

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## The way it is

There are enormous quantities of newspapers and periodicals providing information of every imaginable context for public consumption. Among those are Black publications whose objectives are to cover the numerous activities that interest and involve the Black population. The *Portland Observer* and its new publisher, **Bruce Broussard**, share a commitment to their Black constituency and the general public that this paper will continue to demonstrate an unflinching allegiance to the Black position on all issues affecting the Black population and will render a positive service in its presentation of all matters and facts concerned with Black life and culture.

General news accounts and treatment of Blacks are notorious for their disproportionate distortions and conspicuously biased misinterpretations. The Black population is painfully well aware of these practices and the matter will not be labored further. But, assurance is pledged that this publication will maintain a consistent policy of presenting qualitative Black oriented news developed to reflect those Black perspectives that contradict the usual pandering and sensationalism characteristic of the racist accounts of the white media in America.

The *Portland Observer* seeks to increase the number of Black people and others who can

understand and appreciate the value of a strong, viable paper that is diligent in investigating and reporting the facts about the Black existence in this environment. There will never be avoidance or compromise in maintaining positive focus on Black news of political, economic and social significance.

The *Portland Observer* has no fear of being labeled "radical" because of operating in a milieu outside of the established areas of power. There will always be a challenge to institutionalized negative policies, fabrications and practices which are intended to energize and continue those kinds of circumstances in which Blacks are always vulnerable.

The *Portland Observer* welcomes the support and participation of those who wish to see its aims and objectives realized. This publication will strive without reservations to reflect the true aspirations of Black people and their traditions of struggle for liberation. The flood of variations and interchanges in the national and international arenas of science, technology and politics are of sufficient magnitude and hazard that Blacks now with unparalleled seriousness must reflect upon defining and choosing political directions that will assure the end of our subjugation and prevent our decimation. Check it out...

The *Portland Observer* will do its part...

## Freeze revolving loan fund

We concur with the recommendations of Commissioner Charles Jordan and Mayor-elect Frank Ivancie that no changes be made in the operation of the Revolving Loan Fund until Ivancie takes over as Mayor in January.

The problem with the operation of the Revolving Loan Fund is not merely one of red tape as has been alluded to by Bureau of Economic Development personnel and the *Oregonian*, but also one of attitude. It is true that the loan process is a mess as was identified by the loan committee's minority members, but is not merely a problem of personalities on the committee. Overall, they are sincere and concerned.

The overriding problem is the attitude within City government that limits minority par-

ticipation, sees minority entrepreneurs as incompetent and undeserving, and considers economic development - even in the Black community - as a white prerogative. This mentality allows the institutionalization of the excuse that "qualified" minorities cannot be found while failing to identify, inform and include the minority business community.

We recommend that no further action be taken in reorganization of the loan committee and the loan process, and that a freeze be placed on the fund, allowing no more money to be spent until after Ivancie becomes Mayor and announces his own reorganization plans.

Not to do so would insure that the money be used up by the current administration and Blacks be left holding the bag -- again.



## Only the erudite will survive

By N. Fungai Kumbula

Johnny can't read. Johnny can't write. Johnny can't add or subtract. Sad thing is Johnny is not an elementary school dropout; he is in fact a college graduate. The diploma on the wall proclaims: Graduate of JT (Jive Turkey) University. As the school year opens, this concerns weighs heavily on the minds of most parents: will their Johnny or Jennie leave the educational system more illiterate than when he/she went in?

A boycott of classes looms again as happened last year in another parental effort to force the school board to do its job: educate. In a society where one's survival in any job hinges on satisfactory performance, the educational institution stands out like a sore thumb. Year after year reading and math scores plummet and yet the perpetrators of this disservice retain their jobs. They even get raises and promotions!

It is any wonder that the parents are up in arms? True, politics should be kept out of education but unless the educational establishment is compelled to become accountable for its actions or lack of same, education can only continue to deteriorate. If teachers, principals and school administrators knew that their paychecks depended on delivering the goods that they promised when they took the jobs, they would be a lot more effective in educating our children. Nothing spurs one to greater achievements than the withholding of a check.

The entire educational system needs a complete overhaul. This idea of "pushing students" through has got to go too. Before anybody is awarded a high school diploma,

he/she has got to be able to read at the 12th grade level. The main purpose of an education should not simply be to get that diploma but to get an education; to learn something. Parental involvement in school administration affairs should go beyond just curriculum changes, personnel selection, staff accountability and quality education. Parents should also be prepared to keep their children in school until they learn something however long it might take.

