

EDITORIAL/OPINION

We won't miss Ivancie

The departure of Frank Ivancie as Mayor of Portland is no great loss to the inner city or communities of color.

As Mayor he ignored the inner city and the policies he penned treated people of color and of low-income with contempt. During the Ivancie regime the City's Affirmative Action enforcement was criminally lacking. As Mayor he could have provided an example of leadership by opening employment at City Hall to all residents and not just to those who illuminated and regurgitated Ivancie's ideology.

The former Mayor's idea of city-financed development side-stepped the inner city. The current Central City plan is budgeted for \$350,000 to revitalize pockets of downtown, the Macadam Corridor, Lloyd Center, Buckman and Hosford-Abernathy neighborhoods.

The inner Northeast, which has never had an effective development plan implemented, was left out of any type of development as Ivancie rubberstamped this exclusion and Commissioner Margaret Strachan spearheaded it.

Ivancie's handling of the opossum-throwing police incident, where police officers threw dead opossums in front of a Black-owned restaurant, was arrogant and insulting. He swiped the police Bureau away from former Commissioner Charles Jordan and played the Afro-American community for chumps. He never saw fit to apologize to the community who suffered under the racism, manipulations and criminal activities from the city's "finest." Instead, Ivancie had

to eat his arrogance as he was swept away in a tidal wave of Police misconduct. His plow to kill the Police Auditing Committee backfired as the voters forced accountability out of Ivancie.

A national movement ushered in the end of Ivancie as Mayor of Portland. It was called "reclaiming politics." The person that led this movement was Jesse Jackson and the base he used was the Rainbow Coalition.

In Portland the Rainbow Coalition registered 4,000 new voters who were casualties of the Ivancie administration. Ivancie's handling of the opossum incident, the city's high unemployment rate for people of color, urban underdevelopment and all the inequities suffered when a deaf ear at City Hall left a bitter taste in the mouths of these new voters who cast their ballots for an unknown — Bud Clark.

An unknown leader is better than a known manager and Ivancie was more of a manager than a Mayor. A question of ethics has to be raised as Ivancie takes the experience financed by City taxpayers to start a privately-owned consulting firm.

As Mayor Ivancie kept Portland a decade behind by adhering to the status quo, his leadership, or lack of leadership ability, hurt the City's majority as well as the minority. Honest historians will look back on the Ivancie era and call it non-progressive, short-sighted and unbalanced. Needless to say, the City and nation changed while the manager-mayor stayed the same.



African and Black American connections

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

In recent weeks, thousands of Americans have participated in demonstrations denouncing South Africa's official policy of white racism. The initiator of the nonviolent protests was Randall Robinson, the executive director of TransAfrica, a Washington-based foreign policy lobbying group. In a strategy session with Congressman Walter Fauntroy and U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary F. Berry held several weeks after the presidential election, Robinson proposed the revival of Martin Luther King's nonviolent direct action protests to dramatize the recent repression of Blacks under the apartheid regime. Robinson, Berry, and Fauntroy staged a small symbolic protest in front of the South African Embassy on Thanksgiving eve, and they were "pleasantly surprised" when the embassy officials panicked and called the police.

Their arrests, like those of the four Black students protesting America's version of apartheid in Greensboro, North Carolina, nearly a quarter century ago, sparked a series of non-violent demonstrations. Within two weeks, actions were staged at South African consulates in at least a dozen cities, including Salt Lake City, Boston, Chicago, and Houston. Leaders arrested so far represent civil rights organizations, religious groups, labor and liberal constituencies. In New York City, those arrested for blocking the consulate entrance included Judge William Booth; Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chairperson of the Black United Front; Roman Catholic Bishop Emerson J. Moore; Hazel Dukes, state chairperson of the NAACP; and New York City Clerk David Dinkins. In Washington, D.C., Joslyn Williams, president of the Greater Washington, D.C., Central Labor Council, Congressman Parren Mitchell and social activist Dick Gregory were arrested.

