

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Boise community control

Both of the desegregation plans proposed by the School Board and the education plan to be presented by the Black United Front leave Boise Elementary School as a Pre-K-eight or a K-eight school.

Boise's student body is about 90 per cent minority, with a large concentration of Cambodian children and some Indians, Chicanos and students from other minority groups. The school has the opportunity to become an exemplary multi-ethnic school with a strong bi-lingual component.

About ten years ago the Model Cities Education Committee advocated community control over one school and desegregation of the others through pairing. Of course, the School District violently rejected both ideas. In the meantime, little desegregation has occurred and little improvement has been made in the education provided Black children.

The Board has the opportunity to make Boise a pilot community Control school. The

school would be operated by a committee of persons representing organizations that have a demonstrated interest in education, community members, residents of the Boise attendance area, parents and students. This committee would have the authority to select the principal and with him the staff; control the budget; design the curriculum; determine discipline policies; etc. It would be directly responsible to the School Board.

This committee would, of course, have to work within the policies and regulations set by the School Board, which has responsibility for operating the schools.

Can it be done? It has always been the philosophy of this country that citizens can and should control their schools. School Board are made up of lay persons -- not educators -- and the rights of local school boards have been jealously guarded. If the residents of small towns across the country can run their schools, why can't Blacks?

Letters to the Editor

More jails not the answer

Concerning the editorial 12/27/79, "No More Prison." In essence, our foreign policy today still remains a shackle on the liberation struggle in this nation.

Around this nation, caucasoid youth are already in motion by the tens of thousands led by hundreds of skilled organizers and tacticians who recognize Vietnam and Cambodia as the fuses which may yet light a world holocaust. We shall make a qualitative change in Amerika when the laggard caucasoid workers stop looking in fear at the competition potential Black workers represent, and find men who will lead them in concert with Blacks, their allies, to establish peace and justice, based on a system which will distribute the vast fruits of their joint labor.

Dr. King's contribution to Amerika and the world was his willingness and determination to confront a sick, insane and vicious Amerikan system. He confronted Amerika's national sickness with her own health chart--the United States Constitution. He marched under the banner of the Constitution, and was jailed, beaten and finally killed. All the while Martin Luther King confronted Amerika with the haunting question: can a nation whose rights are so clearly defined and so loosely interpreted expect to survive?

Throughout history men in power have always feared the man who could control the minds of youth. Socrates was forced to drink the cup

of hemlock by the system to prevent him from further "poisoning" the minds of youth with wisdom and truth he learned on the continent of Alkebu-lan (Afrika). But somehow such attempts to discredit and destroy have a way of widening a man's following. The cup of hemlock destroys the very person who orders its consumption. And truth prevails.

It's plain hell around this nation. People are pushing dope, they're into prostitution, and they're into mugging. It's not because they want to do this, but dammit, there is little left for them to look forward to. To deprive a person of work is to negate a portion of his or her humanity. The divisions of Amerikan society, racially and economically, also contribute to the problem of organizing the unemployed, making more difficult the development of a common interest, a shared political consciousness and program. One group is pitted against the next and is led to believe that the benefits gained by others necessarily occur at their own expense. It is clear in whose interests it is to keep ethnic groups divided, just as colonialists of a former era maintained their dominance through a policy of divide and control.

The inescapable pathway for untold numbers of these poor and unemployed people leads to lives of crime, drugs, and hustling-trying to beat the system that all too frequently chews them up. Without decent remunerative jobs, the generational

cycle of poverty is given another spin and society picks up the tab in increased crime, welfare, and urban decay. The criminal justice system--the police, prosecutors, courts, and concentration camps (prisons)--aggravates and compounds the problems of Black and poor caucasoid people which stems from the racism and poverty that surround their lives. Rather than rehabilitating youthful offenders, the system of criminal justice reinforces criminal behavior in the manner in which it selectively punishes poor caucasoids and Blacks. Alongside the schools, it conspires to keep poor people in their degraded status on the pain of removing them from society altogether.

I believe, a successful attack on rising crime rates must consider the employment problems facing poor and unemployed people. What can be done, in the context of the failure of our moral and political systems, to provide jobs and a decent standard of living for all Amerikans. The most important and practical measure that those outside of government can take is to begin to apply massive political pressure on all institutions of government.

