

EDITORIAL/OPINION

One way desegregation

The latest school desegregation plan presented by Chairman Bill Scott in response to board members suggestions is not acceptable from any point of view. It does nothing to address the inequities and deficiencies in the education of Black children. And it certainly cannot be called a "comprehensive desegregation plan."

The plan does not address the demands made by the community through the Black United Front. It does not keep faith with the promises made by the Board in response.

After six months of non-stop discussion and after many community forums, the Board has come up with:

An expansion of one-way transfers.

Black students at Humboldt (grades 3-5) will go to Beach, but no Beach children will attend Humboldt.

Black children will be removed from King and go to Sabin or Alameda. No white children will be transferred to King (or to Sabin).

These changes are designed to make space in Humboldt and King for returning Black students, and to reserve space for white voluntary transfers.

Once again Black children are being displaced to provide room for white pre-schoolers.

Eliot ECE will be moved to Monroe, moving more Black children out of the community. Eliot could have been moved to Boise, which not only would have enhanced Boise's program, but would have helped the District's stated goal of bringing white children into Boise.

Scattering will continue:

Scattering of Black children among white schools will continue as the District's volunteer program will depend on the "hard sell" to entice Black children away from the neighborhood schools.

No middle school:

King 6-8 graders are added (along with Woodlawn) to the Columbia/Whitaker cluster although the District agrees that already 250 students who live in the Columbia/Whitaker area cannot attend that school because of lack of space. These children have been "recruited" to other K-8 and middle schools.

Humboldt middle school children will attend Ockly Green, correcting an earlier omission. Humboldt was the only Jefferson feeder school left out of the Ockly Green cluster when it was created.

Eliot will house a magnet school with selection criteria based on academic, artistic or athletic ability. This is highly discriminatory when admittedly under educated Black children must compete with the city's elite for admission. This is not providing a middle school in the community for community youngsters.

The notion of segregating out the achievers at age eleven is highly suspect, especially in light of the racial and economic discrimination. The selection of a few Black achievers for this school will continue the talent drain on the remaining Albina schools.

The athletic criteria insures a number of Black students, but the parks are already full of little Black boys dreaming of careers in pro basketball. Are we really going to push them into this dead end "track" at age eleven?

Nowhere in this plan do we find an analysis of why Albina schools consistently score up to four years below grade level on achievement tests. Moving around won't solve that problem.

There is nothing to insure quality administration and teaching, nothing but a band-aid approach to teacher training, and no apparent motivating philosophy in curriculum changes.

In short -- nothing is new.



BLACK PART I Introduction

By N. Fungai Kumbula

To a new arrival in Portland, one of the most unusual things about the city is the absence of a Black community. True, there are parts of the city that could be called Black. True, there are a number of individuals in Portland who do a lot of things related to Blacks. Nonetheless, a real Black community is still glaringly missing. Could this be because Portland does not have a real ghetto in the sense that Los Angeles, Chicago and New York have ghettos? This is most unlikely because "ghetto" and "Black community" are hardly synonymous.

Anybody who has attended any Black function, be it public rally, speech, party, meeting or what have you must have noticed that in nine cases out of ten, there are more non Blacks than there are Blacks. A number of exceptions could be cited, of course, such as some of the Black United Front meetings and African Liberation Day rallies but, those are the exceptions rather than the rule. Where is Portland's sense of community? Being the curious, "nosy," inquisitive new arrival that I am, I set out to find the answers and what I came up with was, in some cases, less than savory. Of course, these are only part of the answer.

There is no real Black community in Portland because of what is sometimes called the "integration craze": the need to be accepted into the "majority" community. What is wrong with "integration?" In its present complexion, everything. When you mix Black and white, you do one of three things: you can either overwhelm white and come up with Black, you can neutralize both and come up with brown or

you can overwhelm Black and come up with white. History, of course, has shown us which has been the most consistent result.

Rather than "integration," people should be striving for co-existence. Integration says: "I'm okay; you are not okay," or "You are okay; I'm not okay." Co-existence, on the other hand, says: "I'm okay; We're okay." In that case nobody drowns out no one. So, what has "integration" done to Portland's missing Blacks? It has so many people so bent on being accepted that a Black community is anathema. To be part of anything exclusively Black is not only undesirable but also very threatening to the ultimate goal of final "immersion" into the white social set up.

It has also been said that those Blacks who could have provided the leadership for the formation of a Black community have since been "given" good positions and, that way, effectively silenced. Now, rather than stick to their fellow persons, the tendency is to go in the opposite direction: they want to be considered "team players."

