

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Bell resignation shatters apathy

During an era of indifference, apathy and inactivity regarding Affirmative Action, the shining light of integrity and principle illuminates from Eugene, Oregon. Derrick Bell stepped down as Dean of the University of Oregon Law School because he refused to be involved when the institution sidestepped Affirmative Action and refused to hire an Asian-American woman.

His actions should renew hope and rekindle a fighting spirit in us all. Historically, it was the action of one who stood up for fairness which set off a chain reaction in the populace and social change occurred. Bell's individual stand for Affirmative Action is in league with Rosa Parks' refusal to sit in the back of the bus, Martin Luther King's March on Washington, Malcolm X's development of self-determination and Rev. Jesse Jackson's quest for the presidency.

Bell would not participate in the hypocrisy which could not differentiate between equality as

a theoretical right and equality as reality. Bell's resignation makes a case for equal opportunity and full equality as he stands on the shoulder of the Civil Rights movement. If all public administrators resigned over Affirmative Action inactivity and hypocrisy the council chambers statewide would echo with silence.

The remarkable element about Bell's resignation is that he did not have to do it. He was secure and isolated in Eugene, Oregon. No one would ever have known if he had played along with the crowd. But Bell had to live with himself and his selfless actions should shatter the apathy of people of color and women in positions of power who allow Affirmative Action inactivity to continue.

As much as we hate to lose an Afro-American as a Law Dean, we as a people have gained strength, power and direction from Bell's actions. He proves that integrity still exists and the case for Affirmative Action is not closed.

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.

should allow youth the opportunity to learn new approaches in growing up.

Once again, we appreciate your contribution to the program.

Let me know if you would like to join us again.

VERNA SHEPHERD

distinction in a large part through recycling efforts. Local community involvement is the key. Thank you very much for your support.

EDWARD P. SPARKS

Successful session

To the Editor,

Thank you so much for your participation in our Project Care program on Sunday, January 20.

We feel that the workshop was a most worthwhile experience for all of us.

The numbers in attendance was the truest recommendation and evidence that we are on the right course in trying to open other avenues of communications for parents and teenagers. Also, we feel that these sessions

Support recycling

To the Editor,

Just a note to compliment and thank you for your support during 1984 of the Association of Oregon Recyclers and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's program to educate the citizens of Oregon on the benefits of recycling their used newspaper.

Oregon has the highest used newspaper recycling rate of any state in the United States or province of Canada. We, as a state, have achieved this

Patient seeks others

To the Editor,

As a scleroderma patient who has suffered alone for too many years with a disease that few people have ever even heard of, I am attempting to locate others who suffer from scleroderma (systemic sclerosis).

My New Year's resolution is to correspond with as many scleroderma patients as possible. Doctors tell me there are 300,000 of us. Perhaps your readers can assist me in locating others like myself. I can be reached at 21 Brennan Street, No. 21, Watsonville, CA 95076.

DIANE WILLIAMS



What about terrorism at home?

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable



High on the list of foreign policy objectives of the Reagan administration's second term is the acceleration of the war against "terrorism." Nicaragua, Cuba, Libya, Syria, and the Soviet Union have been repeatedly assailed for their support of international terrorists. U.S. aid to the contras in Nicaragua, who are indeed conducting a bloody campaign of terror, is described as necessary to support "freedom fighters." U.S. assistance to the supporters of the deposed, butcherous Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea is justified because of the "terrorism" of Vietnamese troops. Reagan's "constructive engagement" policy of detente with racist South Africa is justified because of the "Cuban terrorists" who are supporting apartheid's opponents.

What about "terrorism" at home? On the periphery of every

lynch mob, and every racist and anti-Semitic organization, there are individuals who commit no violent acts, yet who are essential to the dynamics of terror. They are, by nature, loud and crude; they manipulate racist stereotypes and indulge in chauvinistic slogans. Such individuals seek no direct responsibility for the violence which they have encouraged. Often they disavow the actions of others, and call for "law and order" to protect private property and to preserve public safety. Technically, their hands are clean, yet their nominal posture betrays a silent sympathy for the spirit of mob violence. Such a man is the President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan is an ignorant, reactionary bigot — but we must look beyond this aged actor to discern the social class forces he represents, and

more importantly, the racist and terroristic agents which comprise the cutting edge of "Reaganism." When the President announced in Macon, Georgia, "the South shall rise again," during last year's national campaign, no racist in this country could mistake Reagan's nostalgia for the Jim Crow era and lynch law. By destroying the U.S. Civil rights Commission, undermining affirmative action and equal opportunity legislation, Reagan sends a vicious message to white supremacists and Ku Klux Klansmen that it is "open season" on Black people. We should not be surprised, therefore, when immediately after Reagan's reelection, a gang of celebrating vigilantes waged a six-hour stoning assault on the home of a Black family in a white Chicago neighborhood.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown

On Monday, February 11th, a divesture bill was introduced in Salem. The Street Beat team asked, "Should Oregon withdraw public investment from South Africa?"



Nancy Remington
Housewife

"I think so. I can't see our state government supporting apartheid. At least not my tax dollars."



Kay Fajak
Clerk

"My gut reaction is to stay and help, but I really don't know enough about the situation to make an intelligent decision."



Damon Lockridge
Unemployed

"I think they should, because of the way they treat Black people over there."



Frederick LaVerk
Retired

"We're supporting something we don't believe in, but it does provide jobs for the poor people. So, that's a tough question."



Marvin Allen
Unemployed

"No, they need it over there. We should try and help."



Beth Zittenfield
Housewife

"Personally, I don't think so. The system of separating the races is unfair, but is it really that bad?"

Wow! The Observer survey:

MAIL TO Portland Observer P.O. Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

We at the Observer want to know how you feel about the paper. Please help us by filling out this survey. The information about you, our readers, will help us tailor our news and advertisements accordingly. Thank you.

ABOUT THE OBSERVER:

What do you particularly like reading in the Observer?

What would you like to see more of in the Observer?

ABOUT YOURSELF:

How did you obtain this copy of the Observer?

I subscribe picked it up at a distribution outlet.

How often do you read the Observer?

weekly every other week occasionally.

Do other members of your household read the Observer?

Yes No If 'Yes', how many? _____

Are you married? Yes No

What is your sex? Female Male

What is your ethnic origin? Black White

Hispanic Asian Native American Other

Are there children under 18 living with you?

No Yes If 'Yes', how many? _____

Do you own or rent your home? Own Rent

Are you registered to vote? Yes No

Are you a Democrat Republican Independent

What is your highest level of education?

grade school high school some college

college graduate school

What is your occupation?

What is your age group? 16-24 25-34 35-49

50-64 65 & over

What is your approximate family income?

under \$10,000 \$10,000 to \$20,000

\$20,000 to \$30,000 \$30,000 to \$50,000

\$50,000 or more



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