

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Black removal again?

It comes as no surprise that Adams and Washington were the only high schools named by the school district's school closure/consolidation committee for closure; Adams 41 percent Black, and Washington 37.7 percent Black, both serving low income neighborhoods.

The school closure committee - in its wisdom - chose not to close schools that "participate in the desegregation program" to the extent that they receive 10 percent of their population through administrative transfer. This the old theory - the Blanchard theory - that Black children should be pushed out of their own neighborhoods while those schools that are willing to accept them should be rewarded.

Thus Jackson, which has all of the reasons for closure, is allowed to remain open because it recruited minority youngsters, while the schools in the children's neighborhoods will be closed - pushing even more children out. Or is it just that the people of Jackson live on the right side of the river and have the political power to save their school?

Adams High School has been scheduled for failure since it opened. First the students had the audacity to refuse an American flag presented to them by a racist organization, then they refused to participate in the Rose Festival Princess selection. This was followed by more real problems - the inability of children who had been miseducated and uneducated in the elementary schools to adjust to an experimental "open classroom" situation where self-discipline and self-motivation was prerequisite. This combination - an independent, inter-racial and sometimes unruly, student body born

amid national political and social upheaval - gave Adams a reputation it has never been able to shed.

Adams is now like the normal structured high school, with a difference. Because of its size and tradition, it has a humanity lacking as many of our schools. It is small for several reasons: When the upper grades were removed from Woodlawn, King and Vernon, the students were sent around the City and not allowed to return to Adams; the district and the press have discussed closing Adams for years, discouraging students from enrolling; the former reputation - often repeated by the press - continues.

There are many questions that need to be answered before Adams and Washington are considered for closure: Has there been consideration for closing a southeast school and adjusting attendance areas through boundary changes; with Northeast Portland one of the fastest growing areas in the City, one of the few areas with land available for housing, and with crowded elementary schools, are future projections being considered; with Adams and Washington closed, when will the students of Tubman be assigned; will they be scattered throughout the City or be placed in Lincoln to keep up its sagging enrollment?

Where are you, Joe Reike? One of the strongest supporters for planned, coordinated school closure is board member Joe Reike. When he began pushing for the school closure plan last summer, Reike never failed to mention Lincoln first. Well, Joe, what about Lincoln?

Chile first, U.S. next

An item in the morning *Oregonian* sets the stage for the coming attempt to create in the U.S., the "free enterprise" system imposed by the U.S. on other nations including Chile, South Korea and Taiwan.

The article, called "CIA seeks freer hand at home" outlines the plan of the Reagan administration - through a presidential executive order - to give the CIA legal authority to spy on Americans at home and abroad through "intrusive techniques" such as searches, physical surveillance and infiltration of domestic organizations.

This will remove - through Executive Order - the few restraints put on the spy organizations by Congress and the Carter and Ford Administrations following their attacks on the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-war movement, student activists and political parties.

This is not an isolated incident - but should be viewed along with other front page stories - "Rates boosted on state GI home loans," "Big boosts seen for military" and "\$48.6 billion in cuts targeted by Reagan."

Chile is a perfect example of the plan that will be established in the U.S., if Americans don't wake up. In 1973 the democratically elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende (called communist by the U.S. press), was assassinated and his government overthrown with the aid of the CIA. The citizens who had supported their government, who opposed the military coup, or who objected to their brutalities practiced by the new regime were imprisoned, disappeared or fled the country. Unions and popular organizations were outlawed; a state of martial law declared.

A free market economy was established - that is, no regulation on business. This was carried out by U.S. multi-national cor-

porations, with financing by U.S. banks - Chase Manhattan, etc. With no government regulation of business and no opportunity for worker organization, a state of near slavery developed. All government support for the needs of the people - housing, welfare, health care, education was terminated, leaving the people even more destitute.

Along with low wages and lack of social programs, taxes had to be raised. The huge U.S. bank loans had to be repaid, and in order to obtain more loans the government of Chile had to agree to even more repressive "belt-tightening" policies. Today Chile has the highest per-capita debt in the world with no way to pay it except through the rape of its resources.

To force the people to live under such extreme circumstances, repression is required. The army and police force, armed by the U.S., are among the most brutal in the world.

The model for this regime - the "free enterprise" theory of Milton Friedman - University of Chicago. Listen carefully and hear this man quoted ever more frequently by the Reagan administration in the coming days.

