

EDITORIAL/OPINION

It should be of no surprise

Disturbing reports about the new middle school are reaching the Black community. Some of the complaints coming from Black parents demand investigation and, if verified, immediate correction.

This school is alleged to lack an equitable discipline policy and there are no reliable guidance programs in place to assist Black students to make constructive use of the facilities and curriculums which have been so widely publicized.

In the area of communications there is much to be desired. Mildred Wait, principal, disregards questions or complaints coming from Black parents and refers them to her assistant.

The evasion and issue dodging continues then at a lower level.

There are serious concerns that Ms. Wait may be openly presiding over a school operation that is demeaning to Black children. Unsubstantiated charges are: white children are treated as natural achievers; Blacks are dealt with as trespassers and interlopers. The general feeling in the Black community is that this school is operated as a mechanism for intimidating Black children. There are many other charges of even higher sensitivity. It seems proper to suggest now that the school administration not permit this school to serve as an obstetrical ward for the rebirth of Blanchard-type policies and programs.

They do it everytime...

Present at the Northeast Police Precinct Council meeting September 30, 1980 were Commissioner Charles Jordan, Deputy Chief James Brouillette, several members of the juvenile corrections police team, Black business persons, organizational representatives, parents and students. This assembly's concerns centered upon the issue of police being in public schools as teachers of Black children. Blacks voiced unanimous objections to this.

After much vacillating and reassessment of an obviously erroneous prior decision, Jordan and Brouillette promised to reevaluate the program and to solicit Black community input. They promised to invite Blacks to visit training sessions for the officers who are to work in the

program. They offered to hold a mock training presentation in the Black community in order that interested parents could have a preview of the program in operation. They admitted that the failure to consult with Black professionals and laypersons before the program was initiated was an outright mistake, but insisted the program would include them now.

Not one of the officers present, involved in the program and assigned to schools in the Black community, have residence there.

None of the aforementioned promises were kept. Nevertheless, Jordan and Brouillette joined by school superintendent Fenwick launched the program anyway. Is there any difficulty in understanding the abundance of disgust and distrust at large in the Black community?

Letters to the Editor

Liberty Cable explains its attributes

To the Editor:

The selection of a cable company for a 15 year franchise with the City of Portland can have as you suggested a "most progressive impact upon our social fabric."

You have listed three criteria to evaluate the cable applicants from the Black perspective:

1. Financial strength and possible rate increases.
2. MBE policy and employment.
3. Access for the Black community to a city-wide programming participation.

How does Liberty Cable Television compare?

1. Liberty, an Oregon corporation for 20 years owns five television stations and has cable in over 80 U.S. communities. We are strong financially as indicated by both consultants to the City Council.

One consultant did say we would be most likely to feel pressure to increase rates. That's because we offer the lowest rates for the most services. Liberty's bid of \$7.00 for 74 channels is considerably less than Cablesystems Pacific \$10.45 for 57

channels. Predictions that both companies prepared for rates in 1990 still show Liberty 1/3 less than Cablesystems.

2. Liberty has a demonstrated history here in Portland regarding employment of MBE's. We are currently using MBE's in our West Portland system including one company we trained and financed. We have been applauded by the City for our employment policies - 17% minorities evenly spread throughout the work force. We were just awarded the state-wide Employer of the Year Award by the Governor's Committee on the Handicapped. We have pledged to continue and expand our commitments for the East side franchise including 15% MBE to build the system. Liberty's 230 personnel compares more favorably than Cablesystems 127 to provide complete services to Portland.

3. Only Liberty can offer City-Wide compatible services. Not only did Liberty pledge an elaborate Eastside public access studio, we also pledged 5 storefront access studios, a mobile van and mini-van.

Only Liberty has offered all the same services and programming to East and West Portland. The impact of Black programming conceived, created and produced in the Black community using Liberty facilities and funding donated to the City by Liberty will be available on a coordinated City-Wide basis or on a discrete network just to NE Residents - as the community desires. Liberty's local access and local origination budget for committed dollars to this important community programming is considerably higher than any other applicant.

