

EDITORIAL/OPINION

March for Jobs, Peace, Freedom

Twenty years ago, August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King's words rung out over the capitol mall — "I have a dream . . ."

A lot has happened in these twenty years. The War on Poverty and Model Cities have come and gone. The Voting Rights Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Bill were passed. Numerous court decisions dealt blows to segregation in education and discrimination in employment. Affirmative action regulations gained some jobs and helped some minority businesses.

Blacks became congressmen, mayors, judges, prosecutors, and legislators. More young people had the opportunity to attend college.

In the past four years, especially since the election of Ronald Reagan, many of the gains have been lost.

The world is in a state of profound economic crisis. Unemployment is over ten percent and more than double that for Blacks and other minorities. The education system is deteriorating and millions of young people have no opportunity for education and employment. Medical costs are skyrocketing, leaving millions without health care. Infant mortality is rising. For the first time, millions are homeless.

The forces of reaction are rising. An aggressive foreign policy, gunboat diplomacy, and an increase in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons threatens humanity.

The KKK and other hate groups are growing. The government is carrying out a carefully orchestrated attempt to eliminate the civil and human rights of minorities and women. Government secrecy and the use of public power against citizens are growing.

On August 27th millions of people will gather in Washington, D.C. and in cities across the nation, including Salem, to demand a more humane government. The cry is for jobs, peace and freedom. These rallies will unite the many groups the Reagan administration is working hard to separate — Blacks, whites, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, labor unions, political parties, the peace movement, students, women, and the poor. Our nation has the resources and power to deliver "jobs, peace and freedom." Whether it will depend on strong and persistent people, united in one cause.

The rally on August 27th, 11:00 a.m., in Salem is a good place to begin building that unity.

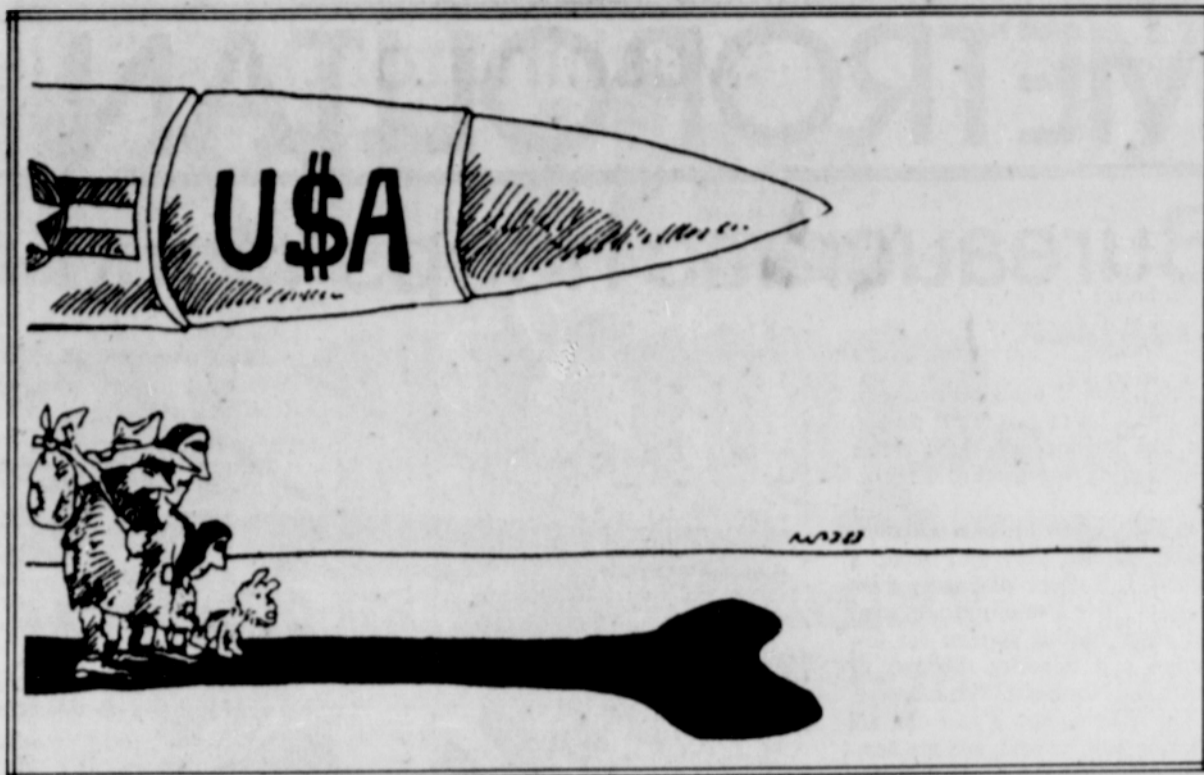
Black sports/white sports

In the United States, sports are divided into Black sports and white sports. Blacks play basketball, football, sometimes baseball, and box. A few take up wrestling and others participate in some track events. Whites play baseball, tennis, soccer, and water polo. They swim, dive, fence, lift weights, participate in gymnastics, equestrian sports, ping pong, boating, etc.

We hope many of our youngsters are watching the Pan American Games. If so, they might have seen Casimiro Suarez of Cuba win 8 gold medals in gymnastics. They also can see fine

Black athletes from many of the Caribbean and Latin American countries excelling in all sports. Many of the gold medalists, both men and women, from these countries are Black. This should refute the theory that Blacks are built to excel in some sports but not in others.