Although much of white America — and especially the Reagan Admin-

istration — was taken by surprise at this sudden burst of civil rights activism the question of apartheid has long been a central issue for Black and progressive activists. One little noticed feature of the 1984 Democratic presidential primaries was the increased focus on U.S. economic and political links with the racist South African regime. Jesse Jackson repeatedly attacked the Reagan Administration's growing detente with Pretoria — its decisions to support IMF loans to South Africa, the U.S. training of the South African Coast Guard, the sending of 2,500 electric shock batons to South African police, and the establishment of offices in Johannesburg designed to promote expanded U.S. investment in the country. Jackson's emphasis on South Africa forced the Democratic Party's platform committee to call for the immediate release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, and for the freeing "of all other political prisoners in South Africa." This was the first time that any major party had denounced apartheid unconditionally.

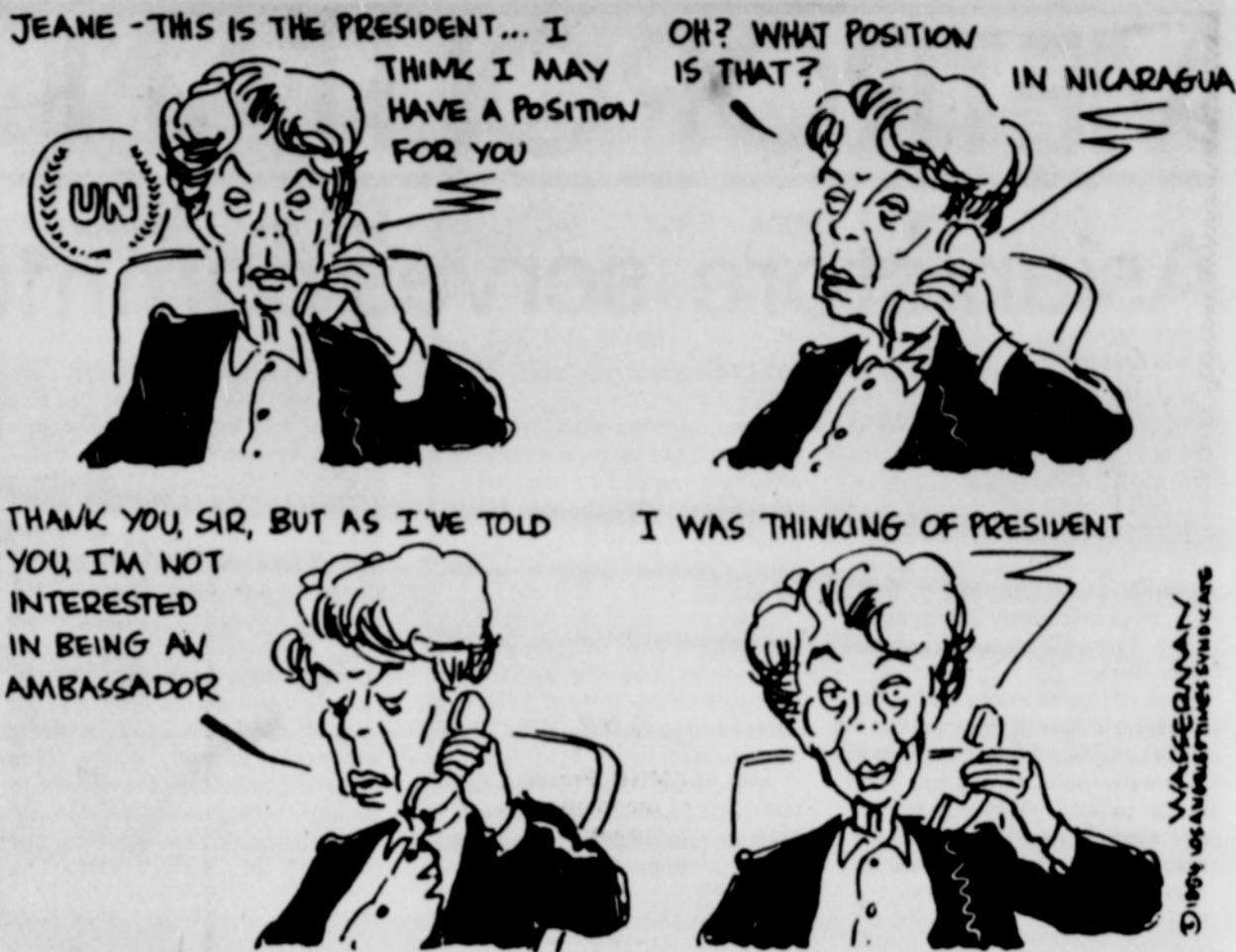
Since the late 1970s Afro-American groups have pressured U.S. entertainers and athletes not to perform inside South Africa. The boycott campaign was initiated by small Black community-based groups, but in recent years has mushroomed. This month in Los Angeles, a local group "Unity in Action" threatened to picket the NAACP's 17th annual Image Awards ceremony for Black performers, unless two prominent nominees who had toured South Africa, Tina Turner and Daniebell Hall, were rejected. Given that the awards were designed to honor entertainers who have presented "positive images of Blacks," the NAACP had little choice but to drop Turner and Hall.

On college campuses, students have organized a divestment move-

ment to pressure universities to withdraw funds from companies doing business in South Africa. To date, over 40 universities have divested more than \$175 million in stocks linked to South Africa. Since 1979, Black leaders have secured divestment legislation in Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Michigan, Maryland, and dozens of smaller cities, amounting to another \$400 million in public funds. Thousands of Black and white Americans are planning nonviolent demonstrations and teach-ins from March 21 through April 6, 1985 to promote the cause of democracy in South Africa.

Reaganites are admittedly hostile to the anti-apartheid movement, but are increasingly on the defensive. When the recent wave of protests began, administration officials announced that they would have absolutely "no impact" on Reagan's cordial policies toward apartheid. "The real losers in this are the Black community," blurted one White House official, in a curious display of inverted logic. But a group of 35 Congressional conservatives, led by Republican Congressman Robert Walker, have warned the administration that even they would "seek sanctions" against South Africa unless it moved immediately to halt racial violence and "demonstrated a sense of urgency about ending segregation laws." Under pressure from both the left and the right, Reagan reluctantly agreed to meet Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu, recent winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, to discuss apartheid. The recent demonstrations indicate that the civil rights movement in the U.S. has absolutely no intention to capitulate to racism, whether from Johannesburg or Reagan's White House.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. "Along the Color Line" appears in 140 newspapers internationally.



POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

by Randall Robinson

This is a tale of two tragedies. The first tragedy is the story of the 20-year unjust imprisonment of the world's most gifted and principled Black visionary. The second tragedy is that most Americans, Black Americans included, have heard of neither the man nor his plight. The great man's name is Nelson Mandela. His is not a household name in America like Andrei Sakharov's. The reason is not complicated. Mandela is locked up for opposing not Soviet repression, but South African white-minority tyranny. Ronald Reagan has use for Sakharov because he is white and opposes America's most formidable communist foe. Reagan has no use for Mandela because he is Black and opposes a new American ally, the Republic of South Africa.

After the famous 1964 Rivonia trial, Mandela and several other freedom activists were sent to prison for working to dismantle a South African system that empowers four and a half million whites to deny 22 million Blacks the right to vote, to assemble freely, to own land, to travel, to bear arms, to obtain a trial and due process, to do anything save scarcely breathe. Mandela is now 66 years old. His children, babies at the time of his incarceration, had reached their teens before they were allowed to see their father for the first time. His wife, Winnie, has spent many years under house arrest.

In the span of Mandela's imprisonment, over three and a half million

Black South Africans have been forcibly relocated to worthless patches of land set aside by the white apartheid: 87 percent of the land reserved for four and a half million whites, the remaining 13 percent for 22 million Blacks. To date, some nine million Blacks, assigned to one Black reservation or another, have been stripped of South African citizenship. Last year, Mandela was told he could go free if he would report to his assigned reservation. He declined the offer. He remains behind bars. Adherence to principle and a sustained claim to his people's birthright rank above any circumscribed personal liberty.

For Ronald Reagan's part, he does not want to debate American policy toward South Africa in this election season. Little wonder. During the three and a half short years of Reagan affection, the South African regime has invaded or destabilized every neighboring independent African country, continued its illegal occupation of Namibia, stepped up denationalization of the Black majority and increased the torture of Black dissidents.

To help with the torture, the Reagan administration provided the South African white with 2,500 crowd-control shock batons. To help with military aggression against neighboring Blacks and police repression against local Blacks, the Reagan Administration pushed through a loan to South Africa from the International Monetary Fund of \$1.1 billion. This figure represents

almost exactly the amount by which South Africa increased its military budget shortly before the loan was granted.

To rub our faces in this growing Afrikaner-American alliance, Reagan has vigorously opposed legislation that would prohibit further investment, loans and military sales to the white minority government. And while the \$14.6 billion American corporate stake in South Africa has steadily expanded over the last 20 years, the rate of growth has jumped dramatically under Reagan.

Andrei Sakharov's travail is much chronicled here. Lech Walesa was *Time* magazine's man of the year. Ask any American who Nelson Mandela is. A look of blankness results. He is the man who would be the first Black president of South Africa were only his people allowed to vote.

In his first term, Ronald Reagan has used our ignorance to ignore the man and prop up his captors. A second-term Reagan is certain to be even more cruelly calloused. Where to lay the blame? On the white South African minority, Ronald Reagan, the Western allies, corporate America and, lastly, a slumbering, uncaring American citizenry.

Copyright © 1984 by Essence Communications Inc. Reprinted by permission.

(POSAF is a local multi-racial citizens action group that supports Black majority rule in Southern Africa and an end to U.S. support for apartheid.) For more information call 238-9427.)

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.

"Uncle Tom" sour grapes

To the Editor,

In response to the letter by Danny K. Boyd, it sounded like sour grapes to us.

Anyone who knows Ronnie Martin knows the time he has put in without pay, on his days off, to better conditions for brothers inside of Oregon State Penitentiary.

To call him an "Uncle Tom" is ludicrous and an unforgivable insult.

As for the inmates, we are aware that they have worked hard to put on forums and benefits in this community. One thousand people enjoyed the free music and food at the Youth Festival last summer, and some of the inmates had to go into their own pockets to make it possible. They tried to put something positive back into this community.

There has been no "Uncle Tomming" to disguise conditions "inside."

We wonder if Danny K. Boyd brought his complaints to Ronnie

Martin or the inmates, before publicizing them; not only before the Black Community, but the white community AND the prison officials that he is so critical of.

Who is more the "Uncle Tom," or "Sellout?" We are glad Mr. Boyd is no low-lived "junkie." For this he deserves a pat on the back, but if this is the same Danny K. Boyd who stabbed two (2) women in the Copper Penny Restaurant and Lounge, perhaps he should spend his time examining his OWN CHARACTER and crimes against the Black Community, instead of publicly discrediting the character of his fellow inmates and that of Ronnie Martin. Ronnie has been one of the most respected and appreciated employees at O.S.P. by the brothers incarcerated there.

KENT FORD
MAXINE PARKER
BOB WEST
HATTIE LEFFALL
MELODIE ROBERTYS
LEROY TURNER

"Uncle Tom" rebuttal

To the Editor,

In response to a letter to the editor (No Uncle Toms) which appeared in the Portland Observer's December 19th edition the members of Uhuru

Sa Sa would like to offer this rebuttal.

Uhuru Sa Sa is a fraternity of Black inmates in Oregon Penitentiary, and feel comments concerning Mr. Ron Martin were an inaccurate portrayal of his duties as Minority Affairs Director. In his capacity Ron Martin has served Black inmates and other minorities well. It was alleged when confronted with problems of racial mistreatment, he simply sits "blank-faced." This is not true. The fact is, Ron Martin is the only minority on the executive level in this institution, and usually finds himself standing alone at the executive level when seeking resolutions to the many racial inequities in this prison.

Ron has been instrumental in effecting changes in the prison's matrix system, a system which determines the actual length of time an inmate must serve before parole, and one which was holding Blacks in prison longer than their white counterparts. Also, he has helped this organization send some of its most responsible members out within the community on speaking engagements, youth projects, and other community services without incident.

The truth is many of Uhuru Sa Sa's achievements are directly tied to the assistance from the Office of Minority Affairs. In defense, we find Mr. Martin highly visible, accessible, responsible, and most of all a Black man — not an Uncle Tom.

Membership of Uhuru Sa Sa



MEMBER

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
Founded 1885

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



283-2486

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York