The Reagan administration has already begun - cutting funds to social programs and education; increasing the military spending; strengthening the FBI and the CIA; proposing removal of regulations on business - including minimum wage, worker safety, environmental protection.

The people of Chile lost their democratic government through U.S. interventions and the murder of their president. They have suffered and died to try to regain their rights. Will the people of the U.S. sit back, watching soap operas on TV, and allow our legal and civil rights to be removed in the interest of greater profits for a few?



Black ancestry of Boer heroes revealed

By Fungai Kumbula

Do you recall the controversy and brouhaha over the Black ancestry of five of your American Presidents? That is nothing compared to what is going on in South Africa right now. *The Johannesburg Sun*, an affiliate of *The Sun* (American) reported recently on an article in "Kronos" a publication of the Western Cape Institute for Historical Research. In a sick society like South Africa, this revelation had the same impact as if someone had found out that the founder of the KKK was descended from Black forebears.

Paul Kruger, notorious Boer President and General Louis Botha, South Africa's first prime minister, are only two of South Africa's leading proponents of racial separation whose lineage has been traced back to at least one Black parent, in this case a Black woman by the name of Lisbeth Van Die Kaap. She is supposed to have been born in Guinea, West Africa and then moved to South Africa in the late Seventeenth Century.

Professor J.L. Hattingh, director of the research effort, disclosed that he had stumbled across the Black ancestry of Botha and Kruger while researching the "whitening process" of the descendants of this woman; Lisbeth, a former slave. Hattingh says that in the early 1670's, Lisbeth gave birth to three daughters fathered by Louis Van Bengale, an Indian. These three

daughters as well as another two by a John Herr, a German with whom Lisbeth moved in after she left Bengale, were all born out of wedlock as Lisbeth supposedly never married any of the men she went with.

The five daughters all married white men, according to the professor, and the lineage of 243,000 and 246,000 white South Africans can be traced back to them today. Further, South African scientists, themselves champions of apartheid, the forced separation of the races in South Africa, had previously established that there are few white Afrikaners without some non-white blood. However, the inclusion of Botha and Kruger among this group is the first time that a member of the "ruling clique" has been "implicated" as having anything other than whole white lineage.

In a society that is also so fanatically religious -- Afrikaners view themselves as the chosen people and indoctrinate themselves into believing that by keeping the races separate, they are carrying out a biblical mission -- the idea that one of the "pillars" of this misguided philosophy not only has Black ancestry but was also illegitimate, is quite shattering. The revelation of this report is still reverberating through the shocked Afrikaner community and causing quite a few chuckles in the Black community

which remembers all too well the insults hurled at Black people.

It also shatters the myth of white superiority that proponents of apartheid have been trying to sell for over three decades now. If two of their heroes were actually descendants of Black forebears, what does that say about their long held philosophy that Blacks are "inferior," savages, uncivilized, fit only for performing manual labour for the whites? Afrikaner academics have also been the formulators of this false doctrine and, for one of them to come up with this irrefutable evidence of Black lineage on the part of some of the Afrikaners' most revered leaders must send a shiver up their collective spine.

What will the academics find next? Maybe they will find that the stories about mighty Black empires throughout the African continent at a time when Europeans were still living in caves are true after all? Maybe they will even find that Afrikaners have been led by the nose for the past one hundred years and, that far from being the "chosen people," they are actually outcasts? Could it be that Pandora's box has just been opened?

Who knows? One of these days someone may discover that Shockley is not white after all! Would that be a trip? But pleaseeeze, don't let him be Black!

Letters to the Editor

Help rebuild the Democratic Party

To the Editor:

If you are concerned with preserving our environment, natural resources, restoring peace in the world, providing innovative employment opportunities, preserving the health and safety of working people and senior citizens. If you are concerned with the erosion of human and civil rights here and abroad, then I invite you to join in revitalizing the basic institution of social change in this country, the Democratic Party.

In a special effort to broaden the

base of the Democratic Party in Oregon we are inviting the membership of all our natural constituencies: labor, women, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, youth, consumers, environmentalists, farmers, small business people and others to participate in Democratic Party affairs beginning with the Statewide Grassroots Conference May 15, 16, 17 at Oregon College of Education (OEC) in Monmouth.

We must all pull together now to make sure 1982 does not realign the electorate towards a right-wing

Republican majority. Rebuilding the Democratic Party from the bottom up and insuring the nomination of progressive candidates is the effective way to combat Reaganism.

