

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Andrew Young leaves the UN

by N. Fungai Kumbula



Monitor the policies

The Portland School Board has adopted a set of long term and short term policies which, if properly implemented, will provide Black children with the same opportunities and the same options as white children.

The proposals meet most of the more crucial demands of the Black United Front, although several deficiencies exist. The policies do not deal with the BUF's demand that Black children make up at least forty per cent of the population of each school affected by the plan. There is reason to believe, based on the comments of the School Board members, that this demand -- designed to eliminate the scattering and isolation of Black students -- will be dealt with in the comprehensive plan.

Meeting greater resistance from some members of the Board and its legal counsel, were the demands that the teaching staff approximate the fifteen percent Black enrollment and that Black teachers be assigned in a way that allows them to serve as role models and to influence the education of Black children.

The Singleton rule, under which the Board at least thinks it must operate since being found discriminating in teacher assignments, says that each school must have between 75 per cent and 125 per cent of the district's percentage of minority teachers. Therefore if five per cent of the District's teachers are minorities, then each school teaching staff must be between 3.5 and 7.5 per cent minority. If the District's teachers were 20 per cent minority, then each school staff would be between 15 and 25 per cent minority. The District's attorney, Mark McClanahan, recommended that the Board attempt to be released from its obligation to the Singleton rule before an effort is made to make percentage of Black teachers more reflective of its student enrollment.

The two issues are not directly related, but it is logical that if the percentage of Black teachers were increased, the District would have more latitude while still adhering to the rule. The Singleton rule should not be used as an excuse for refusing to hire Black teachers.

The third issue that was not adequately addressed is that of a monitoring system. The BUF requested that it be empowered to designate a committee to monitor the implementation of the

policies and that the committee be provided a paid staff. The Board has authorized a monitoring committee with the BUF and others invited to participate, but no staff or funding is provided.

That a monitoring committee, with the necessary staff, is essential is pointed up by the fact that as late as Monday, in spite of policies to the contrary, the parents of at least one Black kindergarten child who had been registered last Spring were informed that there is no room for him at King.

The BUF will undoubtedly accept the efforts of the School Board and will call off or postpone its boycott, but careful attention will be given to the practice and the spirit of implementation. Only if Dr. Blanchard is committed and passes that commitment to his staff with clear directives will these policies ever become practices.

The job of providing quality education for Black children has just begun, but the District can be sure that never again will the Black community stand back and allow such injustices to be perpetuated against its children.

Save Alabama fugitive

Governor Victor Atiyeh has agreed to return Carl Bass (McGowan) to Alabama where he will be incarcerated in a state penitentiary. Bass escaped from prison in Alabama a year ago and fled to Oregon where he thought he would receive protection.

This is not the ordinary case of a man escaping, crossing state lines and then being returned to his home state. Carl Bass believes his life is in danger should he return.

Bass says he was convicted on the description of a ten-year-old boy, "a tall Black man with an afro" and that he never had the opportunity for an appeal. Following a previous escape he lost both feet, allegedly because of poor medical treatment and purposeful neglect by prison officials. A suit filed against prison officials and the prison doctor could not endear him to the administrators of one of the nation's most brutal prisons.

If there is any doubt at all that this man's life or physical well being is in danger, then he should not be returned to Alabama. Governor Atiyeh is making a gross error and should change his order before it is too late.

The appointment three years ago, of Andrew Young to be the U.S. ambassador at the United Nations was probably the most popular appointment that President Carter made. The subsequent 'promotion' of that post to cabinet level quickly made Young one of the best known Blacks anywhere in the world. It made him very 'visible,' too visible for some people's liking. His job, as head of the U.S. mission brought him face to face with every conceivable problem facing humanity today. The fact that the developing countries of the world were also becoming increasingly critical, vocal and skeptical of the U.S. made his job that much trickier.

It was a very good thing that Young took up this position without any prior experience in bureaucratic 'protocol' because he made the best UN ambassador the U.S. ever had. Having been brought up in the civil rights movement, he was also much better equipped to deal with the problems of poverty, racism, inequality and a whole host of similar problems that cropped up time and time again at the UN. Like every novice in his rookie season, Young made his fair share of mistakes in the early going and so picked up enemies left and right. One thing that he will always be remembered for, however, is his outspokenness. His 'off the cuff' remarks stood the State Department on its head on more than one occasion.

