

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Olympic sportsmanship?

The United States decided to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow this year, so US athletes are unable to compete against the world's finest. The temptation is there - as can be seen in the media - to guess about who would have won had they been present.

Of course it will always be impossible to know who might have won; the only thing that is certain is who did win. Like everyone else, athletes have their good days and their bad days.

Because the Americans are not competing there is an impulse to make light of the games. The main story on the front page of the *Oregonian's* Tuesday Sport's section was an Associated Press piece ridiculing the athletes who are competing.

Every nation can enter three athletes in each event if they meet qualifying criteria. Each nation can enter at least one athlete, even if he doesn't qualify. Many of the small, underdeveloped nations whose interest in athletics has to be subordinated to the effort to just get enough to eat have not previously been able to send athletes to the Olympics. This year, the Soviet Union provided transportation, so that many of these poor nations could be represented.

The AP article ridicules athletes from Nepal, Sierra Leone, Laos, Mozambique, Libya, India and Tanzania. "The referee stopped the bout at the two-minute mark, permitting the Nepalese to escape the ring with nothing damaged but his pride;" probably couldn't beat a pick-up team at the neighborhood YMCA;" "playing with no discernable tactics;" "Olympic low-lights," etc.

No one should expect the amateur athletes of the poorest nations to compete with the government sponsored competitors from East Germany or the "under-the-table" promotions of U.S. "Amateurs," but we do appreciate the fact that the Soviet Union made participation in the Olympics possible for more young men and women from Third World countries than ever before. We hope the courtesy will be extended by the U.S. for the 1984 games to be held in Los Angeles.

Although red-blooded Americans would like to think otherwise, the quality of the 1980 games is demonstrated by the records being broken. Since we have opted out, why do we have to ridicule those who chose to participate? Is this sportsmanship?



## Coalition showing signs of strain

by N. Fungai Kumbula

"How can we contest the next elections if we are part of the government?" Is the question ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union) partisans have been asking of their leadership in recent weeks. In the April elections that brought Robert Mugabe's ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) to power, the two parties ZANU and ZAPU had campaigned separately. ZANU won a clear majority and could have formed a government on its own. However, in the interests of national unity, ZANU had instead opted for a coalition with ZANU. ZANU had 57 of the 100 seats; ZAPU had 20 and the other 3 went to puppet former "prime minister" Muzorewa's UNAC.

Formation of the coalition surprised a lot of people who often cited the "differences" between the ZANU and ZAPU leadership. These differences were such that even during the war of liberation, ZANU had its own army, ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) and ZAPU had ZIPRA (Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army). They fought in separate parts of the country: ZANLA in the east and ZIPRA in the west. ZANLA did the bulk of the fighting because the ZIPRA leadership was holding most of its forces back, supposedly for the projected civil war that was to take place after the fall of Ian Smith and company.

A number of people in ZANU were unhappy that ZAPU was invited into the government when they had done so little fighting. They also do not trust ZAPU leader Joshua M. Nkomo. He is a known wheeler dealer who will strike a deal with anybody who will pay his price. ZAPU supporters, on the other hand, disappointed at their poor showing at the polls, were only too glad to be included in the government. Some, however, talked of winning by the bullet what they had lost by the ballot: in other words, continue the war but this time

against the legally elected government of Robert Mugabe.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Mugabe indicated that he had finally lost patience with the group of renegade guerrillas that has continued to harass and intimidate people particularly in the western part of Zimbabwe. This was a ZAPU stronghold during the war and the renegades have been identified as ZIPRA guerrillas. Their leader, Nkomo, who is Zimbabwe's Minister of Home Affairs, has publicly denounced them and ordered them to lay down their arms. Privately, however, he is said to support them in their efforts to unseat the Mugabe government. Should they unseat Mugabe, he (Nkomo) would be the one to take over.

There are still a few thousand ZIPRA guerrillas in neighboring Zambia. With the war over, they have no business staying on in Zambia if their intentions are "strictly honorable." They are demanding to be allowed to return to Zimbabwe as an army and with their arms. Mugabe has said "NO!" When they come back to Zimbabwe they will come as civilians and they will leave all their weapons in Zimbabwe. For now it's a standoff but it may not last too much longer because they are no longer welcome in Zambia. Besides Zambia is most anxious to improve relations with her wealthier southern neighbor (Zimbabwe) from where most of her food comes and through which most of her trade passes.

There are tentative moves within the ZAPU hierarchy to oust Nkomo as leader to pave the way for ZAPU's becoming the opposition party. Nkomo either has to resign his post as Home Affairs Minister and so leave the government or his post as leader of ZAPU. The logic behind this argument is that as long as ZANU and ZAPU are allied in this coalition government, there is no way that ZAPU can oppose the government in any elections. By

divorcing itself from this marriage, ZAPU can contest future elections and, maybe, just maybe wrest control of the government from ZANU.

