

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Who killed Dr. Blanchard?

What is a memorial service? Ordinarily it is an occasion to allow those who knew a man to honor him, to remember him with kindness, to recall his accomplishments and his disappointments. It is an occasion to bring comfort to his wife and children, to heal the wounds of past differences.

Not so the memorial service held last Saturday for Robert Blanchard. It became a political rally. The implication was made clear that the blame for Blanchard's untimely death rests on the shoulders of the four school board members who voted to terminate his contract, and therefore indirectly on the Black community, which is blamed by the white press for his dismissal. So hostile was the service that some board members were asked not to attend.

Those who say his termination as school superintendent was the result of Black opposition to his desegregation program should remember what brought it all to a head.

It was Jonathan Newman whose "Newman plan" started the conflict over desegregation that lasted for three years and continues still. It was Jonathan Newman who refused to acquiesce to public opinion and who, along with Gladys McCoy, tried to hard sell it to the public. It was Newman and McCoy who took Dr. Blanchard to a secret meeting with Black leaders at E. Shelton Hill's home, where he was told that this time he must deal with the people. It was Newman and Frank McNamara who took Dr. Blanchard to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission to defend one-way busing. It was they who said Portland would never mandatorily bus white children - but Black children must be bused.

When the community - Black and white - organized against the Newman plan, Dr. Blanchard had to defend it in his own arrogant way and then he challenged three organizations to come with a better idea.

It was the Newman plan that brought the birth of the Community Coalition for School Integration. The Coalition was a white organization - not Black. Its leaders were the white liberal establishment - Sterling, Casey, Cogan, Scott, the League of Women Voters, Schools for the City. It was this Coalition that identified and publicized the destructive inequities in the Blanchard desegregation program. And it was these white liberals who were so upset when their proposals were ridiculed and ignored.

It was Frank McNamara, Joe Rieke and Evie Crowell who were running for election that spring - who let Blanchard be the fall guy. As the board refused to discuss the Coalition finding and proposals in public. Dr. Blanchard had to make the response and anger Blacks and whites alike.

Even the *Oregonian* was critical. The Boycott was the result.

When Steve Buel and Bill Scott were elected to the Board - and then Herb Cawthorne was appointed - everyone knew there would be a change. No more rubber stamps. Did Jonathan Newman, Blanchard's close friend, stay on the board and help him through the transition? No. Newman quit the very night Cawthorne was appointed.

During the months of desegregation planning, when board members met several times a week and tempers flared, who stalled and blocked the proceedings of the desegregation committee, bringing constant complaints upon the district. By his own admission, Joe Rieke did.

And what about Neil Goldschmidt, who is now being urged by Tom McCall and others to run for the school board and save Portland from the "gang of four". Goldschmidt opposed many of Blanchard's reorganization efforts for years, perhaps rightly so, and stopped his inner southwest reorganization plan in its tracks.

Reverend Ellis Casson compared Blanchard to Jesus Christ on his way to Calvary; when he came ten years ago they shouted "Hosannah"; now they cried "crucify him." Reverend Casson is a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church - the church founded to liberate Black people from oppression. But Casson's theology tells him there can be but one Christ.

What part did Casson play? First as minority relations expert for the school district, then for six years as president of the NAACP, did Casson tell Blanchard the truth about Black opposition to his "voluntary" desegregation plan? Dr. Blanchard always claimed Blacks he knew liked his plan. Could it be that he was misinformed by some of his Black confidants? Did the anger and anguish catch him by surprise?

Who killed Dr. Blanchard?

It would be highly unfair for us to say that Newman, McCoy, McNamara, Rieke, etc., killed Dr. Blanchard. Everyone who knew and worked with Dr. Blanchard contributed something to his life. They all contributed in their own way to the stress of a difficult job. We have been told that five years ago, Dr. Blanchard was warned that he had a heart condition - that his life style must change. Whether this is true or not, he was the typical heart attack victim: in his fifties, overweight, in a tension producing job, a heavy smoker, etc.

The life of Robert Blanchard should be valued for what it was. He should be respected as a human being. His family should be comforted and helped to go on without him. He should not be martyred to further the political aims of others.



