

EDITORIAL/OPINION

The word is 'justice'

Mayor Ivancie was reported by the *Oregonian* to have said: "Then, in the last four years, you've had a Black Commissioner in charge of the Bureau after Neil reassigned it... But yet, at the same time, a lot of racial problems and misconduct on the part of the police - and the administrative breakdown as far as the SID operation - happened under that Commissioner."

Whatever the intention, the implications are clear: The problems suffered by the people at the hands of the police are the result of the police Commissioner being Black.

For those who still believe Blacks to be inferior and those who haven't yet decided, the Mayor's words give comfort. He, too, must believe a Black man cannot function adequately because he is Black.

To Blacks it was a slap in the face from the City's highest elected official - one whom many supported albeit with hesitation. It's a signal that the small efforts toward equity will not continue - that the needs and aspirations of Black citizens will take a back seat to other City business?

We would like to hear the Mayor condemn the criminality and the brutality within the Police Bureau. We would like to know that those 30 officers who have practiced brutality against the public will be removed. We would like to hear the Mayor make an effort to bring justice to those who have been wrongfully convicted because of police crime. Planting of evidence and lying in court is serious business and we do not believe our "law and order" Mayor would condone such behavior; he should cooperate to remove its results from the lives of its victims.

We would like to hear the Mayor express his understanding of the causes of crime. He has criticized (if news accounts are correct) the belief of Commissioner Jordan that police alone cannot prevent crime. He has disagreed with the belief that police officers need to be aware of human behavior or, as he says, "be sociologists." Yet police statistics demonstrate that most of a police officer's time is spent on non-criminal activities, much of it dealing with domestic and neighborhood conflicts.

We would like to hear from our Mayor a little understanding of the causes of crime and some willingness to address those causes.

In a period of growing unemployment and increasing cost of living, the tensions and

frustrations will increase and crime will increase. Fathers are losing jobs; young people are in the streets with nothing to do; drugs are rampant and alcohol an easy answer. Public services and programs to aid those in crisis are discontinued. Where is the honest person who can't find a job supposed to turn? Does Mayor Ivancie have an answer?

Recent studies demonstrate that personal and family problems are directly linked to income in this country. Families with less than \$10,000 a year income have more medical problems; more retarded or disabled children; greater rate of suicide; delinquency and crime; more mental health problems; more child abuse and neglect and shorter lives.

Because of the racial realities many of those families are Black and other minorities. They are also the most frequent victims of crime and of police harassment and brutality.

We support "law and order," but in the context most used by such criminal elements as Richard Nixon and John Mitchell it means repression. The term "law and order" has come to mean the abuse of police power.

We would like to hear our Mayor talk about justice, equality and humanity.

Waving the Flag

The confederate flag has become a best seller at carnivals and parades. It was disturbing to see them waving along the route of the Rose Parade, but even more disgusting was the sight of a confederate flag fastened on one of the City's street cleaning units.

Perhaps Americans have forgotten what the confederate flag stands for - we have been so subjected to John Wayne like movies and "historical" movies that make heroes of traitors. The confederate flag honors men who chose to sacrifice hundreds and thousands of lives, who created wounds that have never been healed, who devastated entire sections of the country, who attempted to destroy our nation - all in the defense of slavery.

Apologies

We extend our sincere apologies and regrets to our readers for the unacceptable reference to Jewish people and the use of stereotyping in an article published in last week's paper: "Marlin McClain explains Pleasure split."



Oblivion

By Fungai Kumbula

Have you been following the CBS Special Reports: Defence of the United States? If you have, you know what a chilling experience that has been. The worst thing, it occurred to me as I watched one evening, is that television to a lot of us, is first and foremost, an entertainment medium. So much fiction and make-believe are fed to us night after night and we can sit in an easy chair comfortable in the knowledge that it's all make-believe. At the end of the movie we all know that all the actors and actresses will walk away, back home to their wives/husbands and families.

For that reason, it is hard to take TV seriously. That is the major tragedy of the current CBS program: it seems so fantastic, so crazy, so unreal that ordinary folk like you and I have trouble swallowing it. We are used to a real, rational world where reason prevails or is supposed to prevail. The problem with the afore-mentioned program is that it seems so much like a game; a child's game in fact except the players are not children. And they are not using toys either; they are playing with the real thing and their playground is not just the TV screen but the whole world.

The "toys" they are playing with

too are real nuclear devices with the capability to blow this whole earth to Kingdom Come not once but fifty times over. You watch your TV screen and hear this man tell a class how to fire a nuclear device; how to destroy the "enemy" before the enemy destroys you and you wonder: given the destructive power of nuclear explosion, does it really make a difference who destroys who? You hear talk of a "limited nuclear war" and you wonder how can one have a "limited" nuclear war? Do nuclear devices choose? My "limited" physics tells me they do not.

Given the risks involved in tampering with nuclear weapons, one would assume that logical, rational people would leave that destructive power well alone. Are there any winners in a nuclear war? How can there be winners when the survivors (if there are any) will wish they were the dead ones? The number of casualties in any such war would be such that existing medical facilities just would not be able to cope and the wounded would just lie there and fester to death. There would be no possibility of acquiring food, shelter or other emergency supplies as would be the case in similar emergencies because all supplies

would be contaminated. Imagine the scene: no food, no medical attention, no shelter, no water, nothing. The "survivors" would just hope and pray that death comes and quickly.