Write me or the Democratic Party of Oregon (P.O. Box 1012, Salem, OR 97308 - 370-8115) to join the Outreach Committee or come to Grassroots May 15, 16, and 17th.

Cordially,
David McTeague

Democratic National
Committeeman

Open letter to the President

Mr. President,

The Hispanics in the State of Oregon were appalled at your comments during your address Monday, March 2nd to the National League of Cities regarding bilingual education. Specifically, your comments that a bilingual education program was never getting "...them adequate in English so they can go out into the job market."

Hispanics nationally and in the State of Oregon are equally concerned as you are that all Americans be equipped with adequate English language skills and other work abilities in order to be employed and capable of supporting themselves

and their families.

The purpose of bilingual education is to allow limited English-speaking persons the opportunity to learn academic and vocational skills while also learning English. The goal is to maximize a student's time.

In the past, persons of limited English-speaking ability have spent years only learning basic English. During those years, nothing else was learned. The result, was that children and adults were not provided an equal opportunity to learn other important job preparation skills such as math for students or vocational skills for adults. The consequence has been prolonged dependence on a cycle

that we all want to break: lower educational achievement, increased unemployment, and increased subsidies to ill prepared families.

Hispanics in Oregon support your effort to increase work incentives. Hispanics in Oregon are eager to support your economic policies. We understand the tradeoffs during harsh economic times, yet, at the same time, we urge you to research your position on bilingual education and other areas before making statements that will alienate Americans such as you who want to support your administration for the welfare of all Americans.

Hispanic Political Coalition

White man/Black woman = police harassment

Dear Editor:

Recently, while on my way to dinner, I encountered a situation with the Portland Police, that leaves a very bad taste in my mouth, as both a Black woman and employed citizen.

My date (who was white) and I, were driving down Union Avenue minding our own business when we noticed that a police car, headed in the opposite direction, came to an almost halt, and the officers inside pointing in our direction. We thought nothing of it, until it made a sweeping U-turn, headed in our direction, flashed lights and pulled us over.

There were no citations, but there was humiliation. The officers involved talked to my date and I, separately. The questions asked my date went like this: "Who is she? (Meaning me) Where did you pick her up at? How long have you known her? Are you sure she is who you say she is?" The officer questioning me asked things like, "What are you doing with him? Where did he pick you up at? Do you work? Show us your I.D.," And after about a thirty minute wait we were allowed to proceed to our destination.

The implications of this incident are many. First of all, these officers assumed that since they had seen a Black woman, riding in the car with

a white man, that apparently the Black woman was a whore, a pick-up, trying to con this man out of money, or whatever. Secondly, it is apparent that when the officers focused their attention on us, while passing, all they saw was race, color, a white man and Black woman together, and this, I am sure prompted them to pull us over.

I am forced to wonder just what would have been the reactions of these officers if the white man in the car had been their boss, or the Mayor, or even the Governor? My point is, these officers didn't know who the white man was. They didn't even care, which points to the fact that, as many Black women as there are working within State Agencies, who go to lunch with their bosses who are white, or are involved in business trips around town, with their white business associates, a dire threat is evident.

I went downtown, lodged a complaint, only to find that the officers didn't even make a note of any kind to the occurrence of the incident. They didn't note why we were stopped, or that we had been stopped. I was informed by Commissioner Charles Jordan's office, that officers are not required to make note of any incident where they stop citizens, if no citation is involved. I was also told that it would have been appropriate to write down the

badge number of the officers, and possibly license plate numbers, so that, if an investigation was to occur, they would know the officers involved.

For a Black woman to be made feel like a whore, just because she is riding with a white man is dangerous. It points to the fact that any Black woman caught riding with a white man, after a certain hour, stands to be humiliated in the same way. I hope that other Black women who find themselves in this same situation, will remember to write down both the badge number and license plate number of the officers.

Sincerely,
Janise Winchester

Doesn't believe

To the Editor:

I believe the moon is made of blue cheese, that babies come from cabbage patches, and that Mercedes Deiz is a "good judge."

And before I disregarded warnings that she is not capable of making financial judgments, and appeared in front of her, I believed in justice in the court room.

Kathryn Collins



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

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York

1st Place
Community Service
ONPA 1973

1st Place
Best Ad Result
ONPA 1973

5th Place
Best Editorial
ONPA 1973

Honorable Mention
Herrick Editorial Award
NNA 1973

2nd Place
Best Editorial
3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1975

3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1978

3rd Place
In depth coverage
ONPA 1979

