree that dental bills are no longer a joke. Fluoride is a compound which, when added to water, will cut tooth decay by up to 65% or more. It is present in water systems around the world in varying amounts. Where I grew up (in Zimbabwe), the level was one to two parts per million parts of water and I had never heard of cavities except for what I read in the papers.

In some areas, however, Portland included, the water is free of fluorides. Hence the higher incidence

of tooth decay (fuelled, of course, by the higher rate of sugar consumption also) and the resultant dental bills. For some wealthy people, a visit to the dentist is no big deal but, for some of us who live from hand to mouth, that all important visit can be postponed indefinitely. Result: kids grow up with badly damaged teeth or no teeth at all or spend the rest of their days nursing a pain that could have been prevented.

How much will fluoridation cost you? 26c per person per year. That's right, 26c per person per YEAR! Now, where else can you get a bargain like that and at the same time accrue such life long benefits? Fluoridation will benefit all age groups but, will benefit children the most since they will live longer than some of us older folks and also since their teeth are still in the formative stage.

Fluoridation will also benefit the economically disadvantaged more than their wealthier counterparts. In place of fluoridated water, the latter group can afford to turn to such alternatives as fluoride mouth rinse, fluoride drops and fluoride tablets. To most of us, these alternatives are so far out of our league we do not even know they exist. And, besides, they are far less effective in combating tooth decay. Using fluoridated water, you fight tooth decay without even bothering to think about what you are doing.

For those who are apprehensive

about the addition of chemicals to our water system, did you ever raise a fuss about the addition of chlorine to the same water that you drink now?

How about the iodine added to your salt? And your pasteurized milk? Besides, the amount of fluoride to be added to the water, 1 pt per million, will be so insignificant you won't notice it at all. For that amount to be harmful to humans, one would have to drink 100 gallons at a sitting and I doubt if there is anyone ready to try that.

Fluoridation is endorsed by The American Dental Association, The Oregon Dental Society, The World Health Organization, The Royal College of Physicians (Britain) and a whole host of other similar organizations around the world. If still in doubt ask your doctor, dentist or call 241-9311 for more details.

Cynthia Hodge, a senior dental student at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center says, "Fluoridation has already proved itself beneficial in communities that have initiated it. It would eliminate the need to buy fluoride supplements and the beneficial effects would reach even those who were unaware of or could not afford the supplements."

If not for you, for the children: think about them as you cast your vote November 7th. Give them a chance. Vote 'Yes' on Ballot Measure #51.

## Daniels trial ends in hung jury

(Continued from Page 1 Column 6)

Prisoners Coalition, a non-violent group of Rocky Butte inmates. Daniels is a member of this group. The program pinpoints the oppressive conditions existing at this facility through live interviews with members of this coalition.

The show "As The World Turns," hosted by Norman Solomon, a recent arrestee at an anti-nuclear demonstration at the Trojan plant, continues to focus on the cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners of Rocky Butte. Deputy District Attorney Sean O'Halloran, at the last possible moment in the Daniels trial, attempted to subpoena KBOO's tapes of previous broadcasts even though the prosecution would be unable to use them in the trial. This harassing effort was aborted when Judge Cenicer denied the right of the District Attorney's office to the tapes.

The KBOO interviews are an attempt to bring to the attention of the public and officials various distressing situations at Rocky Butte. Various Prisoner Coalition charges are:

By Mario Cabrera . . . "a lack of integrity" by corrections officials who call prisoners "clowns, monkeys and worse" and then place them in "the hole" if this treatment is questioned. Prisoners sent to the "hole" are denied access to the forms officials fill out detailing charges. Phone service to the outside was interrupted for several days and sanitation conditions "are deplorable." No staff member speaks Spanish and some prisoners can't speak English" or read the rules manual which is printed in English only "with these individuals singled out for the 'hole' because of misunderstandings."

By Karl Wardman . . . "no medical treatment" was given to him for "thirty days for a broken hand" and "dental care is once or twice a week" while inmates are in pain.

By James Daniels . . . "lack of good food and the small portions" and "the plexiglass partition placed on the door of the 'hole' which is only removed for air to enter." Ad-

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