In summary, Liberty Cable Television is a proven local company with almost 200 Oregon stockholders. We have offered more services at lower rates to all Portlanders. Our proven commitment in employment policies combines with the highest dollar commitment to local programming to guarantee Portland the best and most responsive cable system to local needs.

Dustine Davidson
Director of Corporate Development
Liberty Cable Television

MHRC finds discrimination in discipline

To the Editor:

When representatives of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission met with the Portland Public School Board Discipline Subcommittee and Key District administrative staff to discuss the Commission's findings regarding disproportionate Black student suspensions in Portland Public

Schools during the 1978-79 academic year, the discussions had a tone which was entirely different from the tone of such meetings in previous years.

It surprised no one that evidence of discrimination was found, since numerous groups have alluded to the potential existence of discrimination in Portland Public

Schools since 1977. But, rather than displaying a reluctant acceptance and toleration of our efforts as was done in the past, District representatives exhibited a genuine concern with the issue, coupled with a willingness and commitment to effect change.

A key to this attitudinal shift has to be the change in personnel. The

involvement of Herb Cawthorne and Sarah Newhall from the Board level has been crucial to the positive direction recent discussions have taken. The participation of acting Superintendent James Fenwick and others recently appointed administrations has resulted in a shift in emphasis from the combative to the collaborative -- a striking difference.

The Commission will not unqualifiably assume that all is well and there is no longer the need for concern simply because the names of the players have changed and the dialogue has been more responsive at the top level of the District. Discrimination does not automatically vanish in the face of the dialogue, but it is an appropriate prerequisite to change.

MHRC is encouraged, however, by the dialogue and the commitments, and is optimistic about the future outcome of the District's direction and efforts to establish an equitable and sound educational environment for our children, with the assistance of students, parents and agencies like MHRC.

Indeed, the domain is not solely the District's; it belongs to us all.

Sho G. Dozono, Chairperson
Education Committee
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission



New International Information Order

By Fungai Kumbula

The Sudanese are righteously angry and, with good reason. A UPI news team has just passed through Khartoum, the capital, and their mission was to do a story about the flood of refugees and their plight. Nothing wrong with that; it is a good story that should be told to the world. The problem though is that this same news team passed right by the Iringa sugar-to-gasohol conversion complex without so much as a second glance.

Over in Zimbabwe, they too, are railing at the Associated Press news team that was sent expressly to cover the Edgar Tekere case. Like their UPI counterparts, this team saw nothing "newsworthy" about the young Zimbabwean government's remarkable achievement in settling more than a million war refugees in the less than four months that it has been operational. This, despite the million odd other headaches that have beset the young nation in recent months.

In Managua, Nicaragua, the Reuters team concentrates on the level of street crime since the Sandinistas took over from the now very dead Anastasio Somoza. Overlooked and ignored is the almost total elimination of illiteracy in a nation that, until as recently as a year ago, had an illiteracy rate approaching 60%.

In India, Agence France Presse chooses to focus on the flood and the resultant loss of life and, curiously ignores the government's efforts at averting such disasters in the future.

The above are just four examples of the new wave of protest sweeping the Third World over what is a very sensitive and very important issue to all humanity. At the core of the argument is the rising irritation of the Third World over the way it is projected not only in the Western world but throughout the rest of the world and, sometimes, even in that very same country.

As much as ninety percent of the news that the whole world watches and reads comes from one of these

four giants: AP, UPI, Reuters and Agence France Presse. Among them they decide what is "news" and what the rest of humanity should know. It is rather frightening that such a small group of people, and all four corporations are western owned and operated, should have that much power. That is the reason that it really doesn't matter what TV station you watch or newspaper you read (community papers and public TV and radio are exceptions) the news is virtually the same.