Within the government itself, there are moves to expel Nkomo because of his lack of cooperation. Apparently, since he took up his post he has concentrated more on his business ventures than on running his Ministry. At last count he had bought property in excess of \$3 million and the source of his funds is a cause for concern in government circles. His ties to the Russians have a lot of people worried too. It is the Russians that are advising his forces in Zambia to insist on returning to Zimbabwe with their arms.

The Russians would like nothing better than to see Nkomo take over from Mugabe. In the war just concluded, the Russians gambled big and lost bigger: they backed Nkomo because he would have made a more reliable puppet. They also expected him to win the war outright. The elections and the emergence of Mugabe sent their carefully laid plans to completely awry. Now they are feeding Nkomo the poison that he is the "rightful" leader of Zimbabwe.

A number of arms caches belonging to ZAPU supporters have been discovered in Harare and Highfield townships. Fears of a ZAPU coup attempt are, therefore, not without foundation. The recent resignation of Peter Walls as overall commander of Zimbabwe's forces have raised fears and speculation that a clash could occur between ZAPU and ZANU when Walls' successor is announced. To prevent such an occurrence, some ZANU supporters urge the government to round up all prospective coup-makers and put them in "preventive custody" at least until the tension eases.

The euphoria of independence is just about over. Now comes the rough task of building out of the shattered ruins the nations of Zimbabwe.

## Ebony explores effect of economy on Blacks

The August EBONY Special Issue reports on "Blacks and the Money Crunch." It is a nationwide look at how Black Americans are holding up under the current recession, an attempt to enlighten those who can help to ease the situation, and to show the most serious victims of the recession how they can make their lot better, even in hard times.

When the editors began working on this issue several months ago, they kept hoping that they might not have to do it. They were hoping for an upturn in the downward economic spiral, but they were not expecting one. The editors concluded that unless the nation does something specifically aimed at helping poor Blacks, the Black population will soon be in a worse economic position than they have experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The August Special Issue of EBONY is a new issue about an old villain with a new name -- "The Money Crunch," and how it has knocked on almost every door in Black America. August EBONY explores the new disguises of this old villain, in depth and underscores the disproportionate impact it has had upon Black America. The money crunch in Black America is the white money crunch compounded by problems of racism and oppression, reports EBONY.

The term, "Money Crunch" is a

shorthand term for a host of economic ills that have affected all Americans but for reasons as old as racism, Blacks have borne more than their fair share of the national burden.

The material in the August Special Issue of EBONY is divided into six sections. Topics include: Down But Not Out, Hard Times In The South, Young Married Budget For The Future, Unemployed But Not Making It, Middle Class Money Blues, 101 Tips On How To Save Money, Controlling The Urge To Splurge, Eating Well While Spending Less, Collecting From Uncle Sam and Moonlighting For Fun and Profit.

The material speaks to the central paradox of the political economy of Blackness: the paradox of a poor but potentially powerful minority group that would rank in the upper percentile of the world's industrial nations. This the editors believe is the wild card of the current crises. For although Blacks are poor, relatively speaking, they are also rich in resources, numbers, spending power and ingenuity. For this reason, much of the material in the 17th consecutive August Special Issue of EBONY, is directed at the more positive side of the Black response to the crisis.

Some interesting facts from the August Ebony "Black Balance Sheet."

1. Blacks have an estimated aggregate income of \$125 billion annually.

2. The aggregate wealth of the Black community is estimated as \$23 billion (2 percent of the nation's total).

3) Blacks, in general, allocate their income to areas that marginally affect their economic circumstances.

4) Blacks, who constitute more than 12 percent of the U.S. population, control less than 3 percent of all businesses and account for less than 1 percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Accumulated wealth of whites is influenced to a greater degree by intergenerational transfers in the form of inheritance than is true for Blacks.

6. In 1910 Blacks owned 15 million acres of land in the U.S. Today they own less than 4 million acres.

7. Black families have between one-half and one-third of a chance of remaining in the top 10 percent of the income profile than do white families.

8. With the Black population there are wider disparities in income and wealth between the low and high ends of the respective distribution than in the white population.

9. Black families hold, on the average, only \$39 in stock.

## Priestley proposes tax reform

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come workers and homeowners bear a disproportionate share.

### The Governor's Plan

Governor Atiyeh proposed that the predicted deficit be adjusted for by cutting \$130 million out of the State budget; collecting \$18 million from funds not spent by the State agencies; obtain \$91 million by collecting insurance and certain tax payments quarterly instead of annually; and collecting \$10 million in past due taxes.

