

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Jackson is major candidate

When Jesse Jackson says he is being "unfairly ignored by the other candidates," he can apply that observation to the media coverage he receives as well.

Prior to the Democratic front runners narrowing down to three candidates, the white media talked about the astronaut, shook dust off the 1968 peace candidates and got into profiles of presidential candidates you never heard of. But they barely wrote a paragraph or uttered a sound about Jesse.

In every democratic presidential debate, Jackson has talked circles around his opponents. Yet, when they reported the debates, they edited

Jackson's involvement to a paragraph. They leave out the issue of U.S. involvement in South Africa, his call for defense cuts and the redirection of resources to help the poor help themselves.

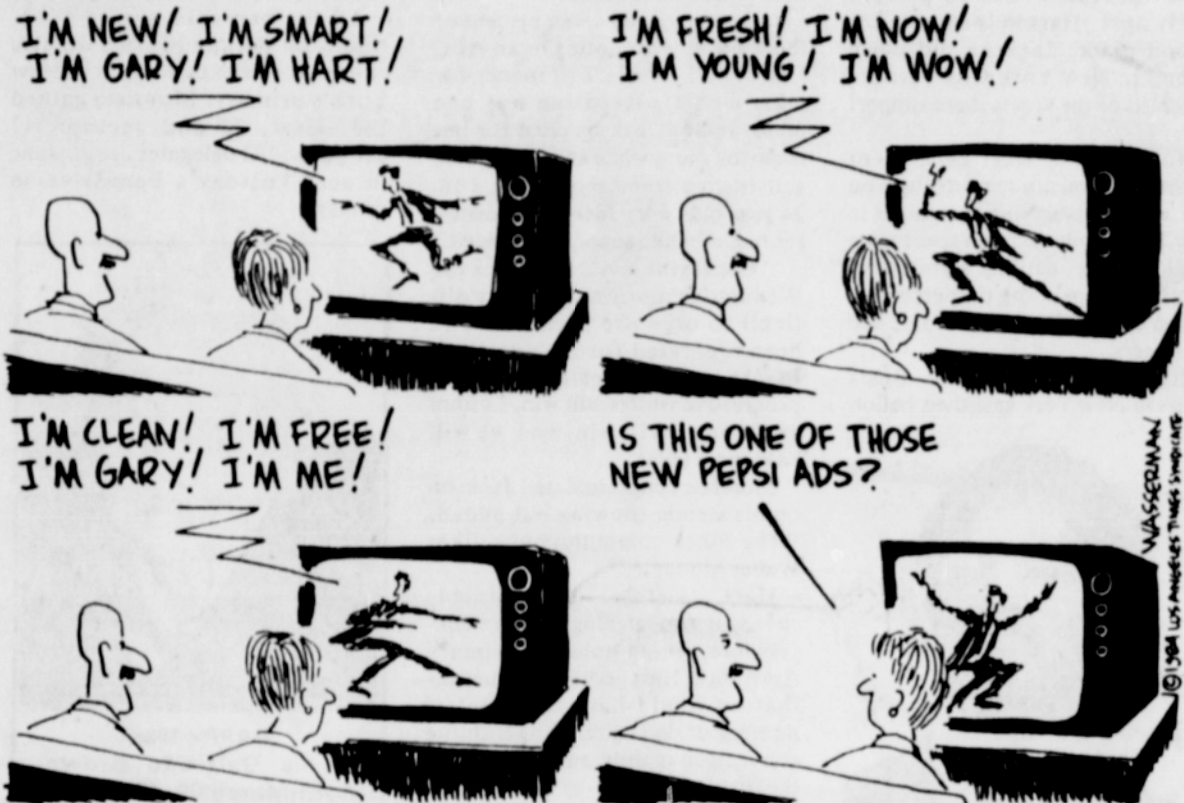
Political coverage of Jesse Jackson's campaign needs to be updated, enlightened and reported. People need to demand from the news directors, wire service personnel and assignment editors more coverage of Jesse Jackson. Current coverage of Jackson hints of a conspiracy by the powers that be, not to view Jackson as a major presidential candidate. If they listened to the people, they would hear that he is.

Congratulations

To Don Wright for his National Achievement Scholarship and Lt. Charles Moose, the first Black Lieutenant in the history of the Portland Police. It needs to be remembered that today's achievements were masterminded by the blood and sweat of yesterday's individuals. How many Black scholars were passed over until enough hell was raised to create the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students? How many Black men

and women were passed over by the Police Department until a situation developed where they could not pass over any more?

As we pat Lt. Moose and Don Wright on the back, let us remember those who made their achievements possible. As they further their careers, we hope they will create a place for other Blacks, since other Blacks created a place for them.



Black caucus sites wrongs

At the request of the Congressional Black Caucus, joint hearings were held on March 16th in Congress that investigated the failure of the Reagan Administration to take substantive action to lower the rate of infant mortality in America.

"Although the problem, in reality, is a result of poverty," said Rep. Julian C. Dixon (D-Calif), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, "The statistics show that Black infants in America are twice as likely to die before their first birthday than white infants."

Testimony presented at this hearing, indicated that the Reagan Administration has cut funds for

virtually all health care programs for poor mothers and children and has opposed congressional initiatives that would help to reduce infant mortality.

While many of our major health problems have cures that must yet be discovered, there is no mystery about how to reduce the number of infant deaths. Research and experience over the past thirty years has demonstrated a direct correlation between adequate prenatal care and healthy births. Babies born to women who have experienced little or no prenatal care are three times as likely to be born low birthweight and die in their first year.

