

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## TRUTH is Stranger than STRANGE!

A southern folk tale originating among the preservers of the slave owning culture may shed some light on the performance of these few negroes who lament the removal of Blanchard from the position of school superintendent.

Once there was a slaveowner who upon the ending of the Civil War was dispossessed of his slaves. He became despondent over losing his wealth and began drinking and gambling. What few resources he had left were soon dissipated and he became a derelict. One day he was carried to jail for failure to pay his debts and a former slave witnessed the arrest. The slave demonstrated his loyalty and fidelity by offering to sell himself into slavery again in order to satisfy the debts for which "old master" was imprisoned.

This stereotype has remained a treasured memory in the reservoir of white racism and it continues to furnish the guidelines for what many whites believe is the responsible negro. However, those among the Black population who are "politically Black" customarily acknowledge that any persons of color harboring such misplaced attachments are divorced from the Black liberation movement and are irretrievable.

## Blanchard's aides?

The morning *Oregonian* points out that "Blanchard's aides" have been shifted into new assignments as part of the reorganization planned by acting superintendent Dr. James

Fenwick. "Blanchard aides" really defines the problem.

When a new administrator takes over, it is expected that he will make administrative changes - either of personnel or of structure. Ordinarily the top administrators - the right hand men of the outgoing director - either resign or are fired.

So far, none of those administrators closest to Dr. Blanchard have offered their resignations and they have been assured that there will be no "hatchet job." One administrator, for example, is Don McElroy who was brought to Portland by Dr. Blanchard and who had worked with Blanchard in New Jersey. Many believe McElroy, through his organizational skills and his relationship with staff, was crucial to Blanchard's functioning. There has been much speculation about whether he would, or could stay with the district when Blanchard leaves.

McElroy's job description has been changed -- as will his role. He will not be the right hand man; he will be one of three right hand men.

Those administrators who were close to and loyal to Dr. Blanchard are being given an opportunity to determine whether they are "Blanchard aides" or school district administrators.

Dr. Blanchard had a full year to decide whether he would work with a new School Board to develop new goals and new programs. He did not accept the opportunity and now he is gone. His "aides" have the same opportunity to become part of the new era.

This action, although it does not please those who would like to see a "clean sweep," should allay the fears of those who believe a vindictive Board will resort to firing those who have not supported it in the past.

## Letters to the Editor

### Cuba erases institutional racism

To the Editor:

Members and teachers in the Portland Educational System in Portland should attend the June 28th program at the King Neighborhood Facility, dealing with "Child Care and Education in Cuba."

Cuba today is a society in transition. It is a society transforming itself and its people. Today free education is provided for all age groups from infants to adults. Child care centers have been built all over the island primarily to free women to participate fully in the economic and social life of the country. They also serve as an important first step in the educational process. The artificial division between mental labor and physical labor that exists in capitalist societies is being systematically broken down, with the aim of creating a full human being.

With the emphasis on education as a prerequisite for overcoming underdevelopment, a great stress has been laid on teacher training.

Unlike the U.S. and many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, Cuba today is a multi-racial society without racial strife. This does not mean there are no vestiges of racism remaining. Because of past discrimination there are probably proportionately fewer Black doctors, university professors, engineers, etc., than caucasoids. Also the educational process and natural attraction are slowly but relentlessly eliminating individual manifestations of racism. organization of contemporary Cuban society no longer support

racism, and the government itself is explicitly anti-racist.

You will not find the Christian Knights of the K.K.K. in Cuba, because they do not represent the interests of poor and working class caucasoids. Where was the Klan in the last century when the children of caucasoid sharecroppers in the U.S. died from pellagra? Where were they when caucasoid farmers were evicted from their homes by the bankers? Where were they when caucasoid workers organized into unions to fight for living wages? The Klan speak for the rich and powerful in Amerika, and they always have.

Cuba is the only country in the West Indies and in this hemisphere which has broken with caucasoid power...caucasoid power is the power of caucasoids over Blacks without any participation of the Blacks. In Portland, poor and working class people are treated like passive spectators of a distant drama, by the Board of Education.

Like Jamaica's Black people today, they were the poorest and most depressed people on the island, while real power was in the hands of the U.S. imperialists. Black Cubans fought alongside caucasoid Cuban workers and peasants because they were all oppressed. Black Cubans today enjoy political, economic and social rights and opportunities of exactly the same kind as caucasoid Cubans. They too bear arms in the Cuban Militia as an expression of their basic rights. In other words, caucasoid power in Cuba is ended.