He proposed that the \$130 million be saved by cutting 15 percent from higher education (\$29.5 million), 8 percent from community colleges and other education (\$8.3 million); cutting the Human Resource budget by 13 percent (\$50.7 million) and cutting other state activities by 14 percent (\$20.4 million); \$21.5 million worth of capital construction would be deferred.

Priestley disagrees with cutting human services and education. "The people who already have nothing are always the first ones hurt. Budget cuts shouldn't come from human services. If people can't eat they will have to steal and, aside from the personal tragedy, it will cost the State more in the long run.

"If people can't become educated and prepare for the future, that will increase the long term problems and costs."

### EDUCATION

A loss of \$12.4 million in federal

revenue sharing will cause a fund loss to school districts. An error made by the Blanchard administration last December or January not only creates a burden for other districts but places the Portland district in a poor bargaining position.

Basic school support is used to provide financial assistance to school districts who do not have adequate tax bases to provide educational programs comparable to richer districts. In effect it equalizes districts. Portland's share makes up about 23 percent of its budget; the State average is 40 percent; and some districts receive up to 60 percent funding.

In order to project the funds for the next school year, each district provides an estimate of students to be enrolled. These are not completely accurate but usually even out. This year, Portland, which has 25 percent of the State's students, underestimated by 2300 students (5 percent). All districts were advised what they would receive, but now Portland must receive \$1.5 million more (for its missing 5 percent) and the other districts will receive less.

"Ordinarily a small mistake wouldn't cause much problem," Priestley explained, "But a large mistake by the largest district in the state created serious problems for smaller districts. Since this happened, we are not in a position to complain much and have agreed to go along with the Governor's plan

even though we will get less money. I don't understand how Superintendent Blanchard -- with his reputation of business management -- could have made this mistake."

The two proposals for removing the \$12.4 million shortage were: 1) to reduce the basic school support by 2.9 percent, a \$940,000 loss for Portland; or, 2) a 1.3 reduction based on the entire school district budget, a \$1,335,000 loss for Portland. (The Governor's Plan)

### Solutions

Priestley's solutions are simple: reverse the changes that have been made over the past twenty years and tax businesses and those citizen who are most able to pay. All of these changes could be made by the Special Session next week:

1) Lower the maximum payment made by the State for individual home owner's tax payments therefore providing tax relief for lower cost homes but collecting taxes on those homes valued at approximately \$70,000 and above.

2) Reinstate the corporate inventory tax.

3) Restore inheritance taxes on substantial inheritances.

4) Lower the amount of federal taxes deducted on the State income tax form, and thereby increase taxes paid by persons with higher incomes.

5) Refer a constitutional change to the voters to return police and park costs to the highway fund to free the general fund money for other uses.



## Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan  
Commissioner of Public Safety

### Neighborhood disputes can be resolved.

The Neighborhood Mediation Center is a place where two parties come together on neutral territory, with an impartial mediation panel, and discuss ways to resolve their disputes.

### What is in this for me?

If you've ever had a conflict with your neighbor, wondered what to do about it besides worry and fret, the Neighborhood Mediation Center is for you. This project helps citizens assume power over their own lives by tackling problems on a person-to-person neighborhood level. Neighborhood Mediation is a process which brings the components of neighborhood disputes into the open, facilitating individuals to arrive at sensible solutions.

### What is a mediation session?

The mediation session is a voluntary meeting between disputing

neighbors, accompanied by a mediation panel. A mediator is a community volunteer, "the middle person," who tries to get both parties to discuss their conflicts.

Some common complaints are dogs that bark too much, cars that obstruct driveways, hedges that creep over property lines, and loud music played late into the night. It is these types of nuisances that can get under someone's collar and cause neighborhood friction.

A mediator hears both sides of the story, asks questions to get the facts straight, does not take sides or place blame. A mediation session is not to determine innocence or guilt, but a process to find solutions.

Neighborhood mediation is a simple, semi-formal and effective. It is a viable alternative to procedural red tape, enabling citizens to work out their own destiny. Neighborhood Mediation provides the means by which those involved in disruptive, frustrating neigh-

borhood disputes can come to a well-considered, mature agreement. Each party is encouraged to sign a written agreement stating what they have decided to do to solve the problem. Each person agrees to respect the provisions of this agreement.

### Is it cost effective?

Yes! The Neighborhood Mediation Center is available to call Portland residents for no charge. The only requirement is a sincere desire to initiate a positive change in your life. For more information, write the Neighborhood Mediation Center, King Neighborhood Facility, 4845 N. E. Seventh Avenue, Portland 97211; or phone 284-2829.

"It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech."  
Mark Twain



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