The Administration's response to this gap in Black/White infant mortality rate was to appoint another task force to study the disparity.

The Administration was criticized for proposing to cut Medicaid, supplemental food under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, maternal and child health centers and childhood immunization programs, and for opposing the extension of federal payments under Medicaid to poor women and children currently not covered. "This record is indefensible. President Reagan cannot claim to be 'pro-life' and cut every program to keep babies alive," said Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif).



Grenada reconsidered

by Dr. Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

The invasion of Grenada has now receded from national debate. The story of Reagan's illegal and unjustified attack on another sovereign nation no longer is reported on the front pages of American newspapers. American troops had seized three of the island's best hotels, and had turned the local radio station into a "psychological operations" center. Rewriting recent history, American reporters and officials quickly portrayed the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop as a "moderate socialist" who had been liquidated by "terroristic Marxist Leninists" in a bloody power struggle. To help restore "democracy," the former tyrant, Sir Eric Gairy, was returned to the island.

The media and the U.S. government are now promoting the image of a "safe, pacified Grenada," the perfect little island paradise, just the spot for vacation-bound whites of the upper class. A recent *Washington Post* article presented bikini-clad women posing on Grenada's beaches, in front of strands of barbed wire and armed U.S. troops. Grenada was a suitable setting, the *Post* declared, "because of fashion's turn to primitive prints, often African-inspired or with animal patterns." Hidden beneath the hype, nearly buried under the American propaganda, is the real meaning of the Grenada revolution itself. What was accomplished under the New Jewel Movement's government from 1979 to 1983? Why did the Reagan administration and his puppets in the region, notably Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, wish to crush this democratic, popular revolution?

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to discuss these issues with Ian Jacobs, Grenada's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations in 1983. Jacobs had also served previously as personal assistant to Bishop, and was one of the principal spokespersons for Grenada's revolution.

Jacobs noted that neither Grenada's population of 110,000, nor its small size, would have seemed to constitute a threat to U.S.

security in the Caribbean. Most of Grenada's weaponry was "of World War II vintage" and the army had no anti-aircraft missiles. Yet the Central Intelligence Agency actively engaged in terroristic activities for years to destabilize the government. "The only reason the invasion took place," Jacobs notes, "is because of what the Grenada Revolution represented throughout the Caribbean and in the Third World."

The New Jewel government immediately initiated programs which created a regime "by the people and for the people": free medical care; free dental care; free public education; the construction of new housing and the building of an international airport. Jacobs argued that the "real danger" of the New Jewel's advances was clear to the "rest of the Caribbean and to Latin America. These people might begin to say, 'if the Grenada Revolution could achieve these things, why not us?'" The American media helped pave the way for the invasion by portraying Bernard Coard as a "hardline Soviet Marxist." A group of docile Caribbean leaders led by Seaga were ordered to back the invasion. Any evidence of Grenadian troops who resisted the U.S. army was played down by the press, while the nonexistent "Cuban threat" was blown out of all proportion. News about Grenada today is scarce—and quite deliberately so. As Jacobs argues, "since the invasion, the unemployment rate is 33 percent—and it was only 10 percent before. All of the programs of the revolution have been stopped, and human rights are nonexistent."

Yet another source which explains the full meaning of the Grenada revolution is *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, published by Pathfinder Press of New York late last year. Editors Bruce Marcus and Michael Taber present a collection of speeches and interviews by the late Prime Minister which explain why the New Jewel Movement was able to come to power over the U.S.-backed Gairy dictatorship. Bishop himself repeatedly warned Americans that their government would inevitably try to regain con-

trol over his nation by military force.

The real achievement of the Grenadian revolution, as *Maurice Bishop Speaks* illustrates, was more than an increase in material benefits and human needs programs. It was, in Bishop's words, the expansion of the very concept of democracy: "people's participation, people's politics ...and people's co-operatives for collective development." The government's National Youth Organization and National Women's Organization brought thousands of youth and women into the political process. The various levels of government mandated "the twin principles of accountability and responsibility" between leaders and the masses. An excellent introduction to Bishop's political thought, this book also illustrates the reason why the U.S. was so threatened by the Grenada revolution.


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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

April is budget time for the City of Portland. The Street Beat team asked, "Where would you tell the City to allocate your tax dollars?"



Annette Sullivan
Housewife

"Find the most economical way to use our tax dollars."



Rachel Daniels
Housewife

"I would like to see programs to keep kids off the streets and get them away from drugs and prostitution."



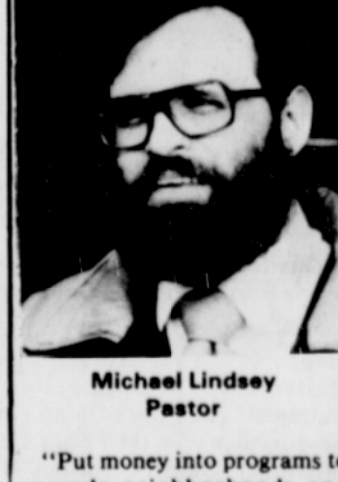
Lynn Franklin
Clerk

"They should target jobs and economic development, stop putting up parking lots and deal with the community."



Nannett Taylor
Independent Producer

"Keep the maintenance program for the parks and neighborhood protection."



Michael Lindsey
Pastor

"Put money into programs to upgrade neighborhoods and provide them with support."



Rachael McDougal
Clerk

"More money targeted for single parent families, a tax break and day care."



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