The majority of the caucasoid population naturally predominates

numerically in most spheres of activity but they do not hold dominion over Blacks without regard to the latter's interests. Blacks have achieved power commensurate with their own numbers by their heroic self-efforts during the days of slavery, in fighting against the Spanish and in fighting against imperialism. Having achieved their rights they can in fact afford to forget the category "Black" and think simply as Cubans citizens, as socialist equals and as men and women.

Contrary to much opinion in the United States today, the Cubans are a highly blended and multi-racial people. One is reminded of the people of Puerto Rico or the range in color and features of old Black communities in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., or Baltimore. In addition, with the triumph of the revolution, many of the caucasoid racist Cubans, the comprador bourgeoisie who served as lackeys for U.S. imperialism, fled the country for the congenial shores of Florida. In terms of U.S. propaganda, it is significant that during the days of the Batista regime, U.S. propaganda, touted Cuba as being "a good place for colored people," and regarded Cuba as having a non-caucasoid population. With the revolution, however, the propaganda line changed and Cuba suddenly became a place dominated by caucasoid people, in which the non-caucasoids were unequal.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jamil Cheroovee  
Field Representative (CORE)



## Soweto: Four years later

By N. Fungal Kumbula

More than 7,000 workers in the Uitenhage area, the centre of South Africa's auto industry were on strike this past week. They were demanding higher wages: they currently make \$1.35 per hour and they were demanding \$3.75 per hour minimum. The strike had a ripple effect in that other factories not directly hit by strikes were still forced to shut down for lack of parts. In all, twelve companies were forced to shut down last Friday, including Goodyear Tires.

Black municipal workers near Port Elizabeth in the eastern Cape joined the strike. Repeated efforts at quelling the school boycott initiated by mixed race students in April have so far failed. Far from ending, the boycott has actually expanded as Black and white students have joined in. At last count six Black universities were closed and there were reports of "solidarity boycott" even in the Orange Free State, the equivalent of your deep south in the early '60s.

Last Monday, June 16, was the fourth anniversary of the bloody Soweto riots of 1976. The reported death toll of 13 to 16 year old Black school children ranged from a low of 575 to a high of 1,000. Damage to property was conservatively estimated at \$100 million. One thing Soweto did that nothing else could have accomplished was focus attention on the viciousness of apartheid. Much as the regime tried to hush up the whole thing, Soweto was just too big to be swept under the rug.

Judging from events so far, both sides seemed to have learned lessons from the Soweto massacre. The students boycott this time around is a lot better coordinated and they seem to be taking extra precautions to keep the focus of the boycott on the central issue: unequal education. The police, supposedly, are exercising "more restraint." So far the death toll, in almost three months of demonstrations, stands at 42. The

students also have been a lot more successful at soliciting support from the workers. Last time around, the police managed to use an age-old trick: pit one group against the other: the students against the workers and sometimes "different ethnic groups." Now everyone understands that the students are fighting for all of them.

Education was a logical choice to focus on in the fight against apartheid because of the inherent inequities. To begin with, there are four separate and unequal ministries of education: one white, one Black, one Asian and one mixed race. Government expenditures per student is as follows: \$905.00 per white student; \$446.00 for an Indian student; \$281.00 per "coloured" (mixed) student and only \$89.00 per African student. In spite of these glaring inequities, the apartheid regime is still trying to blame the current student unrest on "outside agitators!"

What alarms the apartheid regime the most is the fact that this school boycott is only a tip of the iceberg in what has become a very sophisticated and broadbased attack on the whole system. Soweto shook apartheid to its very foundations; this new attack threatens to shake even further the now jittery structure. Already Western nations are sending words of warning to Pretoria that "any large scale repression will jeopardize relations." To a regime that has spent the last four years trying to repair its tarnished image abroad, this can only be seen as a major setback. Better yet, it gives the Africans added ammunition to ask for stronger measures against South Africa.

