

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Watch those appointments!

The question of appointments to public commissions and committees is a puzzle to many citizens who see the same few people appointed over and over, going from committee to committee. The problem is more acute to minorities since they are fewer in number and usually less visible. The appointing officials usually know few, if any, minority people first-hand to learn to depend on a few advisors or "power brokers" to recommend appointees to them.

This "power broker" system has limited the access of most minority people to the decision making process and expanded the influence of a few. This has prevented the minority perspective from being adequately represented. The result is a few people serving on many committees - sometimes ten and twelve at a time, some of them either worn out or inadequate to deal with the assignment. Let a person once become the leader of a minority organization and, if he behaves, he will be on numerous committees for life. In the meantime, there are thousands eager but never selected to serve.

This is not a new issue; we have brought it up again and again to our public officials and to candidates, yet the practice of repeatedly appointing the same people continues. The worst offender is the Portland School District, which not only repeatedly selects the same people - but once it selects them it leaves them on the committee forever. There seems to be

no appointment period on some school district committees; they are for life.

The School Board made a step toward changing the practice by opening the desegregation monitoring committee to all who would like to participate. Now if they would announce that fact to the public and reveal the time and place of the meetings, more people might like to participate. We recommend that the district open all of its advisory committees to those who are interested, rather than seeking those who will not disagree.

There are two exceptions to this "power-broker" rule. Governor Atiyeh, though not making enough minority appointments in our opinion, has reached out and brought in some new faces. This week, for example, he appointed Art Alexander to the new commission of Foreign Language and International Studies, and Bill Nickelberry and Marc Hannibal to the Governor's Council for Health, Fitness and Sports.

County Executive Don Clark occasionally announces openings in the press and encourages application. This week he asked for applications for appointment to the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Commission.

We hope in coming months to see appointments less restricted to certain people and organizations and more representative of the community as a whole.



## When it rains, it pours

By Fungai Kumbula

"Troubles are like chickens; they come home to roost." No one knows that better than the current leaders of Uganda. Its' been eighteen months since the fall of Idi Amin Dada. When the victorious joint Tanzanian-United National Liberation Forces rolled into the capital Kampala, in late '78, thousands of Kampalans paraded in the streets. There was dancing in the streets; women kissed the soldiers and decorated their weapons with flowers.

Not since early 1968 had anything remotely resembling this had been seen. Dr. Apollo Milton Obote, Uganda's only elected Prime Minister, was ousted in 1969 by Field Marshall Amin. At the time of the coup, Obote was in Singapore attending a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. It is interesting to note that Amin had the backing and support of Britain and Israel. The then U.S. President, Richard M. Nixon, concurred with the ouster of Obote because they all felt he was getting "too radical."

What followed this tragic event and naked intrusion on Uganda's internal affairs is now public knowledge. Amin's excesses and his eventual fall from grace are well documented. It was with this in mind that Kampalans had thronged into the streets, remembering the

"good old days." The fall of Amin was supposed to usher in a new era; a return to normalcy. It was supposed to signal the end of lawlessness, insecurity, fear, wholesale looting and massacres, hunger and the scourge of disease, spiralling unemployment and runaway inflation an attack on the nation's educated, "mangendo" (smuggling) and all those other ills associated with the "administration" of Idi Amin.

Such has not been the case, however, much to the dismay of all Ugandans. Uganda's outside supporters, too, have been sorely disappointed at the country's inability to cope with rehabilitation. The past eighteen months have seen the ouster of the man first chosen to succeed Amin, Professor Ysufu K Lule and the removal and subsequent arrest of his successor, Godfrey Binaisa. There has been wholesale starvation and a complete breakdown of law and order in the outlying areas like Karamojong.

So bad has the situation been that even trucks sent to these areas with relief supplies have been ambushed and some of the workers killed. Cattle rustling is endemic. The governing National Consultative Council which was formed shortly after the ouster of Amin had scheduled elections for the end of September so a new government

would be chosen. That had to be scrapped when the logistics of conducting free and fair elections proved to be impossible. Election Day has been re-set for December 10 but Uganda watchers say even that may be too optimistic.

A recent communique from Uganda reports that forces "loyal to Amin" have captured two border towns. The towns are on the border with Zaire; Amin's last stronghold and the one area that has remained most volatile throughout the last year and a half. If true, this would be what our elders used to describe as: "pouring oil on troubled waters." Uganda has enough problems without having another full-scale war to fight. Tanzania had pulled out half of her original 10,000 man force and is anxious to pull out the rest. Whether or not she would be willing to send more troops back into Uganda should the situation deteriorate any further is questionable. Economically, she cannot afford to; she is still trying to recover from the financial setback the war against Amin caused her.

From the average Ugandan, the reported Amin invasion is another major setback and cause for great concern. Any other protracted military conflict could well spell doom for the country once called "The Jewel of Africa."

When it rains, it pours...

## Help! don't hinder

The failure to provide the non-English speaking students with bilingual education amounts to deliberate compounding of the difficulties that impede and prohibit their access to decent and responsible places in the American social order. This causes language difference to become a liability that consciously and inadvertently holds up students' ethnic identities to ridicule. The views and attitudes the external society will express more freely toward them are markedly different from what they think of themselves. The expectations and ambitions they may share as an outgrowth of their own past and culture can be conveniently misunderstood and misinterpreted by those who may capriciously and arbitrarily categorize any non-dominant peoples' ethnic attributes, behavior and aspirations as debased and non-conforming. The process of these students defending and maintaining their self-identity with dignity and security in a multi-ethnic nation will be seriously jeopardized.