It is true economic considerations always dictate what we do. It would be a fool who would turn down one of those high paying jobs (especially in these days of skyrocketing unemployment) but, do we really have to abandon our people? Isn't blood thicker than water any more?

Having gotten an opening like this, the logical thing would be to try to reach out and help other brothers and sisters "get up here" also but, is that the case? More often than not, the tendency has been to make sure that "I remain the only

one in this particular job or company." Many a time I have heard stories of how the only "brother" or "sister" in this or that company did everything he/she could to make sure another brother/sister does not get a job in the same company. In one case one such individual went so far as to try to prevent an applicant from getting an interview.

That was only one side of the "evils of integration." What about pride, self-respect and self esteem? A casual stroll down any Portland street will soon show that all that is in pitifully low supply too. Take the case of hair, for example. Anytime you walk down any street, how many times have you seen beautiful Black hair processed, "cooked" or "fried" half to death? Once upon a time, it was just women who were guilty of this crime but now even men spend hours in beauty salons trying to get that "cool" processed look. What for? As beautiful as Black hair is?

Black entertainers who are usually the role models for most Black children are sometimes the worst offenders. This is 1980 and yet the "Superfly syndrome" still lingers. Look at James Brown, Albert King, Tyrone Davis, Barry White, the list goes on. Black children look at that and think that's "cool." Then we talk about Black culture: how can we have a Black culture when the so-called successful Blacks are rejecting almost everything Black and embracing everything white?

NEXT: Black men, white women, freedom of choice.

NEXT TO NEXT: Black men, Black women, the Black community and looking ahead.

Letters to the Editor America will destroy itself

To the editor:

When Brezhnev told Carter Feb. 22 "don't get tough with us," he wasn't talking like Khomeini that "America is the great Satan"; instead he was talking as an equal or even superior, who could tell us to get out of a lot of places matching Cuba, Afghanistan, etc! He could remind us that we got our land from the Indians by force and fraud. Today, the critical issue is maintaining the balance of power between the communistic camp and the democratic bloc—hence every aggression is duly considered.

But as important, or more so, is the problem of moral degeneration

of Americans who have become so serious in ridiculous things—e.g., making a tremendous ado over such trivia as Olympics while inflation devours us alive. Here is really where the devil is! Imagine a great America hoaxed by a rock-and-roll wiggle-jiggle type of mind? A Feb. 21 TV show interviewed some notable young women who shamelessly boasted about living and sleeping promiscuously with different men. Imagine the ruinous effect this has on millions of our youth? Worse, this rot is excused and defended by clever double-talk. Our own crime wave, ghoulish beyond expression, is only but another form of a foreign invasion, etc. Dope, booze, licentious sexism, greed, etc., join

this invasion in the name of eagle-spread patriotism.

So as one Russian said, "We won't have to fight you; you'll destroy yourselves." Meantime, to guarantee this trend, a lot of pious cant about "God bless us" goes on, when we are cursing Him. Actually, figuratively, God has raised up a new "rod of anger" in the USSR, replica of ancient Assyria as expressed by the Old Testament prophets who with one voice demanded "amend your ways or be destroyed by the sword" or its equivalents in slow mouldering and withering, etc.

Paul Brinkman, Jr.
Cannon Beach, Ore.

Get rid of Blanchard

To The Editor:

In response to the article "Get Rid of Blanchard" by Ron Herndon (Jan. 24, 1980), I wholeheartedly endorse and support the demand of the Black United Front for the hasty resignation of Portland Public Schools Superintendent Robert Blanchard.

I have been working closely with a group of white citizens who organized last summer in support of the Black United Front and their call for a school boycott. In the past several months I have also become increasingly involved in the issue of desegregation, through, among other ways, membership on various citizen committees set up by the

District. I have witnessed the apparent confusion and discord among Board members, the lack of participation in the process by those who should be most interested -- parents of all classes/races -- but most of all the countless ways in which a large bureaucratic structure can stifle creativity, foster confusion and aggravation, wait out most any controversy, and still be around next year and the next and the next...

I say it is time for a change in the top administration of the Portland Public Schools. With the new decade, let's look for someone with vision and an open mind (and ears), not someone who is supposed to

solve the very problems his policies created.

Dr. Blanchard's programs seemed to be appropriate at the time, but are not effective now and evidence is growing that the effects of his policies (on some, if not all students) are much more destructive than obvious to most.