Young people should be encouraged to try many sports — not just those that hold the promise of fame and fortune. Good health, mental and physical well-being and a lot of fun can come from a wide variety of sports and games,



Hispanics oppose Reagan

Ronald Reagan made a quick campaign swing through Miami, Texas and California and a one-day symbolic visit to Mexico to launch his new effort to win Hispanic voters. But Reagan's road will not be easy because while he plans his campaign, Hispanics are already organizing against him.

The National Hispanic Voter Registration drive was launched on August 8th by more than 200 Latino leaders meeting in San Antonio. The goal is one million new Hispanic voters by 1984. Recent elections, like those of Mayor Harold Washington in Chicago and Mayor Federico Pena in Denver have demonstrated the influence of the Hispanic vote.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic organization, on July 4th elected as its president Mario Obledo, who was California's Director of Health and Welfare during the Jerry Brown administration. This organization will give priority to voter registration, relations with the Latin American

countries and immigration. Another immediate goal of LULAC is to build bridges with the Black community. LULAC and PUSH have signed an agreement that "binds the organizations to work together to resolve common problems in voting rights and jobs." Obledo has signed a similar agreement with the National Urban League and a meeting with the NAACP is planned.

In California, the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) ousted its president, a Republican ally of Governor George Deukmejian, and elected Fernando Chavez, 31, son of United Farm Workers Union President Cesar Chavez. MAPA is the largest Hispanic organization in the state that has the nation's largest Latino population — overwhelmingly Chicano and Mexican. Elected 2nd vice-president was Al Belmontez, chairman of the Los Angeles Coalition Against Plant Closures; Ben Molina, a member of U.S. Representative Mervyn Dymally's staff, was elected organizer. This election

reversed the two-year effort by Reagan supporters to bring the organization into the Republican camp.

The United Farm Workers Union is turning to more activism, independence and organization among Latino groups. Beginning in September, the UFW "Chicano lobby" will begin a massive telephone and mail poll to determine the issues most important to Chicanos and Mexicans in California. The UFW will cover all issues in its political lobbying, not just farm labor issues.

The Coalition of Latin American Trade Unionists (CLATU), now one year old, has as its goal the political participation of Latino trade union members. Currently 30 percent of Latino workers are union members, compared to 20 percent of white workers, but few hold leadership positions. The CLATU is seeking unity with other labor groups and especially with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Organizing in the Hispanic community over the past six months does not look good for Reagan's plans.

Ed Leek

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

learn to work with people more." She fears his style may have alienated some potential support. A former legislator herself, Kafoury puts down most of Leek's troubles to inexperience as a first-term representative. An aide to a liberal representative says Leek was an "ineffective floor speaker."

On the other hand, poor people's lobbyist Terry Rogers says Leek was "an excellent cross-examiner" on committee, drawing out witnesses' knowledge on both sides of an issue. While he may have irritated some Republicans, she says he was persuasive with other Democrats on the Human Resources Committee.

Charges of "abrasiveness" are common against any legislator who takes strong stands, whether on the political left or right, says another legislative aide.

Leek himself says he found the legislature much more difficult than the neighborhood organizing he did before his election. In community groups, he says, people generally agree with each other and there is a clearly defined goal. In the legislature he found "many more mine-

fields...more people and power blocs that have to be consulted and appeased."

Leek's biggest disappointment with the legislature was how "fellow Democrats let themselves be buffeted by business lobbyists who say anything that serves working people must be bad for business. Tagging legislation 'anti-business' was enough to kill it for many of my colleagues."

Black issues

Leek worked for many issues that concern Black people, such as South Africa divestment, outlawing racial harassment, restricting police use of deadly force, and welfare rights. He might have done more to inform the

community of his stands, Ron Herndon says. For instance, the BUF worked heavily in the 1981 Legislature on restricting deadly force, but was never asked to help when the bill came up this session, Herndon says.

Herndon believes that just as an Irish legislator can better serve Boston's Irish, or a Pole is more qualified to represent Chicago's Poles, so (other things being equal) a Black would best represent Portland's Black community.

Leek has not decided whether to run again in 1984 — he says a major factor will be whether he can afford to work for the legislature's low pay.



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.



The Portland Observer was established in 1970.
Subscriptions: \$15.00 per year in the Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The Oregonian is running a series on prostitution in Nevada. This week's Street Beat question was, "Should prostitution be legalized in the State of Oregon?"



Jim Poetsch
Clerk

"Well, I don't think it would ever happen. But if they did legalize it, prostitution would still occur."



Alton Granville
Painter

"Yes, I see some good points made if it was legalized. It would cut down on rapes and other bad things like that. Maybe the State would reduce taxes and pick up taxes on that end."



Lanita Allen
Student

"No, I don't think they should have it. People should get married. Then they can get it all the time."



Linda Stanley
Housewife

"It should be if it would cut down on crime and sexual assaults. My daughter has gone through it and I have. It's no picnic. They should make a place where it could happen all the time."



Jan Thomas
Housewife

"I don't think it ought to be legalized. They shouldn't change the law just because we have it. There ought to be more enforcement."



Andrew Rodgers
Courier

"They are not going to stop it any other way. These people on Union Avenue would be stopped if it was legalized. They need a brothel to get them off the streets."