



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Why not Mel?

It's happened again! Blacks have been forgotten and Oregon will be depicted as an "all white" state.

The Portland Rose Festival Association float to be sent to the Pasadena is a salute to sports -- yet all of the six Oregon athletes pictured are white. The float has beautiful pictures of six Oregonians who made their marks in the world of sports. Then there is a copy of the Trailblazers' logo.

Why are all the athletes pictured white? We realize that although Blacks helped discover and build Oregon, they have been erased from Oregon's history. Our schools hardly teach about Black contributions to the United States, let alone to Oregon.

Usually they do remember Blacks in sports. It is about the only place Blacks are thought to excel. Yet the Rose Festival Association has chosen only white athletes.

Surely Mel Renfro was "great" enough to have been included. An outstanding athlete at Jefferson High School and the University of Oregon, he played with the Dallas Cowboys for twelve years. He repeatedly was chosen for the pro All Star team and played in the Super Bowl. He surpassed the highly touted Terry Baker (who does appear on the float), a team mate at Jefferson who did not make it in the pros.

Once again, Blacks have been "forgotten" as Oregon shows its finest to the world.

City identifies home rehab loan recipients

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

Recipients varied somewhat by geographic area. Most St. Johns recipients received DPL loans. Amounts ranged from \$1,006 to \$18,391 with two-thirds between \$2,000 and \$9,000. Monthly income ran from \$130 to \$1,921 per month, with an average of \$724. Thirty-nine percent made less than \$500. per month. Over 50 per cent had assets of less than \$1,500.

In Northeast loans ran from \$162 to \$16,006 with an average of \$5,738. Monthly incomes were from \$140 to \$2,096, with an average of \$822. Half of the people had assets of less than \$500. Average values of homes was \$15,133. Sixty percent of the recipients were Black.

In Southeast recipients received more DPL loans than any other loan. Amounts ranged from \$917 to \$18,444 with an average of \$6,207. Monthly incomes were \$172 to \$1,573 with an average of \$720. Average assets were \$3,319. Houses were assessed at \$18,454.

Geographic differences

Amounts of loans varied by location. In St. Johns very few (7 per cent) received loans of less than \$2,500. In Northeast, twelve per cent received less than \$2,500. North east led in the higher range, with 15 per cent over \$10,000. St. Johns had twelve per cent and Southeast had 14 per cent over \$10,000.

Loan amounts were set by determining the lesser of: the maximum allowable according to the loan type, the cost of rehabilitation, or the value of the equity. In other words, only the actual cost of rehabilitation and related fees would be loaned, and only up to the amount of equity held by the owner-resident.

A great difference in the value of homes on which loans were made was found. In Northeast homes were clustered at lower values, indicating that loans were largely restricted to low-value homes. In Southeast owners with much higher valued homes were able to obtain loans. In Northeast 22 per cent of the homes were valued at under \$10,000 as compared to 5 per cent in St. Johns and Southeast. In St. Johns the largest number, 40 per cent, were valued between \$15,000 and \$20,000 with 39 per cent between \$10,000 and \$15,000. In Southeast, homes were at a higher value, with 31 per cent between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and 31 per cent between \$20,000 and \$25,000. At the highest range, ten per cent of the Southeast homes were valued at above \$25,000 and only 4 per cent of the Northeast homes.

In monthly income, people in the Northeast fared somewhat better. Thirty six per cent of the recipients had incomes under \$500, and 67 per cent under \$1,000, as compared to 39 per cent under \$500 and 72 per cent under \$1,000 in St. Johns. In the upper range, 14 per cent in Northeast had incomes over \$1,500 and only 7 per cent in St. Johns and 4 per cent in Southeast.

Black recipients

Twenty-four per cent of the recipients were Black. Blacks and whites had the same percentages in marital categories -- 51 per cent of the whites were married and 52 per cent of the Blacks. Twenty per cent of the Blacks received loans under \$2,500 while 13 per cent of the Blacks did. Forty six per cent of whites and 52 per cent of Blacks received \$2,500 to \$5,000. About twenty per cent of each race received

A season to give

The Christmas season is a time of giving -- or is it? Friends exchange gifts -- children find their presents under the tree. But is there too much hustle and bustle to remember the others?