Take a look as of today and you will notice that news from the Third World generally consists of disasters, wars, political upheavals, corruptions, government ineptitude, starvation, disease outbreaks and the like. The stories all have one bent; to highlight the negative associated with the Third World and contrasting them with the efficiency, good life and other positives of the capitalist world.

When Jimmy Carter goes to visit his mother, he makes the evening news. Gerald Ford playing golf in Newport Beach or John Anderson talking to the farmers in Iowa all have space in the daily news. Do you ever hear about it when Robert Mugabe goes fishing? He does go fishing once in a while by the way. That is not considered news. When he has a spat with Joshua Nkomo, however, then he earns a spot because that is another example of African "bickering."

News from the non-western world is gauged by its level of sensationalism, ostensibly, to satisfy the insatiable western appetite for human disasters and other catastrophes. Ever seen how popular disaster and horror movies are? It's no coincidence. The Third World is just about fed up now with all this negative reporting and is doing something through the offices of UNESCO.

UNESCO which stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is the agency of the UN charged with

the promotion of understanding among the world's various peoples. Unlike other UN bodies, UNESCO decisions are usually carried by a simple majority. Over the past two decades, Third World countries have become the majority and are beginning to change the direction that this hitherto obscure body has been taking.

In 1974, Monsieur Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, former Minister of Education in Senegal, was elected UNESCO's Director General. Working closely with Mustapha Masmoudi, Tunisian delegate and leader of the non-aligned movement, he immediately set about challenging western domination of the news and proposing far-reaching changes that would make sure that the non-western world at least got fairer and more equal treatment in terms of news coverage.

Naturally, their proposals are being strongly resisted by the western countries which are hiding under the shield of "freedom of the press." The proposals, still in the planning stages, call for a more equitable sharing of news gathering resources and materials as well as technology and equipment. The Third World delegates feel that since they are not being accurately portrayed through the current news outlets, they should get into a position where they have a say in what is said of and about them.

The proposed New International Information Order would be almost similar to the New International Economic Order in its scope and aims. Should the idea come to fruition, it would be possible for the average American to know, for example, that Africa consists of fifty separate and independent nations. Right now, to most Americans mention of Rwanda draws a complete blank. When this new information order comes about, this sort of ignorance would be wiped out.

For a progress report, stay with us...

Defeat Ballot Measure 6

To the Editor:

Ballot Measure 6 would cripple the operation of our public schools if passed. Going back to 1977 levels of true cash value, with only two percent allowed annually for inflation doesn't make sense in times of double digit inflation. There is no way to justify this kind of restriction on the vital programs provided by public education in Oregon.

With all its faults, and despite all its critics, American education is still the best the world has to offer. We provide more services for more years to more kids than any other nation. And we are doing it with a great amount of local control. This is the American system and it should be cherished.

Roy Seeborg, Superintendent
School District #15
Forest Grove

Health clinic

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6)

servicing on the board should submit their name, address, and phone number by October 15, 1980 to North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center, Post Office Box 5243, Portland, Oregon 97208. The nominating committee will contact all persons whose names have been submitted in order to select a board of eighteen persons.

"He who looks for a mule without a fault goes on foot." Spanish Proverb

Right, responsibility to vote

To the Editor:

To have a right and not execute that right is a self denial of your right to complain about a wrong.

The right to vote and the freedom of choice are two basic rights given to every citizen of these United States of America, by the Creed of the land, the constitution of the United States. Some have always had the right to choose their leaders with clear mind and aim and purpose. We African Americans have earned our right to do likewise, through the blood, sweat, pain and agony of many African Americans

fighting to see that justice be done.

We, who are able to vote should stand and make an intelligent choice and be counted for our quality as well as our quantity. If we do not take up this moral responsibility we deal ourselves a blow one hundred times more devastating than any robe clad cross burner could levy on us in one hundred years.

And we will be and should be seen as traitors who denied the struggle of oppressed people fruition through the generations.

Iman Mikal H. Shabazz
Masjid Muhammad #62



Bruce Broussard
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Alfred Lee Henderson
Founder



Portland Observer

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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.

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