

Black middle class sees little progress in 1970s

Black Enterprise recently polled its readers, mostly middle-class, college educated Blacks, on a wide range of social, economic and political subjects. In spite of the fact that the poll was answered by the element of Black people who have most nearly reached the "American dream" -- the business and professional class -- the poll shows great dissatisfaction with the plight of the Black citizens of this country.

Seventy-two per cent of the respondents say racism is no less prevalent today than ten years ago and 95.6 per cent feel that whites harbor some form of racism toward Blacks.

Nearly half believe employment opportunities for Blacks have decreased or remained the same over the past decade. Seventy eight per cent think affirmative action programs are somewhat effective,

but only 7.3 per cent consider them to be very effective. Nearly all (93 per cent) believe affirmative action will still be necessary in 1990.

The poll revealed frustration with public education, with 85.5 per cent believing teachers have neglected their responsibility to provide quality education and learning skills to Black children. Thirty per cent believe teachers have also neglected white children. Nearly 60 per cent believe Black children receive a bet-

ter education when attending white schools. Nearly 60 per cent also believe that the quality of public education for Black children has declined in the past decade.

Seventy-three per cent support bussing to achieve quality education but only 41 per cent support bussing for desegregation. Although most respondents did not attend Black colleges, 55 per cent preferred that their children attend those schools. Black colleges received an 82 per

cent vote of confidence.

Those responding to the poll also were discouraged about the political process. Ninety-six per cent feel voting to be important for Blacks, but only 23 per cent feel they are adequately represented in local government. Ten per cent feel adequately represented nationally.

Thirty per cent feel that, once elected, Black officials turn a deaf ear on their Black constituents, but two-thirds believe the election of

Black mayors to major cities has resulted in better government. Sixty percent see a difference between the Democratic and Republican parties, but 30 per cent believe Blacks should form a separate political party.

Ninety per cent believe the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s led to an improvement in the quality of life for Black Americans, but 74 per cent believe it is impossible for them to protect themselves from racism.

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Cortlandt Cuffee views plume of ash and smoke from Mount St. Helens' eruption Tuesday evening.

(Photo by: Richard J. Brown)

Minorities left out of loan fund

During a 1978 visit to Portland, President Jimmy Carter announced an award to the City of a \$12 million Comprehensive Economic Development Grant, the goal of the grant being the creation of jobs.

When the projects to be financed by the grant were announced, it was apparent that the Black community had not been included. Immediately a suit was filed charging that the City had not adhered to federal guidelines requiring community participation in planning.

In response to a suit filed by the Northwest Minority Contractors, the Black United Front, the NAACP, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Albina Women's League and the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, a CEDS minority task force was appointed by mayor Neil Goldschmidt. The task force was charged with developing specific measures to address minority concerns with respect to participation in the Comprehensive Economic Development Program.

One of the main concerns of the Task Force was that minority-owned businesses might not get an equal share of contracts from the

City for CEDS projects and that the process for selection of industrial sites in Northeast Portland might not consider the interests of the minority-owned businesses in the area.

As a result of the Task Force's recommendation that a mechanism be developed within CEDS to evaluate the extent to which policies designed to assist minorities are actually implemented, an "oversight committee" was organized as a subcommittee to EDAC.

The Oversight Committee, consisting of Matthew Akom, Gregg Batiste, Louis Alvarez, Carl Talton & now resigned), all members of EDAC, was charged with monitoring.

Among the Oversight Committee's activities were: selecting a minority member for the Loan Review Committee (Bruce Broussard); setting up criteria for a \$30,000 minority business development program package; monitoring the revolving loan process; questioning City purchasing practices; and encouraging joint ventures.

Matthew Akom, who serves as chairman of the Oversight committee, is concerned about the inability

of the committee to affect the process. "One of the main reasons for the revolving loan fund is to assist minority business, but that seems to have been by passed. Most of the original \$12 million has been spent, and all that's left for minorities is also being spent with no benefit to the minority communities."

