

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Keep unitary principle

Big business never backs off, not for a minute. Invoking the need for more jobs in Oregon, corporations are now on the attack against an element of Oregon's business tax system which makes it one of the nation's fairest—the unitary principle. The people and legislators of Oregon should be extremely wary of any such move.

The unitary principle is used to calculate the position of a multi-state or multi-national corporation's profit which can be fairly taxed in Oregon. Business says the principle is unfair, but the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld its use since 1887, when it was first used to calculate business

taxes owed by railroads through several states.

Small businesses operating solely in Oregon are not affected by use of the principle. Should it be repealed, however, the \$22 million captured by the unitary principle, annually, would have to be made up by someone—most likely individuals and small business.

Voters should query legislative candidates on this complex issue and not settle for simplistic references to "job creation possibilities." Oregon's economy has both prospered and fallen while we've used the unitary principle, and there is no solid evidence to show a fair tax system impedes growth.

## The ballot or the bullet

Twenty years ago, when Jesse Jackson was Dr. Martin Luther King's lieutenant, Malcolm X foresaw the power of bloc voting. "Black people put the Democratic president in power. We put them first and they put us last."

Malcolm X was among the first to decry the political monopoly the Democratic party had over the votes of people of color.

"The only difference between a Republican and a Democrat...the difference between a wolf and a fox. A wolf will come right out and eat you. But a fox is sly and clever. He will trick you in and before you know it, you're eaten."

His vision was remarkable for a man who spent the early parts of his life on the streets, in jail and later rose to become one of our greatest leaders. The political, social and economic realities Malcolm addressed twenty years ago are still with us. But youth who grew up under Malcolm's words are now in the position of implementing his solutions.

In 1964, Malcolm told Afro-Americans to leave their religious differences at home and join together to achieve political power. In 1984, the Muslim brothers and sisters under the Nation of Islam with their Christian counterparts are registering their communities to vote at numbers

which reflect the different hues of interest and needs in America.

Their biggest hurdles are the so-called leaders of the community who have split with the rank and file of their power and put their personal well-being above and beyond that of their people. We're reminded of the "house Negro and the field Negro" story Malcolm X articulated in 1964. "The house Negro will see the big house burning and say, 'Our house is on fire.' The field Negro sees the same fire and prays for a wind."

Malcolm foresaw the change created in society when people of color are included in the political system. The change has come and the children of Malcolm and Martin are knocking down the door to get in.

Although the bloody memory of those long, hot summers are still with us, people of color have brought about a bloodless revolution twenty years after Malcolm X suggested it. Miami is yesterday, and could be tomorrow. But Third World people, with their white counterparts, are holding the political system accountable with the dim reminder in the background and the forecast of Malcolm coming true. They are choosing "The Ballot or the Bullet."

### Campaign '84:

## District 18 race is on

(Continued from page 1, column 6) or white. I understand what the problems are. Currently, I'm involved in trying to solve some of the inequalities that exist with Black contractors and the Surface Transportation Assistance Act."

Carter: "I have worked at an alternative school and seen a lot of conflicts and solved a lot of conflicts. I can do the job. I'm involved in many sectors of the community and can provide quality leadership."

Look: "They should vote for me

because I did a good job in the legislature. I passed more legislation than any other freshman representative. I had a very productive session for the district."

The subsection of the economic development question deals with jobs. What would you do to create employment opportunities for residents of District 18?

Debnam: "With free enterprise, jobs would be available for residents within the district. I will go to

businesses already in the district to get them to hire residents."

Carter: "Once the objectives of PDC have been met, they will bring about job opportunities to the community. My focus will be on small businesses and youth. We do not need another study. We should take advantage of the opportunities that we have."

Look: "HB2640 will help. Also, the creation of a local development corporation that is controlled by community residents."

### Chad Debnam

(Continued from page 1, column 4) Reagan has been good for the Black community. Fiscal conservatism has helped our community. We are becoming more self-sufficient and less dependent on social agencies that perpetuate dependency."

Debnam is a third generation Republican that has been charged with running a negative campaign. "I don't think I am. All I stated is, I feel there are opponents who represent the status quo. If we want change, we must look for different approaches. I had and will continue to outline the differences in the opponents. All I said about Carter is her background has been in social work and we've had enough social workers out there. I don't think that is negative. It is just a fact."

One voter heard Debnam state his opinions about Margaret Carter and came away saying, "I'm going to vote for Margaret because she can't be that bad."

Debnam said he felt the District 18 Leadership Forum was flawed because it did not include all the candidates. "I was not even heard from. For the past two years, I've been involved with re-writing the county charter. I have a long business history, fighting for minority contractors and the small businessman and woman." He was among the first to demand Hop Sing's de-certification.

Although Debnam wants to be remembered for his early political affiliations, the community remembers him most as manager of the now defunct soul band, Pleasure. The question many in the community had was, why the break-up?

"I did my job with Pleasure," he responded. "I put them on a national tour, TV and got them a major record contract. There was dissent within the group and I could not control that. Some members would not take direction. Pleasure never paid me any money. My resources were coming from other contracts and promotions."

Debnam is the House Chairperson in the district and expects to go to the national convention as a delegate. "We must create a can-do attitude in the district."

Political observers feel Debnam's importance has been underrated because he is a Republican. In the event that the primary yields no Black candidate, then Debnam's importance as an Afro-American candidate will be appreciated.

### Margaret Carter

(Continued from page 1, column 5) most proud of that endorsement. The community did a wonderful job in supporting the concept of the forum."

She has also received the endorsement from the more conservative element in Portland, the Chamber of Commerce. "Even though we have different beliefs, the one item which won me the endorsement was when I stated, 'I will promise you two things. I will be accessible and I'm a good listener.'"

