

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Rainbow must push forward

The Reagan/Bush tidalwave Tuesday drowned the progressive aspirations of millions of Americans who are casualties of an economic policy that takes from the poor to give to the rich.

The Reagan/Bush landslide smothered the hopes of many for the fairness that is incorporated in the constitution of the United States, a constitution written for all the people and not just a few.

The Reagan/Bush re-election road was paved by manipulating misconceptions. Among the greatest misconception propagated by the Reagan/Bush campaign was the need to cut social programs or pull the so-called gravy-train back. In reality, this gravy-train never hit the tracks. In 1964, forces that controlled America capitulated to the demands of fairness and retribution. Programs to alleviate hunger, rebuild the cities and educate all Americans were discussed, designed and, in some cases, implemented. The American dream was made imaginable because jobs, opportunity for higher education and better lifestyles were offered to all; regardless of income.

Four years later the Nixon Administration was voted in and pulled up the tracks of this so-called gravy-train. Programs were cut in half, eliminated or shelved. What is frighteningly shortsighted are the views of many who

currently decry this half a decade of hope. In 1984 the prevailing thought seems to be, "I got mine — and later for someone else."

The influence of Democratic Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson will always be understated and unobserved. But let the history books show that Jackson was the first to commit himself to placing a woman on the ticket, and the only one who backed up his words with action by negotiating the freedom of Lt. Robert Goodman and Americans from Cuban jails.

Although the Reagan/Bush Administration might think they have a mandate to continue their nuclear nightmare diplomacy, their attacks on Affirmative Action and their criminal support of South Africa, the progressive forces in America must not lie dormant as we mourn our losses. The mandate is for the issues, concerns and goals of the Rainbow Coalition to continue to be expressed at a consistent pace, and sometimes in a confrontational manner.

As the winds of war blow over Central America and the poverty rolls increase, with lopsided governmental policies taking their toll, we may end up with four more years of long, cold winters and four more years of long, hot summers.

Election results bittersweet

The political results in Portland for candidates and Ballot Measures are bittersweet.

But all is not bleak. The utility companies tried to put a "boondoggle" over the minds of voters with their million dollar opposition to Ballot Measure 3, the Citizens' Utility Board. Voters now have a chance, a voice, and delegates to say "no" to the steady stream of utility increases. The Citizens' Utility Board organizers need to be commended for never wavering from their main points, despite the constant, direct and negative campaigning of the "No on Three Committee."

Candidatewise, we hope the 17 losing City Council candidates learned something — especially the Black candidates with embarrassing small showing among the voters. They should ask themselves, "Was it worth it?" and "Next time will I represent myself, a constituency or my community?"

Also, the results may signal and end to the "professional politician" who resigns in mid-term from one elected office to run for another. Political strategy does not always end with the same results one drafted on paper when the voters overwhelmingly vote down so-called experience for accountability, progressiveness and a new face, fresh voice.

The victories of Herb Cawthorne, Dick Bogle and Margaret Carter is a sign that all is not lost. We, as a community and members of the Rainbow Coalition, have come a long way in such a short time. As Dr. Darrell Millner said, "These people are going to serve in City Hall and in Salem. That is a tremendous step forward for the Black community. For that kind of progress to take place in less than a decade is an indication of the potential in the Black community."



Meet Marbet: Lloyd Marbet holds up the Oregonian ad that opponents of Ballot Measure No. 9 ran prior to the election. Voters passed the measure Tuesday requiring new waste safety regulations despite the negative anti-Marbet campaign waged by opponents.

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)

Dist. 18 seat first for minorities

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Many residents felt Debnam's business platform was stronger than Carter's. Tolton said, "That's possible, but it takes more than business to make the world go around. You have to have a good mixture of business and social issues. And you must understand how to put those issues together."

On January 14, 1985 Margaret Carter will be sworn in. "The cam-

aign is over but the job is just beginning," she added.

Her priorities will be education and skill development.

The campaign was not without its negative side as sexism was interjected into it. "It was clear that certain elements in the community wanted a male. On one occasion one man physically picked me up and said it was a

man's race." This same person showed up at her victory party. "I'm glad to see him here. People should let bygones by bygones," Carter said.

She added that her race was one for all the people in the district. "Now we can get behind issues that will enrich our community."

THINGS HAVE REALLY CHANGED SINCE WE WERE IN SCHOOL— COLLEGE KIDS ARE REAL CONSERVATIVE

THEY'RE SUPER-NATIONALISTIC AND GUNG-HO FOR REAGAN!



I'LL BET WE COULD CHANGE THAT IF WE GOT OUT AND ORGANIZED

TO BRING BACK "THE DRAFT"



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POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Friend,
Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the African Students Association at Portland State University, invite you (and/or your organization) to participate in a rare community event.

Portia Buites (pronounced Bates), a Black South African woman and currently a student at Oregon State University, will be the featured speaker on a special evening program devoted to learning about the role of African women in the struggle for South African liberation. The date is Saturday, November 10, 1984, from 7 - 10 p.m., at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler.

In South Africa, Black women are regarded by government labor policies as "surplus Bantu" or "superfluous appendages." They suffer a burden of oppression and humiliation even heavier than that imposed on Black men. Barred from nearly all work except in domestic service or as farm laborers, women are relegated — together with children, old people and the disabled — to the impoverished, disease-ridden bantustan areas.

Mothers relocated by government fiat have been forcibly separated from their children, some of whom have starved to death as a result. Wives are separated from their husbands who must live in all-male hostels near factories or mines.

Arrogant contempt for women has long been a hallmark of the South African government. White interpretations of African traditional law have kept them in the status of permanent minors, unable to own or inherit property, enter into contracts, sue or be sued, or even to act as the guardians of their own children.

The International Defense and Aid Fund (IDAF) reports that in May of this year, a Cabinet Minister and a Provincial Councilor went even further, arguing for enforced sterilization of Black women. Unless Blacks get away from the idea that "we breed and they feed," said Councilor D. Campher, the government would

have to sterilize women after one or two children.

When Dorothy Nyembe, South Africa's longest-serving woman political prisoner, was finally released from prison in April, she reported that women sentenced for political "crimes" are treated even more badly than men. She was not allowed to study or to read newspapers during her 15-year sentence. Prison authorities denied her visits from her family, and letters were held up because they were not written in English.

August 9 is South African Women's Day, commemorating the massive protests of 1956 against the extension of the infamous pass laws to women. 1984 has been named the Year of the Woman in South Africa. But for the rulers of the apartheid regime it is still business as usual.

—When Mrs. Annie Silinga, 74, died in June of this year, she had spent nearly 30 years hounded by South African authorities for her refusal to carry a pass. She had been deported several times to the Transkei bantustan, and in the last years of her life was denied a pension.

—Miss Doris Ndoli Sethoke was brought to trial in January that her dress of black, green and gold — the ANC's colors — endangered South African security.

—Mrs. Winnie Mandela has lived under constant police surveillance and restricted by banning orders since 1977. Nevertheless, she has

struggled to operate a medical clinic for poor people living near the remote village of Brandfort to which she is confined.

We hope that Black women's organizations and the church community will make a special effort to come out and support this event. It is a courageous act to speak about what is currently developing in South Africa, when there is the very real possibility of retaliation by the South African government. We can do no less than show our support for Portia Buites' courageous willingness to share with us.

The evening program will also feature a film: "South Africa Belongs To Us," poetry readings, and a performance by the Talking Drum Dancers. A reception featuring African food, co-hosted by the Black Educational Center, will follow the program. There is no charge for the event, however donations are welcome.

Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom, a co-sponsor of this event, is a local multi-racial action group that supports Black Majority rule in Southern Africa and an end to U.S. Support for apartheid.

Please share this letter with others and/or your membership and join us in welcoming Portia Buites on November 10th. For more information please call me at 230-9427.

AVEL GORDLY, Director
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