

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Forward together, backward never

As the sunset of 1984 approaches, the staff of the Portland Observer looks back with pride because we have been at the cutting edge of progressive community journalism in Portland, Oregon.

Our editorials have pulled no punches as we informed, criticized and reminded Portland and America of her past.

We called Milton Coleman's coverage of the Presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson "snitching" while the white media used a different yardstick to measure Jackson's success.

We alerted our readers to the Affirmative Action hypocrisy of the City Council.

During 1985, we plan to scrutinize how politicians perform and spend our tax dollars. We will question the effectiveness of name familiarity which gives candidates counterfeit credibility.

In 1984 our international coverage looked at Central America and South Africa with a touch of compassion, anger and hope.

Our political coverage was unequaled among community newspapers. Our candidate profiles addressed concerns and criticisms of the public. Our Street Beat column gave the public a chance to sound off on pressing issues of the day.

We have a new entertainment editor who is an active participant in Portland's entertainment industry. Our new medical column provides a

healthy way to look at life and the medical profession. Our Sport Talk section has the basketball bouncing, the football passing and the track and field running.

The Portland Observer was proud to assist Na'im Hasan reach his goal. We watched him achieve his dream of bringing home the gold as the U.S.A. Heavyweight Tae Kwondo champion to the 1984 Pan-American Heavyweight Championship.

Our political writers gave you a front seat at the Democratic National Convention. Our promotion and advertising staff produced a new insert called "JOBS." This section has a bright financial future.

It has been an honor to serve you journalistically. We have exposed, rewarded and upset many, but we have never wavered from our original course to provide a voice to the voiceless, hope for the hopeless and power to the powerless. In the beginning of 1984, so-called friends of the Portland Observer predicted we would fold because of the departure of the former managing editor. We believed in ourselves because we believed in our readers.

Happy Kwanzaa and a Prosperous New Year! The Portland Observer will be coming on strong in 1985.

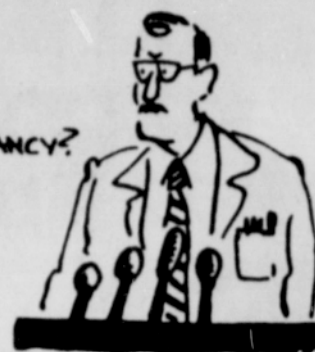
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN - I AM ABOUT TO PERFORM A REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL PROCEDURE



THIS HIGH-RISK OPERATION IS SOMEWHAT EXPERIMENTAL BUT HOLDS THE POTENTIAL FOR A MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH



DOCTOR - WHAT'S THE LIFE-EXPECTANCY?



OF THE PATIENT OR MY FAME?



Letters to the Editor

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed or neatly printed and signed with the author's name and address (addresses are not published). We reserve the right to edit for length. Mail to: Portland Observer, P. O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

for human rights. The economic and military aid which the United States has repeatedly given to the most repressive regimes in the world — Chile, South Korea, Iran, Haiti, Greece and South Africa, to name but a few — has cost the American taxpayer billions of dollars and is an affront to civilized international relations. This foreign policy, whether measured by open warfare against the Korean and Vietnamese peoples or by such operations as the CIA's overthrow of the reform government of Guatemala in 1954, is a measure of the distortion of national priorities which has taken place in this country since the end of the Second World War. To fundamentally change the direction of U.S. foreign policy will take more than good intentions expressed in words. The sincerity of Mr. Reagan's expressed intentions to turn U.S. foreign policy toward a peace and good neighbor course is left in serious doubt when he agrees to continue further U.S. aid to the police-state regimes in South Africa, South Korea on the grounds that our "na-

tional security" is involved. This is just nonsense. It is not national security but U.S. neo-colonialism which is served by such falsehoods.

The tens of thousands of our young people who are graduating from high school each year and are still functionally illiterate command public attention to the fact that the right to a quality education as a human right has yet to be won. The same can be said of health care and an adequate supply of decent housing for all regardless of income.

All sections of the national population who oppose racist practices have a moral and material stake in seeing to it that the U.S. government takes concrete steps to end its support for the apartheid system in South Africa. This means joining the majority of the world in a cooperative effort to aid the liberation movements in South Africa through economic sanctions and other forms of action. This is the acid test of genuineness of the Reagan Administration's concern for human rights.

DR. JAMIL CHEROVEE

Change policy

To the Editor,

It is clear that any progressive future involving improvements in the quality of everyday life in American society immediately rests upon substantial changes in the content and direction of U.S. Foreign Policy. It is difficult for many of the people of this country to face up to, but the stubborn fact is we inherit a terrible legacy of criminal-like behavior toward other nations of the world from the Truman Administration down to the recently disgraced Reaganism.

The foreign policy of the past 40 years has been characterized by its lack of morality and its unconcern

"Growth recession" now reality

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable



Even before the November elections, Reagan's advisers perceived the spectre of the coming economic recession, and they relentlessly and successfully distorted the truth before American voters. All throughout the campaign, the incumbent affirmed that taxes would be raised only "over my dead body." Administration officials projected the 1986 fiscal year deficit at \$172 billion, and denounced Mondale for promising to raise taxes. Once safely reelected, Reagan's aides admit that the real federal deficit will be at least \$210 billion, and that the 1983-84 economic recovery has begun to go flat. Economists on Wall Street and in Washington agree that the country has slumped into a "growth recession" — the economy continues to create new jobs but at a reduced rate, and unemployment levels begin to rise.

In the past six weeks, the signs of the "growth recession" have become undeniably clear. On November 20, Reagan administration aides "revised" the U.S. economy's growth rate in the last quarter from 3.6 percent down to 1.9 percent. Housing starts fell 9.8 percent in October to the lowest level since December 1982. Retail sales throughout November were sluggish, and the U.S. automakers announced a 14.2 percent decline in new car sales in the last 10 days of the month, compared to last year's sales. Unemployment figures declined slightly, but after the Christmas season sales, hundreds of thousands of newly employed workers will get the axe.

President Reagan's dilemma is of his own making. For six solid months, the aging actor pilloried Mondale as the prophet of "defeat, decline, and despair." He promised that there would be no cuts in Social Security or

public housing, and he declared that Americans were in the midst of "the best economic recovery in almost 30 years." The fact that unemployment rates exceeded 7.5 percent, and that the number of poor people had soared by more than 6 million, during his first term were conveniently ignored.

After the Gipper's votes were safely counted, the evasions and outright lies were abruptly halted. Administration functionaries, led by Budget Director David Stockman, unleashed a massive offensive to demand that Americans tighten their belts. Proposals included a five percent payout for all Federal employees, numbering over two million; reductions in farm subsidies and college loan programs; cuts in health benefits for the elderly, military veterans and the poor. Under the cover of a modified "flat tax," corporate taxes in most instances would be reduced. The bloated Pentagon budget, which creates the fewest numbers of jobs for the capital expended, is allowed to grow even fatter.

The aggressiveness of Reagan's economic campaign contrasts so sharply with his "good news" platitudes of several weeks ago that even hardline conservatives in Congress admit being nonplused. Georgia Republican representative Newt Gingrich declared bluntly, "The American people have to feel a little like they thought they were walking into the office of a cruise ship and found out they were in a cancer clinic. This is not the upbeat Opportunity Society commercials of just six weeks ago. If you are going to convince people that they need cancer surgery, you've got to convince them they have cancer."

Reaganomics has painted the Dem-

ocrats into a fiscal corner, however. Trained in the Keynesian tradition, the Congressional Democrats know that you can't raise taxes during a recession. The way out of the economic doldrums is through pump priming via additional deficit spending, creating new jobs programs. The problem with this scenario is that Reagan, the greatest deficit spender of all time, has swollen the deficit by billions; no additional deficit spending could occur without reigniting interest rates back to double digit levels. The Federal Reserve Board is currently trying to keep the recovery alive by increasing the amount of currency in circulation. But this monetary strategy also will push up interest rates, which in real terms — factored for inflation — are already at an all-time high. Thus neither the Democrats nor the Republicans have any viable solutions to avoid the next recession — which will occur sometime within the next 15 months, and promises to be even more severe than its predecessor in 1982.

The only way out has already been suggested by the Congressional Black Caucus, civil rights groups, peace and some labor leaders. Defense spending must be cut dramatically, and billions allocated for nonproductive weapons must be spent on human needs. The current tax crisis is caused fundamentally by the corporations, which don't pay their fair share. Of the 250 largest corporations, 67 paid absolutely no federal taxes last year. The typical tax rate of 14.7 percent of these firms is well below the statutory corporate income tax rate of 46 percent. When welfare for the military and upper income groups is finally halted, and federal priorities focus on housing, education, jobs and transportation, the spectre of recession will be lifted.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The American Medical Association is discussing a ban on professional boxing because of the probable bodily injury to participants. "Should professional boxing be banned?"



Steve Mack

Unemployed

"I don't think there is any way they can ban it. It's been around too long. Fighters would fight illegally."



Barbara Clardy

Data Clerk

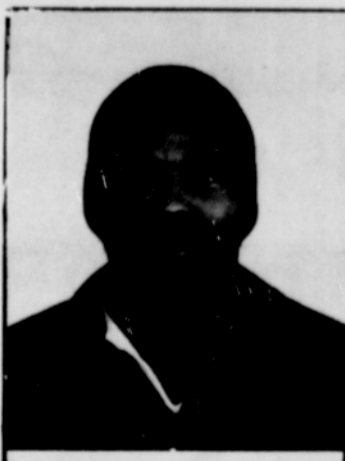
"I don't know if it should be banned, but it's a dangerous sport. I would not recommend boxing as a career."



L. C. Oddie

Security Officer

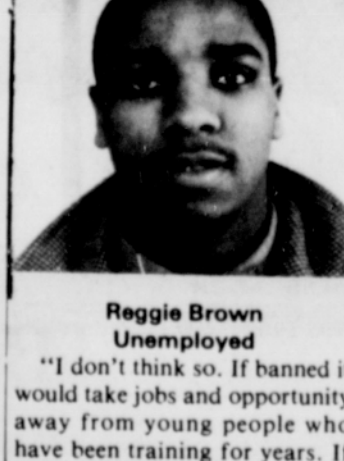
"The referees should be more qualified. They should call the fight earlier. It should not be banned."



Roma Martin

Unemployed

"It's an American tradition. It should not be banned."



Reggie Brown

Unemployed

"I don't think so. If banned it would take jobs and opportunity away from young people who have been training for years. If you are not qualified or in shape, you do not belong in the ring."



Hurtis Hadley Jr.

Clerk

"There are health hazards as well as benefits. You face the risk when you get into the ring."

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