One Zambia, one nation

By Fungai Kumbula

This story has made the rounds several times in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. A housewife out for an afternoon stroll saw a line of people standing in front of some building and she immediately joined the queue. After standing in line for several hours, she got to the door only to find that she was entering a morgue. The queue was actually part of a procession that was coming to the morgue to view the body of a recently deceased relative.

Joining queues in Lusaka has become an instinctive reaction for most Lusaka housewives because of the acute shortages of most basic commodities. It is not unusual for a housewife to wake up at four in the morning so she can go queue outside a bakery to buy a loaf of bread. Bread, sugar, tea, coffee, salt, meat, vegetables are all in such short supply that most families are forced to do without. Hence the queue fever.

Ironically, Zambia's problems have become more serious with Zimbabwe's celebrations of independence. Thousands of Zambians flocked to Zimbabwe's independence celebrations in April and were amazed to see shops bursting with all kinds of goods. Before then it had always been so easy for the Zambian government to blame the shortage of such essential goods on the war in Zimbabwe. The level of

dissatisfaction with the government of Kenneth Kaunda had been rising steadily over the past twelve months. Those Zambians returning from Zimbabwe with stories of well-stocked shops merely fueled the fires.

There have been sporadic strikes and other work stoppages by Zambian workers intent on forcing more government responsiveness in addressing some of the country's chronic economic woes. Kaunda's response, unfortunately, was to have most of the labour union leaders arrested and to curtail the activities of the unions. October 27th, Kaunda, in a nationwide radio and TV address, accused South Africa of sending some Zambian and Zairan dissidents to overthrow his government.

There were supposed to have been some 200 plotters sent not only to topple the government of Zambia but that of Zaire also according to Kaunda's address. Several leading Zambian politicians who were implicated in the plot were arrested among them, Patrick Chisanga, Chief of the state run energy corporation, Elias Chipimo, former chairman of the Standard Bank and Air Force Commander Major General Christopher Kabwe. Kabwe had just been promoted to his new

post only two days before he was arrested. It is true South Africa has been attacking Zambia because of Zambia's support for SWAPO but whether South Africa actually did send plotters to overthrow the Zambian government is rather questionable according to knowledgeable sources.

Most of Zambia's problems are internal and, it appears, the people are now merely demanding to see what sixteen years of independence has wrought. Already, even though the Zimbabwean government has been in power a mere six months, and a war so recently concluded, Zimbabwe has already outpaced Zambia in providing most of the essential services. It is this kind of comparison that could spell trouble for President Kenneth David Kaunda.

Kaunda's slogan since independence in 1964 has been: "One Zambia One Nation." Nowadays when he shouts that slogan in some parts of the country (he shouts "One Zambia"), instead of the people responding "One Nation" they have been responding "One Njala" (literally, "One Hunger").

With the battle lines so clearly drawn, the Zambian government is going to have to do something and fast.

Letters to the Editor

Hear Jazz Alive! on KBPS

To the Editor:

We here at KBPS really enjoyed the article on *JAZZ ALIVE!* by Michael Ullman of *The New Republic* in your November 8 issue.

We wanted to remind you that KBPS 1450 AM carries *JAZZ ALIVE!* every Friday night for the enjoyment of Portland's many jazz enthusiasts. For example, at 10 p.m. Friday, November 21, *JAZZ ALIVE!* visits the Third Annual Women's Jazz Festival. This Kansas City event presents an opportunity for women in jazz to perform for one another in its family reunion atmosphere. This program samples some of the many workshops and clinics, and presents highlights of

the '80 TNT (Top New Talent) concert.

The concert features Quintess, led by trumpeter Ruth Kissane; vocalist Dianne Reeves with the Paul Smith trio; pianist Mary Watkins and her five-woman band; and the exciting Bonnie Janofsky/Ann Patterson Big Band.

You can hear many jazz greats, all on *JAZZ ALIVE!* Friday nights at ten o'clock.