He once accused or rather credited the British with inventing racism. Anybody who is at least vaguely familiar with British colonial history would find this hard to dispute but, the State Department pressured him into making an apology. He referred to "political prisoners" in the U.S. and, once again, his critics called for blood, writing or calling the President to fire him. He weathered that other storm with another 'clarification.' After the cold-blooded murder of Steve Biko, Young called the South African regime, "a ruthless dictatorship." Once again, the State Department came up with an apology. All three incidents delighted his supporters in the Black

community because they were all so true and, for once, there was somebody who was echoing their thoughts.

Andrew Young's one greatest accomplishment has to be the restoration of some semblance of confidence and credibility in the U.S. by an increasingly disillusioned and skeptical Third World, Africa in particular. Successive American governments had completely ignored Africa, fueled by the misconception that colonialism was in Africa to stay. So instead, they dealt with, aided and abetted the colonialists. When colonialism was suddenly overthrown, the U.S. then started scrambling to establish some direct connection with Africa. Henry Kissinger tried and met with very little success. Africa had been spurned for much too long and now her back was turned.

It took Young's home grown diplomacy to attract Africa's attention. The several trips he made to Africa over the past few years did more to repair America's credibility than anything anybody else could have done. He did anger a lot of us by continuing to take the Western position vis-a-vis South Africa. But even under his leadership, the U.S. continued to veto anti-South African resolutions, supported continuing trade and investment in South Africa and ruled out violence as a way of settling the South African problem. But, all in all, Africa at least lent an ear to his arguments.

Africa aside, one of the most pressing problems at the UN has been the Arab-Israeli squabble. Not too many of us are fully conversant with the ins and outs of this particular dispute but we do know that the two sides do not get along at all. For almost three years, Young had successfully dodged this particular issue because he knew how complicated it was. About two weeks ago, however, it finally caught up with him.

At the behest of Israeli coercion, the U.S. does not recognize the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) and so does not communicate with

them at all. The PLO, for its part, does not recognize Israel and there is no contact between the two except for the all too frequent military confrontations, bombings, cross border raids, etc.

Always the pragmatic, Young felt that this whole policy was ridiculous. How could there ever be peace between Israel and the Arabs when the two sides are not even talking? We further felt that the position of the U.S., acting as mediator in this dispute, was equally ridiculous since the U.S. itself refused to negotiate with the PLO. So when Young met a PLO representative at a dinner he had been invited to, he talked to him. When news of this meeting leaked out, that the head of the U.S. mission to the UN had met and talked with a PLO representative, the brouhaha was deafening. Once more his critics called for blood and this time they got it. Young resigned.

Up till now he still insists he didn't do anything wrong. He maintains he just got fed up with the "snail's pace of the diplomatic process." He feels that there were just too many restrictions preventing him from doing the things he wanted to do and things he knew had to be done. The resignation is a serious loss; he had worked himself up to become one of the most influential people (Black or white) in the world. Somebody else will take his place but, his shoes will never be filled. Whoever comes in has already been cowed into towing the line if he/she values his/her job. Sad.

The resignation was condemned throughout the world but, the loudest condemnation came from Africa. There were only two messages from Africa that agreed with the resignation: one from a nobody by the name of Abel Muzorewa who is masquerading as the prime minister of Rhodesia and the other from his adopted 'uncle' Pieter Botha, dictator of South Africa. Both feel that Young's replacement will, of necessity, be less vocal and less hostile.

So long, Andy, and thanks for a job well done.

School Board adopts new desegregation plan

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

During school year 1979-80, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who reside in the Area I section of King, will be allowed to attend Beaumont Middle School as an optional attendance area, Columbia/Whitaker is included as an optional attendance area for Woodlawn Area I, and Fernwood is included as an optional attendance area for Humboldt.

In the event the options exercised would cause minority enrollment to the middle school in question to exceed 50% the assignment requests will be honored in the order in which the district receives them.

- At Columbia/Whitaker, Beaumont and Fernwood maximum student populations should not exceed a total equal to 23 students per existing classroom space and should use all available classrooms.

- In the event a parents choice cannot be honored by reason of the 50% provision and space availability, they shall then have the additional option of Beach, Ockley Green, Chief Joseph or Kenton subject to the same 50% provision and space availability.

