

EDITORIAL/OPINION

New voters change politics

Opposition has surfaced to the recent practice of registering new voters at government social service agencies across the nation. Local officials claim the registration process disrupts regular business at hospitals, YWCA's, day-care centers and disabled facilities; but, perhaps their opposition is due to figures showing unregistered persons are far more likely to identify with the Democratic party than with the Republicans.

In a recent *New York Times*-CBS News poll, 72 percent of unregistered Blacks said they tended to identify with the Democrats, versus 44 percent of unregistered whites polled.

Officials of both parties admit voter registration drives could decide the presidential

election this year. And Jesse Jackson's strong showing in both New York City and Philadelphia can be partially attributed to massive voter registration work.

Research also shows the most common profile, among unregistered persons consists of being young, low-income and with little or no college education; and, once registered, usually show up to vote.

Here in Oregon, both the Jackson campaign and the Human Service Employees Registration and Voter Education campaign are helping to increase the ranks of new votes. Their efforts could change the outcome of Oregon's May 15th primary.

Break cycle not dancing

As the sunset of the 1983-84 school year slowly approaches, the under education of Afro-American and low-income students continues. Who is responsible for this death at an early age? We all are!

Parents who were casualties of a school system which scattered their desires and ambitions a decade ago in schools outside their neighborhoods are creating a cycle of educational genocide by assuming the school system will educate their children.

Teachers say they are bombarded with behavioral problems which evaporate the expectations of Black and low-income students to learn. They are feeding the cycle with their inability to maintain a challenging educational environment for those students who are at grade level vs. those students who are struggling two or three grades behind.

Portland Public School administrators whose hands are tied by the unions are afraid to tackle the problem aggressively or creatively. Business as usual is bankrupting the future of our children.

It's frightening, when the minds of our future Malcolms, Martins and Mary McLeod Bethunes will never be given the chance to be cultivated

and grow.

Parents should never depend on a school system, which under-educated them, to educate their children. Don't give your future to the system. There are libraries, resources and parenting skills classes available for the asking.

Teachers need to rely on other sources of information and forget the social-economic "boo boo" which says poor children can't learn because their environment is poor. Children will learn if you expect them to learn.

Administrators need to break free from the handcuffs of unions which discourage merit pay and creative teaching.

Community leaders should develop after-school institutions in homes and churches that will teach discipline, basic skills and Black history. We should not allow the mass media in Portland to portray the only thing Black students are doing as break dancing.

These simple steps, if implemented soon, will alter the waste of minds in Portland. Survival in the year 2000 will depend more on how our children use their minds and less on dancing, dressing or talking fast. Our grandchildren are depending on us, in 1984, to break the under-education cycle.

Four vie for state senate seat, Dist. 8

(Continued from page 1)

Bill McCoy

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

districts. I couldn't get that over because everybody was too emotionally involved," he explained.

In 1981, his opposition to the lines that were drawn led to more than a dozen people picketing his home in St. Johns.

"If District 18 had been carved out years ago, when people were conscious of people gerrymandering and making fools out of them, then NAACP would have brought a suit," he added.

When asked if his stand tinted his appeal to voters in District 18 who supported the lines that were drawn, McCoy replied, "Those people would not have supported me in the first place."

McCoy also supports the original school bussing plan which bussed Black children from their neighborhood schools. Various segments of the Black and white communities joined forces against scattering children from their neighborhood schools.

He said, "I was not opposed to bussing and I went around and talked with other parents who were not opposed to bussing."

In August, 1983, the *Willamette Week* first came out and I had a little problem with the editor of the paper. People thought that I should do something against another person of color. I got quite emotional that anyone would suggest that."

McCoy declined to elaborate on that point, but *Willamette Week's* editor, Mark Zusman said, "He got a poor rating because people we

talked to gave him one. No one can pin bad ratings on an individual that no longer works here."

In the legislature, McCoy was in favor of having a commission of all people of color rather than a separate commission for each group.

"The Indian Commission had money I felt ought to be shared. But everyone wanted their own. The Indian Commission was set up with federal dollars, the Black Commission got one dollar and the Hispanic Commission got one dollar."

In the grassroot communities, many stated McCoy was an "invisible Senator". "That might be in someone's mind, but it is not true," he replied.

The state senate seat race is full of contrasts. The incumbent is facing opposition from a liberal, a conservative and secretary for the Democratic house in District 17.

Bill Stevenson

(Continued from page 1, column 4)

will be one of conciliatory. "You don't let anyone take over the show—union, labor or even government. What we have to do is develop bridges between labor, management and government."

Stevenson wants to repeal the unitary tax. "It was adopted in 1875. It was keeping jobs out of Oregon and is inequitable. Oregon lost a Japanese concern to North Carolina and it was due to that tax. We have to put ourselves in a competitive advantage."

