



We see the world
through Black eyes

School suit threatens portland tranquility

Dr. Robert Blanchard, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, is leading the school system and the city into the trauma of a school desegregation suit.

Dr. Blanchard, in his response to the recommendations of the Community Coalition for School Integration for a more equitable desegregation program, not only chose to ignore the inequities in the current plan but misrepresented the facts. Dr. Blanchard's effort to explain away the district's discrimination against Black students and families by confusing the issues is an insult to the community. His claim that white families have equally born the burdens of desegregation is not defensible. Dr. Blanchard can appeal to the racism of white parents who do not want to be inconvenienced, but he cannot change the facts.

Dr. Blanchard's proposal differs little from his "Schools for the Seventies" plan, which was not acceptable then and is not acceptable now. This plan called for the removal of the upper grades from all Albina schools, and this plan has been completed for all schools except Boise. Yes, it does desegregate schools in white neighborhoods with Black students. But it leaves the seven Albina schools segregated from grades 1 through 5. The NAACP and other Black groups opposed that plan in 1970 and it is no better now.

Dr. Blanchard has assured white parents that their children need not participate in mandatory busing. He has told Black parents it is a mere "inconvenience." He does not admit the racist im-

plications of one-way busing.

True, the School Board has not announced its decision and might not for many months. But the decision has been made. The Board does not have the guts to develop an equitable desegregation program over the protests of its Superintendent.

Only one avenue remains — a court suit. And win or lose, a suit will tear this city apart. Contrary to what the Superintendent and his legal advisors might say, the grounds for a successful suit are there. Portland's white parents might find themselves caught up in a court ordered mass busing plan much more extensive than what the Coalition proposes.

And if a suit is lost? The city will have been torn by hostilities and animosities not yet experienced here. The "liberal" reputation — the "liveability" — will be gone and the nation will learn about the cold, hard facts of racism in this city and in this state.

Where are our elected officials? The Mayor, the city and county commissioners, the legislators and others have been conspicuously silent. Where are the business interests, the Chamber of Commerce — those who will lose face as well as money. Will they let Dr. Blanchard do them in, too? If they value the peaceful existence they have enjoyed while the battles for racial justice have been fought elsewhere, they had better make their voices heard.

The lines have been drawn. And we will win.



We will win The lines are drawn

by Herb L. Cawthorne

Last Monday evening, Robert Blanchard spoke on the issue of desegregation. He responded to the report and recommendations of the Community Coalition for School Integration. To anyone who understands the ideal of equity, Dr. Blanchard's thoughts are repugnant!

Initially, let me acknowledge that Dr. Blanchard deserves commendation for his timely response to the Coalition's report. While his proposals were totally unacceptable, his efforts were admirable and his intentions, perhaps, good. But the content of his response to the intolerable scattering and isolation of Black children can in no way satisfy those who have sought a better education for our children.

Dr. Blanchard attempted to suggest that Black children do not carry the burden for desegregation, white children do! By claiming that whites who have been "inconvenienced" by the need to be transported to middle schools are really the ones most burdened by desegregation policies, Blanchard attempted to prove that we in the Coalition were "overreacting."

Undoubtedly, Blanchard made

tremendous headway in solidifying the support of fear-ridden and racist elements in our city. He said exactly what they had hoped to hear. But it will not wash in the Black community.

I ask Dr. Blanchard to show me a community school, like King, which has its children attending 42 different schools. Show me another community in which every school except one has been converted to early childhood centers. No matter how hard he tries to convert and distort the facts, there is no way I will ever believe that white people carry the burden for desegregation.

I wonder if Dr. Blanchard thinks we are unintelligent. As much fuss as the whites in this community have raised over the thought of sharing the desegregation burden, how could Dr. Blanchard have gotten them to assume the "nearly all of the burden for desegregation" without them even knowing it?

The lines are now drawn. If the Black community expects any positive action as a result of months and months of patient work among ourselves and with well-meaning whites, it is time to look inward.

Together, we must form the political power that will protect our children. Together, we must stand forthright, unwilling to compromise on the equity issue. If we do not, Dr. Blanchard's twisted logic will prevail. Our children will suffer. And our future will dim.

Parents, please help us — speak out forcefully for your children. Ministers, preach the gospel of sacrifice and community service, using this issue as a case in point. Teachers, unite and speak your well-informed words clearly and show us the way. Lawyers, seize this opportunity to give your needed skills to the community that made you strong in the first place. Students, organize to express yourselves and stand up for the ideals of your community. Writers, let the ink flow for the good of this struggle. Leaders, boldly take your stand, knowing that the only political consequence of value is the eternal respect you will gain from the Black community you serve.

The lines are drawn. We are endowed, at this moment, with the people and the skills to progress.

The lines are drawn. And we will win.



Angola: The pains of growing up

by N. Fungai Kumbula

Ever since the birth of Angola, three years ago, relations with Zaire have been strained, to say the least. This was due to the factor that the Zairois dictator, Joseph Mobutu (sometimes called Mobutu Sese Seko) has done everything he could to undermine the Angola government. During the fratricidal civil war in Angola, he sided with the CIA, South Africa, and some of the western powers, in backing UNITA and FNLA in fighting Agostinho Neto and his MPLA being aided by the Cubans.