"The Oversight Committee is supposed to be the watchdog - yet we never see the paper work on the loans. The Oversight Committee does not know who is inquiring about loans, who applies, who drops out of the process and why. All we know is that five companies - none of them minority - have received loans."

Akom explained that only through his close contact with Broussard, who represents the minority communities on the loan fund, has he been informed of the activities of the loan committee. "Of course the loan committee members also do not know who is applying, who drops out during the process and why. They only know a about the businesses that successfully get through the maze and find (Please turn to Page 10 Col 1)

Broussard buys Observer

A. L. Henderson, owner and publisher of the *Portland Observer*, announces the sale of controlling interest in Exie Publishing Company Inc. to Bruce Broussard.

Broussard, who will assume the position of editor/publisher and president of the corporation, is a Portland businessman. Broussard, through his development company, Broussard Enterprises, is currently building the Walnut Park senior citizen housing project.

Broussard, who came to Portland

with the Marine Corps, has held positions with U.S. National Bank, the National Alliance of Businessmen, and IBM. He is a member of the City Club, the Executive Board of the Tri-County Community Council, the White House Conference on Small Business, the Union Avenue Boosters.

Henderson, who pastors Second African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, will retain an interest in the company.



BRUCE BROUSSARD

Corporate follies

By Ronnie Herndon, Co-Chairman Black United Front

The Black community has watched with great interest Benjamin Franklin and the Lloyd Corporation denying their institutions have supported the recall of the four board members that fired Mr. Blanchard. When Bob Hazen of Benjamin Franklin and Robert Cameron of the Lloyd Corporation were announced as leaders in this racist recall, neither of their corporations rushed forth to tell the public that as corporations, they were not involved in the recall. For several days they allowed their corporate names to be used to legitimize the racist recall; their names were used as sources of encouragement in gaining citizen support for this campaign. Their corporate silence is viewed as approval of the actions of their employees and board members.

Neither "ole Ben" or "Super cool Lloyd" disassociated themselves from the recall until the Black United Front announced it was calling for a boycott of their businesses. At this point, both corporations quickly began saying they weren't supporting the recall. All of

us have enough "mother wit" to realize that by this time the damage had been done; many white people had been convinced to support the recall because prominent corporate names were associated with this racist manure.

In spite of this corporate lamenting, certain events are clear: the first meeting of the recall committee was held at Benjamin Franklin; we understand that the first number given to the press and others who wanted information about the recall was Benjamin Franklin; we also understand that the recall committee's paid consultant worked out of Benjamin Franklin for the first few days after the recall was announced. All of these actions are contrary to "ol Ben's" own corporate policies.

This corporate involvement and the involvement of other Portland political and social figures sends a clear signal to the Black community that Oregon's rich history of racism is in the hands of most standard bearers. Blanchard's one way bussing and scattering of Black children, refusal to hire large numbers of Black teachers and Administrators, and the well documented inequitable education

of black children were practices so vividly racist that singer Ray Charles could see them. When Blanchard was given his hat at long last, these so-called fined citizens rushed to his defense with Olympic calibre speed; a speed that would bring delight to the heart of any self-respecting Klansman or Klanswoman.

The Black community cannot prevent corporate racism, but we will expose it, combat its' cancerous spread, and certainly refrain from rewarding it. We will not spend our hard earned money with corporations that campaign against our children and our community.

Benj. Franklin disowns recall

Benj. Franklin Savings and Loan Association has disassociated itself from the efforts of Bob Hazen to recall four members of the Portland School Board.

Mich Scott, Vice President, informed the *Observer* that "Bob Hazen, acting as a private citizen, was initially involved in the (Please turn to Page 5 Col 1)



MARCHING TOGETHER! Striking County employees Dolores Adviento, Carol Myers, Princess Reynolds, Terry London, Janine Tebean and Emily

Harris picket in front of mural depicting the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Albina Human Resource Center on Vancouver Avenue.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)