

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Don't defer opportunity! Vote 'Yes' on Measure 26-4

The opportunity to obtain a college education will be limited if we fail to pass a three-year serial levy for Portland Community College on May 21.

Unfortunately, this levy has been poorly promoted and voting day can come and go without anyone ever noticing. Also, this levy couldn't have come at a worse time for homeowners who are being squeezed from the top, bottom and both sides.

But the price PCC is asking for is small in comparison to untapped talent, unrealized aspirations and unfulfilled dreams. All stages of education play a part in discovering one's talent and translating aspirations into accomplishment. The community college is structured to accommodate the schedule of employment, family and self.

Voters will answer the question, "Should the opportunity for higher education remain open to all Americans or just a selected few?" A reduction in the present level of community college services reduces and dilutes opportunity.

A financial transfusion from the state is not forthcoming because PCC is penalized for being an urban institution in a high population area. Thus, when finite educational dollars are distributed statewide, the inner city must compete against rural locals.

This three-year levy will add 71 cents per thousand dollars' of assessed value. This financial infusion is targeted for major facilities repairs, the continuation of night and weekend classes, job training and vocational classes.

Nationally, a crisis in educational opportunity exists and we must do everything in our power to maintain or expand opportunities in our own backyard. If Multnomah County residents refuse to add a few extra cents to their property taxes the criminal justice system will pass on the costs of unfulfilled dreams that explode in a nightmare of frustration turned inwardly.

Remember what happens to a dream deferred. Support opportunity and vote "Yes," May 21 on Measure 26-4.

Thanks from Mumford family

The family of the late Rev. Ira D. Mumford wishes to thank their friends for their prayers and many acts of kindness shown during their hour of bereavement.

Your sincere expressions of friendship and love have been a source of comfort to us. May God bless each of you.

MRS. LYDIA MUMFORD AND FAMILY

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown

The Street Beat team surveyed Portlanders on how they felt about the termination of officers involved in the T-shirt incident.



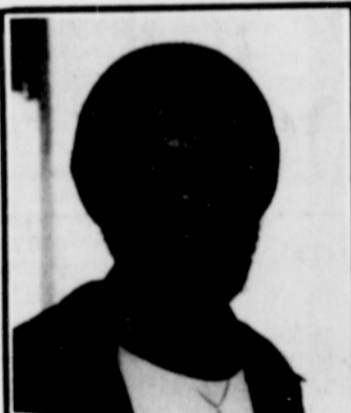
Linda Henderson
Clerk

"They were public employees who took something personal. They got what they deserved."



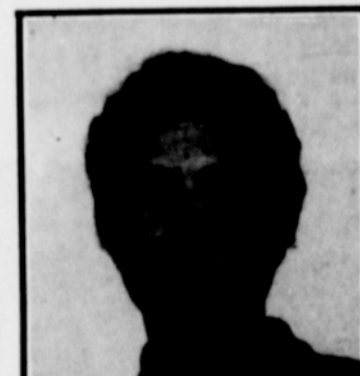
Ruby Talton
Nurse

"It was the right thing to do. Those officers did a terrible thing on the day Stevenson was buried."



Norman Maxwell
Car Salesman

"Their firing was justified. It was the fair thing to do."



Doug Perrault
Carpenter

"I have mixed feelings about that because there are people who wear T-shirts that say, 'Kill the Pigs.' I do feel the timing was wrong."



Regina Sampson
L.P.N.

"I think it's great. They should have been reprimanded to the fullest extend of the law."



Julie Arnold
Exerciser Instructor

"I'm glad they were fired. Incident in the past point to unprofessional behavior by the police. They need more supervision."



POSAAF v SOUTH AFRICA

American workers are losing their jobs because multinational corporations are putting people out of work, closing plants, and gutting our communities. They are fleeing the U.S. in order to cut union wages, avoid paying taxes (corporations which invest in South Africa pay taxes to the white minority government which can be deducted from their U.S. taxes), and escape requirements for safe working conditions. These U.S. companies are instead investing in countries like South Africa where conditions of virtual slave labor exist. The U.S. also imports many products such as coal and steel from South Africa instead of buying American-produced products.

Yet, removing public funds from companies invested in South Africa allows these same funds to be reinvested in job-creating enterprises in our own communities. Many of the bills currently being considered across the country make local reinvestment the first priority for funds freed through divestment. By doing this, divestment can help the people of our own communities as well as the Blacks struggling for freedom in South Africa.

Since 1982, there has been a growing surge of divestment measures passed across the country:

- By the end of 1984 State and Municipal action across the U.S. had mandated the withdrawal of over 1.3 billion dollars in public funds from businesses in South Africa.
- Seventeen cities have divestment

policies, including Boston, MA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Wilmington, DE; Grand Rapids, MI, and our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C.