Students need to take a more thorough, more complete and more acatalectic overview of what education is all about. Why do they go to school? What do they want out of it? An education is the key to one's career, to one's future. In this increasingly complex and technological society, unless you can read and write, you are about as useful and as viable as a dinosaur on the freeway. You just cannot make it. Racism is on the rise; the economy is in a tailspin and unemployment skyrocketing again.

In times like this Black folk always have it rougher than usual. So we've got to be prepared to fight back. You stand a much better chance if you have an education and an employable skill. Without this sort of ammunition, you can just about forget it. It's so much easier to turn you away if you lack this or that particular skill and also lack the means (the education) to learn. With the public school system doing less than an adequate job, it is up to the student to work that much harder to get ahead.

It is also up to the parent to give their children as much help and en-

couragement as they can. There is nothing worse than sending a child unschooled, unlettered and unprepared out into this cold, cold world.

Instead of crowding the already oversaturated fields like the social sciences and other liberal disciplines, one stands a much better chance by branching off into the sciences, math and economics. In most cases they are still wide open with minority students grossly underrepresented. Biology may not be somebody's cup of tea but if you want something worthwhile you have to be prepared to pay for it. PSU's Educational Opportunity Program, for example, provides tutors and counselors in all fields.

To best serve the needs of the students, the school board needs to listen more to input from community groups. This, of course, is a major departure from "normal" school board politics but then neither is this a normal problem. When we get to the point where the school system delivers the goods, not one voice will be heard telling the system how it should operate.

Next time Johnny/Jennie picks up his/her diploma, he/she should be least be able to read it, for, only the erudite will survive.

### REALLY?

Judge: What's your name?  
Defendant: So 'n So  
Judge: Where do you live?  
Defendant: Here and there  
Judge: What do you do?  
Defendant: This and that  
Judge: Lock him up  
Defendant: When will I get out?  
Judge: Sooner or later!



## Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan  
Commissioner of Public Safety

### IN FOCUS: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR

A rise in car prowls in East Precinct during the month of July, 1980 has prompted me to share with all of you some safety tips from the Portland Police Bureau Crime Prevention Division.

During July, 335 car prowls were reported in East Precinct by itself. This is a very large precinct extending south from Fremont to the City limits near the Clackamas County border and extending east, from the Willamette River beyond 82nd Avenue to 162nd Avenue in some areas. Among the very active districts are the areas from S.E. 39th to S.E. 72nd Streets; Glenwood Drive to Division Streets and the area near the Coliseum when entertainment is provided for the public. The types of articles taken from cars are primarily stereo and tape decks as well as clothes and briefcases. From trucks, they include tools and chainsaws -- anything visible! It is a growing concern and becoming more of a problem.

During the same month \$118,087 in money and property loss was reported from this precinct alone. The amount has almost doubled since May, 1980. Your cooperation

in safeguarding your valuables by removing anything of value from your car would certainly help. Items that cannot readily be carried with you should be placed in the trunk of your car. Most thefts occur when valuables are easily visible and the only real solution is to learn how to protect your car.

### COMMON SENSE PRACTICES

- Don't park on the street, if it's at all possible.
- If you have to park on the street, park in well lit areas. Neighbors should park their cars very close together. (This can apply to parking on the street or in an apartment parking lot.)
- Paint or engrave your drivers license number on the top of your battery. Also, place crime prevention "warning decals" on your batter. (You can pick up an engraver from your local police precinct or library.)
- Most items on your car, such as your hub caps or mags should be engraved with your drivers license number. This will help the police trace your property if it is stolen.

### HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAR FROM BEING STOLEN:

• If you have a garage, use it! Make sure you put a lock on the door.

• Here are a number of items you can buy to discourage thieves: Kill Switch - shuts off the ignition. (This prevents the car from being "hot wired.")

Cut-Off-Switch- Cuts off all fuel. Alarms - motion or interior alarms are sensitive to touch or movement. You can purchase these items at most automobile supply wholesale and manufacturing stores or department store automotive sections.

You can help us prevent this crime and safeguard your valuable. We have trained staff who will inform you about crime prevention activities and provide education relative to our preventing crime through citizen action. All neighborhoods are vulnerable and East Precinct does not stand alone with this problem. You can make the difference.

For more information on crime prevention techniques for your home, valuables or business contact Sharon McCormick at 287-3692, King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th, or Stephanie Michaels at 248-4126, Crime Prevention Division, 222 S.W. Pine.

## Letters to the Editor

### Frightened by police apathy

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the situation of the Richardson family in Milwaukee, who are being harassed by organized Klan terrorism, as reported in the Sunday August 17th *Oregonian*.

