

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## It can be done!

The election results can be analyzed and interpreted in many ways. Black people would do well to regard the changes that loom before us as just one more of previous episodes produced by the political maneuvers of the forces of power.

This nation has been, for a number of years, incurring social deficits in excess of all others. Now the issue for all humanity is whether humanism will be strengthened or totally obliterated.

The concerns of the Black and other non-dominant ethnic populations in America have been to reduce the deleterious effects upon themselves caused by punitive and abusive facets of white racism.

The recent political contests reveal quite clearly that this is still the all pervasive issue affecting institutions and social functioning throughout this nation.

Now is the time for the less-chance peoples of the United States to become engaged in plans, programs and actions that will counteract the negative and degrading thrust characteristic of the policies of all previous political administrations. Those of us who are the targets and victims of chronic, systematic discrimination and disregard must be involved in acute organized and consistent efforts to insure that habitual patterns of governmental disrespect and rejection will no longer prevail.

## Purpose and Service

The PPS Monitoring and Advisory Committee's usefulness can and should be measured by the extent that divisiveness, confusion, conflict and frustration are reduced in the school district.

A leadership role in the Black community should be filled by the schools but only if the schools are given legitimacy by Black parents. Achievement and social adjustment of children are yardsticks for measuring whether these schools are legitimate.

Parent and community organizational participation will help schools provide uplifting sources to Black children.

Teachers are the mainstay in providing academic instruction to children. The Monitoring and Advisory Committee must be careful to recognize those teachers who are devoted to children and dedicated to their profession.

Teachers of broad socialization and experience should be encouraged and assisted in helping other colleagues with less understanding and experience. Every effort must be exerted to prevent principals from having to feel they must work under unwarranted pressures.

The Committee should avoid contributing to feelings of hostility on the part of anyone. These protections are important and should not be compromised. In a comparable manner, the same level of consideration must be extended to parents and concerned community groups.



## A little of this and a little of that...

By Fungai Kumbula

**South Africa:** As puppets go, one David Thebehali must rank right alongside the Muzorewas and Gatsha Buthelezis. Thebehali is the "mayor" of Soweto, the sprawling ghetto just outside Johannesburg. He looks Black and, like Buthelezi and the other puppets before, he was appointed by the racist South African regime to the mayoral post in an effort to diffuse Black intent.

Two weeks ago, in a shameful display of how low he has sunk to get the "massa's" pat on the back, Thebehali invited Piet Koornhof, the white "Minister of Cooperation and Development," to Soweto to receive the Freedom of the City award! Commented one disgusted protester, "It's a pity Koornhof has been granted citizenship by a man who happens to have none; so both of them are insane."

In spite of the very stringent security measures, the ANC (liberation movements), in a well planned and perfectly timed action, blew up the main rail line that carries the bulk of Soweto's commuters to work. The blast occurred just before Koornhof was to arrive, making sure that the hundreds of stranded commuters would be on hand to protest. Though Koornhof managed to sneak in by helicopter (to avoid the protestors), they still managed to disrupt the award giving ceremonies time and time again. Both Koornhof and Thebehali were subjected to the full force of the protestors' anger. The language hurled at Thebehali would be too strong for a paper this respectable. No self-respecting individual would dare follow in his shameful footsteps.

**Namibia:** A newspaper editor from Namibia who recently fled to neighboring Angola has provided fresh details about the extend of the struggle in that other troubled nation. Ambrosius W. Amutenja, editor of OMUKWETU, an Ovambo language newspaper, had recently published a "Hit List" giving the names of prominent Namibians who had been targeted for assassination by a squad of

organized or supported by the South African regime. Since publication of the list, Amutenja had learned that he, too, had been added to the list of condemned persons.

The death squad is code named "Koevet," Afrikaans for "One Way" and Amutenja fled after he had been alerted that a Col. Johann van der Merwe, head of the "Security Police" was after him. The Windhoek (Namibia) observer carried the account of the Amutenja's escape and the details surrounding his departure.