He also wants the legislature to put the sales tax, the lottery and in-

come tax revisions on the ballot. "Let Oregonians decide how they want to pay for their government."

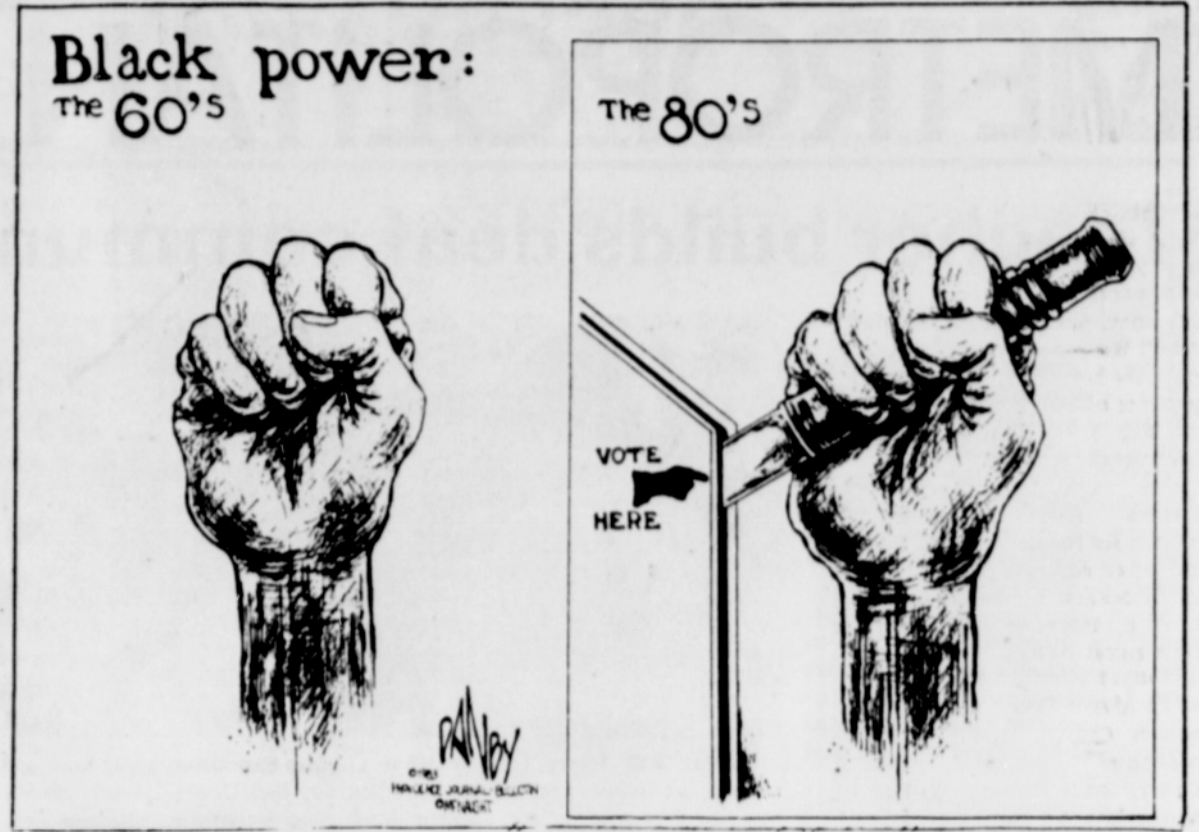
Stevenson has been the bunt of criticism that he was recruited to run by a political action group. "No one has ever asked me to file. I stood up on my own. I'm just getting a lot of help from people who share my view. But I'm learning on the doorsteps of residents in District 8. They are fed up."

He is not well known in the progressive segments of the Black community. Will he feel uncomfortable dealing with confrontational organizations?

"No! The Black United Front has been able to accomplish quite a bit. Their tactics are of their own choosing. I would welcome input either before or after the election."

Stevenson represents a serious challenge to incumbent Bill McCoy. He is thoughtful, intelligent and soft spoken. And he has placed his record as labor commissioner as an example to the rainbow coalition of colors and concerns in District 8.

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Democratic party lacks democracy

by Dr. Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

As a presidential candidate, Jackson has demonstrated that the Black electorate as a whole is clearly more progressive on policy issues than most white voters, and is several light years ahead of the two remaining Democratic aspirants, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart. Clearly desperate for victory, Mondale attacks Hart simultaneously from the left and the right, stating that he favors more social programs than the Colorado senator, but then assailing him for being "weak" and naive about the Communists. Hart, the candidate of the white upper-middle class, tries to blur his anti-labor positions through slick advertisements and outright lies.

