

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## 'Let there be light'

Things do not look good for the American people -- the Reagan budget and the Reagan tax plan have been adopted. The country is in a recession and most economists forecast tougher times ahead. Unemployment is growing while programs to assist the unemployed and unemployable are being terminated or drastically reduced. At the same time, prices are climbing -- especially here in Portland.

When October arrives, bringing the new budget year, seasonal unemployment and cold weather, many citizens will find themselves in trouble. Where must they turn for help and encouragement? To their public officials.

It is essential that these public officials communicate with the citizens -- explain the policies and procedures, help locate resources, offer a kind word, or just be available. After all, they are the ones selected by all the people to serve as our representatives. They are the ones who have the knowledge and the power to find solutions.

The unfortunate truth is that contrary to the ideal of the republican form of government most of these public officials have long ago become professionals. They are not just citizens, living next door, working in the same shops, sharing the same experiences and thus able to represent the views and expectations of the citizens.

They are far removed from the ordinary citizen and often no longer remember.

In the coming months, communication with the public will be essential. We realize that most public officials have few contacts in the Black community and many have never considered the Black voters to be of much importance. Although some are open to public contact, the 8:00 to 5:00 worker has little access to government.

This is one reason why we invited several officials to use the *Observer* to communicate with our readers through regular columns. Some eagerly accepted the opportunity -- and the challenge. Among these was Mayor Frank Ivancie.

But it appears that our Mayor has succumbed to the advice of one of his aides who said that the Mayor has no obligation to "sell newspapers" for a Black publication. But . . . the Mayor immediately began writing for the shopper "This Week".

We would hate to think that our Mayor does not consider communication with Black readers to be necessary or desirable. The Mayor's image has become somewhat tarnished by some of his recent actions and remark. We again invite him to explain himself -- to speak directly to the people. He needs to shine some light on where he is and where he is going.



## I am Zimbabwean

By Fungai Kumbula  
Reporting from Los Angeles, CA.

An Original Poem  
By Fungai Kumbula  
Reporting from Los Angeles, CA

I am a mother  
Looking after the children  
The future of Zimbabwe  
I am a mother  
Rebuilding the nation

I am a father  
Bringing home the bread  
Cleaning up after the war  
I am a father  
Cornerstone of Zimbabwe

I am a doctor  
Tending to the sick  
I am a farmer  
Feeding the people  
I am a Zimbabwean

I am a teacher  
Enlightening the masses  
I am an entertainer  
Playing for the people  
I am a Zimbabwean  
I am a journalist  
Informing the nation  
I am an entrepreneur  
Spurring the economy  
I am a Zimbabwean

I am the president  
The Head of State  
I am the Prime Minister  
Head of the government  
I am a Zimbabwean

Politician, student  
Scientist, housewife  
Administrator, worker  
I'm on the team  
I am a Zimbabwean

## Reagan and the NAACP

By Dr. Manning Marable

Since its beginnings as an advocacy organization for the civil rights of Black people, the NAACP has expressed two contradictory tendencies -- a desire for militant reform and democracy within America's social and political system, and a belief in the inherent justice and fairness of this country's white economic leadership and power elites.

The first tendency was expressed by a founder of the NAACP, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois. The second was the position of Walter White and Roy Wilkins, the secretaries of the group until the late 1970s. DuBois became convinced that Blacks as a group could not obtain full civil rights until the entire American economic system was turned upside-down. White thought it was possible to achieve social and political equality within the existing system. As a result, DuBois' relationship with the NAACP was always stormy.

In 1934, he resigned as editor of *The Crisis* when it became clear that the NAACP would not develop a progressive economic agenda to deal with the Great Depression. DuBois returned to the NAACP in 1944, but was fired four years later when he and other progressive Blacks, notably Paul Robeson, refused to support the Cold War and the Truman administration's economic program that purged militants from organized labor and gave billions to big corporate interests.

