

EDITORIAL/OPINION

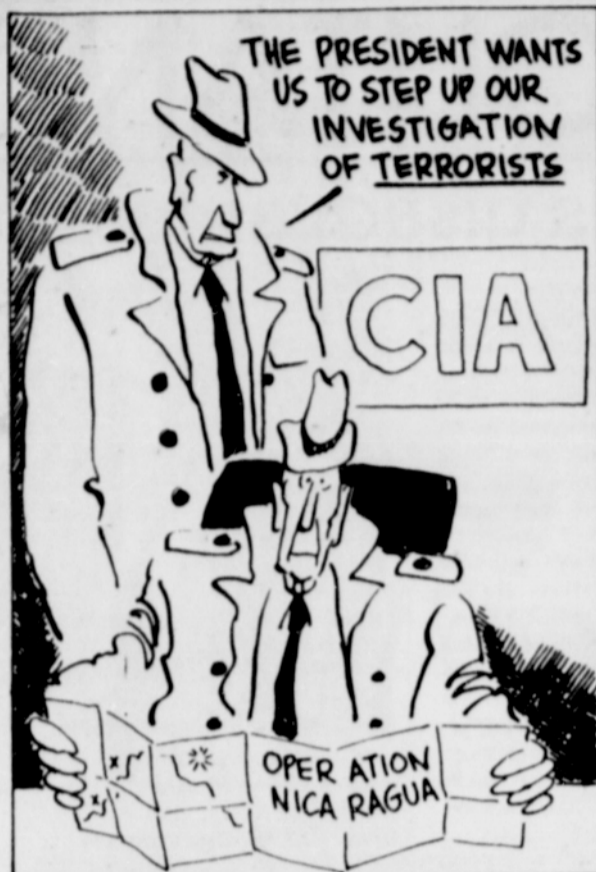
Congratulations!

The rainbow coalition shined brightly throughout Portland's local election. Although Jesse Jackson did not garner enough votes for a delegate, his candidacy inspired and influenced the victory of Margaret Carter and Bud Clark.

The issues raised by Jackson entered local debates, campaigns and action. The effects will be felt long after November and the infrastructure organized by Carter and Clark's campaign will provide a catalyst for change in Oregon.

The masses of people cleaned themselves of the dirt that was spread throughout the various races. They voted on principles, with their hearts, and most importantly, with their minds.

A true victory for the people of Portland. The rainbow coalition has won.



Black families acquitted

The Center for the Study of Social Policy recently concluded that the reasons for the rise in Black female-headed households were not social trends or welfare but the inability or reluctance of employers to hire Black men. "Without jobs, Black men are unlikely to head families."

The Black family was indicted by white America by Daniel P. Moynihan who in 1965 said, "the deterioration of the fabric of Negro society is the deterioration of the Negro family." Moynihan vindicated white America for having any responsibility for the social oppression of Black people. He said the matriarchal structure (Black women and mothers) emasculates the Black male.

Although the Moynihan theory has been refuted many times, it is still used as a rationale by mis-informed critics to interpret the crisis in the Black family. What makes the Moynihan report so detrimental to the survival of Black people is that it is based on misinterpretation and maneuvering of statistic, dialectic reasoning and white mythology. It influences many welfare programs, both public and private, and

the effects on the lives of Black children are far reaching.

The social policy study stated what many in the Black community have lived. Black men have been unable to give their families the economic foundation desirable for family stability.

In 1982, 54 percent of all working-aged Black men had jobs, while 78 percent of all working-aged white men were employed. In addition, 1.2 million Black men were unemployed, 1.8 million had dropped out of the labor force, 186,000 were in prison and 925,000 were classified as missing.

The Black family has become America's scapegoat. Blaming it for all our oppression is like blaming an abandoned child for not being wanted by its parents.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy ought to be commended for concluding, "The boom in Black families headed by women is ... pervasive and insidious discrimination." They called the shots as they are and not how others want to see them.



