

NAACP endorses Portland school boycott

The NAACP, Portland Branch, has joined other community organizations in supporting the boycott of the Portland Public Schools called by the Black United Front.

Announcing the decision made unanimously at a special meeting of the Executive Committee, Lucious Hicks, President of the Branch, said, "With this vote we once again declare that the desegregation policies of the Portland Public School System is racist in its design, dehumanizing in its implementation, and unacceptable in its result. They must be changed to meet the needs of Black students instead of maintained to satisfy the attitudes of white

parents."

Hicks called the dispute over desegregation of the schools one of the most important issues, one that must be dealt with "before we will realize quality education for our kids."

Calling education merely the beginning of the genocidal cycle of institutional racism, "There is no doubt in my mind that a poor education leads to poor employment, underemployment or unemployment. Whichever the case may be, employment instability creates a lack of buying power and therefore housing instability. Where you have unstable housing conditions you have a community unable to develop

itself from within."

The Portland School Board publicly discussed the demands of the Black United Front for the first time Monday. Jonathan Newman, the author of most of Portland's desegregation program, expressed fear that the BUF demands are "separatist".

Newman repeatedly cited three related demands -- two middle schools in Albina, cross-busing to achieve desegregation, and a minimum of 40 percent Black population in receiving schools -- as a move toward separatism.

Wally Priestley and Bill Scott said

they agree with many of the BUF demands. Forrest Rieke called for a referendum on desegregation. He said the Board is being confronted with non-negotiable demands and in view of the crisis nature of the confrontation, a public vote should be held.

Priestley replied that the BUF demands are not "non-negotiable", but call for goals and timetables. "An election is absolutely inappropriate. The question is not majority rule but minority rights." The remaining Board members agreed that an election is a bad idea but declined to vote on a motion that an election not be considered. Through-

out the meeting Rieke maintained his stance for an election.

Steve Buel asked Superintendent Blanchard to provide information at the next meeting in addition to an update on implementation of the Board's January, 1979, resolutions in response to the Coalition report. He asked that Blanchard prepare a sample plan that would demonstrate the effects of a 40 per cent minimum Black assignment. Blanchard said he could not do that by the following week and the Board voted not to ask him to do this. Buel then asked the Board to request the Superintendent to make information available to him so he could design his own plan.

This the Board also refused, but Blanchard promised to cooperate.

The Board will meet tonight, August 9th, at a 5:30 public meeting to discuss the BUF demands and the district's desegregation plan among themselves and with the administration. Following, at 7:30 p.m., they will hear from five candidates for School Board appointment. On Monday, either at 5:30 or at 7:30, the selection and appointment will be made and the discussion of segregation will resume.

segregation discussion. BUF boycott organizing meetings are held each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at King Neighborhood Facility.

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Thara Memory, composer of original score for "For Colored Girls...," is musical director for the play produced by the Portland Black Repertory Theatre. (Please see page 5 col. 1)

Photo: Ancil Nance

BUF plans pre-boycott activities

Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat to a white man began the Montgomery Boycott and launched Martin Luther King into national prominence, will speak at the NAACP, Portland Branch Founders' Day Banquet on September 1st.

Black United Front boycott planning meetings are held each Thursday at 7:00 at King Neighborhood Facility. Among the activities planned prior to the beginning of the school year are:

Children's Saturday, planned by

the children, will be held on August 18th from 11:00 to 7:00 at Fernhill Park (Adams High School). Billed as a day of unity -- "to join hands in expressing our belief in the dignity of our most precious resource -- the black child" -- Children's Saturday will feature entertainment, food, conversation and a track meet.

A fund raising Discoteque will be held on August 11th, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., with J. W. Friday. The dance will be held at the Albina Youth Opportunity School, 3710 N. Mississippi.

Cawthorne, Green join Board candidates

"His race, his professional educational accomplishments, his experience on the National Urban League board of directors and the board's education committee, his work with the coalition and his links to Black United Front leaders are not reasons, singularly to appoint him. Together, though, they are a potent combination."

With those words the *Oregonian* endorsed the candidacy of Herb Cawthorne for appointment to the School Board. Although endorsements for School Board appointments are rare and Cawthorne has not sought them, he has received the support of the *Oregonian*, *Willamette Week*, and the *Observer*, and is expected to be endorsed by the *Oregon Journal*.