UNITA is led by Jonas Savimbi and FNLA by Holden Roberto, who is related to Mobutu by marriage. After they lost the war to the MPLA, they both fled from Angola to launch terrorist raids into Angola. UNITA went south into Namibia where they collaborated and continue to collaborate with South Africa. When South Africa invaded Angola in early 1976, they were using intelligence gathered by UNITA spies.

South Africa was defeated in this war and forced to retreat into Namibia. She had taken the opportunity to invade Angola on the pretext of chasing SWAPO guerrillas who took sanctuary in and used to launch their attacks from bases in Angola. The real aim, of course, was to overthrow the MPLA government in Angola and replace it with a South African backed UNITA puppet regime. The criminal alliance between South Africa and UNITA continues to this day. Twice in recent weeks Savimbi had had to call on his South African bosses to rescue him and his bandits from imminent capture by Angolan government troops.

Meantime, Roberto and FNLA had taken refuge in Zaire after the MPLA came to power and they launched their attacks from bases in Zaire and Zambia. Kenneth Kaunda (of Zambia) had also initially opposed the establishment of the Marxist MPLA government in Angola. The bitterness between Angola and Zaire escalated drastically last April when a group of Katangese "rebels" (Katanga is a province of Zaire) invaded Zaire from Angola. Before being driven out by a combined force of French, Moroccan, and Egyptian troops using American transport planes, they had managed to bring almost all of Katanga under their control.

Earlier this year, they repeated the same exercise and were again repelled by French and Moroccan troops using American equipment. These "rebels" had been living in Angola since the mid 60's when they fled their homeland following the Congo crisis and the ensuing civil war. They had now come back to liberate their homeland from the neo-colonial exploitation of the Mobutu regime.

After this second invasion, there were overtures from several African countries aimed at healing the rift between Angola and Zaire. Neto and Mobutu held a series of talks and eventually signed an agreement in which each promised to curb enemy activity against the other. Zaire promised not to harbor any more

FNLA terrorists and Angola promised to keep the Katanga guerrillas in check.

This past November 11th, the third anniversary of Angola's independence, saw the opening of the Benguela Railway, via which Zaire exports some of her goods. However, on the very same day, UNITA terrorists bombed the railway line, killing forty people and injuring 123. A number of them have been arrested and will face trial soon.

Since UNITA has now lost the support of all its former allies, such as Zaire, the CIA, France, West Germany, it is now acting out of desperation. It's only "ally" now is South Africa — "birds of a feather." And South Africa is, of course, using UNITA for its own selfish ends. And who loses? Again, the innocent Angolan civilians who are caught in the vice of Savimbi's lust for power.

Bilingual newspaper community need

The Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association, of which we are a member, has once again opposed the funding of a newspaper through federal funds. This time it was an effort of Colegio Cesar Chavez to establish a monthly bilingual newspaper for the Chicano people of Willamette Valley and an accompanying training program, funded through CETA Title VI.

ONPA was concerned with the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press and an apparent fear that government subsidy will taint the news. Of course another major consideration is competition for advertising.

One of ONPA's earlier targets was *River City Sun*, a small bi-monthly tabloid published by and for young people. It consisted mainly of entertainment and record reviews and appealed to the high school age group. Its advertising — sold by high school students — was negligible. The paper did offer an opportunity for non-achieving high school students and dropouts to work at something constructive even though it might not have inspired many careers in journalism.

Funded by PMSC, located in North Portland and targeting the Roosevelt and Jefferson High School areas, the *River City Sun* came under attack from the *St. Johns Review* and the *Oregon Journal*. Pressure on Oregon's congressional delegation brought a termination of Community Service Administration funds and the *River City Sun* died.

The *Rural Tribune*, a bilingual paper published in Hillsboro, was also under attack. This paper

managed to keep its Community Service Administration funding and survives. Publishing news of particular interest to low-income and minority people, this paper is free and carries no advertising.

Curiously, ONPA apparently has not questioned the publishing of a new youth newspaper — *Paper Rose* — with CETA funds. Sponsored by the powerful Ecumenical Ministries this paper carries extensive advertising addressed to Portland area youth.

We agree with ONPA that the federal government should not fund a general purpose newspaper, although control of the news through funding is a little far-fetched when publishers and reporters were willing to work for the CIA for nothing — not only printing planted news but providing fronts for agents.

Funding a bilingual newspaper or a youth newspaper should not provide a threat to the established newspaper industry.

Spanish-speaking people are Oregon's largest minority, yet there is no commercial Spanish language newspaper. One small newspaper was established in Portland but failed for lack of advertising.

None of the newspapers in the areas with large Chicano populations have seen fit to print portions of their papers in Spanish — so these citizens are left without the form of communication that has been so important in protecting this nation's freedoms — the newspaper. Unless private enterprise is willing to provide this service — why not the government?



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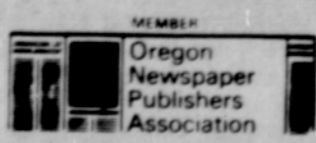
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