In my experience, it is the attitude of the top administrators that determine the tone of the operation of the whole structure. Progressive people surround themselves with the other progressive people and together they do progressive things. Portland Public School administration is in dire need of such vision.

Sheryl Bushong

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Rhythm Rap

By Nyewusi Askari
(a.k.a. Kelly Norman)

The voice of two liberators:
Liberator one: This Black community is an empty shell and its hard to tell who lives here anymore.

Gone are the smiles, the excitement, and dreams of building a separate Black nation.

Gone is Black love.
And it hurts to see how determined we are to destroy each other without second thoughts of how easy it is to fill the void we strive daily to retain.

Our Black rhythm is broken. Nights are no longer nights, but rather empty nightmares filled with echos of bleeding hearts, and false starts toward no new beginnings; making the end a welcomed thought.

Our Black rhythm is broken and our strengths are no longer strengths, but rather empty emotions running scared of what the next moment will bring.

Our Black rhythm is broken and so are our spirits. Our faces are long

and our hearts sing no happy songs because nothing can replace what's been lost.

And for all we know...we may never be human again.

Liberator Two: We are liberators/fighters/Black men and women learning the ways of this world; the good, the badd, the ugly and we believe in the possibility of victory in our children's lifetime.

Today, the winds blow softspeed through the visions of our minds, touchin upon the dreams, sights, sounds, smells and spirits we will shape into tomorrow's future.

The moon follows, touchin the souls of fellow warriors and it chastises us for our negative, unnecessary comedown on our people.

We touch the breeze, the moon, each other, and ask for forgiveness...forgiveness for creatin badd moments, badd weeks, badd fears and never endin tears. And we dig on the breeze and feel ourselves

growin, knowin that we love being who we are, what we are and who we will come to be.

Liberation will be ours again as a people; ours and maybe yours, if you're diggin on creatin something more beautiful, more magical than the rhythms you just played off as being unworthy of your compassion, understanding, dedication and compromise.

We touch the breeze, the moon, ourselves and wait for the sounds of our souls, minds, hearts and spirits grindin/findin/screamin/creatin---smooth dances as we move in the direction of a united love; a profound love; a love built on the principle that we can survive on our own merits; that love, substance, and an unending desire for freedom from all types of oppression still exist among us.

That's the rhythm we seek. That's the rhythm we will achieve.

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Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan,
Commissioner of Public Safety



A police officer will respond to my call in 3 to 5 minutes? Yes, in most cases!

Last week we discussed what information citizens should be prepared to give when calling the police emergency number (760-6911) for immediate response. However, many citizens might want to know WHY and HOW IS THAT DETERMINED?

During winter, the police emergency receives an average of 1350 calls and during the summer, 1575 calls per day. The most efficient way to assure your best protection is to prioritize all calls. The priority code for dispatching police officers is determined by the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC), a combined facility of Portland, Multnomah, Gresham and Troutdale. A quick review of those priority codes may enlighten many to the mysteries of police response.

A PRIORITY CODE 1 (EMERGENCY) is assigned when life is in immediate danger or when time is critical. Violent crimes

against persons receive the highest priority. Murder, rape, aggravated assault and kidnap would be classed in this group.

A PRIORITY CODE 2 (IMMEDIATE) is assigned when life or property may be in danger or a crime is or may be in progress or when rapid response may result in an apprehension. Serious crimes against property, such as arson, robbery, burglary and auto theft would be included here.

A PRIORITY CODE 3 (PROMPT) is assigned when the situation is not an emergency but timely police response is necessary to provide adequate service.

A PRIORITY CODE 4 (ROUTINE) is assigned when the situation is "cold," response time is not a factor, no hazard will occur if response is delayed and the delay will not result in the loss of evidence.

When the demand for police service has exceeded available police resources, priority 4 (routine) calls are subject to "stacking" and an appreciable delay in police response

may be expected. In these situations, ECOC personnel will make every attempt to advise citizens of the potential delay along with an estimated time.

A PRIORITY CODE 5 (DELAYED) CALL is assigned only at the request of the citizen in situations when a citizen cannot immediately meet with an officer. When available, their call is re-assigned the appropriate priority code.

Your knowledge is understanding how your calls are prioritized is very important and the information you share with the operator when calling to assure proper response to reduce crime.

So-called "victimless" crimes (prostitution, illegal gambling, drug abuse) are usually dealt with by officers assigned to the Special Investigations Division in Vice or Narcotics but unless we are, or have been victimized, we usually fail to recognize WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF SO-CALLED "VICTIMLESS" crimes?

Join me next week!