Mr. Amutenja's account of his escape blows a huge hole in South Africa's contention that it controls all of Namibia because, after fleeing Windhoek, he stayed for ten weeks with SWAPO guerrillas inside Namibia while they waited for the opportunity to flee. This was the same time that South African terrorists were in southern Angola bombing civilians while claiming to be killing so many SWAPO cadres. In a trip that took almost two weeks and during which Amutenja was escorted by as many as 200 SWAPO freedom fighters, he says they did not encounter one South African terrorist!

Two of the people on the "Hit List" died shortly after the publication of the list. David Sheehama and Matheus Elago were killed within days of each other under some still unexplained circumstances. The list also includes some prominent business, professional and church personalities. Apparently, their vociferosity has begun to hurt the apartheid regime where it lives. That "you can kill a revolutionary but you cannot kill a revolution" is a lesson South Africa stubbornly refuses to learn even with the Smith example still so fresh.

**Kenya:** This year Kenya celebrated 17 years of independence. If she were a person, the parents would really be beginning to worry. However, for all of her years of "independence," she seems worse off now than before 1963, at least in some respects. The latest incident to rouse

the ire of every self-respecting African concerns the case of American sailor Frank Sundstorm of Coventry, Rhode, Island. He was accused of and subsequently, confessed to, the murder of Monicah Njeri, an alleged prostitute. They were supposed to have an argument over how much Frank was to pay for her services. In the ensuing dispute, he stabbed her to death.

Brought before white high court judge L.G.E. Harris, Sundstrom, also white, was released on paying a \$70.00 fine! \$70.00 for the life of someone? \$70.00??? Under Kenyan law, he could have been sentenced to death. Reaction to this gross miscarriage of justice was strong as shown by the number of letters to the editors of local newspapers. Most readers questioned how the judge could ever again sentence anybody else to death in light of this. One writer queried: "Had this man been a Kenyan living in the U.S. would he have received such "justice.?"

**South Africa:** Louisa Theron married husband number one in 1978. She must have liked the experience because in 1980, she married husband number two. Unfortunately, the law caught up with her and she had to do some explaining. (she was charged with bigamy). Though she pleaded guilty, she asked for leniency because of extenuating circumstances.

She said when she asked for a divorce from husband number one, he beat her mercilessly and threatened to kill her if she ever brought up the subject again.

When asked husband number two for a divorce, he had a heart attack. He suffered a second and a third coronary when she asked him again.

Placed the defendant, "It was simply impossible to get a divorce from either husband. One would have killed me and the other would have killed himself."

The judge agreed to take the case under advertisement.

## Letters to the Editor

### County executive considers minority appointments

To the Editor:  
I was very pleased to read in your October 16 edition that my efforts to increase minority representation on Multnomah County's citizen boards and commissions have not gone unnoticed by the *Portland Observer*. I am very proud of the progress we have made, and I plan to continue to increase the number of minority members on our citizen boards.

You might be interested to know that 16 per cent of the members of the County's boards are minority citizens. This group includes Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians. Of those 59 people, 3 serve on two boards; and two of those

three were appointed specifically to represent one board on another board.

I would like to describe the appointment process in my office for the benefit of your readers who may be interested in serving. On a quarterly basis, we sent a list of vacancies to the press and to interested citizens and organizations. My staff accepts applications and recommendations for appointments and may also solicit them from the community. After conferring with the staff and members of the citizen board, and interviewing candidates if necessary, I make the appointments.

That appointment is then sent to

the Board of County Commissioners for their confirmation. In making appointments, I especially consider the need to maintain representation of minorities and women in all geographic areas of the County.

Anybody may call or write my office to discuss boards and commissions and apply for consideration for appointment. I encourage all interested citizens to do so.

Thank you again for your recognition and support.

Donald E. Clark  
County Executive

### Supports police, schools program

To the Editor:  
Crime is on the increase, prison populations throughout the country have risen to overflowing. County jails and juvenile detention homes have passed maximum capacity. Most of the country faces the same dilemma -- what is the solution to crime? It is common knowledge or should be that our society has always dealt with crime after the fact and not before the fact which makes it a little late for both law breakers and victim. And justice Systems have a revolving door which once entered into is extremely difficult to exit from.

