

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Jackson attack contrived

The attack on Jesse Jackson by the press and certain right-wing Jewish organizations is no accident; it was carefully orchestrated. It is not a coincidence that the story of Jackson's unfortunate remark was pulled from the back pages of the Washington Post and splashed across the front pages days before the first Primary election, and that it became the number one issue in the closing days of that campaign.

servative Jewish organizations is not new and it is not confined to those who have made their hatred public. It is abetted by those who remain silent and by those who—in their scholarly way—promote divisiveness. The highly respected Anti-Defamation League, for example, researched and published Jackson's record, attempting to prove him anti-semitic.

Those who try to label Jackson's desire for peace in the Middle East or his belief that the Palestinian people have the right to a nation, like all other people of the world, as anti-semitism or anti-Israel are doing a great disservice to their own people. The idea that any person who criticizes Israel's actions is anti-Jew is wrong and it prevents discussion of the important issues. Perhaps that is what these people want.

The same Zionist and conservative Jewish organizations were silent when Israel invaded Lebanon, killing and maiming thousands,

destroying homes and businesses, setting up the current fascist government and the civil war that is still killing and maiming.

They were silent when the U.S., having withdrawn its marines, opened a massive naval bombardment of Lebanon's cities—an attack that had no purpose but vengeance.

They are silent about Israel's role in arming and training the armies of the Central American dictatorships—Honduras and Guatemala—armies that are used only against their own people.

If these serious problems were addressed, those organizations and individuals would have no time to harass Jesse Jackson, to leave dead animal heads on his porch, to intimidate his children, to threaten his life.

The Rainbow Coalition is of far more importance than the presidential race or than Jesse, himself. It encompasses the oppressed and neglected, the poor, and the minorities. It includes many Jews who seek justice and equality. It is so important that it will meet opposition from many places; the current attack on Jackson is only the first. The stronger the Coalition becomes, the more furious and more frequent the attacks will come.

The time has come to get involved. Drop by the "Jesse Jackson for President" office and see what you can do to help.

Reagan wins

The Reagan Administration has won another round in its fight to turn back the clock on civil rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court has determined that it's O.K. for colleges and universities to discriminate in some areas. The government's right to withhold federal funds from schools that discriminate against women only applies to the funded programs, the court said.

Does this mean that if a school gets money for its library it cannot discriminate in the library but can freely practice discrimination in the dormitories, dining halls, assignment of classes, discipline, etc? Apparently it does.

This is only one more sign that it is imperative to get rid of Ronald Reagan before he has the opportunity to appoint several new Supreme Court Justices—judges who will hold office for the next 20 to 40 years.

The only way to get rid of Reagan is to vote.



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Since the Reagan Administration came to office, its stewardship of federal civil rights laws has been criticized as lax and half-hearted. Now another voice has joined that chorus with a 28-page report that says the Reagan Administration has conducted a "shameful assault" on civil rights law enforcement.

The report was released this week by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and went on to charge that the Administration's lax enforcement of civil rights laws "could plunge the country back into historic patterns of race and sex discrimination."

And that's grim news indeed. The laws we have built to overcome racism and prejudice are only as good as the people we hire to enforce them. Unfortunately, the people that comprise the Reagan Administration have not lent themselves to making these laws work. White the opposite. The Ad-

ministration from the outset has demonstrated a hostility toward civil rights legislation and institutions.

We are all sadly familiar with the fact that the Administration has strangled the independence of the Civil Rights Commission. The ACLU report, however, brings up some more examples of anti-civil rights action by the Administration:

- Institutionalized Persons: The ACLU report points out that the Administration has sought to limit its enforcement activity under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act of 1980. The Act was designed to protect the rights of mental patients and others in institutions. The report showed examples where the Administration refused to litigate on behalf of those parties in the states of Idaho, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

- Title IX: Title IX of the Education Act of 1972 bars sex discrimination in federally financed education programs. The report points out that narrow interpretations of the title by this Administration have "effectively strip (ped) the statute of any enforcement mechanism."

The report also said that the Administration has reversed federal policy and abandoned support for groups seeking change through litigation. Finally, the report ironically points out that the Justice Department itself, charged with the enforcement of these important laws, has refused since last year to comply with a requirement to report its goals and targets for hiring minorities and women.

So far, that is the Reagan record on civil rights: lax enforcement to the point of debilitating the programs. In short, the Reagan record is a sad record.

REGISTER SO YOU CAN VOTE!

"YOUTH IS THE SEASON OF HOPE, ENTERPRISE, AND ENERGY, TO A NATION AS WELL AS AN INDIVIDUAL."
W. R. WILLIAMS

Signs held by people: BETTER HEALTH PROGRAMS, NO MORE VIETNAM, BETTER HOMES, Freeze the Arms Race.

Letters to the Editor

Blood Knot great

To the editor:

Monday night, February 20th, I had the privilege of attending *The Blood Knot* by Authol Fugard and directed by Rick Jones at the Store Front Theater, 6 S.W. 3rd Ave. It is tremendous! Every adult in

Portland, Black and white, should see it. *The Blood Knot*, a parable of two brothers—one white skinned, one black—vividly portrays the fears and anguish of racial tensions. It is filled with the humor and deep pain of bigotry.

Evelyn M. Collins
Director
Grace Collins Memorial Center

The Observer welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short, and must contain the writer's name and address (addresses are not printed). The Observer reserves the right to edit for length.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The mass media is reporting that Iran may blockade the Strait of Hormuz, a passageway for oil. The Street Beat team asked, "Should the U.S. invade Iran if they blockade their oil routes?"



Mrs. Tashner
Bookkeeper

"No, we have enough problems over there. We just got our boys out of Lebanon, so I think we should let them blockade their oil."



Emil Schetz
Retired

"No. We have other means. It's about time we pulled out and stayed home."



Eugene Cule
Janitor

"I think the U.S. should pull out all together. The U.S. has no business over there."



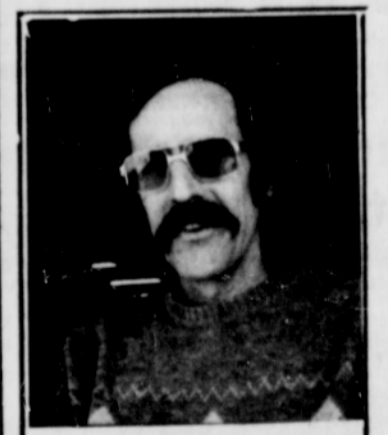
Lisa Femrite
Housewife

"I don't think anyone should invade. It's their oil. Let's not get involved."



Ben Roberson
Retired

"I don't think so. It would start a war with Russia, I don't think we are ready for that."



Kent Grover
Truck Driver

"If we are going to invade it like we did in Vietnam, then no. But we need to protect ourselves."

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