Since 1940, the NAACP has never been in the forefront of the Black Freedom Struggle. In the

1940s, it was A. Philip Randolph's Negro March on Washington movement which challenged the Roosevelt Administration's discriminatory policies that led to the adoption of Executive Order 8802, the beginning of Affirmative Action. In the 1950s and 1960s, Wilkins was jealous of the successes of Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. During Black Power, the organization lost touch with the mind and mood of an entire generation of Black youth. During the Carter Administration, it rambled aimlessly from one policy meeting to another, seemingly without orientation or direction.

As the period of Reaganism, racism and reaction began after the election of 1980, the NAACP finds itself hopelessly mired on the rocky shoals of political impotency, ideological sterility and organizational chaos. This was never more clearly illustrated than this summer, when the NAACP hosted Ronald Reagan at its annual convention in Denver, Colorado. Last April, the group's board of directors had charged that Reagan's budget proposals were based "on an Alice in Wonderland approach that takes from the poor and gives to the rich." They had been insulted last year when candidate Reagan snubbed their convention invitation, claiming that "his staff had lost the invitation."

Yet actions speak louder than words. In the Denver Convention, Reagan declared his indecision on the extension of the Voting Rights Act, and his opposition to federal spending for job programs. "Just as the Emancipation Proclamation freed Black people 118 years ago,

today we need to declare an economic emancipation." Reagan insisted that his "economic recovery program" was "the surest, most equitable way to ease the pressures on all the segments of our society."

Adding insult to injury, the President had the incredible gall to justify his cruel social policies by evoking the name of Black abolitionist freedom fighter Harriet Tubman. "Harriet Tubman's glory was the glory of the American experience," Reagan gloated. "It was a glory which had no color or religion preference or nationality." The NAACP response was reserved. Benjamin Hooks, executive director, declared that Reagan's appearance "does not mean we have been persuaded to his point of view." An Associated Press photograph of NAACP President Margaret Bush Wilson in a warm embrace with Reagan at the conclusion of his address made virtually every major newspaper in the country. This is a form of "symbolic integration" the Black community neither respects nor desires.

We have to ask these questions: Who does the NAACP represent, and where is this group going? We do not need Ronald Reagan to give us lessons in economics, public policy, or Black history, for that matter. We need decisive leadership, criticism of the corporate economic establishment, bold and uncompromising attacks on Reaganism and white racism, and a vision of Black self determination that transcends the politics of cooperation and cooptation. It is now obvious that such leadership is not coming from the naacp board of directors, nor from older civil rights-style "misleaders."

## Let them starve?

One of the most cruel actions of the Reagan Administration's budget cutting orgy is the reduction and removal of minimal Social Security payments to individuals 80 years and older who are not eligible for retirement or survivor's benefits.

Since Social Security did not come into existence in this country until 1936 and then did not cover all types of jobs, many older citizens did not have the opportunity to work in covered employment. Many of these are Black people or members of other minority groups who because of racism were not allowed to hold covered jobs, but were relegated to uncovered service positions. Others are women who were barred from covered employment or who are widows of men who were unable to work in jobs covered by Social Security.

The three million current minimum benefit recipients -- 77 per cent of them women -- receive just \$122 per month. The

current budget plan will eliminate payments for future recipients and cut the payments of current recipients.

Surely we cannot expect elderly citizens, 80 years and older, many of whom worked hard all their lives, to go out and work for their bread and water. So, let them starve?

In nearly every nation of the world elderly citizens are valued and cared for. They are provided with the necessities of life including medical care. Only in the US are they cast aside -- useless because our culture values only those who have or can earn money.

Representative James Shannon is sponsoring HB4140 and Representative Ron Wyden is cosponsoring. The bill would restore the minimum benefits program. Everyone who has any regard for the fathers, mothers, uncles and aunts who worked hard to make the world easier for us should actively support this bill.

## Letters to the Editor

### Impressions of Detroit

To the Editor:

I spent three weeks in Detroit, Michigan during June and July 1981, and I would like to share with the readers of the *Observer* some of the impressions I gathered while there.

Detroit is run almost exclusively by Blacks: Mayor, Sheriff, Fire Marshall, Chairperson of City Council, Union representation for most city employees, television stations, weekly newspaper, and a host of other places that make the wheels turn.

Mayor Coleman A. Young, in my opinion, is doing a wonderful job, in some areas.

His revitalization and three pronged programs are sound, workable, and offer an incentive to a city vastly infused with over-spending.

Detroit is 56 to 60 percent Black; showcasing \$23,000 cars, \$50,000 condominiums, pastured land

homes far in excess of \$100,000 and ruins, dilapidated buildings, public buses in some Black neighborhoods that are not desirable or adequate transportation.

Detroit is fear, apprehension; old elderly citizens who live behind grills, bars and burglary alarms, afraid to speak of what they see because of retaliation, while they wonder about garbage collections.

Detroit is not sensitive to the needs of children and education; voiceless printed media coverage that does not serve the needs of the people.

Riot: The Governor's Task Force determined that rioting in the prisons resulted because guards were rural, Southern Michigan, (white) and inmates, inner-city (Black).

Detroit is parents, citizens and students not taking advantage of an open door policy in its public school

system.

Detroit is a beautiful city, depicted by a riverfront skyline that reeks with gloom as the Joe Lewis Arena passes without a dedication.

Detroit is a challenge that require common bond.

Coleman A. Young  
Mayor of a City  
A Black City  
Majestic and proud

Detroit's Black people  
My brothers and sisters  
Black, Black people  
Your's is a challenge

Struggling for all  
Let the world see  
Black, Black people  
Your's is a challenge

Never forget  
Those boys and girls  
Black, Black people  
Your's is a challenge.

Nathaniel Scott

## Wants Jordan

To the Editor:

I nominate Commissioner Charles Jordan for the first Representative from the new District 18.

We could do far worse and I'm personally convinced we can't do better. He has projected a worth-

while political philosophy, his commitment to the people has been manifest in these years of leadership in our community. His ability as we all know is top of the ladder.

I nominate Charles Jordan!  
Sincerely,  
Evelyn Collins

The *Observer* welcomes letters to the Editor. All letters must include the writer's name and address. The *Observer* retains the right to edit for length.

## African businessman expelled

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6)

harassment" and slammed against the trunk of the car, handcuffed and taken to jail. The female officer said, sympathetically, "I'm sorry it ended this way."

The police report says that the woman reported she was talking on the phone when Munne approached her and propositioned her. She went in the store and then went across the street to use another phone. She went home, then returned to the store for a can of tomato juice. When she walked by the phone booth he grabbed her arm. In the scuffle that followed, she got out a can of mace to defend herself. He grabbed the mace and shoved her against the phone booth.

While the officer was talking with the "victim," he learned that another officer had responded to the call by Munne - that he had been

threatened with a gun. The officer then went to see Munne, and in the discussion that followed decided to arrest him. He reported that Munne accused him of harassment and indicated that he would file a complaint, and that because he is a citizen of Kenya, the incident could have repercussions.

Two persons in the store said they had been present when the woman came in and said Munne had harassed her, and that they had seen no man. In Munne's favor, the woman whom he had called on the telephone called the police to report that they were talking when suddenly the phone dropped. He had later called to tell her he had been arrested.

No complaint was filed and Munne has heard nothing more about the charge. However, he had requested that the Police Bureau

notify INS so that agency could provide assistance. But later, Munne did file a complaint against the Police Bureau.

Munne states that he had begun discussing his status with the Portland Immigration Office prior to the June 30th date. "I have dealt with this office for ten years about receiving extensions of my student visa, and never had a problem before." His most recent visits to the office had been on September 25th and November 7th, when he was told not to worry, that as long as his application had been submitted everything was in order. He was never notified that his request for an extension was denied.

Suddenly he was notified to appear, on April 21st, at a hearing to show cause why he should not be deported for overstaying his visa. (Please turn to Page 3 Col 5)



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