How many give to those outside the circle of their family and closest friends? How many give to strangers or those with special needs?

There are many in need -- in need of money for groceries, for clothing, for utility bills and other household needs. Many do not have a decent place to live. Others are without jobs and need a helping hand.

There are people in jails, in nursing homes and hospitals who need the gift of a friendly visit -- a few dollars to meet some personal need. Some need a little understanding and compassion.

Most of us are where we are because someone else helped. How many have good jobs with the city and state because someone in a poverty program had the patience to teach? How many hold good positions because someone else was brave enough to pave the way?

And how much is returned to those who still are in need?



A Courageous Gesture

An Open Letter to Charles Jordan

by Herb L. Cawthorne

Your letter to the Board of Education last Monday evening was extremely well received. It will assist us in keeping perspective, always remembering that this is not a personal battle between individuals but a widespread concern which influences many aspects of the city. Your timely letter helps to maintain a positive tone. The tone must be one of cooperative venture; in this there must be the understanding that, though we have been sharply critical, we do not intend to embarrass or malign the integrity of the Board of Education or any of its members. For helping us to remember the spirit that has molded us together, we thank you.

Your courageous letter provides additional thrust to the aspirations of the Black community. We have been patient. We have studied for fifteen months. For one, we have been definitive about that which will serve us best. We have remained ac-

tive participants in a multi-racial, city-wide Coalition, and our voices have been heard. So often Black people dismiss the political process before it has begun. As you have so often pointed out, Black people many times come with sharp complaints but with no plan of action. The Coalition is a prime example of how we can proceed toward orderly change. Your well-expressed thoughts encourage us to go forward.

Moreover, your letter and the commitment it represents will be instrumental in rekindling hope among us. After Dr. Blanchard's apparent rejection of the pairing concept, many Black people considered that to be the end of the political process. Dr. Blanchard said, "no," so there's no use in continuing to fight. The legal alternative is now the best road, some people believed. Yet the political fight has just begun. A legal challenge, which I firmly believe Black people will win, is not the best

means by which to solve this problem. Your strong and positive voice helps to rekindle the faith in our own efforts. This we need in order to communicate, to believe that change is possible, and to grasp positive opportunities when they come before us.

The desegregation issue is a city-wide concern. A court-ordered approach will divide the city and bring to it the distortion of negative publicity. No effective program of desegregation has ever been achieved without strong leadership from city elected officials. Your decisive action at this time not only reflects your sensitivity to the Black future, but also your understanding that a positive and speedy resolution to the Coalition's concern is healthy for the City of Portland.

Thank you for your aggressive and wise leadership. I promise you I will do my best to hold the spirit of your words close to my heart as the discussions on desegregation in Portland continue.

Rhodesia: The politics of oil

by N. Fungai Kumbula

The one thing that the Arab oil boycott of 1974 demonstrated was the interdependence of our modern day nations. One of the more important aspects of this abject lesson was just how easy it is for some countries to economically strangle others. At the moment no one would doubt the fact that if the Arab nations of Saudi Arabia, Libya, Natar so wish, they could bring Western civilization to a virtual standstill.

A few years before the Arab oil embargo, the UN had had pretty much the same idea: impose sanctions against Rhodesia and force Ian Smith and his reactionaries to extend voting rights to all the people of Zimbabwe. Rhodesia was a small country, about the size of California but with only one fourth as many people (5 million as opposed to California's 20m.) It was totally dependent on the outside world for all its oil, automobiles, light and heavy machinery, rubber, books, etc. etc.

It, therefore needed the world more than the world needed it. Britain, the former colonial exploiter, had actually suggested sanctions as an alternative to sending in troops after Ian Smith and Co. had severed all links with Britain in 1965 when they signed the UDI document. To the outside world, and to a lot of us inside Rhodesia at the time, this seemed a surefire way to bring the rebel government to its knees. Some of us were naive enough to believe that the British and the rest of the UN members would abide by the sanctions and enforce the edicts as strongly as the letter of the law stipulated. So, we considered it much more than just a moral victory when in 1968, the United Nations adopted the British proposal calling for sanctions against Rhodesia and thus making it illegal for any member nation to continue trading with her.

There were three countries that refused to honor these sanctions -- South Africa, Portugal and the tiny African country of Malawi and its self proclaimed Life President, Hastings Kamuzu Banda. Needless to say, we were very disappointed by this gesture of defiance and made our views known in no uncertain terms. But, little did we realize that the very people who had dreamed up the whole concept of sanctions would be there to undermine them.

The British gave the impression that they were as anxious as we were to get rid of Smith. He had just twisted the tail of the "mighty" British, the very people who had "built" the largest empire the world had ever seen. This little boy had to be taught a lesson. So the British made some very strong speeches in the UN calling for strict observance of sanctions.

The Africans in Rhodesia waited for the Smith regime to fall. The then British prime minister Harold Wilson, had predicted that Rhodesia would fall within three months. What was strange and a little suspicious to the Africans was the fact that oil, which was supposed to dry up in a few months continued to pour in. Except for a brief period when rationing was introduced in the early part of 1966, it was business as usual.

It wasn't just gasoline that continued to flow but also the rest of those imported goods that were supposed to be cut off after the imposition of UN sanctions. Oil, however, provided a stark insight into some of the workings and priorities of capitalism. Evidence recently brought out at "Oilgate" hearings (Britain's very own scandal a la Watergate) shows that, the British government, while publicly condemning Smith and calling for his downfall, was actually turning a blind eye to all the British companies that were trading with the Rhodesian regime.

While in March 1968, George Thompson, the Commonwealth Secretary, was credited with these famous last words: "No other country does more in the field of sanctions. I do not claim any special virtue. It is British duty," the British company, British Petroleum continued to supply oil. The British government owned 51% of BP and 40% of the other major culprit, Royal Dutch Shell was British owned. American companies were in on this devious scheme too. The shady representatives were Mobil and Caltex (a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California and Texaco). Never ones to be left out, the French sent in their own oil company too. Total. This very 'kind' gesture on the part of these 'gentlemen' assured Smith of all the oil he would ever need. They were actually falling over each in trying to grab all of the Rhodesian trade.

And, can you believe that, while all this was going on, the British were maintaining a blockade of the Mozambique port of Beira through which Rhodesia's oil used to pass? They were spending \$200 million a year blockading Beira when they knew that the oil no longer passed through Beira, but through Maputo, then called Lourenco Marques. So, to the outside world, Britain was really serious about enforcing sanctions. As a public relations stunt, I guess that \$200m. annually of tax-

payers money was worthwhile.

The revelations about all these deceptions have only just now come to light as result of the recent scandal that the British government is currently involved in. Jorge Jardim, who used to be the governor of Mozambique until the Portuguese were booted out three years ago, has just published a book in which he details these and a whole host of the dirty tricks that foreign companies and some government engaged in in circumventing sanctions. Though Harold Wilson who was prime minister at the time insists he had no knowledge of any of this until after he left office, Jardim says the government knew from the word go. It knew and even tacitly approved the use of dummy companies in South Africa that were used to transport British oil to the "rebels". The current inquiry will hopefully establish who was guilty of what deception and show the people involved for what they are, cutthroat capitalists who will stop at nothing to get that almighty dollar. They have already stepped over the bodies of thousands of Zimbabweans.

In this country, even though Mobil and Caltex violated U.S. law by continuing to trade with the Rhodesian regime when the U.S. had pledged to honor sanctions, as of now, no legal action had been taken against them. Far as we have been able to tell, none was even being contemplated. Also, of course, the oil scandal is only the tip of the iceberg. A lot that went on never made it into print because there was no "Oilgate" to force it out into the open.

With all these underhanded deals, it is small wonder that the Africans are now very skeptical of any British, American or other Western efforts to find a solution to the Rhodesia 'problem.' Having been sold down the river that many times, they are now relying more and more on the one sure way to liberation, the armed struggle. Sad to say, but there is more bloodshed down the road.

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