

EDITORIAL/OPINION

INKULULEKO

N. Fungai Kumbula



Human services and the Black community

With proposed cuts coming to Oregon's Department of Human Resources, possible discontinuance of funds for the Albina Action Center, and a surprising .8 percent Black confidence in the Urban League nationally as demonstrated by a poll published recently in "Black Enterprise", questions must be raised: Who will serve the Black poor?

The needs of the community are greater now than ever before, and as it has been stated over and over: the country is in a recession and the Black community is in a depression.

It is a fact that public and private monies to finance human service programs are growing scarce. It is also known that United Way has an annual campaign to obtain funds to help sustain human services programs. Another question comes to mind. Is the local United Way channeling a fair share of its funds, contributed by the public, into the Black community?

There are a few agencies located in our community receiving United Way funds, but more programs should apply for the United Way funding that is desperately needed to serve a seriously depressed Black community. Of even greater importance, United Way should encourage, accept, and approve the application for funding.

Why? Locally the Urban League, the Center for Community Mental Health, Highland Community Center, and a few other programs received United Way funds to serve Black people. But it is questionable whether the Black poor benefit from the programs and

agencies that are large recipients of United Way monies.

Do the Black poor benefit from the top local recipients of United Way funds? They are: American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Metropolitan Family Service, Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, YMCA and YWCA.

Can the Black poor seek employment, housing, educational assistance, medical/dental care, emergency financial assistance, legal assistance, food or child care from any of those agencies to any large extent? For the Black community more of these agencies are well known names -- nothing more, nothing less.

The United Way should pose hard questions to its largest recipients before automatically funding them the next time around. For example, what is the agency's commitment to serving the Black poor and is the commitment supported by time, money, staff and location of services offered?

A powerful board of directors and special interest groups no longer mean a hill of beans to Portland's Black community. A good name and history mean nothing if today's service is deficient. We suggest that United Way begin to shift its funds away from the established agencies that provide recreation to the middle classes, to fund those that directly serve the needs of the poor.

It is believed that if the Black poor continue to be denied needed services, the resultant cost to the community will be much greater than now contemplated.

In the Olduvai Gorge in southern Tanzania, a white man by the name of Leakey "discovered" some human bone that proved, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Africa is the birthplace of the human race. What the Leakeys did was dig in this gorge which was known to have been an African settlement almost from time immemorial. What they discovered, therefore, is something that had gotten buried in the African backyard.

The significance of this "discovery" is that it answered the question that had plagued the Western world for thousands of years: Where did the human race originate? The solving of this riddle brought out another very interesting but little discussed fact: everybody in this whole wide world can trace their origins to Africa! Just look at the people around you: they are African descendants! A little note in passing: just about everybody knows of the Leakeys and their "discovery" but how many people know the number, better yet, the names of the African assistants who did the actual digging?

The Africans had a fierce love of and a great respect for freedom, hence the title of this piece: "Inkululeko," freedom in Ndebele, one of the two main languages of Zimbabwe. They traveled all over the continent setting up settlements. They knew no restraints, they knew no boundaries. Africa was just one huge country. It was and still is a

vast continent: 11 1/2 million square miles, second in size only to Asia. It is more than three times the size of the entire United States of America.

It would be incorrect to talk of Africa as one country though, because of European interference in African affairs. From the beginning, Africans have, unfortunately, been a peace-loving and hospitable people. Throughout the time they were building the great empires of Mali, Ghana, Songhay, Egypt, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Timbuctoo and others, their primary aim was to consolidate all the little settlements that sprung up all over the continent over the years.

The Europeans, coveting the continent's riches, took advantage of African hospitality and stole the whole continent. More than 200 million of her people perished during the slave trade. The continent's riches, stolen over the years, extracted with forced African labor, made most European countries the economic giants they are today. On the contrary, much of Africa remains very much underdeveloped because of colonial maladministration and all its wealth being used to line the treasuries of Europe.

Today, a political map of Africa looks like a jigsaw puzzle. The people speak more than five hundred different languages; a result of forced isolation from one another. In addition, since each colonial "power" mandated the

teaching of and the promotion of its own culture and language, it is impossible for a Ghanaian student to speak to a Zimbabwean except in a language foreign to both of them: English. An Ivorian student cannot even converse with his counterpart from Zambia because while the former speaks French (in addition to his own native tongue), the latter speaks English.

The colonialists split up Africa into fifty, separate countries. It is pure coincidence that Africa was split into fifty countries, the exact number of states in the United States of America. Consequently, a lot of non-Africans, particularly Americans, tend to think of such countries as Zambia, Zaire, Zanzibar, and Zimbabwe as mere states like Ohio, Oregon or Oklahoma. In some cases, because of the aforementioned forced isolation of their peoples, Mali could be more different from Malawi than, say, Majorca, an island administered by Spain.