Haunting the apartheid regime are grim reminders of the fallout from Soweto '76. The botched up murder of Steve Biko and the subsequent inquest; the disgrace and forced resignation of Johannes Vor-

ster, prime architect of apartheid; muldergate scandal and the forced resignation of Connie Mulder, then Minister of Information, exposure of South Africa's covert overseas operations aimed at manipulating public opinion in Europe and the United States and the siepped up efforts of foes of apartheid to economically isolate South Africa. The fear in South Africa is that the current student boycotts, wave of strikes, stepped guerrilla attacks, Black activism could trigger another such anti-South Africa posture around the world. The recent well planned and well executed lightning guerrilla raid on the SASOL coal gasification plants and oil refineries that destroyed eight oil storage tanks could only have further undermined white morale.

In Namibia, South Africa is faring no better. Previously the SWAPO Liberation Movement's attacks were reported to be limited mostly to the northern areas bordering on Namibia. Lately, however, the regime has admitted to clashes taking place as far south as Windhoek, the capital. Recently, SWAPO guerrillas managed to blow up two power plants that supply the entire country. The result was that for several hours, the whole country was plunged into darkness.

In a desperate move reminiscent of one Ian Smith, South Africa raided Angola on what it claimed was a move to destroy "SWAPO bases". Figures they released (for propaganda purposes) claim 200 SWAPO guerrillas, and 16 South African soldiers killed. Even accepting such obviously doctored figures, this would be the highest toll the regime has admitted suffering in a single mission.

Everywhere South Africa looks, she seems to be falling deeper and deeper into a tunnel. Conversely, for the Africans, the Light of Liberty, so long hidden, seems to be edging closer.



## Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan  
Commissioner of Public Safety

Our responsibilities as adults who challenge and work to inspire youth are very important; for today's youth are tomorrow's leaders.

I would like to share one such inspiration with you.

"Only one out of ten make it..."

Charles Jordan:

I had intended to write this letter prior to commencement, but I got too involved in finishing finals and all. Today, being Father's Day, did remind me to write it though. I guess I should get to the point and quit with the solemnities. About four years ago there was a meeting (sponsored by whom, I forgot) for Black high school graduating senior males and you were the guest speaker. It was at a time when I had a lot of things going for me and life was pretty good. I was going to Europe for the summer, I had received a generous scholarship, I was getting many awards from school and different organizations I belong to, and was looking forward to entering college.

Anyway, at this function, some of the students didn't present themselves with what the situation called for, and you addressed this in your message. You commented on their wearing braids, jeans etc., to the meeting, and then you proceeded to make the statement that only one

out of every ten would make it through college. You said, "Most of you won't make it." Being that I was in my state of narcissism, I naturally assumed I had to be that one in ten and that everyone obviously knew it. You went on to say that you challenged each one there to be that one in ten. I resented the challenge and played it off that you'd meant only the braided brothers to take heed.

Well anyway, freshman year went extremely well; I would take an overload and still make the dean's list. This reinforced my resentment of your challenge. The sophomore year came around and things transformed. I changed schools (from S.O.S.C. to U. of O.) and joined a fraternity. Right away things got tough and in the middle of the year I was ready to quit. This is when your challenge first had applied affects on me. Because I thought it was too cocky of you to say all that prior to this time, I still wanted to prove you wrong, but then did I realize that my future wasn't guaranteed and that I was in the same boat now which I'd perceived the others were in. It was a rude awakening.

I decided to stick it out and maybe change my major to something easier such as Art. (eventually, I didn't because it seemed like settling for less than my poten-

tial and cheating myself). It made me realize I was no better than the others and that maybe the one with the braids was that one in ten. Junior year was the pits! It was honestly the worst year of my life. Not only was school getting to me, but other problems had arisen. Along with advice and a lot of prayer, your words honestly kept me motivated to hang in there. Senior year, I wanted it bad enough, but was getting tired of the fight. I knew I would get my degree, but often needed a kick in the ass to keep me going. Again your words kept going through my mind to rid me of the Senior year blues (as they are called).

The whole point I am leading up to in my round about way is to thank you for your unkind inspiration and your haunting, helpful, words. They helped me to survive. Last Sunday (June 8th) I graduated from U. of O. with a B.A. in Marketing. Mostly, I want to thank you for helping me prove you wrong. I am one of the one in ten. Also, hopefully, there were others in the group that made it too.

I hadn't intended for the letter to be so long, but I guess I just got carried away. Before this novel becomes a part of an encyclopedia I'll stop. Once again I truly am grateful, and thank you.

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