Do you remember the time there was a computer malfunction and one US nuclear equipped plane set off for the Soviet Union because it had "read" that the Russians were attacking? That's all it would take: one mistake like that and we would be plunged into a nuclear war from which there will be no survivors. It would be such a relief if we could all wake up and find out that this is all one big nightmare and that in fact it is a game: that the nuclear weapons we see are just make-believe; that this world we love so much is still safe for you and I to enjoy; that sanity and logic still prevail.

Since that is not likely to be something will have to be done if we hope to see the 21st century. Somehow we must all return to that time so long ago when sane people were in control. Since these people will destroy your world as well as mine, it is up to everyone to wake up and start doing something about saving this world before it is too late. Otherwise, Oblivion...

Letters to the Editor

Adams closure wrong

To the Editor:

Desegregation is one of the principal goals of the Portland Public Schools. Why, then does the School Board want to close a school which is naturally integrated?

As a white parent, I chose to live in this area to raise my children. I want them to appreciate the differences that exist with the various cultures who make up our nation. I do not want them to only experience a "token" encounter with other races in an isolated class here and there, and to live in a sterile atmosphere where all their neighborhood alike with values that exclude the acceptance of ethnic diversity.

Herb Cawthorne is correct in his assessment that closing both

Washington/Monroe and Adams would be grossly unfair to our minority population.

Go ahead and close Adams, but open a new school including the Washington/Monroe magnet programs at the Adams site so that the second largest student population in the city of Portland can go to its neighborhood school in the best physical plant in the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,
J. H. Robinson
Robert Nelson
Loa Collins
Dianna Peck
Myrtle Obazake
Sharon McCormack
Mark Rothut

Join Festivities

To the Editor:

Week of the Grand Rose Festival Parade and the Black community of Albina was not represented. The Rose Festival is an annual jubilant event, when the City of Roses displays its beauty.

It is time for the Black community and the people of Albina to organize their own parade. The Rose Festival week is a perfect time for the pride of the community to shine. "If Black is beautiful?" Let it shine!

The beauty and pride of this unique community must be displayed. Many of the outstanding individuals could be honored. Long and existing organizations need to be recognized. There is a variety of talent which is craving for attention. The Black community needs to honor its people, and show its pride. If there is anyone who wants to help organize our own Black Parade, lets get together now!

Sincerely,
Vernell Carter

Why not come to Oregon?

To the Editor:

I understand that there is some concern about the fact that I brought Congressional hearings to the State of Oregon recently. I would like to comment briefly on those concerns.

I came to Congress six years ago. During all of that time I have watched my colleagues, and I am sad to say that what a lot of people think, is true -- most members of Congress do seem to have an attitude of "the public be damned, we know what is best."

I have always figured Oregonians were different in that they did not have that sort of attitude, and did not want their representatives to have that attitude. So, it was with some special sadness that I note that elected Oregon representatives oppose my having held Congressional hearings in Oregon recently. I've always felt it is pretty important to give people -- real people, everyday people -- a chance to take part in government. So, in my six years in Congress, I have made it a point to bring Congressional business to the state as often as possible. In particular, I've made it a point to hold numerous hearings in Oregon over the years.

There is a good reason for this. A funny thing happens when the only place you hold hearings is Washington, D.C. The only people you hear from are career bureaucrats, highly paid lobbyists, or people who can afford to pay the thousand dollars its costs to fly back to Washington, stay in high-priced hotels and wine and dine their Congressman. That is who usually testifies at Congressional hearings. The result? Too often it is one-sided legislation that benefits just the bureaucrats, or the special interests...not the people. I don't think it is right. So, I have held hearings in places like LaGrande, Corvallis, Medford and other small towns in Oregon; because, I think it

is pretty important to hear what people who live and work in those towns have to say about legislation that will affect them. I have been holding hearings in Oregon for years -- it is not a new development. And, by the way, it is not politically motivated. Anyone who is running for office is hardly going to try to enhance his image by travelling to LaGrande and Pendleton to talk about herbicides and wilderness.

Frankly, I don't believe my position on those issues is particularly popular with a lot of folks in those areas. But, I believe in letting people know how I feel; and, I want to make sure I hear what the people have to say as well.

At my hearings in LaGrande, last month, I heard from senior citizens, housewives, fly fishermen, teachers, farmers, small town Chamber of Commerce representatives, and dozens of other just plain folks. That is what I came to hear. And I brought the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, John Seiberling (D-Ohio), with me. I think the people of Oregon -- the real people, not the lobbyists, or the corporate representatives -- deserve no less.

I doubt if many of the people who

took part in my hearings will ever get a chance to go to Washington, D.C., to testify in Congressional hearings, or will ever get a chance to tell two House Subcommittee Chairmen their concerns. That is why I came. Because I think it is important to hear what the people in Oregon have to say.

I would like to add one other thing. I hope others share my feeling of regret that some legislators from Oregon, a state that had prided itself on openness in government, oppose my holding hearings in Oregon. People have been mad at government for a long time because government hasn't cared enough to listen to what the people have had to say. It's up to legislators at all levels to change this and give people reason to trust their government again.

As long as those in government are saying "Keep the doors shut; it's business as usual," that trust may be a long time coming. I intend to work in Washington, D.C., and in Oregon to give people back their trust in government.

Sincerely,
Jim Weaver
Member of Congress



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



MEMBER