• In 1983 the U.S. Congress reviewed the D.C. divestment bill, and in a bipartisan 10-2 vote, the House District of Columbia Committee voted to support the D.C. bill.

• Five states: Connecticut, Michigan, Maryland, Massachusetts and Nebraska have passed divestment legislation.

A fundamental question about divestment must always be raised: "What will be the financial impact on the portfolio?" An answer to that question is developing from the experience of states and cities that have divested. In Connecticut the State Treasurer's office reported that as of July 30, 1983 it has sold pension stock valued at \$39,025 million dollars as a result of divestment legislation passed in 1982 and made a profit of over \$5.7 million dollars, a figure that convincingly rebuts the argument that divestment will cost taxpayers.

Robert Schwartz, an investment advisor to union pension funds and institutional investors has more than 10 years experience in the area of socially responsible investment, creating criteria for disinvestment and investment alternatives. Testifying in relation to the divestment bill passed in the District of Columbia, he made the following statement: "The potential returns from any investment de-

pend, in addition to market conditions, in large part on the quality of the investment manager. While no investment manager can "guarantee" a given level of investment earnings — a competent money manager can develop a profitable investment program while avoiding the securities of firms which are involved with the Republic of South Africa."

An investment portfolio without companies investing in South Africa can be profitable because of the large number of alternative investments. As Joan Bavaria, a financial expert, and the President of Franklin Research & Development Corporation, stated in testifying on the D.C. bill, "There are about 6,350 companies listed on the major exchanges in this country. Of that number, less than 400 do business with South Africa. . . There is no material investment disadvantage created by excluding less than one percent of the listed companies from an investment approved list. Companies like Waste Management, Polaroid, Wang Labs, Signal, Ralston Purina, Quaker Oats, and Digital Equipment come to mind as alternatives. There are many more."

—CAISA (Campaign Against Investment in South Africa)

Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAAF), 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 230-9427.

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.

Oregonian biased

To the Editor,

This letter comes regarding the April 16th article in the Oregonian titled "Desegregation: How Much Progress? Morale woe blight hopes at 'model' middle school."

I am Valerie Peterson, Student Body President at Harriet Tubman Middle School and I have some major complaints regarding the article. I feel that my concerns should be heard and respected.

Kathie Durbin came to our school (I don't remember the specific date) and asked some other students and myself negative things about our school as well as about our principal (as a matter of fact she came to my classroom). Many times reporters, editors, photo editors, etc., report, but they should get the whole story and not just the negative things. There are two sides to each and every problem in life. When Ms. Durbin came to the classroom she talked about the school's environment. I remember saying that "Tubman has a real good learning environment," but I never saw her write down anything and she went on to another section of the

classroom until someone came up with a lot of negative responses about our principal. She then wrote these statements down.

It also says in the article when two different teachers (of different races) had a statement we noticed that she said, "Wilhelmi who is white and Fisher who is Black. . ." Stating their color was unnecessary, as it looks as if she were making this into a racial issue.

I also read the two or three paragraphs about the majority of the remedial classes being Black and I personally became offended by that statement. To me it sounds as if she were saying Blacks are "illiterate."

VALERIE PETERSON
Student Body President

Herndon praised

To the Editor,

During the past couple of weeks, our community has been torn by conflict and unhappy events that could well have led to wholesale violence and destructive confrontation. The death of Tony Stevenson at the hands of the police, for whatever reason, and the callous insult to the community by the T-shirt affair, created an anger that was close to eruption.

We can basically thank one person for dealing with the despair and anger in such an outstanding manner to keep people from taking to the street in a full-blown riot. I was present

at several meetings and press conferences and participated in the peaceful demonstration downtown that demanded justice be done.

In every instance, it was the cool, compassionate, yes, loving spirit of Ron Herndon that let people express their hurt and help them find non-violent ways to seek resolution. It was a difficult time for Ron, but he was equal to the challenge. Others helped, to be sure, but it was Ron that the community turned for leadership and guidance.

Our community, the City of Portland, all who care about people, owe Ron Herndon a debt of gratitude. He is a good friend, an outstanding person, and I say, Praise the Lord. We are indeed blessed by his presence and his unselfish commitment to the well-being of all of us.

BOB NELSON

T-shirts deplored

To the Editor,

I have always been proud to be a citizen of Portland.

However, after reading of the officer with the offensive T-shirts, I am ashamed of our city.

I truly hope this officer will be discharged. . . No possible explanation could be claimed for this unspeakable behavior, which was at best deliberate and insensitive. Can this man be trusted to make wise judgment calls under stress?

ROSALIE FULTON
A Middle-Aged WASP

Portland Observer



The Portland Observer (USPS 969-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 1463 N.E. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97211, 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.



288-0033

MEMBER
NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER
Association - Founded 1885

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

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York