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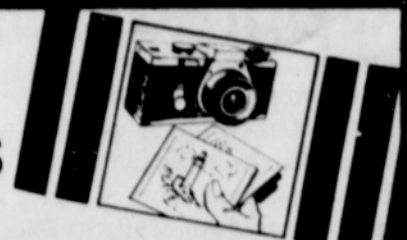
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Blacks and Jews explore similarities

Black and Jewish teenagers began a dialogue Sunday aimed at breaking down stereotypes and discovering the similarities between their two minority groups. The workshop was sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Portland Urban League. Above: Darrell Millner, head of the Black

Studies Department at Portland State University, reads a literacy test that was used in the South to keep Blacks from voting. Below: Leilah Danielson, 14, from Harriet Tubman Middle School and Kobo Drew, 14, from Jefferson High School, share sweet potato pie and bagels. (Photos: Richard J. Brown)



Recent Grenada elections bear stamp "Made in U.S.A."

by Bill Bigelow

From start to finish the recent elections in Grenada bore the stamp, "Made in the USA." While the U.S. was the global winner, the Grenadian victor was Herbert Blaize, 66, the new Prime Minister and leader of the New National Party (NNP). Blaize's party finished with 59 percent of the vote. Former dictator Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labor Party garnered 36 percent of the total, and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement—remnants of the deposed New Jewel Movement—ran a distant third with only five percent.

A poll of Grenadians conducted in May, 1984, indicated that a large majority wanted elections postponed for at least a year. Nonetheless, the U.S.-installed government, anxious for an elected regime which could

restore investor confidence and lure new capital, pushed ahead.

But problems developed. By mid-summer it appeared that three competing pro-U.S. parties threatened to split the vote, leaving Eric Gairy's far right GULP or the socialist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement as probable winners.

Enter the U.S. A unity pow-wow, widely believed to be American-sponsored, was held on nearby Union Island. In attendance were George Brizan, Francis Alexis and Herbert Blaize, leaders of the three pro-U.S. factions. Also present was Barbadian Prime Minister Tom Adams who was intimately involved in the conspiracy leading up to the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

Presto: when the meeting ended the three parties had melded into one

Herbert Blaize at the helm.

Billing itself as the New National Party, this shotgun-wedding coalition sought and got large amounts of aid from the U.S.—albeit indirectly. The National republican Institute, funded by the U.S. Information Agency, contributed \$20,000, and the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) which has links to the CIA, added another \$80,000. Also jumping on the NNP bandwagon was the Council for National Policy, which includes some of the same right-wing behind-the-scenes backers of the contras in Nicaragua: Jerry Falwell, Joseph Coors, Jesse Helms and Phyllis Schlafly, among others. This private aid to Grenada's New National Party is indicative of a Reagan administration trend toward using non-governmental surrogates

Irvington school parents site institutional racism

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Some parents at Irvington grade school recently requested an urgent meeting with Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, to intervene in what they have described as, "ill treatment of children, the relationship between parents and personnel and a number of peculiar incidents involving teachers and Afro-American pupils at Irvington."

John Chadwick, principal of Irvington, said he was aware of some of the complaints and that he would be willing to speak directly with parents. "There was one that I tried to get in touch with and was unable. I don't think these are issues appropriate for news."

Parents disagree. Some are in the process of forming an organization "African-American Parents Against Institutional Racism" to find a solution to this problem. Halim Rahsaan, chair of the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee, attended the first meeting. "As far as Chadwick was concerned, the problems these parents had were resolved. But parents think otherwise."

Academically, Irvington scores above the School District's average. The breakdown of how Afro-American children were achieving, whether they received more referrals from teachers or suspended at a higher rate, remains unresolved. Chadwick was not forthcoming with that information and District resources could not retrieve data to meet publication deadlines.

One problem is clear. With a Black student population of 50 percent, Irvington has only two Black teachers out of 33. Chadwick said there are 12 aids and 10 of them are Black. Larry Ayers, Director of Instruction for Irvington, said he was concerned about the low number of minority teachers. "Not only at Irvington but district-wide."

Ayers said he was aware of complaints and had talked with parents who "were concerned about the way school personnel dealt with kids. We are in the process of discussing those concerns with them."

He also noted that the complaints addressed by Black parents may be broader. "I wonder if it is more than one or two parents dissatisfied when,

traditionally, we received this support. And the broader community is no longer supportive. I'm really not clear on the issues."

Parents Against Institutional Racism said they were clear on the issues. Venita Myrick said she inquired if her daughter was treated too harshly by a male teacher. "She was shook repeatedly when she unintentionally went to the wrong end of the line. The response I got from the principal was that I should not question the way they handle things."

Myrick added that insult was added to injury when the teacher she perceived as harsh, caustic and ambivalent wanted her child to eat lunch with his class, "so he could observe her behavior."

"Chadwick acted like he did not want to listen to me. He treated me disrespectfully, so I will take my case elsewhere to get it resolved."

After talking with a number of parents, Rahsaan said there was evi-

dence of Chadwick's overt disrespect for Afro-American children and parents."

Karen Powell, Director of American Friend Service Committee's Educational Monitoring component, said during the last three years her office had received seven complaints.

"Parents were questioning suspensions, classroom selections, lack of homework and a Black child who transferred from another school was automatically placed in a low-achieving track," she said.

Powell added that parents had some problems with the attitude of the principal and some teachers.

In a letter to Prophet, Patty Coxeff, a parent, said, "I have chosen to seek this meeting with you because I have been unable to obtain any satisfactory response to my concerns from John Chadwick."

Irvington has a Citizen Advisory Committee but representatives were unavailable for comment.

Seattle Black leaders condemn *Times* article

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The Emerald City, Seattle, Washington, glows with tension created by the white media assessment of the who, what, when, where, why and how of Black leadership within Seattle's Afro-American community.

In this assessment, Seattle's oldest Black newspaper (*The Seattle Facts*) was excluded, along with Black businessmen and women. On January 20, in the Sunday *Seattle Times* magazine "Pacific," writer Elizabeth Rhodes listed who she labeled as Black leaders from an "informal sampling of Black Seattle."

Under the headlines "Leading the Way," Rhodes said Rev. Samuel McKinney, City Council person Sam Smith, Eddie Rye, Jr., former Executive Director for CAMP (Central Area Motivation Program), Larry Gosset, CAMP's current Executive Director and Rossland Woodhouse, President of Seattle's Urban League,

were main leaders in Seattle's Black community.

Many in Seattle's Black community said the selection of individuals concentrated on religious leaders, directors of social programs and politicians. Mrs. Jeanine Holston wrote in a letter to the editor, "White leadership comes from the business community first and politics second. Preachers are spiritual leaders. . . . yet, our leaders must be people who are dependent on charity for their survival or are entertainer/athletes who amuse white folks for a living. Never are our successful Black businessmen and women, who are financially independent, ever recognized as leaders and should be exalted as role models of Black accomplishment."

Jasie Johnson, another irate resident, said, "This press (*Seattle Times*) was so bold as to not only decide for me who I should follow, but also what newspaper to read. . . . Well, from here on out I think for myself,

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to avoid Congressional review or possible restrictions.

Rolling in right-wing cash, the NNP hired 500 campaign workers, ordered tons of glossy brochures, rented sound vans, gave away T-shirts, caps and buttons, and even hired planes to criss-cross the island trailing "vote for us" slogans.

Suffering from a depressed economy with unemployment likely hovering in the 50 percent range, Grenadians were posed with a stark choice: vote for the United States-backed NNP, with the hope of opening the U.S. aid and investment spigot, or vote against the NNP and face the likelihood of a deeper depression. Given the choice, the surprise is that the NNP received ONLY 59 percent.

Seen in this context, the low tally for the Maurice Bishop Patriotic

Movement does not appear quite so gloomy. In one parish, St. John's, an area which had particularly active agricultural co-operatives and adult education centers during the 1979-1983 revolutionary period, the MBPM candidate drew 15 percent of the vote. This surely would have been higher had many people been permitted to register when the MBPM announced plans to contest in the elections, which occurred after the deadline. Still, the left in Grenada will be slow to rebuild the support it lost from the secretive and murderous battles of September and October, 1983.

But nor do things look so rosy for the NNP. Blaize's coalition is a shaky one, born out of American coercion and a shared fear of Eric Gairy and the MBPM, but little else. To maintain popularity, Blaize's party will

have to move swiftly to remedy the economic shambles created by the U.S.-ordered dismantling of the programs of the socialist government of Maurice Bishop: agricultural co-operatives, education centers, militia units, and food processing plants.

However, it's not likely Blaize's Grenada will be any more successful than Seaga's Jamaica in reducing unemployment and winning a measure of economic independence. As the Grenadian economy continues to languish, the NNP coalition could begin to crumble. If this were to happen, it would become a whole new ballgame. Those in Grenada committed to reviving the revolutionary social and economic projects of the Bishop years should be ready to take advantage of new opportunities.