Until now, very few have offered any possible solutions to the problem "how to prevent crime and at the same time save a potential law breaker from making that one fatal

step into that revolving door." Now it seems that the Portland Police Department has hit on a possible solution to this problem. Being a convict at OSP I must say I was a skeptic, so I took the opportunity to hear Deputy Chief Brouillette and Commissioner Jordan address the problem and their possible solution to the Legal Processes Class here.

The CJO (Community Juvenile Officer program) seems to place importance on relationships and proper understanding of authority in law enforcement and at the same time develop a good attitude of oneself toward the various programs of the C.J.O. For the first time I see a public service law enforcement agency getting involved in the social problems. Both Commissioner Jordan and

Deputy Chief Brouillette showed a sincerity I personally have not witnessed before in any justice system branch of County, State or Federal government. We were asked to help in any way possible. We as convicts can produce good results in the community. We have children too. So Commissioner Jordan, Deputy Chief Brouillette you have my support and I hope the communities in and around Portland support you as well.

My hat off to you. I'd suggest anyone wanting information on this program contact Chief Brouillette. It's your children he is thinking of. Why else would they put in a new 85 million dollar prison 10 years from now?

Nick Meryrovick  
#42527 OSP

## Thoughts on Black, Hispanic Commissions

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to recommend to him the structure for such a Commission. The committee was given ninety days to complete the report.

**Observer:** How did the committee gather its data and information?

**Toran:** The committee decided to conduct Town Hall meetings throughout the state and to distribute questionnaires to participants in the meetings, as well as to other concerned individuals. Each committee member served as a coordinator/planner of a Town Hall meeting in the area where he/she resides.

**Observer:** What were the results?

**Toran:** Overwhelmingly, the participants in the meetings and the respondents to the questionnaires desired two separate Commissions to address the common and unique concerns of the two groups.

**Observer:** What has been the Governor's response?

**Toran:** The Governor responded by establishing two separate Commissions by Executive Order.

Since only the legislature can appropriate funds to state agencies, the two Commissions will begin functioning without an operating budget. There are no funds currently to support the Commissions. However, there will be a budget request submitted to the '81 legislative assembly to fund the two Commissions. The Advisory Committee recommended biennial budgets of \$131,458 for each.

**Observer:** What is the purpose of the Commissions?

**Toran:** The Commissions initially will be responsible for lobbying and monitoring legislation that will continue each Commission by statute, with the appropriate funding.

On an on-going basis, the Commissions will be responsible for conducting research on problems brought to the attention of the Commissions, monitoring state service and program delivery to the population groups and advocacy at the executive and legislative levels.

**Observer:** How many people will serve on each Commission?

**Toran:** The Executive Order states that each Commission will be comprised of nine members. The Commissions will reflect statewide representation.

**Observer:** Will the two Commissions work together?

**Toran:** I believe that the Commissions will see the need to form coalitions to address some of the problems that each share in common.

**Observer:** Would a Minority Commission be a better approach?

**Toran:** When special Commissions are formed, it is of extreme importance that the Commissions have some credibility. I believe that, initially anyway, the way to establish this credibility is to have Commissions that address the special interests and needs of each group and to be seen as credible by the groups that are being served.

Presently I believe that women, Indians, Hispanics and Blacks feel that separate Commissions will more likely achieve the desired results rather than a joint Commission serving all of their interests. Ideally, this society will respond to the plight of minorities in such a way that full equality is achieved. When that occurs, then special Commissions will not be necessary.

**Observer:** When will the Governor appoint the Commission members?

**Toran:** Probably before the end of the month. Staff work is currently being done on those individuals who applied for appointments. I must say that I have been really impressed with the individuals who have expressed an interest and applied. The Commissions will require a tremendous time commitment, and these individuals have said, "We are willing to do it."

I see these Commissions as an opportunity for Blacks and Hispanics to influence those decisions that affect our lives. To me, this is important and necessary as we move into a period of time in this country where race relations will be affected by the social and economic conditions of the times. It will be important that groups support the Commissions and be available to serve on Task Forces to help carry out the charge of the Executive Orders. We have the opportunity and community resources to help make the Commissions successful.



Bruce Broussard  
Editor/Publisher

### Portland Observer

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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 their relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

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