Sincerely,

Catherine King
Program Information Coordinator
KBPS RADIO

Remembers Cannady

To the Editor:

I read with nostalgia your recent edition with the piece on Mrs. Cannady, for I remember my father, the late Arthur L. Crookham, speaking of her with admiration. He was city editor of the old *Portland Telegram* and later, of the *Oregon Journal*, and respected her as a fine and able journalist. Two Cannady sons, Ivan and George, were schoolmates of mine at Grant High and Willamette University. I had lost track of them and have wondered where the family was.

Barbara Crookham Euler

Klan influence grows in U.S.

(Continued from page 1 col 6)

Lately, there have been an eruption of overt Klan related violence and admissions:

- Greensboro, N.C. - Five communist Workers Party supporters are murdered by four Klu Klux Klansmen and two Nazis. All were freed by the court.

- Salt Lake City, Utah - Joseph Paul Franklin, an alleged former American Nazi and Klu Klux Klan member awaiting trial in Salt Lake City for the murder of two Black youths shot while jogging, is reported to have told his wife that he is also responsible for 12 other shootings of Blacks. He is also linked with the shooting of Vernon Jordan.

And closer to home, many members of both the Black and white communities are greatly disturbed at

the rash of organized, racial tactics being inflicted upon minority residents in the State of Oregon.

- May 1980. A Black family living in Oregon City suffered severe racial harassment, forcing them to move back to Portland

- Spring 1980. A St. Helens interracial couple is harassed

- July 1980. The Ray Richardson family suffers racial harassment

- KGW-TV airs William Shockley, who asserts that Blacks are intellectually inferior to whites

- October 1980. Posters calling for the death of Jews and Blacks appear in downtown Portland.

Most feelings are, that organized, anti-racial efforts against Blacks and other minorities are gaining momentum, in the City of Portland. And that unless responsible citizens take charge to stop its movement,

Portland will experience the same violent eruptions and confrontations as North Carolina, Miami and other cities. Some Portland citizens such as Linda Roberts feel that not enough Portland area residents are speaking out against this type of danger. "I think what has happened is the majority community who do not have these same anti-racial beliefs as those who are trying to further isolate the communities, have not spoken out, therefore, their silence gives support to those who believe different. Citizens have to take a stand to make it known that organized, anti-racial efforts in this City will not be tolerated. Because if they don't it gives covert permission for those efforts to continue."

It is hoped that residents of both Black and white communities, will not let this happen.

Minorities remain at bottom of state employment

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

General Services employs 432 persons, with a 2:1 ratio of men to women. Ninety-six per cent of the women earn \$600 or less. Black, Hispanic, Asian and Indian minorities are well represented. Although concentrated in skilled craft, clerical and office positions, they are also represented in middle and top management.

Success is credited to an administrative commitment to affirmative action; a visible affirmative action officer with sufficient resources; a strong recruitment process.

State Police has 1,087 employees. All minorities are under represented. There are five Blacks, seven Hispanic, six Asians, two Native Americans.

State Police Superintendent John Williams explained that few women or minorities apply for police positions; minorities are adverse to fields relating to law enforcement; minorities prefer to live in urban

areas. He noted that minorities do poorly on examinations and women fail tests of strength (changing tires, for example).

The State Police have an active affirmative action officer but he lacks authority to make policy and make program changes. The department is re-designing its testing requirements.

Adult and Family Services employs 2626 persons. Females dominate 4:1 but 92 per cent of the females are at low salary levels. Eight per cent of the women are mid and upper level managers, while 46 per cent of the males are in those positions.

Minorities are well represented but ninety two per cent are in lower salary ranges; only eight per cent are in mid-management. Of the nine top administrators, one is Black and none are other minorities. All are

male. Of the administrators in the next lower level, 80 in number, two are Black, with no other minorities.

Administrator Keith Putman failed to respond to the Affirmative Action offices' inquiry on his successes and failures.

Two significant areas that effect minority hiring are testing and rejection for "lack of experience". Misinformation on residential and career preferences prevail.

Another feature of the Affirmative Action Office is the development of a directory of persons who are interested in state employment. Persons who are interested in future employment send their resumes to the office and they are distributed to agency affirmative action officers. These people then can be recruited by the agencies as vacancies develop.

King Improvement Association meeting "Election of Officers" November 25, 1980 at 7:30 p.m., at the King Facility 4815 N.E. 7th.

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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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Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher

