



# Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes  
Sports Editor

Oregon State, the nation's No. 1 or No. 2 ranked team, depending on which poll you believe, journeyed to the East Coast Saturday afternoon and after a lackluster showing against St. Johns were wondering if the Beavers should even be ranked at all. One game does not a season make but this was the game OSU so badly needed to impress those Easterners who still think of Oregon as some wild place where Buffalo run free and Indians run around scalping people.

Whether it was due to fatigue, jet lag, this Beaver team was troubled. The defense was superb, granted. But when you're ranked No. 1, people expect you to have a balanced attack. The Beavers, on this Saturday, couldn't hit the broadside of a barn from twenty paces, and the only reason they didn't come away losers is because St. Johns decided to play Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder in their back court, and decided to let the two of them do the shooting for 19 straight minutes. Oregon State awed by the ineptness of Ray and Stevie,

seemingly forgot that they were supposed to put the ball through the hoop and not follow Wonder and Charlie's example.

Oregon State eventually pulled away to a 57-45 victory that impressed no one. Sure, the Beavers thrashed Oregon in a conference counter Thursday night in the "pit" then boarded a bus to Portland to make connections to fly across three time zones. That could be used as an excuse to the West Coast people, but the Easterners will never buy it.

Charlie Sitton, the most honored prep basketball player in the history of the State of Oregon, is rapidly becoming the state's biggest flop. Sitton was named the male prep basketball "Player of the Year" by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and was enshrined in the Seamco High School All-American Wall in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Now, Charlie won award after award last year, in fact, awards too numerous to name in this column. Charlie came to OSU as the most highly recruited player in the country, so naturally one would assume

that Charlie could play the game. After watching Mr. Sitton as a prep this writer wasn't impressed, but decided that all those Romans couldn't be wrong and thus, decided to hold judgment until college. Now, after one year, the m oratorium has been lifted. Sitton is averaging 6.2 points per game while grabbing off a remarkable 2.8 boards per game.

Whereas stats, understandably, will not tell the whole story, but these are ridiculous. If Charlie is truly the best, or one of the best players in the country, then surely we should expect more. Sitton does start for the No. 1 Beavers, but only because Ralph Miller had to promise Charlie he would start in order to lure him to Corvallis.

Rob Holbrook, who Charlie replaced, is a better player and should not have been replaced in the starting line-up. Sitton, does hustle but so does all the Beaver players.

I've watched a few games in my time and Sitton, so far, is far and away from being the best I've seen. And unless Charlie improves tre-

mendously he will not live up to prior expectations. Remember Holbrook stepped in last year and did a tremendous job as a sophomore and before the season began he had his job taken away. He didn't lose it, but had it taken away and given to Mr. Sitton. Lets compare some stats.

After 17 games, Holbrook had scored 46, one less than Sitton's 47, and remember Charlie has played 397 minutes to Holbrook's 267. Perhaps the jury is still out on "Charlie Boy," but as of now, he's just doing the job. Who is doing the job, is All-American Steve Johnson. Johnson is super tough around the basket, shooting a remarkable .762 from the field, and that's incredible. One has to wonder what the 6-10 youngster could do if he played 40 minutes a game. Critics say, "well, he only shoots layups." Well, wouldn't everyone shoot layups if they could? But they can't, and Johnson does, which must mean something.

But this is just one Black man's opinion.

# Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah  
Aka Joe West #40404

Perhaps Governor Vic Atiyeh should look at the state's own prisons as a place to launch his battle against racism in Oregon, a legislator suggested recently.

Representative Joyce Cohen, D-Lake Oswego, made the comment during a House Judiciary Committee hearing in response to a remark by Parole Board Chairman Betty Browne that Oregon has the second highest per capita rate of incarceration of Blacks in the United States.

"If the Governor really wanted to do something for minorities, maybe we have a case right there," Cohen said.

In a speech last Monday at the opening session of the Legislature, Atiyeh proposed a law to make racial harassment a felony -- a potential first for the nation.

He said the legislation is needed to prevent a repeat of incidents during the past year involving harassment of racial minorities.

Browne told the committee that approximately 20 percent of Oregon's inmates are Black - a ratio she said is far out of line with Blacks's approximately 5 percent of the state's population. Only Washington, she said has a higher per capita rate of Black prisoners.

Robert Watson, state Corrections Division Administrator, disputed Browne's figures.

He said Blacks make up about 11 percent of the inmate population and said the figures had never ex-

ceeded 14 percent. He said Blacks, Indians, Latinos and Orientals together make up about 20 percent of the inmate population.

Browne told lawmakers Oregon's per capita incarceration of Indians and Latinos also rank among the nation's highest.

She said racial minorities tend to fare worse than whites in attempting to plea bargain criminal charges. She said they also seem to be hit harder by the state's 25-year mandatory minimum sentence for murder, and to draw consecutive sentences for multiple crimes more frequently.

"I don't have any suggestions," she told the committee. "But I see it as a problem in the prisons."

Browne cited three recent examples in which she believes racial minorities may have received stiffer sentences than whites committing the same crimes:

An 18-year old Indian youth sentenced to 25 years after killing a white man in self-defense.

A Latino who spoke no English, sentenced to 25 years after pleading guilty, on his lawyer's advice with the understanding that he would serve a 3-year sentence.

A Black man receiving consecutive sentences totaling 120 years, with a 60-year minimum after being convicted of three rape and sodomy counts, when a white man in a neighboring county was sentenced to 20 years after plea bargaining

a 15-count rape indictment.

The above statements were taken from the January 16, 1981 edition of the *Statesman-Journal*, Salem, Oregon. I have included it in this column because of the disturbing implications it illustrates. For over a year I have been trying to tell the community how racist and on-sided the Oregon criminal justice system happens to be.

Now two white women have come out and spoken the very words that have been expressed in previous *Observer* articles. One represents state government and the other represents the Oregon Parole Board. Both express concern over racial discrimination within the criminal justice system. What Ms. Betty Browne failed to mention is that the Parole Board isn't giving minority inmates consideration for the bigotry of the criminal justice system. More often than not the Parole Board is responsible for minority inmates doing more time for the same crimes white inmates commit. While her honesty is appreciated -- action speaks louder than words -- "so do something, Ms. Browne."

I would also sight this area of concern, why didn't one of the Black elected officials come to the forefront with this issue? It would seem as though Representative Joyce Cohen, D-Lake Oswego, has more empathy for incarcerated Blacks than Senator McCoy.

"Maybe we should circulate a WANTED poster on Senator McCoy -- ALIVE ONLY!"

We would also like to appeal to the Oregon Black Commission on Minority Affairs to investigate the suspicions of Ms. Browne and Representative Joyce Cohen. We also request that the Commission send a representative to Oregon State Penitentiary to interview Black prisoners for possible Parole Board discrimination in date sets. For sometime now Black prisoners have voiced concern over the implementation of the Matrix system employed by the Parole Board.

We personally challenge Senator McCoy to get involved in the process that effect Black prisoners during their incarceration period. It is regretful that a representative from Lake Oswego had to voice those concerns when we have a State Senator who is Black.

The racist treatment of Black prisoners within the criminal justice system must be confronted and dealt with. The middle of the road attitude of Black people in position of authority and representation must also be confronted. Black people inside the Oregon penal system are being systematically destroyed. Their rights to equal treatment under the law are being violated daily. "Racial discrimination is a very real occurrence behind these walls."

# No more 'free lunches'?

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

For the high budget the figure is \$30,217 and for the low-income budget it is \$12,585. Although the new figures have not been released yet, the AFL-CIO estimates the budgets should be \$14,000, \$23,000 and \$34,500.

Yet the average wage-earning family of four, with one family member employed, would have an income of \$12,464 -- less than the minimum required.

On the low income budget, food costs make up about 36 percent of the expenditures; housing costs are about 22 percent; medical care is about 11 percent.

While employees in the private sector fail to earn what is necessary to support their families adequately, real pay in the public sector has declined. According to an AFL-CIO report, average earnings for state employees (nation-wide) have decreased by 38.7 percent, while the consumer price index has risen 47.5 percent. Wages of county and municipal workers declined even further.

During the first half of 1980 state and local governments that are under collective bargaining provided an average wage increase of 7 percent, while inflation reached 14.7 percent. The actual rate of decline of real wages in the first half of 1980 was 6.7 percent.

While recession in the US destroys the job market, it also affects corporate earnings. Propped

up by earnings of over-seas operations, the US based multi-nationals are predicting lower earnings abroad. The International Monetary Fund says the economy of Western Europe will expand only 1 percent this year, compared to 2 percent last year. Compounding that problem is the loss in value of the dollar as compared to other currencies, which means that a U.S. company selling abroad gets fewer dollars for a given volume of sales. Many American corporations - other than oil - are preparing for smaller profits and therefore smaller re-investments this year.

While unemployment was rising in this country, U.S. multinational corporations and their affiliates spent \$47.4 billion on plants abroad - an increase of 23 percent from 1979. The Reagan administration plan to cut funds to the Export-Import Bank, which aids U.S. companies that do business abroad, is expected to cause more corporations to shift their production facilities overseas.

President Reagan predicts his new economic plan will "put the nation on a fundamentally different" course of high growth and lower inflation. His economists predict a one percent increase in "real" gross national product this year, 4 percent in 1982 and almost 5 percent in 1983 and in 1984. At the same time inflation will slow from 11 percent this year to 5.5 percent by 1984.

This is far more optimistic than

most private economic forecasters, who although they see strong growth in the next few years doubt that it will be as quick as the Reagan administration predicts.

While President Reagan's economic projections are positive, the U.S. Department of Commerce's index of leading economic indicators declined slightly in December. Seven of the ten indicators declined, including orders to factories for new goods, contracts for new plants and equipment and issuance of building permits. Factory layoffs and average work week of manufacturing workers held even. Other components that contributed to the decline were money supply, stock prices, change in crude material costs, and change in liquid assets.

Although a one-month drop of .8 percent, after six months of slight rise, is inconclusive in detecting a trend, the drop bears on the views of many analysts who believe another slowdown may lie ahead.

High interest rates and shortages of mortgage money are not isolated factors but are symptoms of an economy in trouble. Since 1965, savings, investments and productivity have declined. This is combined with growing government deficits, inflation and recession.

In this economic environment, Blacks continue to struggle to protect gains made in the last twenty years. Inflation, unemployment, high interest rates, and decrease in

productivity rates have had a devastating effect on Black workers.

Black employment is further affected by relocation of businesses from the central cities; competition for jobs from undocumental workers and white women; high unemployment; lack of basic skills necessary to cope with the technological job market; and discrimination.

In spite of employment figures, college enrollment among Blacks increased by 92 percent between 1970 and 1979. The proportion of Black adults who were high school graduates rose 20 percent, as compared to a 10 percent increase of whites. About 13 percent of Blacks 25 to 34 years old, completed four years or more of college.

Additional evidence that refute the "free lunch" include:

- 52.3 percent of Black families own their own homes compared to 68.8 percent of the U.S. total.

- 68.1 percent carry life insurance, compared to 67.9 percent of the U.S. total.

11.1 percent carry life insurance of over \$50,000, compared to 10.7 percent of the U.S. total.

- 1.1 percent have invested in U.S. Treasury notes compared to .9 percent of the U.S. total.

4.5 percent bought encyclopedias, compared to 2 percent of the U.S. total.

President Regan said, "Inflation and unemployment are threatening the American way of life as never before. Free lunch?"

# Candidates invited to King

Community persons who are concerned about the School Board elections invite their neighbors to meet the candidates on Sunday, February 22nd, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Candidates who have agreed to attend are Sarah Newhall, Charlotte

Beaman, Ross Dey, Helen Mason, Dean Giswold, Herb Cawthorne. Any others who file for positions are also invited to attend. The meeting will be held at King Neighborhood Facility.

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Often, the surest way to convey misinformation is to tell the strict truth."  
Mark Twain

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