Ironically, Hart's success as a candidate would not have been possible without Jackson, who first shattered Mondale's crucial support within the Black electorate. As author Amiri Baraka states, "Hart is like Elvis Presley, who got rich as a 'cover' for Black blues artists. Once a Black artist made a hit record, the record industry would get a white singer to make the same tune for the 'white market,' keeping the music-listening public segregated, just as in the rest of society." Neoliberal Gary Hart raced to public prominence only when Jackson had garnered media coverage away from Mondale.

Jackson's race clearly illustrated the lack of democracy within the Democratic party and within the American political system. In Mississippi, Jackson trounced Mondale and Hart, winning almost half of the votes in the March 17th caucuses. But because of the state's regressive caucus rules, Jackson and Mondale received roughly the same number of delegates. In Illinois, Jackson won a fifth of the statewide vote, but obtained no delegates. In Arkansas, Mondale narrowly

defeated Jackson in statewide caucuses, 6411 votes to 6011, while Hart ran a poor third. But Mondale was given 20 delegates, Hart received 9, and Jackson only six. In South Carolina, white Democrats blocked efforts to endorse Jackson as their "favorite-son" presidential candidate. One frustrated Jackson supporter, Clarendon County party chairman Billy Fleming, told the press, "If Jesse Jackson were a white man, this would not be happening." Even the House Democratic Study Group, meeting after the New Hampshire primary, drafted a joint fund-raising letter to aid House candidates with Mondale's and Hart's signatures. After mailing 60,000 letters, someone finally noticed that Jackson was still in the race, and hadn't been invited to sign! Between caucus gerrymandering and repeated snubs from national Democratic officials, the Jackson campaign represents a genuine challenge to democratize the Democratic party.

The Jackson race demonstrates the failure of leadership within the national Black community, and the ineptitude of the majority of its elected officials to express the interests of Blacks. In Alabama, Birmingham's influential mayor, Richard Arrington, and Joe Reed, chairman of the all-Black Alabama Democratic Conference, urged Blacks to "be realistic" and not to "throw their votes away." A majority of Alabama Blacks still voted for Jackson. In Georgia, Atlanta mayor Andrew Young and Coretta Scott King championed Mondale's credentials—but over two-thirds of the Black electorate went with Jackson. In Illinois, 79 percent of Afro-American voters supported Jackson. The "lesser-of-two-evils" line offered by Black Mondale proponents was effectively

trouced.

Finally, something must be noted about the internal contradictions within the campaign which have modified if not entirely negated its progressive potential. Most of the principal advisers in the campaign—including Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana, national campaign director Arnold Pinckney, Congressman Walter Fauntroy, New York businessman Eugene Jackson, and former Manhattan borough president Percy Sutton—are moderates within the Black political spectrum. Other than New York State Assemblyman Al Vann of Brooklyn and California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, most of Jackson's aides have tried to keep the mobilization within the safe boundaries of status quo politics. Most have no desire to "burn their bridges" with the Mondale forces, since their conceptualization of Jackson's campaign is clouded by their own parochial ambitions. Thus, when Jackson was debating whether to accept an invitation to travel to Nicaragua in February, his advisors overwhelmingly urged him not to go. Pinckney finally had to fly to New Hampshire to insist that Jackson had to stay home.

Despite these moderating factors, the Jackson campaign has become something larger than the candidate himself. It represents a new stage of political history which transcends the limitations of the civil rights and desegregation era. No longer will any white Democratic presidential candidate take the Black electorate for granted. No genuine coalitions across racial barriers can occur unless they are forged on the basis of equality; and the Jackson campaign has created the terms for such coalitions.

Letters to the Editor

Carter clarification

To the Editor:

Your news article on Margaret Carter was fair and balanced. However, I would like to add a few points of clarification about the so-called "inexperience" of Margaret Carter's campaign committee.

The Margaret Carter campaign has Rose Gangle and Kent Ford, two experienced former candidates for District 18 state representative on staff and the endorsement of two others, Bob Boyer and Charles Stoudamire. No other candidate for the District 18 office, Democrat or Republican, has any. They also engineered the upset of Harold

Williams at the community forum in November, a forum which he was heavily favored to win. Margaret has the endorsement of unions, women's groups and the business community. In addition, she is the only candidate endorsed by the local Jesse Jackson Coalition.

May 27th at the Multnomah County Primary Endorsement meeting, it was widely speculated that Ed Leek would win the party precinct endorsement. Margaret Carter beat Ed Leek two to one.

Margaret's campaign slogan, "A candidate for all the people," has been able to do just that, focus on the entire District 18 community,

not just a narrow segment. Our staff is all volunteer. Sure, some of us are new, but while others are focused on our political "inexperience", we just keep on going about our business registering voters (in one day alone, over 100), canvassing, and telling District 18 residents about Margaret Carter—the best candidate in the field!

Kenneth Adair

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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