

EDITORIAL/OPINION

The common good in jeopardy

From a Black perspective the Hazen - Cameron recall movement comes off as a petulant activity that would like to be thought of as striking out in new directions to save the soul of this society by ousting four school board members and threatening to rehire the former superintendent. The four school board members are in disfavor for doing their jobs well and the ex-superintendent is being acclaimed for having fostered inappropriate racist policies, programs and practices in the Portland school system for ten years.

The Hazen - Cameron recall effort is not guided by the purpose to be of service to the total community. It is motivated by special interest and racist concerns. As these are carried toward their intended goals they will undoubtedly spark sensational bitter criticism and generate unimaginable social explosions. It has been observed that editorial comments in the dominant society's media explaining the school board firing of Blanchard have been less than thoroughly insightful. There are glaring elements of ambivalence in assessing those events, incidents, dissatisfactions and differences that did not emanate from the Black community. The board placed most of this information before the public but little has been done to clarify and reinforce these disclosures.

There is now widespread awareness that an overwhelming percentage of the Black population sees intergration and assimilation false goals to pursue. Blacks unequivocally state that liberation is the real issue. For ten years Blanchard spoke to integration and practiced selective segregation. This was the underlying grievance of the Black community. It is preposterous to suggest that he was fired because Blacks wished it. If the educational preferences of Black people had ever been considered he would not have been hired in the first place.

In this general area some groups are concerned with improving socialization processes for all people, youth to adulthood. The BUF

believes the recall activists are interested only in retaining an educational system compatible with their racial attitudes rather than one that embodies equity and justice.

The racist spirit speaks

Hart displayed an anxious compulsion to say those things which have high appeal for all who see Black people's effort to control their own lives as a threat to continued white sovereignty over the public education domain. He fumblingly left one impression: the recall is a mechanism he vigorously supports in order to buy time for a more effective functioning of white racism. Subsequent events may illustrate very convincingly that there is no level of life now at which Hart and his collaborators can be guaranteed any measure of durable success solely because they are on record as being anti-Black. His claims to have Blacks aligned with him and the misrepresentations he utilizes to gain support for these vicious undertakings will not provide the recall movement with deification.

The re-establishing of a screening committee by Ridgley and other similar voices of antiquity to select and approve school board candidates is perceived as intended to implement the irrational shallow toughness of the Hal Hart group. Well now, Blacks are not intimidated. Both of these committees are essential to provide up to date evidence for what will evolve into surprisingly well sustained revelations throughout the country about the character, quality, poor liveability and inhumanity of Portland.

The Black population is not concerned with overcoming white racism because it is a fundamental white problem, but white racism is not going to overcome us...because that is the real Black commitment...Think about it!

The clear message received in the opinions Hal Hart voiced on KOIN-TV 7-5-80, is that he represents those elements of the dominant population who vigorously oppose quality education for Black children in Portland public schools. The recall committee of which he is now co-chairman hopefully will be able to run its course. Such adventures extending the influence of white racism will soon reach the point of diminishing returns.



Individual

N. Fungai Kumbula

In the beginning was Individual. Individual lived alone but soon discovered that one leading such a life had something lacking. So Individual went hunting but, this time it was for Spouse. Individual found Spouse and they agreed to live together, forming the first couple, forerunner to Society. Now Individual felt better, was no longer lonely, had someone to share tasks with, relished the variety of ideas that was the result of two heads working in tandem and, the purpose and whole new meaning that was suddenly given to Life. With the advent of Children, the first Family unit was born.

Before too long, Individual had neighbors, new households that mushroomed all around, the result of their busy Brood. A Community had been born. Individual still was the centre of the community, one who knew only too well that the alternative had been, one who truly appreciated the Community. The Community soon spread far and wide and as it did so, Individual and Spouse's influence waned in direct proportion until whole new and "independent" communities were born. Values in these "upstart" communities were, of course, very different. They had a whole different "leadership."

