

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Let's be bold, Bud...

As Mayor of Portland, Bud Clark will be one of the most highly visible decision-makers in the state. Among the many decisions he faces is that of who to appoint to the City's numerous commissions, committees and advisory boards.

These choices could be the most important he will make as mayor: which ethnic, geographic, economic and cultural groups are to be represented in the inner circles of the City's non-elected decision makers?

If Clark is to truly bring fresh air to city government, he will include previously under-represented groups on such bodies as the Planning Commission and the Portland Development Commission.

It was through actions of these groups that Frank Ivancie went about creating a city the voters flatly rejected in May. They rejected more massive public subsidies for cold, impersonal, "big city" downtown office buildings, and for a few multinational, high-technology firms employing mostly college-educated people from out of state.

Even as unemployment among Portlanders remains disastrously high, and small business failure rates soar, these public bodies favor uneven development patterns taxing the many for the benefit of the few.

By making bold changes in the composition of appointed commissions, Clark can respond to the voters' rejection of Ivancie and the downtown business interests with which he was so clearly associated. Ivancie's own billboards showed him beaming and urging voters to "Keep the mayor who will keep Portland growing," while downtown office towers loomed in the background.

Growth in Portland can, and should, directly benefit the entire city, not just the privileged few downtown. The only way to insure such well-planned, positive growth is to look beyond the sole criterion of "professional expertise" in mayoral appointments and make sure people with varied perspectives are chosen for the City's non-elected policy-making community.

## Don't lock out the rainbow

The Rainbow Coalition is knocking at powers' door as they try to incorporate the American dream into their everyday reality.

Without pulling any punches, its Minority Report states that the lack of participation by racial minorities and the poor in the political process was not because they were apathetic. Their non-involvement was linked to the political system being closed to them.

For too long, the Democrats have claimed the votes of the poor and people of color without paying interest or displaying any degree of accountability when they got in office.

Thanks to the efforts of Jesse Jackson, the united disciplines of the dispossessed of society are launching a keen challenge to the rules of old. And the grassroot communities will watch closely to see whether the out-dated political order will make room for this new progressive element by establishing one-person-one-vote as a

rule instead of the exception.

Will they adopt the reality of Jackson's Minority Report or continue the policy of nuclear nightmare diplomacy?

Will they continue to ignore the residual effects of 200 years of racism and sexism as conservative forces counter the fairness of affirmative action?

The Minority Report concludes by saying, "Thus, we prepare for the Democratic National Convention, firm in our commitment to fairness and justice. The Democratic party can choose to move forward, united with great potential for victory in November or the Democratic party can risk loss and four more years of Ronald Reagan because there was a decision by the party leadership to remain closed, insensitive and exclusionary."

For the sake of our children, we hope not.



## U.S. doctors can learn from Cuba

by Dr. Manning Marable  
"From The Grassroots"

The greatest achievement of the Cuban Revolution is unquestionably in the field of public health. During the Batista regime, there was one physician per 1,000 people, and only one dentist per 3,000 people. The wealthy classes could afford private medical treatment; the poor usually went without it. The majority of farmers and laborers never saw a doctor, and consequently fell victim to malaria, tuberculosis and typhoid. Infant mortality rates in Cuba only twenty-five years ago were 62 per 1,000. The average life expectancy of a Cuban between 1945-1960 was 57 years. Conservatively, one-third of the total population suffered from malnutrition: one family out of twenty-five ate meat regularly, and only one family in fifty had eggs. With Castro's victory, about half of the nation's doctors, nurses and health administrators fled the country, creating a major crisis in the medical field.

In contrast, today Cuba has one of the best public healthcare systems in the world. In the 1960's, the government channelled scarce resources into building a vast medical system, which would be absolutely free of charge for all citizens. With the assistance of

friendly Latin American and socialist states, hundreds of paramedics were quickly trained. Nurses were given greater responsibilities to assist the expansion and administration of the national medical system. By 1965, about 500 new doctors were being produced annually. Today, over 2,000 doctors are trained each year, and within two years, 3,000 doctors will be produced annually. Before the year 2000, Cuba will have 65,000 doctors nationwide, or one physician per 200 people. Today, Black America has roughly one Black doctor per 2,000 Blacks.

Any doubts I could have had about Cuba's health system were quickly eliminated after a tour of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, a massive 25-story building located in central Havana. Completely air conditioned, the hospital has 300 rooms which can accommodate up to four beds each, 25 operating rooms, two intensive care centers, a polyclinic which can handle 1,500 outpatient cases per day, and laboratories equipped with modern scientific equipment for research in nuclear medicine, biochemistry, microbiology, and pathology. The emergency ward has two operating rooms and a staff that can treat up

to 800 patients daily. Dr. Cenobio Gonzales led the tour of the hospital, and provided additional background on Cuba's medical system.

The latest innovation is "the Doctor of the Family" plan, which began in some parts of Cuba in October, 1983. As Dr. Gonzales explained, "One doctor is assigned to one hundred and twenty families" in a particular neighborhood or village. "He lives in the area, and emphasizes preventative medicine. He regularly visits the families when they are sick and well. Thus the physician serves a broader social function."

The results of Cuba's medical achievement are found in United Nations' statistics. Not a single case of polio has been reported in Cuba since 1961. Malaria claimed its last victim in Cuba in 1967. The infant mortality rate declined by 1983 to 16.8 per 1,000—compared to 14.2 per 1,000 for white Americans and 24.2 per 1,000 for Blacks in the U.S. The average Cuban man has an average life expectancy of 73 years—about ten years longer than Afro-American males. The U.S. medical establishment would have a lot to learn if they, also, visited and studied the impressive—and free—Cuban medical system.

## Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

As the Democratic National Convention approaches, the Street Beat team asked, "Do you think Jesse Jackson has been treated fairly by the press?"



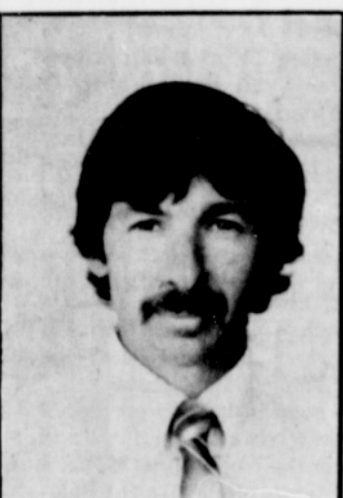
**Wilma Smith**  
Nurse Practitioner

"No, I don't think it's only the press. Reagan is treating him unfairly. The press points out what they want."



**Letitia Foster**  
Mother

"No, because he's Black. They are not going to treat anybody Black fairly because they don't want to see us in any type of political position."



**Dan Papan**  
Salesman

"Yes, he has gotten more than enough coverage from the press."



**David Davis**  
Lab Technician

"No, I didn't like the way President Reagan treated him nor the way the press responded to him as a candidate. They could have been more supportive of a candidate."



**Mary Fenton**  
Unemployed

"He's getting enough—too much. I don't like him and I don't think he should run for president."



**Ron Welch**  
Driver

"In some cases he is not. When he got some of our boys out, I didn't like the little bit here and a little bit there."

## Letters to the Editor

### Corporate charity

To the Editor:

Seems like we've been subsidizing American industries to set up shop all over the world for limitless years, losing limitless American jobs. Out of our hard-earned tax dollars. Seems like subsidies and charities come out the same: Only it's called charity when poor people get the handout. But handout it is!

Still, turn about could be fair play. If foreign companies wish to plant subsidiaries on American soil, theirs is the government which should come up with the handouts (Spelled tax breaks), like we've been doing for them.

Seems like an even smarter idea would be for the American taxpayers to subsidize some of their own industries who are presently having a hard time of it...and keep them in the States.

Another thing bothers me. Are these foreign outfits going to pay

the taxes they don't pay here to their own governments over there? Or is this just a little extra to put in their own pockets?

The whole set up smells like the trickle-down tricks of the Hoover thirties. Well, it didn't work then either!!

Russ Farrell

### Albina's pride

To the Editor:

Congratulations are in order to the Project Pride planning committee (volunteers, faculty, and students) for a job well done, to Mr. Nathan Jones, a man with vision and foresight, one who saw a need and took the challenge to fill that need: The Pride of Jefferson High School, the pride of Portland's Albina community.

Paul Wm. Dixon  
President of Jefferson  
High School's Dad's and Mom's

### King size support

To the Editor:

We would like to thank you for your contributions or assistance to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund benefit dinner. Your support enables us to assist minority/disadvantaged students in obtaining a college education.

Additional fund raising activities will be conducted throughout the year and we would like your continued support.

Again, thank you.

Helen Pittman, Chairman  
Martin Luther King, Jr., Alumni  
Association

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.



Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher  
Al Williams, General Manager

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York



283-2486

\$15 for one year  
 \$25 for two years

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