In the final thirty days of her campaign, Carter is the target of negative campaigning by two other opponents in the race. She refuses to sling the mud back and is running on her experience as a counselor, long-time volunteer and religious adviser.

Her campaign has been subjected to criticism that it's out of gas, immature and inexperienced. "I don't see her campaign out among the people," one observer added.

She responded, "We have 28 precincts in the district and we take different precincts at different times. Our office is in the community and we have registered over one hundred people to vote."

Another criticism is her lack of political experience. "I understand the legislature and its processes. I've studied procedures and know how to get bills passed. But no one knows what it is like to be a legislator until you have been one and I know I'm competent and learn quickly."

Carter found herself involved with attacks on a personal level which stated that she discounted her ex-husband's contribution in raising her family and attending school. "There was never any intention of saying I raised all those kids by myself. When I came to Portland, I was a single parent with five children. I later got married and my husband had four kids. When a newspaper article came out after the forum, the reporter misunderstood my background. Again, there was no intention to discredit my husband for his involvement in the rearing of our children and my education."

Some residents feel it is unfair for Carter to answer to these types of personal charges. "I remember listening to a political talk show on KBOO radio and the wife of one of the candidates called up and questioned her. I don't think that is playing fair. She has received the support of the people and there are (Please turn to page 9, column 3)



## Jackson presents moral challenge

by Dr. Manning Marable  
"From The Grassroots"

The recent 26 percent share of the vote received by the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the New York Democratic primary highlights one of the most remarkable presidential campaigns in American political history. There are no immediate parallels which can be used to illustrate the magnitude of Jackson's achievement. Without adequate funds, virtually no television or newspaper advertisements, and against the nearly united opposition of the Black political establishment, Jackson has swept the national Black electorate and a surprisingly high percentage of Hispanic and white voters. How can we assess the elements of can we assess the elements of Jackson's success to date?

The first and most essential factor is simply this: the campaign of Jesse Jackson is a democratic social movement, initiated and led by Black people, which has taken an electoral form. Building upon the grassroots momentum of last year's successful March on Washington, D.C., and drawing strength from the recent electoral victories of Black mayoral candidates such as Harold Washington, Jackson and his political agenda represent the growing militancy and desire for empowerment of the masses of Black people.

The most dramatic evidence of this is found in Black voter participation rates. In the Southern primaries, 45 percent of all Black voters went to the polls, while barely

30 percent of all whites voted. In Illinois, Black voters comprise only 13 percent of the total electorate—but 28 percent of the Illinois vote in the March primary was Black. Atlanta's Voter Registration Project estimates that Jackson's campaign was responsible for registering approximately 150,000 voters in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, North and South Carolina. Nationally, roughly one fifth of Jackson voters had never gone to the polls before. This significant increase in Black, Hispanic and low-income voters is the electoral foundation to defeat Reaganism this November.

The initial caucus voting in Virginia on March 25th illustrates that Jackson's campaign, unlike that of Mondale and Hart, is a grassroots protest movement. In Norfolk, a city that is 35 percent Black, a huge Black turnout gave Jackson all 163 delegates from the city. In Virginia Beach, a town with only 10 percent Black voters, Black participation gave Jackson a plurality victory of 62 delegates, versus Mondale's 50 delegates and Hart's 30 delegates. One *New York Times* reporter noted that "at some sites party leaders ran out of registration forms. At others, participants had to stand in line for a couple hours before they could get in. Throughout the Tidewater area, Jackson supporters filled the streets, using bull horns to exhort people to vote and distributing fliers and

maps." Statewide, Jackson won 31 percent of Virginia's vote in the early delegate selection process.

Second, the Jackson campaign has begun to successfully bridge the color line, and despite gross misinterpretations from the media, it has never been solely a Black campaign. In Montana, for instance, a state possessing less than one half of one percent of Blacks, Jackson won 5 percent of that state's votes in Democratic caucuses. Despite polls in Connecticut which predicted Jackson would receive less than 5 percent of the vote, he won 12 percent, or 26,388 votes. Significantly, only 6 percent of Connecticut's population is Black. In Vermont and Rhode Island, Jackson won third place with 8 percent. And in California, only half of the 8,000 participants in Jackson's Democratic caucuses were Black. Twenty-eight percent were white, 14 percent Hispanic, 7 percent Asian, and 1 percent American Indian. The numbers of white liberal-leftists, peace activists, environmentalists and feminists who actively support Jackson have been surprisingly large, given the profoundly racist character of American political culture. Jackson attributed the problem of winning white support as "whites' lack of regard for the intelligence and hard work of Black people. It remains a moral challenge, however, to white leadership to make judgments based on character and not based on race."

## Letters to the Editor

### Time to think

To the editor:

There are apparently several changes taking place in the Urban League Youth Services Center that might prove to be, to their detriment. As a community volunteer, there has been no problem when walking into the youth center in the past, either to pick-up some information, or leave it. However, since the administration leadership has changed, a certain addition should be subtracted again. I am referring to Mr. David Gonzales, who is second in command.

As Mr. Gonzales continued to look and see what

everyone was doing, a feeling of distrust for the other workers was obvious. This caused me to think and wonder if his actions were because the majority of employees were Black.

Communication is the most important part of leadership, but if a person is going to walk around and emphasize their authority, a feeling of fear and hate develops. Speaking with some persons working with other organizations in the King Neighborhood Facility, no one had any good thoughts about Mr. Gonzales. When our youth are the most important asset in the community, and this person carries himself the way he does, you can really wonder what type of service will be given to

our young people. Usually respect should be given to an individual of authority, but that is completely impossible with David Gonzales who is an untrusting, possibly biased person. An important organization such as the Urban League Youth Service Center, should think again about the persons that are placed at the helm.

Charles Flake  
Community Volunteer

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.

### Portland Observer



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