In the original Community, there was egalitarianism all the way down the line. Collective work meant collective rewards. The ancient Africans put it this way: "From each according to their ability; to each according to their need." Under this system, it was the Community that prospered, not the individual. There could be no paupers and millionaires rubbing shoulders: it was all paupers or all millionaires.

Someone in the new communities came up with a "brilliant" idea: why be like everybody else? Why not be different? Better yet, instead of sharing the pie equally among all the people, why not start sharing it, but unequally, since "some people are more equal than others." This "someone" took up the name Enterprise and began to preach the new gospel: "You don't have to be a slave to the community. You can be your own person, your own boss. Worry not about your neighbor but only about yourself. You get richer quicker that way." Enterprise soon attracted a number of "groupies" and they set off to, by hook or by crook, fair means or foul, "civilize" the world.

The New Order simply turned the Old Order inside out, stood it on its head, the immediate result of this change was the birth of affluent and poor neighborhoods, a working class and a ruling class, one upmanship, the dog-eat-dog ratrace and the proliferation of "me-ism." While the Old Order worked very hard to eliminate poverty, the New Order worked to promote poverty because you always have to have an underclass that works for and buys from the upper class.

The biggest selling point of the Enterprise groupies always has been: "You can be anything you want to be; you just have to work hard enough." But, whoever made it from the underclass to the upper class working nine to five? Despite the heady promises "Enterprise" made, the truth is, whatever class you are born into you are doomed to unless you take some very drastic measures.

Recent events in the Black community give one cause to believe that

maybe the days of "me-ism" are numbered. The very successful one day boycott of classes, the sustained demonstration of the community's displeasure with the school board, the actions taken to curb police brutality and, generally, a louder voice and greater visibility have awakened Portland to the realization that there is a Black community in the city after all. For its part, the community can point to these successes and draw from them for the myriad battles that lie ahead. As emphasized over and over again by the BUF leadership, this is only the beginning.

What has been accomplished in Portland over the past several months would have been unthinkable only a year ago. The fact that a Black United Front was successfully launched and has withstood the derision, criticism or all the other ills that have been the death of earlier attempts at collective activism is in itself a "miracle" of no mean proportion.

While all these years Individual has been turning over in the grave, the revival of this collective doctrine not only here in Portland but throughout Black America (Miami, Wrightsville etc.) and Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Angola etc.) has had Individual smiling again. In the olden days, they worked together to build a well from which the whole community could draw water; in 1980 the Black community has risen to demand the sort of changes that will make life more meaningful and easier for their children. Conversely, Enterprise, who has had reason to smile all along, is beginning to panic.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety

My office has received several inquiries regarding the use of race and its relevance when reporting a crime. I would like to explain to why such information is necessary and how it is used to combat crime.

First of all, this information is only requested when you call to report a crime. When calling the Police Emergency Number to report a crime, the operator will ask you to provide a physical description of the suspect, i.e., male or female, height, weight, hair color, type of clothing, anything odd or unusual about the suspect as well as the time of day the incident occurred. This detailed information is necessary to assist in identifying the suspect(s), to assist in locating witnesses who can help in prosecution. All lead to the prevention and resolution of crime(s).

The Portland Police Bureau often need detailed information about a

victim to clear up pending cases or find persons who can help, as witnesses. For example, let's say that the police catch a purse snatcher who also admits that he stole a purse two months ago from a young, Black female. Detectives are more likely to find which case was involved and perhaps return stolen property if they can narrow down the larceny cases at that time by race, sex and approximate age of the victim.

When you call, the operator may also ask your race and date of birth. Why? To properly and quickly identify you in case of an emergency or in case more information is needed to resolve a crime. All information kept by the Bureau is maintained by name, race, sex, and birthdate. They are used explicitly as identifiers and serve to distinguish between two or several individuals with common names. However, you do have a choice. IF

FOR ANY REASON YOU FEEL THAT RACE OR SEX IS NOT IMPORTANT TO YOUR REPORT, JUST SAY SO TO THE OPERATOR. THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO INSIST ON THIS INFORMATION.