- It is the present intention of the board that students shall have the right to remain at their chosen school in the implementation of this optional attendance provision to completion of that school's grade levels, (i.e. K-5 or 6-8).

The district will implement an immediate review of all forms and communications to parents to insure that all transfer students leaving the Albina schools have the same rights and privileges as those transferring into the Early Childhood Centers.

Neighborhood schools will be established as a pick-up point for administrative transfer students. Supervision will be provided at the school pick-up point for students. Students can also be picked up at the usual pick-up points but supervision will not be provided there. The district will expeditiously consider the report on discipline, dealing with suspension and expulsion, which is being prepared by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission leading to the establishment and implementation of goals to

reduce the disproportionate number of Black students suspended and expelled. These goals will include proper training and staffing as necessary. The board does not expect this to alter the uniformity of the district's disciplinary standards.

A monitoring group will be created, made up of all interested community members, parents, students, with invitations to the representatives of the Black United Front, the NAACP, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission and the Urban League to participate. This monitoring group will serve as the voice for parents and children who feel there are difficulties in receiving equitable treatment.

The long term plan will provide for the development of a comprehensive plan on all aspects of the desegregation/integration program.

All elementary schools in Albina will be retored to K-8 status unless there are program reasons for different configurations. These schools will be below 50 per cent minority, with white enrollment insured by cluster changes or boundary changes. All students will have a standard assignment for every grade.

Clusters will include schools with contiguous boundaries when this appropriately meets the objectives of the comprehensive plan. Boise, Eliot, Humboldt, Sabin, Woodlawn, King and Vernon will be protected from closure under the comprehensive plan.

side plan.

One and possibly two integrated middle schools will be established in the Albina area.

A process will be developed whereby parents and members of the community can be involved in the selection of staff. Funds will be purposefully allocated so that major concentrations of local, state and federal money designated for integration/disadvantaged services will occur in cluster schools.

Extensive courses of instruction for teachers and administrators in Black history and culture, as well as in other ethnic cultures and the problems created by social class, will be developed. All administrators and staff assigned to schools involved in the desegregation plan will complete this instruction.

Programs and curriculum directed at enhancing the self-worth and cultural identity of Black students will be implemented.

A personnel director who has skill and interest in recruiting qualified minority teachers and staff will be hired and special recruiters will be hired if necessary. The District will negotiate with HEW for permission to assign Black staff to schools that have high proportions of Black students.

The plans were adopted by Board members Herb Cawthorne, Steve Buell, Wally Priestley and Frank McNamara. Joe Rieke and Bill Scott were absent.

Letters to the Editor

Black woman School Board choice

To the editor:

Hooray for Herb Cawthorne's appointment to the School Board! Both the Black and white communities will benefit from having this advocate for school integration and quality education in a policy making position.

Cawthorne's appointment should provide the catalyst for our rapid progress toward the resolution of the problems surrounding busing and quality education. We expect that he will continue to work for two-way busing, equal school funding and the mutual sharing of the responsibilities for school integration by both the Black and white communities.

Newman's resignation as presented, raises the question of a woman on the School Board in such a way as to separate the issue of sex

from that of race, i.e., he says he resigned in order that a woman may have a place on the Board. As a feminist organization we too are concerned about Black representation. To present the argument in the way that Newman did implied that Blacks are not/cannot be women and/or that women are not/cannot be Blacks. Further it is unfortunate that the press seems to be responding in such a way as to indicate agreement with Newman's premise. Our contention is that the School Board needs both another Black and a woman on it. The most equitable resolution to the problem is that the next appointment be a Black woman.

The additional appointment of a Black woman will help to change the character of the Portland School Board which for much too long has ignored or undermined Black education. Herb Cawthorne has

already demonstrated his willingness to fight for the school integration issues. A committed Black woman working with Cawthorne will turn the tide for the good of all.

Sincerely,
Deanna Cecotti
Portland Radical Women,
Freedom Socialist Party

Correction

A front page headline in last week's *Observer* read "Black suspensions outstrip whites 5 to 1". It should have read "Black suspensions outstrip whites 3 to 1".

Also, in a recent "Portland Profile", the name of James Mason's daughter, Selena, was spelled incorrectly. Our apologies.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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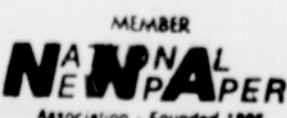
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