It is ominous that the police can find no "leads" and have shelved the case, in spite of open right-wing evidence like cars driving past the family's house blaring out racist messages, cross burning and cars being spray painted. The lack of active response by the official agencies is an indication of the real danger facing targets of Klan terrorism. If

you are Black, or any person of color, a Jew, an independent woman, or a unionist, you are a potential Klan target. As a member of more than one of the above groups, I am not only outraged, but feel personally threatened by the smug apathy of those who are "supposed" to provide "protection."

Community individuals and organizations must organize to protect themselves and each other. This is not an isolated incident. One of the largest Klan branches of the nation is in Oregon! If they can operate without hindrance they'll

get bolder. We must protect ourselves and each other, first, by recognizing that the danger is real, growing and fatal; second, by having our organizations take up this issue and seriously deciding on what our active response will be; and third, by connecting ourselves with other organizations and groups and presenting a unified approach against the Klan and other right-wing groups, no matter where they strike.

Sincerely,  
Adrienne Walls  
RADICAL WOMEN

## Agencies discuss cross burning

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6)

prospective defendant; b) no license number, just a vague description of a vehicle and c) that the Clackamas County Sheriff's office checked out one vehicle that matched the description but its owner had a clear alibi.

However, Art Richardson, brother of Ray Richardson, said he supplied the Clackamas County Sheriff's office with the license number of a car containing two men and a woman who were in the area. The sheriff called in the number and found that the car was from an outside area, but no other investigation was made. Art, who has had eight years of law enforcement himself, said he found other evidence in the area of his brother's home, which links the spray paint used to write racist threats on the Richardson's auto and home, to the paint used to vandalize the Realty office where the Richardson's bought their home. Still, the sheriff's office doesn't feel that these incidents and evidence are related.

Lezak's own attitude toward Blacks turned heads when he called three Black women "gals." He was explaining the plight of three Black women from the Beaverton area, who were forced to move because of racial harassment. And acting as if that wasn't insult enough, he went further by saying that one of the

reasons the Richardson family was receiving unexpected white support from the Milwaukee area, was because of their middle class status. It was at this point, that Mr. Monroe, along with other Blacks who were in attendance, voiced their objections to Lezak's remarks.

As the meeting progressed, it was expressed by members from the Black community that if the F.B.I. and the Clackamas Sheriff department were unable to do anything other than interviewing, then the Black community of Portland would seek to provide the Richardsons protection. The majority of those attending indicated a strong feeling that the Richardsons had endured enough harassment and immediate around-the-clock surveillance should be provided them.

On August 26, an Ombudsperson from Governor Vic Atiyeh's office called the Urban League and stated that the governor is concerned about the case, and has instructed the Oregon State police to coordinate their patrol activities with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department.

Since the August 22, meeting, the following has happened:

Omark Industries, where Ray Richardson is employed has assigned a security guard to provide surveillance to the Richardsons

from 8:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Clackamas County Sheriff's Department has provided coverage from 4:00 P.M. until midnight by using the Reserve Deputy Sheriff. State Police will provide surveillance from midnight until 8:00 A.M., through the use of normal patrol strategies.

Mr. Robert Lamb, Community Relations Division of the Department of Justice will coordinate his offices activities with Clackamas County officials, U. S. Attorneys Office and the Sheriff's Department in Clackamas County.

The Urban League, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, NAACP, National conference of Christians and Jews will continue to mobilize community support for the Richardsons through the use of various agency personnel.

Said Norm Monroe, "We will use our office to solicit support for the Richardson family until the racial incidents have been resolved."

Through the efforts of Mr. Monroe, the Urban League, NAACP, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, the National Conference of Christians and Jews and other concerned citizens both Black and white, once again we are seeing an organized effort to fight against racist moves to intimidate the Richardson's right to live where they choose.



Bruce Broussard  
Editor/Publisher

## PORTLAND OBSERVER

The *Portland Observer* is a defender against racist assaults, persecutions, insults, harassments, discriminations and related evils; a vigilant champion for justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social atrocities; a thorough analyst and severe critic of discriminatory practices; a sentinel to warn of all existing and impending detrimental racist trends and practices.

The real problems of the Black population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched white racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in relation to the continued abuse, exploitation, political manipulation and contrivances implicit in the relationships that have characterized America's historical treatment of its Black population.

The *Portland Observer* (USPS 959-680) 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.



283-2486

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York



MEMBER

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
Association - Founded 1886