If a decision is made to send an officer to the scene of the crime to obtain a report, during this encounter, it is not necessary for that officer to ask you your race or sex. It is obvious and this information is recorded.

Another reason this information is requested is to help the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI make crime analyses which help local police to better allocate their resources. It is obviously helpful to us, particularly in developing crime prevention programs, if we have statistical information that tells which age, sex, or racial groups are most likely to be victimized for certain crimes.

Letters to the Editor

Hispanics support Board, join boycott

To the Editor:

The Hispanic Political Action Committee wants to use this forum to express its position over the present controversy surrounding the Portland Public School Board.

The Hispanic Political Action Committee strongly supports School Board Members Steve Buel, Sarah Newhall, Herb Cawthorne and Wally Priestley. Those four members acted with courage.

The School Board has acted. Now it is our duty to support the Board and to give it a chance to resume its very important agenda during the coming months. If we as citizens agree with the job the present board has done, then we can return those members whose term expires in 1981. On the other hand, if Portlanders believe that they failed to perform as expected, then we can vote them out of office in March.

that is less than nine months from now.

If, however, some irresponsible segments of the population attempt to cripple the School Board by their ill advised recall movement, then the Hispanic Political Action Committee will actively join the fight to protect the best interests of our children.

We have joined the Black United Front in its boycott of Benj. Franklin Savings and Loan Association. We are prepared to take further steps if necessary.

We also want the public to know that the paid political Hispanic consultant that has been hired to destroy the School Board does not speak for nor does he represent the Hispanic community. He and his company are being paid to do a job. We hope that he and his company are not being used to give the impression that the Hispanic com-

munity supports the recall movement.

Instead of wasting our energies and monies in recall movements, boycotts and other actions we should get together and work for our children with the present School Board. Let us not waste long hours fighting each other. Let us not spend the expected \$300,000 to \$400,000 of taxpayer's money and individual political contributions to have a divisive election at this time. Instead, let us spend that time and money to find solutions to the academic problems that are damaging our children's education. These are times to heal not divide. In support of our children,

Gale Castillo
President
HPAC

AG candidate outlines duties

To the Editor:

I want to thank the many readers of the Portland Observer for their help in my campaign for Attorney General.

The attorney general campaign will be a hard fought race this year with many issues and opinions presented to Oregon citizens. Let me re-emphasize a few of the ideas that I plan to bring to the attorney general's office.

1. The attorney general should vigorously support local law enforcement efforts. I have supported tougher penalties for violent crime, and helped pass legislation on behalf of crime victims. I am the only attorney general candidate endorsed by the Oregon Council of

Police Associations - a group representing over 2,000 law enforcement officers throughout Oregon.

2. Existing attorney general functions which assist local prosecutors must be strengthened. The attorney general has a special role to coordinate efforts against the infiltration of organized crime and to guard against official corruption. The integrity of our government depends upon this watchdog role.

3. The attorney general advises state agencies and must insist that they observe principles of openness and fairness to fellow citizens. I have pioneered legislation to curb bureaucratic abuses. This legislation deserves vigorous enforcement by the attorney general. In this way Oregon citizens will be assured every

protection in dealing with state agencies.

The Oregon attorney general has an immense responsibility to maintain our justice system. In seeking that office, I pledge integrity, a record of effective problem solving in our State Legislature, and a dedicated approach to maintaining the individual rights of Oregon citizens.

Thank you again for your support.

Dave Frohnmayer
State Representative and
Republican Nominee
Oregon Attorney General
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LUTHER



By Brumsic Brandon, Jr.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher

PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Observer (USPS 958-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

Subscriptions: \$7.50 per year in Tri-County area; \$8.00 per year, outside Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

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