Any goals the new Asian students may attempt to achieve in accordance with American prescribed formulas for success could be disastrously frustrating. The pattern of

relationships that emerge when language communication is one way and balanced to serve the wishes of the school authorities and personnel will be of real disadvantage to the powerless students. Bilingual education cannot solve all of the problems for non-English speaking student. However, it is the most effective educational program for equipping them to: define clearly their goals and aspirations; respond to the serious questions that arise as to how the educational process can implement better their achievement; explain with greater clarity the multiple confusions and dilemmas they need help with in a different cultural environment; interact with more substantive meaning to problems that are directly related to their refugee status.

Public education should provide all non-English speaking students with the services appropriate to their particular categorical needs in this society. Two way communication is of primary importance. Bilingual education is the correct method for removing harmful ambiguity from the institutional setting in which student-teacher relations should be a two-way learning process.

## Another point of view

This commentary represents the level of social thought the *Portland Observer* believes is in the best interest of the total community...(Ed.)

By Floyd McKay

In the long run, other decisions the Portland Board makes this year may prove to be more important than racial policy. Children of all races will be affected by school closures and finance. But the racial debate dominates because it is really a struggle over who runs the city's schools. The issue is in doubt.

In the past, paid administrators ran the schools in partnership with what might be called the progressive wing of Portland's white business and professional community. They went so far as to screen candidates for the Board. White or Black, nearly every member of the Board until recently was blessed by this establishment support. The present Board chairman, Herb Cawthorne, is the first Black member who doesn't owe his position to the white leadership. Therein lies the roots of the recall.

In the pure fact that a majority of the present Board was not selected by the same establishment that selected prior Boards. The

given reasons for recall are drivel...the real reason is control. And until control is decided, the school system cannot move forward. If the recall group really cared about performance, the recall petitions would be stopped.

It is a fact that the new middle school opened with enrollment above expected and with a 50-50 racial balance. Because the Board and its new administrators worked in the neighborhoods to make it happen. It is a fact that a potentially destructive boycott has been sidetracked...because the Board and its new staff were willing to talk to their critics.

There is at last a policy to involve the community in school closures, a no-win issue. And despite the problems of the summer and the recall, some semblance of order is emerging from an inexperienced Board. The Board did name as superintendent a man with impressive professional qualifications and the respect of his peers. If this is the record of an irresponsible and immature Board -- as the recall people charge -- then the same charge could be leveled against any recent Board. But performance is not the issue here. The issue is control, and it has nothing to do with education.

(broadcast on KGW-TV on 9-2-80)

## Candidates

(Continued from page 1 col. 3)  
hold a candidates' fair on October 28th at 7:30 p.m. at 232 S.E. 80th. Many national, state and local candidates will be present. Coffee hour will follow.

A special presentation on the Portland Community College and the November tax base will be presented to members of the

National Council of Negro Women on October 30th, 7:30 p.m. at King Neighborhood Center.

AVREC will hold community forums to address ballot issues on October 26th at City Hall and on October 27th at PCC Cascade, Portable No. 2. Both meetings are at 7:30 p.m. (234-1416)

KPTV will air League of Women

Voters sponsored candidate debates. October 19th, 10:00 p.m. -- Candidates for Secretary of State and Candidates for State Treasurer; November 2nd, 8:00 p.m. -- "It's Your Choice" and at 10:30 p.m. -- Candidates for U.S. Senate.

For registration information call Operation Big Vote, 231-0770, or the Multnomah County Registrar, 248-3720.

## Letters to the Editor

### Good luck

To the Editor:

Much thanks for the Portland Black United Front photo, which we used in our September 24th issue.

As a former Portland resident, I wish Black United Front and the *Observer* all possible luck in the struggle.

Sincerely Yours,

Julia Adams  
the Guardian Newspaper  
33 West 17th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011

### Farmer supports Paulus

To the Editor:

Farmers of Oregon have a friend in the Office of Secretary of State. Looking back on the legislative record of Norma Paulus, we remember her as a leader in the passage of the farm labor bill in 1971 (which Governor McCall vetoed for political reasons), and the bill to provide tax credits for construction of migrant housing. In 1975 Norma successfully led the cause of the farmers against the proposal of Governor Straub to

condemn the farm land along the Willamette River.

With farmers now a small minority, it is more important than ever to have a friend in key positions. Let's recognize superior performance in public office and reelect Norma Paulus as Secretary of State.

Yours truly,

Grant Henderson  
Summerville, Oregon

### NOTICE

The cost of the *Observer* has been increased to 25¢ per copy. The subscription rate will increase to \$10.00 per year beginning November 1, 1980.

### CORRECTION

The Portland Police Bureau extends its apologies to the Black United Front for using their name in its personnel advertisement of October 9, 1980, and to the Albina Ministerial Alliance for omitting its name. The Bureau is sorry for any embarrassment we have caused either of these organizations.



Bruce Broussard  
Editor/Publisher



### Portland Observer

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.

The *Portland Observer* was founded in October of 1970 by Alfred Lee Henderson.

The *Portland Observer* is a champion of justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social evils; a thorough analyst and critic of discriminatory practices and policies; a sentinel to warn of impending and existing racist trends and practices; and a defender against persecution and oppression.

The real problems of the Black population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in the context of their exploitation and manipulation by the colonial nations, including the United States, and the relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

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