All the efforts at reunification of the continent that have appeared in this column over the years such as the OAU, ECOWAS, African Cup, African Games, Trans-Africa Highway, communications networks, easing of travel restrictions and others along the same vein are all designed to undo the harm that colonialism has done and to make of Africa the paradise that it used to be.

Letters to the Editor

Don't register for the draft

Dear Editor:

I have been actively opposing the registration of young men for the draft (which is really for war) for many months. I have carried a large sign 22" X 28" on a long standard. One side reads: "Don't Register for the Draft, Don't Kill for Oil"; and the other side: "To Kill is wrong, unpatriotic, wasteful, inflationary, Don't register." This was during the school year, for about two hours on each of five college campuses and at Benson High School.

The response was most enlightening to me. Almost all students said "Right On," "We're With You," "I Won't Register," etc. A few said "I intend to register," but not many. Most faculty members were quiet.

I have held my pacifist beliefs for many years. Though a champion wrestler for four years at Ohio State in my weight class, I never wanted to kill anyone. I was a conscientious objector in World War II, but had no difficulty with selective service.

I have long been a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the War Resisters League, and am now an active member of Portland Parents Against the Draft. I have made many speeches against war over the years. I was born Septem-

ber 29, 1902. I worked and spoke against the Vietnam War even when I was a member of the Oregon State Legislature, in which I served twelve years in the House, 1963-1975.

My convictions have come mostly from the Christian religion. I have been a Methodist all of my life. I could be called a modern Methodist, not "fundamentalist," "pentecostal," "born again." I don't believe that every word of the Bible is meant to be taken literally. I believe very much in Jesus, looking through what the various writers over the centuries have said about him. I believe he said, "Thou shalt not kill, love thy neighbor as thyself, bless them that persecute you, help the poor, etc." I read Thomas Jefferson's New Testament.

I attend the Lincoln St. United Methodist Church, 5145 S.E. Lincoln Street very regularly, even sing in the choir and participate in most church functions. I go to Lincoln Street because of the radical pastor, Rev. John Schiebert and his wife, Patricia. If they ever leave Lincoln Street, I will follow them, within geographical limits. They are very inspirational to me.

War is un-Christian, primarily for the financial benefit of munitions makers and the chief cause of in-

flation. War doesn't produce anything but fear, destruction and death. The military is fascist, undemocratic, un-American, unpatriotic, and heading us all into bankruptcy.

If we threw out all of the military there could be many more jobs of value to people, such as houses, roads, better medical treatment, schools, etc. We could have general prosperity.

The next war could easily be the very last war because it would soon become nuclear. Almost everyone would die. The U.S.A. has put the Soviet Union at the top of our present "enemy" list, along with the Indians, British, Mexicans, Southerners, Germans, Japanese, Vietnamese, etc. We must have "enemies" to keep our munitions plants and war makers busy.

We must disarm or die. We should be an example to other nations; step out ahead. I believe other nations will follow our leadership.

I urge all of draft age to refuse to register.

I firmly believe I am very loyal to this, my native country, very patriotic, truly American, Christian and working in the best interest of the U.S.A.

Howard D. Willis

Thanks from Salvation Army

Dear Publisher Alfred Henderson:

The Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center Advisory Council members wish to express their appreciation to the Portland Observer for its excellence and efficient coverage you have given us here in the community.

Your expert service and genuine willingness to help us in the way of publication regarding donated space. Your paper has truly enhanced the promotion of our programs here at the Moore Street Center.

We can witness truly the increase of community-support and patron participation. We thank you for the service you have rendered here at Moore Street Center.

We extend a special thanks to your outstanding advertising

manager, Mr. Al Williams, whose work, time, and efforts has been quite remarkable and rewarding. Regarding our publications, we hope that this spirit and cooperation plus efforts will continue upward to greater possibilities as we work together in a cooperative manner to serve the Albina Community by giving it our very best service

Likes Career issue

To the Editor:

Just a few lines to commend the staff of the Portland Observer on the supplement to the June 28, 1980 issue entitled "Careers for the 1980's."