The Uncivil Rights Commission

by Dr. Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

Nearly three decades ago, the Civil Rights Commission was created to study prejudice and discrimination "on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and physical handicap." Its goal was to serve as the moral and political conscience of the nation, to suggest the steps essential in the construction of a non-racist and democratic society. It had no legislative power, but both Congress and the President had to come to terms with its findings. Even when headed by Republican chairmen, the Commission was an effective instrument in the struggle for equality.

It has now been five months since the Reagan Administration succeeded in uprooting most of its liberal opponents from the Commission. In effect, through his own appointment powers and through Republican Congressional appointments, a solid majority of Reaganites of both parties dominates the Commission. The leading Black participant in this "sell-out" of social justice is Clarence M. Pendleton, the Commission's chairman. It would be unfair to describe Pendleton as a modern version of Booker T. Washington, the architect of the infamous 1895 "Atlanta Compromise," which embraced separate-but-equal laws. This would be an insult to Washington, who despite his accommodationist rhetoric built two great institutions, Tuskegee Institute and the National Negro Business League. A new epithet must be created to represent Pendleton's sleazy brand of neo-Uncle Tomism.

Since January, there have been a series of devastating decisions by the "Uncivil Rights Commission." On January 16th, the Commission voted 6 to 2 to denounce the use of numerical quotas for promoting Blacks from sergeant to lieutenant by the Detroit Police Department. Reversing the rulings of the old

panel, which had endorsed the use of racial quotas as a "Last resort" in attacking racism, the new Commission urged the Supreme Court to strike down all racial quotas. The six Reaganite members declared: "Such racial preferences merely constitute another form of unjustified discrimination, (and) create a new class of victims!" In short, white officers, many of whom had been advanced in rank over more qualified Blacks, now comprised a poor, defenseless, "class of victims!"

Since this ruling, the floodgates of racism and reaction have been opened wide. The Commission has strongly hinted that it would soon repudiate its historic commitment to busing as one of several means to desegregate public schools. It has authorized a study of the "adverse impact" of affirmative action programs on whites of southern and eastern European descent. On March 27th, the Commission recommended that the Congress allow the government to penalize an entire institution when only part of that institution is guilty of discrimination. In theory, the position seemingly asserted a tougher position on civil rights. But as dissident Commissioner Mary Frances Berry put it, there were so many restrictions written into the resolution that it was like throwing "red meat to the wolves" who want to terminate all civil rights enforcement. Finally, to muzzle the progressive work of the 50 state advisory committees on civil rights, the Commission voted to tightly control the publication and distribution of the state committees' reports.

The political philosophy behind this reactionary assault on civil rights is Reaganism—a vicious, cruel, and in the end, criminal distortion of the social reality of American racism. Its apologists come in all races and in both genders. The Reaganite Staff Director of the Civil Rights Commission,

Linda Chavez, argues that high unemployment rates, the gross disparities of income between national minorities and whites, and the continued existence of the ghetto have nothing directly to do with racism. Chavez also opposes "comparable worth," the proposal that individuals should be paid equal salaries for jobs which require comparable educational requirements and technical skills. Reaganite Commissioner John H. Bunzel, a Democrat, is even more crude in his shoddy attempt to blame the victim. Bunzel states, "It is a gross oversimplification to suggest that racism and discrimination are still the root cause of income and educational inequality. Does anyone really believe that the special ills which still trap the Black underclass in poverty and failure can be blamed solely on discrimination?"

The NAACP argues cogently that this new Civil Rights Commission is actually worse than having none at all. So the Washington office of the Association has begun to pressure congressmen and senators to defund the Commission. Within the Commission, however, a small minority still preserves the original integrity and vision of the old Commission. In the battle against racism, Mary Frances Berry has become the new political conscience of the civil rights tradition. As Ms. Berry states: "The Civil Rights Commission has become a twin of the civil rights division of the Justice Department, and the bank of justice, as Martin Luther King used to say, is now bankrupt. The Commission is no longer the conscience of America on civil rights. I despair for women and minorities in this country." Along with Ms. Berry we must commit ourselves to an unconditional struggle to restore a truly independent Commission, freed from the hypocrisy and hatred which the Reaganites have used to combat the principles of justice and equality.

Letters to the Editor

Faith restored

To the Editor:

For those Portlanders whose faith in human nature is flagging, or perhaps, non-existent, I would like to relate a recent experience:

Several purses, including mine, were stolen May 6th, at a N.E. Portland nightspot. This is a distressing event for anyone, but I was saddened more by the dishonesty and hostility exhibited by such an act than I was by the missing personal items.

After I had given up any optimistic thoughts of getting anything returned, and any optimistic thoughts about human nature, I was pleasantly surprised by two different families who had found some of the purse's contents and went out of their way to return them.

I want to thank the Evans family of N.E. 19th Ave. and the McMurray family of N.E. 17th Ave. for not only returning the items they found, but for helping to restore my

faith in human nature.

Cathy Siegner

Protest KKK

To the Editor:

The recent acquittal of six Ku Klux Klan members and three Nazis chilled me to the bone. With TV cameras as witness, they assassinated five members of the Communist Workers Party at an anti-Klan demonstration in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979. And now they're free, with a judicial stamp of approval, to do it again.

Do we have two American Constitutions—one for those who agree with the government and one for those who don't? Are the lives of leftists and civil rights activists expendable in the name of vigilante patriotism?

The Klan and Nazis have one agenda for communists, people of color, Jews, feminists, lesbians/gays, trade unionists and immigrants—cold-blooded anni-

lation. There are over a hundred years of mass bloodshed in their name to prove it. The federal court acquittal of the Greensboro murderers has given a green light to the most notorious assassins in history.

Everyone has a democratic right to march and demonstrate in protest of social problems without fear of being murdered. And everyone has a right to justice in the courtroom.

Who can sit by and discount the obvious and ominous threat that the Greensboro decision poses? Who cannot ask, will I be next? Who has not had enough of the insanity of the Klan and the Nazis? Object we must, and object loudly and actively. If they come for me in the morning, they will come for you at night...

Marguerite Elia

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



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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Margaret Carter unites District 18

(Continued from page 1, column 6)

"I'm excited! We worked hard and ran a very good campaign. We did not count our chickens before they hatched. Now that the votes are counted, we see, hear and feel the effects our rainbow coalition had on people in the district."

Ross Danielson, District 18 Democratic party Leader, broke with party regulars who traditionally back the incumbent.

"I have worked for more participation in the democratic process. I'm very very pleased a candidate like Carter came forward, who wanted to bring the entire community together for a new direction in politics."

Political observers said Carter's victory was due in part to an aggressive, grassroots campaign that registered hundreds of new voters. Carter campaign manager, Johnny Bell, said, "We went to taverns, churches and door-to-door to get people involved in the political process. We used our managerial skills that we learned outside the campaign to manage people and get things done. We are looking forward to a victory in November."

On November 1st, in the General Election, Carter will face Chad Denham, the Republican candidate. But Cawthorne stated, "In this district, the person that wins the democratic primary will win the general election."

Throughout the District 18 race, charges and counter charges were tossed about by incumbent Ed Leek who stated Carter was in the pocket of business. And Harold Williams who said he was the most qualified for the job. Now that the race is over, Carter, Herndon and Cawthorne said they want to embrace those factions to unify the community.

Carter said, "I want to lend myself and my energies toward healing this community. I want to see our community loving in the sense we can have respect for each

other; also, together on the issues that impact our community."

Many Observers view Carter's victory as historical. Vesia Loving, the first Black woman to run for District 18 in 1982, said, "Her victory shows a woman can get out there and win. I hope the men understand we women are not going to keep our mouths shut and wait for someone to come along and do what has to be done. Her victory is a victory for every man, woman and child in District 18, Portland and the State. We should be very proud of ourselves."

CORRECTION

If you've been trying to call the Safari Club summer camp at the Ainsworth Goodnews Daycare Center, NE 30th and Ainsworth, the correct phone number is 248-8384.

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