

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Portland will miss Jordan

Portland's loss is Austin, Texas's gain as Commissioner Charles Jordan accepted the position as Commissioner of Austin's City park bureau.

Besides leaving a vacant Council seat, Jordan's political presence was one of a progressive, responsible politician whose door was never closed to issues that were relevant to the Black community.

The racial composition of his staff was truly "rainbow". It reflected a commitment to Affirmative Action in deeds and not just words. They represented Portlanders with synchronized compassion, action and accountability. When the City's pitifully poor Affirmative Action record was uncovered, Jordan was the only commissioner who accepted blame rather than pass the buck to his bureau managers.

In his most difficult moments as Police Commissioner, Jordan put the Police Bureau first as he tried to reach a balance between the complaints from the community and the excuses

from the police. However, his actions during this period did not overcome the narrowness of Ivancie who reshuffled the bureau away from Jordan who brought the bureau into the 20th century.

The commissioner's vote on City Council reflected the needs and concerns of low- to middle-income Oregonians. His monthly forums were an asset to Portland because they brought together a diversity of people, ideas and information.

As much as we would like Jordan to stay, he feels his move to Austin is the right one for him and his family and his say should be the last. His performance there will hopefully mirror his accomplishments here.

Whoever the voters choose to fill his seat will be challenged by Jordan's past performance of action, accountability, concern and progressiveness. Jordan's political tradition will leave an indelible mark on city politics, forever.

Make nuclear transport safer

The way in which radioactive materials are casually carted around this world would make a person think no real danger exists should a spill or other accident occur. That's because no matter how much "hot" material is released into the environment, officials never fail to proclaim that no threat to the environment has been unleashed.

As a recent spill of PCB's along Interstate 84 shows, being used to such transportation has not led to greater precautions being taken to insure the public safety. The PCB's leaked onto the freeway for miles from transformers tied sloppily on a flatbed truck until a motorist noticed and called it to the driver's attention. Hundreds of cars may have passed through the highly dangerous material in the meantime.

When a French cargo vessel sank, Saturday, off the Belgian coast, with 30 containers of uranium hexafluoride weighing 450 tons aboard, the same proclamation was heard. The

radioactive material was on its way to the Soviet Union for use in manufacturing nuclear reactor fuel when the ship carrying it collided with a ferry.

It's remarkable that more frequent accidents of this type don't happen. Highly radioactive elements such as plutonium and nuclear plant fuel rods are routinely shipped from the U.S. to Japan and other countries, and residents of the Pacific Northwest are getting used to trucks and trains transporting radioactive and hazardous materials through their cities to the federal storage site at Hanford, Washington.

Federal, state and local officials lack coordination when major accidents of this type occur. Waiting for a really massive disaster before getting their act together is too much like radioactive Russian roulette and does the trusting public a disservice. Luck won't substitute for planning.



Reagan deserves KKK endorsement

by Dr. Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

In the wake of the Democratic National Convention last month, some disappointed Jackson supporters warned that they might not support their party's lackluster nominee, Walter Mondale, in the general election. Undeniably, Mondale is a poor representative of Black, Latino and poor people's interests. But we might well remember what's at stake this November, and what kinds of racists are now aligning themselves behind Ronald Reagan.

Several months ago, Bill Wilkinson, leader of the Invisible Empire faction of the KKK, openly endorsed Reagan for reelection. "Anytime you see all the Blacks and minorities in this country opposing, strongly, one man, you know he has got to be doing something good for the white race," Wilkinson told the press. Many elements of the Republican platform are "pure Klan," he observed. Wilkinson's Klansmen promised to work hard for Reagan this fall.

One of the major reasons that the Klan is so aggressively pro-Reagan is the Administration's civil rights policies. The Reaganite Civil Rights Commission has all but repudiated the goal of racial equality and

justice. In some instances, this has meant the personal reversal of one's prior commitment to racial equality. Take the sad case of Commission Vice Chairman Morris B. Abram. Once the president of the American Jewish Committee, Abram had a long history of strong support for the socioeconomic and political rights of Blacks. Now in his reincarnation as a Reaganite, Abram claims that the old Commission was a "Johnnie-One-Note," in reference to its constant support for racial quotas and school desegregation policies. Abram and the new Commission have stopped the traditional policy of reviewing federal budgets for their discriminatory impact. "Budgets are a matter of social policy, not civil rights as such," states Abram. "They don't come under our jurisdiction." Meanwhile, Reagan's budget reductions have contributed to a sharp rise in national infant mortality, massive unemployment, and mental health disorders—all of which are "racist" in their affect, because they hit Blacks more severely than whites.

In the June 10th issue of *Time* magazine, Abram cynically outlined his narrow definition of civil rights.

"Economic claims," he now argues, aren't "civil rights. A 'right' to shelter, a 'right' to health care, a 'right' to day care for children" are not civil rights. Blacks and other minority groups have absolutely no "civil" rights "to a certain level of food stamp spending," Abram lectures sternly. After such demagoguery, is it surprising that Alabama KKK Jim Blair recently applauded Abram and other conservatives on the Civil Rights Commission? In Blair's words, the new Commission "has opened the door to allow true democracy" by taking a position "to free America of affirmative action, rampant giveaway programs, and forced busing...."

Beneath the black robes of the U.S. Supreme Court justices, civil rights proponents are finding more than a few white sheets. The Court's June 12th decision upholding "last hired, first fired" policies by a 6-3 vote essentially states that workers with more seniority cannot be laid off to protect the jobs of Blacks, Latinos and women who are hired under affirmative actions programs. Reagan's chief of the Justice Department's civil rights division, William (Please turn to page 6, Column 1)

Opinion: Republicans move U.S. back in time

by Lanita Duke

America to the right, backward march! seemed to be the tone of the Republican National Convention.

Their delegates, mainly white and upper income, sang, "Hail to the Chief" and "Let's beat the pants off the Democrats."

During the convention, many unsettling themes arose out of the boredom. Sen Barry Goldwater sent chills up and down the spines of many Americans when he said, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice."

Flashbacks of the COINTELPRO years which included illegal wiretaps, bugging and planting agents to manipulate jealousies, power struggles and ideological conflicts to prevent the rise of progressive organizations and leaders fell under the category of extremism. You can't help but wonder if the sentiments expressed during the Republican convention would

condone this type of suppression of individual freedoms.

The platform the Republicans will run on reads like it was written by the Moral Majority. Rev. Jerry Falwell quipped, "If they had allowed us to write it, we would have difficulty improving on the content."

The platform calls for a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion while urging the President not to appoint judges to the Supreme Court who support the right to choose.

In light of this fact, it's hard to swallow Gov. Vic Atiyeh's reasoning when he says Democrats interfere in people's lives. If this proposed amendment isn't interfering, I don't know what is.

The vast array of Republican speakers conveniently used bits and pieces of history with their own narrow interpretation and the doubletalk of George Orwell's

"1984," "Peace through Strength" as a campaign slogans.

The supply side economic theories are the Republican's crown and creed but its benefits have yet to trickle down to the poor, aged or vulnerable in society. The question they ask in 1984 is, "where is the trickle in the trickle-down theory?"

As we look for the silver lining in the dark cloud of righter than right politics, the moderate wing of the Republican party holds the glow. It's refreshing that a few Republicans in Oregon openly demonstrated their preference for pro-choice and the Equal Rights Amendment on the floor.

If the Republicans win reelection, we hope the demands of the people will amplify the voice of moderation in the party. If not the extremism of the right, it may create an extreme reaction among those who the Republican party does not represent.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The City Club of Portland is proposing a zone where prostitution would be legal. The Street Beat team asked, "How do you feel about establishing a legalized zone for prostitution?"



Margaret Brown
Clerk

"I think it would create a lot of problems. It would be dangerous for all involved. People will do what they want and there would be a little bit of everything."



Jane Doe
Prostitute

"I would like a zone where I could work. I got two kids to support and I can't find a square job. If they establish a zone, the crime and disease rate would drop."



Howard Pulliam
Electrician

"I'm against prostitution because it's limited to the Black communities all across the states."



Dewayne Laubocker
Warehouseman

"It sounds like a good idea to get it in one area instead of having it all over the place. There is no way they can ever stop it."



Doris Flowers
Unemployed

"I don't think that's a good idea. It's a bad example for our kids. They should not be exposed to it."



Victor Jackson
Baker

"I wouldn't like it. I live in an area where there is a lot of prostitution. I don't like it around my kids."

Letters to the Editor

Supports Cawthorne

To the Editor:

Herb Cawthorne is our choice for the City Council seat vacated by Commissioner Charles Jordan. We regret Charles has decided to leave Portland, we wish him the best in his new position.

Herb is best qualified to run for and win the seat because of his years of service to our community, experience, and intelligence.

Herb has served this community since 1976, when he came from the University of Oregon to teach and administer educational programs at Portland State University. He immediately began helping organize the community around the issue of quality education for all children. He was instrumental in stopping the unfair busing of Black children in Portland Public Schools. Because of his commitment to equity for all children he was selected to serve on

the School Board. He has worked hard inside the system to make education more responsive to the concerns of citizens. If Herb Cawthorne had not been on the School Board, it is quite possible Matthew Prophet would not be Superintendent of Portland Schools today.

Herb has done much more. His oral history programs have been superb in making Black history come alive for so many of us. Herb is always available to us. He speaks at our functions and challenges our young people to perform well in school. When the District 18 Leadership Forum needed to be organized, Herb helped develop the project, write the plan, and insure the process was fair. This led to Margaret Carter's eventual victory.

Herb Cawthorne has earned the chance to run, and has proven his ability to win a city-wide race. Most people in this city know his School

Board campaign was one of the best organized we have seen. This resulted in his decisive victory. He is prepared and can win again.

We hope our community will support Herb now, spread the word to our friends all over the city, and commit ourselves to give money and hard labor. Herb can win. He deserves to win. And, each one of us should be committed to making sure that he does.

Rev. E.J. Edwards
Henry Scott
John H. Jackson
Jerry Payne
Vern Chatman
Vesia Loving
Gale Castillo
Ray Leary
Bishop J.C. Foster
Avel Mayfield
Harry Ward
Halim Rahaan
Benita Stroughter
Rev. O.B. Williams
Ron Herndon
Rev. John Garlington
Paul Cook

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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