

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## District should use community

As the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee (DeMac) makes its quarterly report to the school board, we are reminded that the inequalities, discrepancies and inefficiencies which faced children of color in the Portland public Schools 15 years ago still exist. But the crack of an open door that forced a halt to an educational policy that penalized Black children may be the district's saving grace.

DeMac cited the disproportion in the number of Black students receiving a modified diploma, being suspended from school and the pattern of low achievement in Early Childhood Educational Centers in North and Northeast Portland. We see a ray of hope in this presentation and in the soon to be implemented African-American curriculum.

The architects of the African-American curriculum were not the district's employees, but local consultants with a wide range of expertise. Also, the talents of the nation were tapped to educate an institution in the most effective way to teach children of color. Another example of citizen outreach is the HOST program where citizens are asked to spend 30 minutes a week helping a child to read. Both items of success were built upon citizen participation and resources.

One reason for the current inequalities in the school system is that the designers of the programs which perpetrate these disproportions are still operating with the authority they enjoyed in

the previous administration. The community asked the district to dismantle the "Schools of the 70s" plan and the district delegated this task to the people who advocated the elimination of upper grades and the scattering of Black children with a punitive bussing program. These elements were trademarks of the "Schools of the 70s" plan.

The residual damage from this plan contributes to the disproportionate number of Blacks in the criminal justice system, on the unemployment rolls and on public assistance.

The disappointing small number of Black certified teachers and administrators at Early Childhood Educational Centers is the aftermath of past and present poor recruitment by the District's personnel office. The problems continuing to plague Black children result from the continued employment of archaic policies and the individuals who created them.

The district should undergo some self-analysis and consider re-structuring its staff. One solution that demands immediate consideration is the successful utilization of community and outside resources to tackle the district's structural limitations. There is nothing wrong in admitting that you need help. With a declining tax base and questionable results from the current structure the district might better serve our children if they solicit, incorporate and fund the community and outside resources to serve the District.



## PROS AND CONS ON SOUTH AFRICA

### Tina Turner condemns So. Africa

Unity in Action has received a copy of a letter of agreement from singer Tina Turner pledging that she will not perform again in Apartheid South Africa "while the present circumstances there prevail." We welcome Ms. Turner's promise to honor United Nations cultural sanctions.

This agreement was preceded by a succession of expanding protest demonstrations against the singer's concerts in many cities including New York, Toronto, and Los Angeles. Unity in Action gratefully acknowledges other activist pro-liberation forces whose concerted, very visible, and embarrassing protests and confrontations with Tina Turner were the major effort which brought about this victory — rather than anyone's constructive engagement.

Immediately prior to receiving the copy of Tina Turner's letter Unity in Action had notified the Roger Davies Management Firm of its determination to picket her presence at the February 26 Grammy Awards ceremony at Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium. This would have been in keeping with the action of last July when Turner performed at the Forum. While she was not a target of the Grammy demonstration, unfortunately Ms. Turner's statement did not come in time to prevent Unity in Action's bringing pressure against the NACP's Image Awards program in December. As a result, all three Turner nominations for "Best Female Artist," "Best Song of the Year," and "Best Album of the Year" were withdrawn.

A spokesperson for Unity in Action stated, "Although her promise is welcomed and accepted, it is regrettable that Ms. Turner was so badly informed as to South Africa's reality that her letter referred to "South Africa" and the so-called "Republic" of Bophutswana as separate countries. Only the fascist South African

government recognizes the false "independence" of this forced resettlement area where Black South Africans, stripped of their birthright by law, are dumped as denationalized and disenfranchised aliens.

"It should be noted that undoubtedly Ms. Turner, as with other Black persons who enter South Africa, i.e. Jesse Jackson, did so under the condition that she renounce her African (Black) identity and submitted to the official apartheid designation of "honorary white."

Tina Turner's letter of January 15 signals a major breakthrough for local and national anti-apartheid forces who are continuing the campaign here to keep U.S. artists and athletes out of South Africa.

The Cultural Boycott barring artistic collaboration with the racist apartheid state is part of United Nations and Organization of African Unity imposed sanctions intended to isolate the inhuman regime. The U.N. has termed South Africa's system of forced racial separation and oppression "a crime against humanity."

## Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown

The Governor has an idea of how he wants to allocate the lottery revenue but the Street Beat team asked, "How would you like to see the lottery income spent?"



Irene Finley  
Clerical

"They should spend it on education. They could use it to purchase equipment, textbooks and special programs."



John Simmons  
Unemployed

"I hope toward jobs. A lot of people are unemployed and they can see a return on money they would spend on the lottery."



Elaine Rockwood  
Housewife

"Schools! They need it. I know property taxes are not enough for schools. With the lottery, I hope my property taxes will drop."



Toni Schlinkmeier  
Carrier

"I would like to win the lottery and see the state put the money in road improvement and tax relief."



T. T. Jermamy  
Retired

"They need to spend it on state and property tax relief. But we've got to watch the politicians to see that they spend it on what they say they will spend it on."



Christine Pennington  
Pecker

"I don't believe in the lottery. I did not vote for it. People shouldn't spend their little money on gambling."



## Who profits from apartheid?

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

South Africa is unquestionably the most immoral and repressive stage on the face of the earth. Despite the Reagan administration's cozy and supportive relations with apartheid, dubbed "constructive engagement," the reality of its tyranny is too monumental to obscure. Since 1967 over six and one-half million citizens have been arrested and tried for pass law violations; hundreds of opposition leaders have been crippled, tortured and even murdered by apartheid police; over one hundred laws restrict and censor the press; and since June 1961 1,500 people have been "banned" by the government's Minister of Law and Order. The continuing non-violent protests throughout the U.S. led by civil rights and religious leaders, has helped to highlight these brutalities, and has made President Reagan's support for this Nazi-like regime more difficult to justify.

But larger questions remain. Who benefits materially from the existence and perpetuation of a state whose legal justification is white supremacy? Does the investment of U.S. corporations in the regime help or hurt American taxpayers and workers? Any analysis of the political economy of South Africa illustrates that the U.S. is decisive in the running of the racist government. American corporations control 70 percent of the South Africa computer market — in fact, an IBM computer runs the stock exchange in Johannesburg. Good-year and Firestone sell tires to the regime, which are used for police forces. Several multinational oil companies, including Exxon, Caltex and Mobil, have sold oil to South Africa in direct violation of the 1979 OPEC embargo. In all, about 20 percent of all foreign direct investment in South Africa comes from U.S. firms. As of 1983, for example, Mobil Oil had \$426 million invested inside the country, with 3,577 workers; General Motors, \$243 million and 5,038 workers; Newmont, \$127 million and 13,535 workers; Union Carbide, \$54.5 million and 2,465 workers. Control Data had \$17.8 million in sales in 1983 inside South Africa, a poultry figure

compared to IBM's sales of \$262 million and workforce of 1,800. American banks, led by Chase Manhattan, Chemical, Bankers Trust, First Boston and Manufacturers Hanover, had outstanding loans totaling nearly \$4 billion as of 1984.

The reasons for U.S. corporate interest in South Africa are easy to explain. Despite the union membership of about 350,000 African laborers, the vast majority of the nonwhite labor force is unorganized. Strikes are illegal, and nonwhite union activism is viciously repressed. The majority of Black workers live in poverty. Even according to the biased statistics of the apartheid government, African households below the official poverty level include 62 percent in Johannesburg, 65 percent in Durban, and 70 percent in Port Elizabeth. Racial segregation lowers nonwhite labor costs. Using May 1983 figures, the average monthly wages in all manufacturing firms was \$1,290 for whites, \$460 for Indians, \$365 for Coloureds, and \$320 for Africans. According to the *Survey of Current Business*, U.S. companies averaged 18.7 percent annual rates of return on capital investment between 1979 to 1982. Apartheid laws and the rigid regimentation of nonwhite labor reap their rewards.

How does this investment affect Americans? Researchers for the Washington Office on Africa and the Civil Rights Department of the United Steelworkers of America recently prepared a brief study on this issue. For several years, the U.S. steel industry has experienced a state of rapid collapse. Between 1974 and 1982 domestic steel production declined by 50 percent. In 1983, the seven largest steel producers reported losses of \$2.7 billion that year alone. Major industrial towns dependent upon steel producers reported losses of \$2.7 billion that year alone. Major industrial towns dependent upon steel productivity to generate jobs have had staggeringly high rates of joblessness. Simultaneously, the U.S. steel industry has siphoned domestic profits and reinvested them in Third World nations where authoritarian

regimes guarantee a low wage, non-unionized labor force. Imports from foreign nations producing steel now exceed one fifth of the domestic market. And since 1975, U.S. imports of apartheid's steel have increased 5,000 percent.

South African steel is largely produced by a state-owned firm, the Iron and Steel Corporation (ISCOR). All of the major U.S. companies which have experienced difficulties producing steel at home — ARMCO, Allegheny Ludlum, U.S. Steel, Phelps Dodge, and others — have invested millions into apartheid's industries. Recently, Chicago's Southworks steel plant, owned by U.S. Steel, laid off several thousand workers, on the rationale that U.S. workers weren't sufficiently productive and that the plant wasn't making profits. Then local steelworkers learned that the steel beams used to build a new state office building in Chicago had been imported from South Africa, despite the fact that Southworks produces the identical steel beams. Even more outrageous was the fact that Continental Illinois Bank has loaned money to ISCOR, which had produced these beams. In short, Chicago laborers were giving their hard-earned wages to a local bank, which in turn financed a competitor which was stealing their jobs!

There are dozens of similar examples. The Phelps Dodge copper mining corporation has a poor record on domestic labor relations, and has called for wage cuts from its workers. But in its mine in South Africa, Blacks earn under 40 cents an hour, and labor 60 hours per week. Investment in apartheid not only buoys the racist regime, and oppresses African workers, it also destroys jobs and neighborhoods inside the U.S. Wage labor cannot compete with slave labor. We have a direct moral and economic interest in cutting the corporate cords between the U.S. and apartheid.

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

### 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.



283-2486

MEMBER  
**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER**  
Association - Founded 1885

Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher  
Al Williams, General Manager

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York

**PORTLAND OBSERVER**  \$15 for one year  \$25 for two years

Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

Mr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**CLIP IT**

TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK