

Bishop Tutu awarded Nobel Peace Prize



by Lanita Duke

Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of South African Council of Churches, became the second Black in history to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

Tutu has been one of the most vocal opponents of the racist system of apartheid in South Africa. He has been called the Martin Luther King of South Africa because of his non-violent agitation against South Africa.

Avel Mayfield, director of Southern Africa program for American Friends Service Committee,

said they were "overjoyed."

"He is deserving and the recognition is long overdue. He believes the U.S. policy of constructive engagement has been detrimental for his people."

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Paul Jones displays his sign of the times on N.E. Union Ave. and Mason.

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)

Black Republicans state view

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Using the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Let the people know the facts and the Republic will be safe," Samuel Pierce, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, addressed the Oregon Black Republican Council on the "Whys" of the Reagan/Bush presidential ticket.

Pierce told the 40 people in attendance at the Red Lion Portland Center to continue the present administration.

"In 1981, this nation was in an economic mess, runaway inflation and the dollar was weak. Because of Reagan's economic recovery plan the prime interest rate is down, unemployment is down and the nation's economy is headed for sustained growth," Pierce said, sounding more like a candidate than a member of the Reagan administration.

Pierce was nominated secretary of HUD by President Reagan in 1980. He was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Senate four weeks later.

"Reagan has turned America's image around," Pierce said, and called the Grenada situation "a smooth operation. We again sit tall at the table of nations."

Pierce said under the Reagan administration, "The size and cost of government has been reduced, while taking care of the truly needy."

"The number of assistant housing units have gone up and the bill has gone down. Mondale has no new ideas. Tax and spend is all he knows."

Pierce said the notion that Reagan was unfair to the poor and minorities was wrong. "Nothing could be farther from the truth. He has done more for the historically Black college than any other administration. The perception that he's unfair is wrong. He feels for the people."

"In the Carter/Mondale years, the inflation rate went up. That impacted the poor and is unfair."

Greg Smith, chairman of the Oregon Black Republican Council,

said membership is at 15 and growing. The Council was organized in October, 1983 and is an arm of the National Black Republican Council.

One woman's view

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — LeGree S. Daniels, National Chairperson of Black Voters for Reagan/Bush, wants to restore a balance in electoral politics for Black Americans.

"There is a problem that Blacks are perceived to be totally into the Democratic party. That is a luxury we cannot afford. We did not march to get civil rights to have our votes counted before they are placed," she explained.

Daniels is highly critical of how Jesse Jackson was treated by the Democrats. "As a Black American I was proud of what Jesse did. I was angry that he got as far in his party to have 400 delegates and he only got to make a speech. His party gave him the back of the hand."

Currently, Daniels is traveling the country with this message: "We as Blacks have a choice. Let's send a message to both parties. One, we will not be taken for granted and the other is that we won't be locked out."

She said she is advocating Blacks to vote for Reagan/Bush because, "They are the wave of the future." She added that economic parity is one area in which Blacks need to expand and other minorities who are



LaGree Daniels

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)

going into the Black community setting up business are an example of Blacks "losing our economic base."

She said to take apart poverty statistics that say poverty rose for Blacks under the Reagan administration. "The job market is changing. Some of us were not trained for long-term jobs."

Daniels blamed the Democratic administration for creating welfare dependency in the Black community. "One generation after the other seems to be locked into welfare. It is easier for a young mother to get welfare payments while her husband or father is no where around. In my day, the man took care of his family no matter what his job was. Now, welfare seems to be appropo."

She also decried federally funded abortion. "It should be outlawed except in the case of rape or incest. Just to have an abortion wholesale, I don't believe in."



Greg Smith, chair of the Oregon Black Republican Council and Samuel Pierce.

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)

Black students:

Is Special Ed the answer?

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — One of the concerns the Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee has for the 1984-85 school year is the high percentage of Black students classified as learning disabled.

The total number of Black students in Special Education is 941 — 589 are labeled learning disabled. Children of color comprise 26 percent of the total student population, yet in Special Ed they make up 28 percent.

The Portland Public School staff, their consultants and community observers all acknowledged a disproportion existing for Black students, especially Black males.

As distinguished from organic handicaps, such as blind or deaf, learning disability is defined as disruptive, time consuming behavior for classroom teachers. The question is whether this disproportion exists because of a teacher's inability to deal with a child's developmental stages, cultural difference or a non-challenging educational approach.

Jasper Ormond, a mental health specialist, said the reasons for the disproportion could encompass all three areas. Marilyn Turner, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, said the district does not know why the disproportion rate exists, but her department is currently looking at the pre-referral

stage.

"We are in the process of isolating all elements. We are looking at how a teacher deals with individual and community differences before they label them as problems."

According to Turner, the district is asking "How is that classroom adjusting to different kinds of kids, learning patterns and behavior?"

For her staff Turner said a non-bias assessment workshop was held to ensure "assessment practices were as language and cultural free as possible."

Once a child passes the referral stage an individual education plan is written with the goal of accessing the child back into mainstream education. Turner said statistics were not available to measure the success of that goal.

Ormond said his clinic observations has led him to the conclusion that students labeled as learning disabled "are referred to Special Ed because of a perceived behavioral problem and not the child's ability to learn."

He indicated that the disproportion may exist because of a teacher's insensitivity and the classroom design support the exclusion of Black children from mainstream education.

"When Black children assert perceptions and feelings about what is going on in their educational setting and general environment, it could be perceived as a problem."

Ormond also questioned the number of people of color employed in Special Ed in the areas of assessment, counseling and teaching. He called for more training in cultural sensitivity and developmental psychology. He conducted the non-bias assessment workshop which, "only scratched the surface of the magnitude of need for specialized training and supportive services from Black professionals."

Another problem once a child gets places in Special Ed is that institutional focus too often is diverted from academic to behavioral. Ormond added, "Generally, the child will go through school with an inadequate education because of low expectations placed on them by school personnel. There is also a negative connotation associated with Special Ed. Soon the child will internalize that message to the point of it having a negative impact of his or her self-esteem and overall motivation to achieve."

Ormond said the children he has worked with in Special Ed were intelligent. "Maybe the problem is low-achievement expectations, cultural insensitivity and a lack of educational stimulation. In essence, insensitivity to the needs of Black children with unrealistic low-expectation of their learning potential appears to influence the disproportionate number of Black children in Special Education."

Measure 3 bears closer look

Board of Directors, with three members being elected from each of Oregon's five Congressional Districts.

According to Eric Stachon, director of Oregonians for CUB, "CUB is designed to remedy a problem that we have here in Oregon — that the utilities dominate the rate setting process." According to Stachon, "There isn't a consumer group with the financial and technical abilities to represent consumer interests in rate hearings."

But opponents of the CUB bill believe that the Public Utility Commissioner's office is already fulfilling this role. Dennis Tooley, a utility company employee and a member of the Committee Against Discrimination, states that "Oregon law already mandates that the commissioner and his staff be public advocates and balance consumer interests with utility requirements."

Stachon does not feel that the

Public Utility Commissioner can be an effective advocate for the consumer. "The Commissioner's role is compared to that of a judge. The Commissioner cannot be an impartial judge and at the same time a forceful advocate for consumers."

Comparing Oregon to other states across the country, Oregon's Public Utility Commissioner has an 80% approval rate for requested rate increases made by the utilities. The national average is 64%.

Consumer groups most impacted by utility rates are low income households and senior citizens on fixed incomes. Should the CUB be successful in reducing rate increases, low income households, which typically spend up to 25% of their monthly income on heating costs will clearly benefit. The passage of Measure 3, however, is not in itself a guarantee that the CUB will be successful in its attempt to hold down utility rates.

Saturday Anti-Reagan rally set

Ron Herndon, co-chair of the Oregon Rainbow Organizing Committee, announced a Rainbow Rally to end Reaganism, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 20 in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square. The Rainbow Rally brings together all those elements of American society left in the cold by Reagan's policies. Church groups, labor unions, minority organizations, women's groups and environmental organizations are contributing to the organizing effort and will be represented at the rally.

Herndon said, "The Reagan Administration has been an unmiti-

gated disaster for the environment, for the cause of peace, for minorities, women, children, the elderly — in other words, for all progressive causes and everyone who isn't rich, male, or white. The Rainbow Coalition wants to do its part to end this era of darkness. This spring we were inspired by Jesse Jackson, and this fall, we will carry on with our effort to rid this nation of Reaganism and to offer a positive alternative. The Rainbow Rally on October 20 will demonstrate our commitment to end Reaganism. Our work for the Mondale/Ferraro ticket between now and November 6 constitutes our positive alternative."