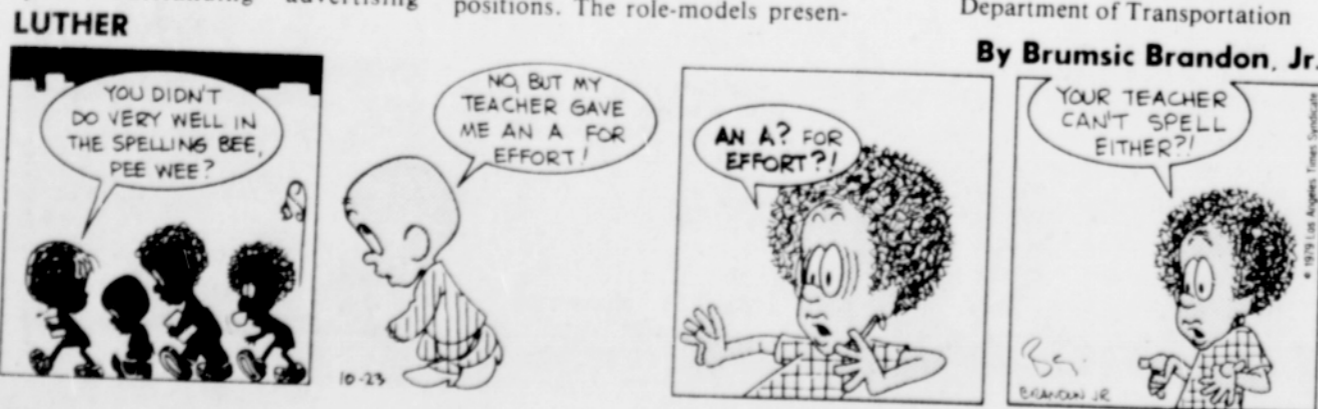
This was extremely well written and I especially enjoyed the approach taken with interviews of minorities in non-traditional positions. The role-models presen-

ted were ones minority children (yet to establish a career goal) could relate to and this I like. Again, may I say thanks for a piece of work well written and wish all of you continued success.

I remain,

Zoe A. Wilson
Personnel Technician
Department of Transportation

By Brumsic Brandon, Jr.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR GET INVOLVED

Neighborhood Watch is designed to get citizens involved in crime prevention and to make a commitment to another. Crime prevention information that you need to know about your neighborhood is organized and presented in a practical way to enable YOU to have an active block watch program.

WHY SHOULD I BE INTERESTED?

You would probably be interested because you are a concerned citizen. You would probably be interested because you care about your loved ones and you also have personal investments to protect such as your home, your car and other personal property. With Neighborhood Watch, you learn practical steps that can be taken to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim. You have the advantage. You live there. You have the conscious, intuitive knowledge of what is, and what isn't "NORMAL" on your block that police personnel need to know to effectively fight crime.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH is an investment in your home and personal security when you KNOW your neighbors and help make your neighborhood a safer place in which to live by looking out for one another, altering one another of suspicious activity, discussing neighborhood needs or concerns, making it known that your neighborhood is watching for, and reporting crime, and, that you will call the police when necessary.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH will have a crime prevention specialist determine your home's security needs at no cost. Included will be an inspection of locks, windows, doors, lights and landscaping.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH will engrave your valuable property in a manner that discourages theft. Engravers can be provided free of charge on loan to engrave your TV, stereo, tools, appliances, as well as photographs those items that you do not want engraved, such as antiques, jewelry, rare coins and paintings.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED? ISN'T THAT THE JOB OF THE POLICE?

YOU are the key. The police can't do the job alone, they need your help. It is impossible for police personnel to be everywhere at the same time; thereby, making citizen crime reporting an absolute necessity to effective crime control. Neighborhood Watch is primarily a community surveillance and crime reporting program. Your business or your neighborhood could help the police prevent and control crime by becoming involved in this activity.

IS IT COST EFFECTIVE?

Yes! It only requires your commitment. Trained staff are provided for you and as volunteers, such as yourself, are trained, your community becomes self-reliable and self-sufficient in building safe, crime-free, neighborhoods. Working together is the key.

If you are interested, call the Crime Prevention Office at 248-4126 to learn more about this program. They will provide you with the telephone number, address and name of the crime prevention specialist nearest you.

Minorities left out of loan fund

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6)

mends allowing its use for working capital - which is the greatest need for most minority businesses.

Since the original \$12 million grant was to address jobs, Broussard recommends that non-minority businesses accepting loans be required to hire a specified number of persons off of the City's CETA list for a period of two years.

Although there is suppose to be a requirement of one job for every \$10,000 of the loan there is currently no mandate on the recipient to comply. There is also some confusion over the type of jobs to be created and the populations these jobs should address.

John White of the Bureau of Economic Development presented two options for reorganization - one

which would simplify the present plan with PDC still authorizing the loans, and the other which would establish a non profit corporation which would act as the loan committee.

Gregg Batista suggests a fourth option; asking whether the loan fund should be considered as not worth the effort and the money diverted to other CEDS projects.

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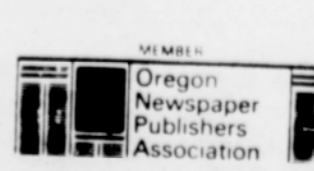
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