

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Past promises foil solutions

It might seem strange to some to see white parents at the school board meeting clamoring for busing. It only points out that - as so many Black spokesmen have said - the problem is not busing but who rides the bus.

We agree with the school board's decision to rescind an earlier policy that would provide bus transportation only for children living one and a half or more miles from school. The current policy provides transportation for children who live a mile or more from school.

This problem points out some of the deficiencies in the previous school administration. In efforts to coerce neighborhoods into accepting the middle-school reorganization, the previous administration made a lot of promises - including providing transportation forever. Now, only two years

later, the new administration is faced with attempting to keep those promises and also cut budget.

Another good example of the previous administration's lack of direction and planning is Washington/Monroe High School. To spend millions to consolidate Washington and Monroe, including building renovation and planning and administrative costs, and then three years later to talk about closing it is inconceivable. The same factors - declining enrollments and deficient budgets - were as prevalent when the decision to spend millions on Washington/Monroe was made as they are now. There have been no great unforeseen changes.

Those who say the previous administration was expert on finance must be kidding.

It's all a matter of race

For decades efforts have been made to give the U.S. citizens who live in Washington, D.C., a basic right - representation in Congress. D.C., now has one Congressman, who cannot vote, and no Senators.

For decades efforts were blocked by Southerners who controlled the committee chairmanships in Congress. Efforts were blocked because the majority of the citizens in D.C., are Black.

Now there is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow D.C. its two Senators and Congressman, with the right to vote.

Washington D.C. collects more taxes and

has a larger population than many states, yet has no representation in government.

A little known fact is that the young men of D.C. lost their lives in the Vietnam war at a higher percentage than all but one state, or as Representative Gratton Kerans of Salem told the Oregon Senate Committee on Human Resources Tuesday, the residents of D.C., "gave the blood of their children at a higher rate, yet have no vote and no right in determining national policy."

Two years ago the Oregon Legislature refused to ratify the D.C., amendment. Will it ratify this session? It is all a question of race.

Steve Kafoury - City Council

Next Tuesday, February 17th, is election day. Portland residents will be asked to select a City Commissioner to fill the vacancy left by Frank Ivancie when he assumed the office of Mayor.

The three front runners are believed to be former State Senator Steve Kafoury, County Commissioner Earl Blumenauer, and community activist Margaret Strachan.

The three front runners have similar political philosophies, making the selection more difficult. Kafoury and Blumenauer, who both

served in the Oregon legislature, had similar voting records. Ms. Strachan has long been involved in neighborhood work, serving for a time as director of the Northwest Neighborhood office.

Steve Kafoury is our choice. We respect the fact that he has had the courage to provide leadership on unpopular issues. He has worked and lived in this community; he is available to the citizens of this community.

We urge your vote for Steve Kafoury for City Council.

asked to participate. This is an opportunity to meet not only our local representatives but those from across the State.

Too often we are quiet until the deed is done. This is an opportunity to get your word in early. Watch the Observer for details of the breakfast scheduled for Saturday 21st. Of course, suggestions are welcome.

Come to breakfast

The first Legislative Breakfast, sponsored by the Observer, was held at Bourbon Street last Saturday. Guests were Senator Bill McCoy and Representatives Jim Chrest and Howard Cherry. The occasion provided a lively discussion and the dissemination of many facts.

These breakfasts will continue - every other Saturday - and many of the Legislators will be



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: \$10.00 per year in 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 minority 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.

283-2486

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Africa Update

By Fungai Kumbula



This week we continue with the events that have taken place on the African continent over the past year by looking at East Africa and the Horn.

January 5-10: The EPLF (Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front) engages Ethiopian troops in fierce fighting, a harbinger of what is to come the rest of the year.

February 21-2: Somalia charges Ethiopian air raids have hit Somali towns and reports more similar raids in June, July, August and September. Ethiopia each time denies crossing the border.

February 26: Some 6,000 demonstrators march on the U.S. and Egyptian embassies in Khartoum, Sudan, to protest the exchanging of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel. Sudanese support for Egypt is markedly moderated shortly thereafter.

March 4: Uganda's President Godfrey Binaisa appeals to the international community for aid for the 20,000 persons facing starvation in the Karamoja district of eastern Uganda. Neighboring Kenya and Tanzania also seek emergency food assistance in late March.

March 15: Tanzania begins to pull out some of its 10,000 troops in Uganda.

April 22: Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana foils a coup attempt and dismisses all but two of the military officers in his government thus moving Rwanda closer to civilian rule.

April 24: Ethiopia reveals that over 5 million people are affected by drought. The refugees fleeing both the drought and war are now put at over 2 million.

May 10: Uganda's ruling Military Commission oust President Binaisa following his firing of pro-Obote (current President but then in exile in Tanzania) Brig. General Oyite

Ojuk.

May 14: Sudan and Ethiopia issue a joint communique promising improved bilateral relations and Sudan promises to seal her borders to Eritrean guerillas. Relations between the two neighbors had been strained due to Sudan's support for the guerillas who have been fighting Ethiopia since 1962 to establish an independent Eritrea.

July 8: Mauritius (another African island in the Sea of Shaka) Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam demands that Britain return the island of Diego Garcia preparatory to making the Sea of Shaka a zone of peace. Britain refuses saying the island will only be returned when it is no longer needed as a military base.

July 25: The UN halts relief supplies to the Karamoja region of Uganda following harassment and the killing of two UN personnel by bands of armed gangs.

July 27: The US announces the signing of an agreement with Kenya for access to Kenya's naval and air facilities. A similar agreement is signed with Somalia in August. Most African countries oppose these agreements for fear this would draw Africa into the perennial East-West conflict.

August 27: The CIA reports Somali troop support for Ogaden guerillas stirring up further opposition to Carter's administration's plans for inclusion of Somalia in the Rapid Deployment Force strategy.

August 28: The three year-old alliance between the EPLF and ELF (Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front and Eritrean Liberation Front, two of the movements battling to wrest Eritrea from Ethiopia's control) comes to an abrupt end as the two engage in bloody clashes. By

November, the EPLF has established clear dominance.

September 19: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization declares a food crisis in 25 of Africa's 50 countries including Zimbabwe.

September 29: The white US sailor who admitted killing an alleged Kenyan prostitute is acquitted by a senile white judge and released on a \$70.00 good behavior bond! The sorry judge is subsequently retired.

October 6: Idi Amin loyalist slip into Uganda from Zaire and capture several towns killing a number of civilians. The Ugandan army eventually routs the invaders and drives them back across the border. No word from Amin who, reportedly, is still hiding in Saudi Arabia.

October 26: Tanzania's President Julius Nyerere is returned to office for the fifth time but dissatisfaction with their handling of the economy causes half of the incumbents to be dumped from office. Zanzibar, the island partner in the Tanzanian federation elects its first ever government.

November 18: Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry visits Ethiopia dealing another blow to Eritrean guerillas who have always enjoyed his support in their war against Ethiopia.

December 1: Ethiopia and Kenya issue a joint communique pledging mutual support against "Somali aggression."

December 10: Uganda holds her first elections since 1962 and former president Milton Obote, ousted by Amin in 1971, emerges the victor.

December 15: Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi pays a state visit to the Sudan.

A very, very busy year 1980 was. Next, we shall visit Southern Africa.

Sexuality and the law - Southern style

By Dr. Manning Marable

Let me begin my reminding my readers that by taste and temperament, I am a Southerner. My fondness for the sunny South grows as the temperature in and around Ithaca, New York drops. When the Black Student Union of Florida State University invited me to speak recently on the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr., I readily accepted. Surely the Sunbelt has more to offer than the chilling climate of fear that recently pervades Buffalo, and New York City.

Arriving in Florida, it became obvious that other Northern Blacks had been returning to the region in record numbers. Since 1971, the historic pattern of Black out-migration from the South has been reversed. The regional metropolises of Atlanta, Houston, Tampa Bay, Jacksonville, Memphis and Miami have become the new islands of "economic opportunity." Right to work laws and a philosophy of endless corporate expansion reinforce a kind of primitive individualism, moralism and evangelicalism, both in the public and private sectors.

Stating all this, I was still surprised when I read in the morning newspaper that the Florida Legislature could possibly kill a state-funded program which rehabilitates convicted rapists. Over a 13 year period the Mentally Disordered Sexual Offender Rehabilitation Program had treated about 12,000 convicted rapists with remarkably successful results.

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Critics argue that the program is too costly. About \$20,000 per year is spent to rehabilitate rapists over a three year period. This is twice the cost of simply putting the rapist behind bars. But as in many things, the benefits outweigh the costs. Only 10 percent of those who undergo the sex therapy program ever rape again. This contrasts with 75 percent of all rapists who finish their prison sentences, go into the public, and rape again. However, these statistics may not satisfy budget-conscious legislators, who may in the end decide that, women's safety is not worth the extra fiscal expense.

"A successfully treated person goes out and does not recommit crimes against women and children," stated John Wright, forensic programs supervisor for the Mental Health Program Office of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. Sexual offenders who are simply locked up can and - usually do - commit more rapes once released. "What's the moral obligation?" Wright asks, "How do you spend your money? What price are you going to put on a rape? Evidentially, \$20,000 for some legislators may be too high a price.

A second instance of the bizarre and inexplicable relationship between sexuality and the Florida criminal justice system was reported in the *Florida Flambeau*, the student newspaper at Florida State Univer-

sity. One inmate at the Union Correctional Institute at Raiford, Florida, was serving a thirty year sentence for sexual assault. The inmate submitted to extensive psychological counselling. A staff psychologist met with the man in 39 sessions and eventually concluded that "the subject has a fairly high chance of success in the free society."

The imprisoned man's appeal before the Florida Parole and Probation Board was denied several weeks ago. The reason: "chronic masturbation."

The Parole Board declared that the man "evidenced a pattern of ongoing criminal behavior evidencing need for mental treatment." Behind bars for over six years, the masturbating inmate was ordered to remain in prison for an additional 33 months. David Mack, spokesperson for the Florida Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice, informed the *Florida Flambeau* that this was the first instance of extending the date of prison parole because of "chronic masturbation."

Sexuality and the law does not seem to mix well in the new South. Or perhaps the ancient patterns of sexism and legal apathy toward progressive social reform have transcended their origins in the Antebellum era. In either case, these recent incidents reveal a failure of the legal system to protect the victims of sexual crimes and to promote the rehabilitation of sexual offenders.

Reagan: No more free lunches

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more on ownership of our businesses -- if you look at it, Blacks are basically consumers. Again, if we plan to become competitive in the American economic structure, we had better become producers."

What is your attitude toward Ronald Reagan and his incoming administration?

"Reagan is the new symbol of the system," said Kennedy, who was offered an executive position with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., recently but declined because he did not want to live back East.

"Reagan was elected because the people in the system all agreed that

the government was spending too much money and not getting a return on America's money," he said. "Like I mentioned earlier, the free lunch is over. Ronald Reagan is going to separate the lambs from the wolves."

Although Kennedy declined the

Police Union/BUF

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Bureau statistics from July to September, failing to state whether this crime index included youth crime. Crime categorically increases due to the summer school break. Peters breaks off his assault on the Black United Front by summerizing that

position with HUD, he says that he would consider the regional directorship of the department. Kennedy will appear on "Dialogue," a KPTV -12 Public Affairs program on February 14th (7AM) and 15th (10AM). He will also appear on the show February 21st (7AM) and 22nd (10PM).

the Black United Front represents a minority within a minority, somehow delecting from his perspective that this same small group called a one-day boycott from classes just nine months ago in which over 5,000 student stayed home.