Until a movement for economic justice arises, "democracy" will remain a meaningless aphorism and "equality" an empty slogan.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee
Field Dir. For (CORE)

BUF proposes community middle schools

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

child about how his ancestors in Egypt contributed to the formation of mathematics. Chemistry, astronomy, reading, geometry -- all began in Egypt. And we now that the Egyptians were Black people with woolly hair. It would give the Black child motivation if you could tell him that his ancestors did this 5,000 years ago and so surely he can learn math

today. "The multi-cultural education in Portland is a disgrace. I was looking at a list of multi-cultural activities done by some of the schools and it was pathetic. Here is King school getting a grant to study Japanese and Chinese, and they have never even been taught about themselves. If I was in charge and someone turned in a report like that, I'd be em-

barassed that he was still employed." Herndon explained that the BUF membership do not consider themselves to be experts in curriculum, but they want the school district to bring in curriculum and teacher training experts as consultants.

The proposals will be discussed at King Neighborhood Facility, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.



South Africa: fallout from Rhodesia

By N. Fungai Kumbula

In southern Africa, the so-called "domino theory" is back at work again. The theory works something like this: at one point not too long ago, there were several white minority regimes: Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Angola and Rhodesia. As one by one the minority regimes were toppled, beginning with Zambia and Malawi in 1964 then Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland in 1964 and finally, Mozambique and Angola in 1975, pressure kept mounting on those regimes that were left. Just like dominoes, each minority white regime that was toppled seemed to topple the next one in turn.

Now, the only three countries left in southern Africa are Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia. The war in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) as we saw recently, finally pushed the whites to accept the very same settlement they had rejected for fifteen years. Later this month Zimbabweans of all colors will go to the polls to choose the country's first democratically elected, Black majority government. So, barring some last minute hitches, to all intents and purposes, another white minority regime has toppled. Now all that's left is Namibia and South Africa.

From South Africa's point of view, the "loss" of Rhodesia is going to be especially costly. The "loss" of Rhodesia, in the eyes of most analysts may trigger what south Africa has feared for the last three hundred years: a Black takeover. As happened in Zimbabwe after the Portuguese were overthrown in Mozambique, the war intensified to the point where the whites were fully forced to concede defeat, so now in South Africa it-

self, the number of guerrilla attacks has risen dramatically since the Zimbabwe victory.

Reports of attacks on rural farms, border areas and such like have increased almost tenfold within the past few months. More significant too has been the number of incidents reported in the cities and townships. A few months back, twelve Black men stood trial in Pretoria accused of attacking a police station in Soweto, Johannesburg where two Black policemen were killed and another two wounded. The same group of twelve was also being charged with receiving training abroad and bringing weapons into the country for the purpose of overthrowing the government.

Last month two Black teenagers, armed with machine guns, burst into a bank in Pretoria and seized about a dozen hostages. For the release of the hostages, they demanded the release of Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC (African National Council) who has been in prison of Robben Island since 1962. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for his advocacy of equality of all south Africa's people. Police stormed the bank and killed the two youth including one of the hostages.

This is the kind of thing that sends shivers down the spine of apartheid. South Africa is armed to the teeth and prepared to meet any invasion just as Rhodesia was. A guerrilla war, however, is a horse of very different color. As Rhodesia found out, all those sophisticated weapons are virtually useless when you cannot even see the enemy, there will be no massive invasion of South Africa. The Africans have found the simplest answer to the whites superiority in weaponry: guerrilla war. It worked in Vietnam,

it worked in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau, Algeria, Zimbabwe and it is going to work in Namibia and South Africa. Even the nuclear bomb that South Africa is rumored to have will be of no use unless the apartheid regime decides to blow everybody in that part of the world, themselves included, to kingdom come.

It is this fear in South Africa that has prompted the apartheid regime to prop up Smith for the last fifteen years.

Even as we go to press, there are still an estimated 2,000 or so South African troops in Rhodesia that had been fighting alongside the Smith-Muzorewa forces in a vain effort to stem the Black liberation tide. Now that all of that has failed South Africa is trying to influence the outcome of the elections. If Muzorewa were to win, Ian Smith urged all whites to support Joshua Nkomo. He realizes that Muzorewa does not stand a chance so he is now trying to back Nkomo in another desperate effort to stop from winning outright.

The thinking in Petoria is that, while Mugabe would no doubt throw his unconditional support behind the liberation of South Africa, Nkomo would exercise a little caution. Either way, with all these Black governments now staring her balefully in the face, the future does not look too rosy. Once again, the question being asked is: "how long can South Africa last?" Independence in Zimbabwe will also free Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland from dependence on South Africa for food, markets and export outlets. So South Africa will be monitoring the Zimbabwe elections with a lot more than "Big Brother" interest.

HAP employee wins civil rights suit

(Continued from P. 1 Col. 6)

about residential security. Tenant concerns were related to flimsy locks and doors that could and had, been broken through. Swan contended he was told by Londahl not to "stir up the tenants" about security. He sought punitive damages against Londahl for her actions disciplining him after the Dekum Court tenant meeting.

HAP contended at the trial that Swan's statements at the June meeting with tenants were not protected under constitutional rights of free speech and association, that Swan could no longer have been an effective employee at Dekum Court because he had chosen to "champion tenant causes" rather than to support HAP policy, and that he was not entitled to a hearing since his transfer was not for disciplinary reasons. Londahl said she preferred to view the memos and transfer as "feedback." She also viewed firing an employee as "feedback" that was, she said, not necessarily bad because someday the employee might realize it had been the best thing that could have happened.

Musolf denied knowing that hearing dates had been scheduled for Swan and stated he knew only that Swan had "requested" a hearing when the HAP Board of Commissioners later met to consider the issue. Musolf alleged further that the board had concentrated on whether or not Swan was entitled to a hearing rather than whether such a hearing, if held, should be open or closed. Swan's attorney stated that board minutes showed otherwise.

HAP attorney, Miles Sweeney, stated at the trial, in reference to the Dekum Court playground issue that, "we'd all like a park next door to us." He mentioned HAP budget

cuts, though on a late 1979 KOIN television program, "Northwest Illustrated," it was stated that HAP's federal funding had increased ahead of inflation over the past years and that many people see cuts in social services to tenants as being due to HAP priorities rather than fund cuts. HAP agreed at the trial that services were cut and said that employee job descriptions, including Swan's new job description prior to the June meeting with tenants and Musolf, reflected this policy change.

Attorney Sweeney questioned a Dekum Court resident about her income and amount of rent paid in an effort, he said, to illustrate the benefits that thousands of eligible families were not able to enjoy; Judge Edward Leavy refused to allow the question. In his closing statement, attorney Edstrom decried this as one "low point" in the trial and an attempt by Sweeney to make it appear that "single mothers receiving assistance were living the life of Riley."

Witnesses, three from Dekum Court and one former tenant manager at Dekum Court, were denied by HAP's attorney, permission to sit in the courtroom after their testimony until the afternoon of the trial's second day. They waited in the hall "to lend moral support."

In his closing statement, Sweeney stated that even if Swan had been granted a hearing by HAP, it would not have been possible for him to be transferred back to Dekum Court as he believed. Swan attorney Edstrom said that this showed what a "sham" the whole process in that "operation" is, that even if Swan had been granted a hearing, the decision had already been made. He said that the jury, in giving Swan his

day in court, should read HAP's grievance policy which clearly states that such an outcome, transfer back to an employee's previous position, is a possible decision of a grievance hearing.

Swan, was unemployed for eight months following his resignation from HAP, is now employed at Providence Medical Center as a Mental Health Therapist. After college in Wyoming, he served as a VISTA volunteer in West Virginia where he worked with people in rural areas, most of whom were retired coal miners and their families. He also previously worked at Columbia Villa as Service Coordinator for HAP.

When asked about his feelings at the trial's outcome, Mr. Swan stated, "I'm overwhelmed. I can't tell you how good it feels to be vindicated by an impartial jury. Dedicated people from Concordia Community Association and from the Dekum Court Tenant Organization stuck together throughout this whole matter, and I would have sunk without their support. And, of course, city officials and Mayor Goldschmidt played an instrumental part in getting some of the playground back; I'm very grateful for that. It really has been a joint effort."



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