Cawthorne and Ms. Brenda Green were added to the list of candidates for consideration at the Monday meeting. Cawthorne was nominated

by Bill Scott and received votes from Wally Priestley, Steve Buel, and Frank McNamara. McNamara later told the press that his vote did not indicate support but a willingness to provide Cawthorne an opportunity to present his case.

Ms. Green was nominated by Forrest Rieke and received votes from Jonathan Newman and Frank McNamara.

Ms. Oslly Gates asked the Board to establish objective criteria on which all 29 applicants are evaluated. "The absence of specific criteria has resulted in dubious and inconsistent evaluation..." Stating that the process for filling board vacancies is included in some court-ordered plans, she told the Board "to ignore objective criteria is to diminish problem-solving potential. Voluntary plans, too, need to focus on objectivity."



BRENDA GREEN

HERB CAWTHORNE

Some thoughts on the problem

by W. H. McClendon*

Part IV

"We must rededicate ourselves to excellence by renewing personal and group commitments to win the internal and external struggles."

-Faustine C. Jones

The Portland school district for a long time has been an operation that practiced unconscionable disregard for the needs of Black children to identify objectives common to the aspirations of Black people. Moreover, Black children and their parents have been frustrated in every quest they have made to alter these circumstances. At the same time school administration rhetoric traversed the spectrum of quality education but the publicized reforms never reflected any content of authentic pluralism.

This brings us to take into account that the vast discord which exists today actually lies between the dispute over what status Blacks should enjoy as citizens and where they really are because of the capriciousness exercised by those of the dominant population who wield public policy making authority.

It is redundant but refreshing to offer a reminder that the routine refusals of the School Board and the administration to address the educational needs of the Black

population eventually produced an important phenomenon in the Black community, the Black United Front. This development has made it clear to the Black population that the old line customary white directed organizational instruments will never gain be entrusted with the socio-political representation and defense of Black people. The BUF has proven that it is capable of bringing harmony and stability to this white imposed crises-ridden environment and can furnish unvarnished answers to unnecessary troubling questions. The BUF brings a "Tom" free sensitivity to these legitimate strivings for equity and justice.

Analysis

Only the imbecilic would attempt to deny that life for Black people in America is war! However, there are Black sycophants who have permitted themselves to become the strongest voices for expressing white racist dogma. Their unsolicited soliloquies are why the *status quo* must be preserved are pleasing to their white sponsors but to other Blacks they reveal chronic conditions of unrelieved mental constipation and severe emotional constriction. They are the "vic-Toms" of what Dr. James Hefner delineates as the "Illusion of Inclusion". In their own

words they do not identify themselves as Blacks, just as persons.

In some of the more scholarly sectors of Black life a more incisive study has been made of the varieties of "vic-Toms" that exist in today's world. They are found at all levels of employment and education and in all sexes, shapes, sizes and colors including white. Concern here is with one specie of the pathological category. The type is known as the Solicitous-Anticipatory Tom (SAT) who happens to be Black.

The SATs have feeble minds stuffed with rationales that allow them to accommodate themselves to all things white without question or doubt. They can smile and remain complacent in the face of the most contemptuous insults or displays of arrogance. Without prior briefing or demands they exhibit readily an amazing alacrity for glorifying and elevating the decisions and plans made by whites over all others. They have compulsions to function as advocates, agents, eavesdroppers and informers for those who seek to control Black life. They can recite endlessly the chronic heart rending travails that beset Black people because of abuses in law, education and public policy and simultaneously offer a thousand reasons why Blacks should do nothing about them.

They are eager to assure whites that they have no personal

knowledge of institutionalized white racism and are unaware of any social problems or difficulties that Blacks have suffered because of it. SATs spend an extraordinary amount of time and effort assuming the responsibilities of discrediting the activities of all Black people who challenge white domination. They are the *avant garde* defending white customs that set forth relationships reminiscent of master to slave and boss to boy arrangements. They willingly act as gatekeepers whose assignments are to monitor and report on the political thoughts and activities of other Blacks. This is of great assistance to those whites who can arbitrarily lock Blacks in or out of anyplace in America.

At this time there is no confusion among Black people about the intentions of the advocates and practitioners of racist public policy. Blacks are aware that they must give all of their time to those social struggles that will prevent Black people from being suppressed and undermined any further. Take notice: Today the number of Blacks who will reject subordination and subjugation is of a much larger percentage than the SATs can count.

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The Black Scholar

Tom Boyd, Thoughts of the Silent Majority, 1971

How door to prison reform is closing

by Dan Siegel

(PNS)—The attempted assassination of activist attorney Fay Stender by a man who forced her to sign a confession that she had betrayed prison revolutionary George Jackson drove yet another nail into the coffin of the prisoners' rights movement.

It is ironic, but not incomprehensible, that Stender's would-be assassin might well have been a beneficiary of the radical lawyer's years of tireless efforts on behalf of California's self-proclaimed prison revolutionaries.

Like other movements of the 60s, the multi-racial alliance built to support political prisoners and to fight for the rights of inmates has all but disintegrated in the mid and late 1970s.

One sign of the movement's demise is the ease with which the

courts now rebuff efforts of prison reformers to win more humane living conditions for a growing prison population. The current mood of judicial hostility is epitomized by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist's quip in a recent decision denying relief to prisoners awaiting trial in an overcrowded federal jail in New York: "We disagree that there is some sort of 'one man, one cell' principle" in the U.S. Constitution. (The Court's historic voting rights decisions were based upon a constitutional interpretation summarized as "one man, one vote.")

Another sign has been the transformation of the movement itself. The rise of prison reform activism was signaled in 1967 by the thousands of people who rallied to demand freedom for Black Panther leader Huey P. Newton, jailed for fatally shooting an Oakland cop. It

was furthered by the writings of two Black California prisoners who were to become conscious revolutionaries, Edridge Cleaver and George Jackson. They jarred tens of thousands into awareness of prison conditions, as well as of the societal conditions that send young Black men to prison in numbers far exceeding their share of the total population.

The developing prison movement represented an alliance between, on the one hand, the prisoners and their families, and on the other, students, professionals, and other middle class intellectuals. That alliance was epitomized by Cleaver's "Soul on Ice," which was dedicated to attorney Beverly Axelrod, and Jackson's "Soledad Brother," which included several letters written to his attorney, Fay Stender.

The prison movement activists, at least those "outside," included

many people who had been active in the civil rights movement of the early 1960s and the anti-war movement, which began in earnest in 1965. The mass mobilizations, petition drives, and other familiar tactics they employed helped the movement win its first successes. After years of political and legal struggle, Huey Newton's homicide conviction was overturned and he was freed in 1970. George Jackson and two other "Soledad Brothers" were acquitted on charges of murdering a prison guard.

As the Indochina war began to wind down and many of the civil rights movements' demands for equality in employment and education appeared to be winning mass acceptance, the prisons became the focus of revolutionary struggle. Violence by and on behalf of prisoners became a line of demar-

cation between liberal reformers and radicals/revolutionaries, especially after the Marin County courthouse escape attempt during the summer of 1970 and the Attica rebellion of 1971.

The Marin County incident began when Jackson's 17-year-old brother, Jonathan, burst into a courtroom with a satchel full of weapons, armed three prisoners, and attempted to escape with several hostages. The goal was to free George Jackson and other revolutionary prisoners then awaiting trial. In the gun battle that ensued, Jonathan Jackson and several others were killed. One of the prisoners, Ruchell Magee, was captured alive and ordered to stand trial along with Angela Davis, who was accused of plotting the escape attempt with Jonathan.

Differences between Davis and Magee over defense strategy forced a

severing of their trials and signalled an even greater split in the prison movement. Davis denied any involvement in the escape attempt and based her defense upon her claim that she had been singled out for prosecution because she was a Communist Party member devoted to the struggle for the rights of prisoners and Black people generally.

Magee took the position that the escape attempt was a justified "slave rebellion" by Blacks subjected to inhuman treatment and denied the rights of American citizens.

Davis was acquitted after a long jury trial in 1973. Magee was convicted when the courts refused to allow him to withdraw a guilty plea angrily and spontaneously entered in response to the legal strait-jacket in which he found himself. The prison

(Please turn to page 2 col. 1)