

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## McCoy: Listen to the voters

The community deserves an explanation from State Senator Bill McCoy as to why he voted down Senate Bill 624 and 625 which would have closed a loophole preventing Teledyne Wah Chang from dumping radioactive waste on the floodplain of the Willamette River.

The rhyme and reason for Ballot Measure 9, which passed by 62 percent in Multnomah County, placed strict requirements on the disposal of radioactive waste. Senate Bill 624 reinforced it and McCoy and other State Senators ignored it.

Three weeks ago, the State Senate had an opportunity to close this loophole. A tie occurred and in the event of a tie the bill fails and SB624 takes a dive, along with the wishes of the majority in District 2. McCoy's vote was decisive in side-stepping the grassroots call for restraint and reason when it comes to the disposal of radioactive waste.

While the Oregon Energy and Facility Siting Council wastes time arguing about how radioactive waste is, and as Teledyne Wah Chang

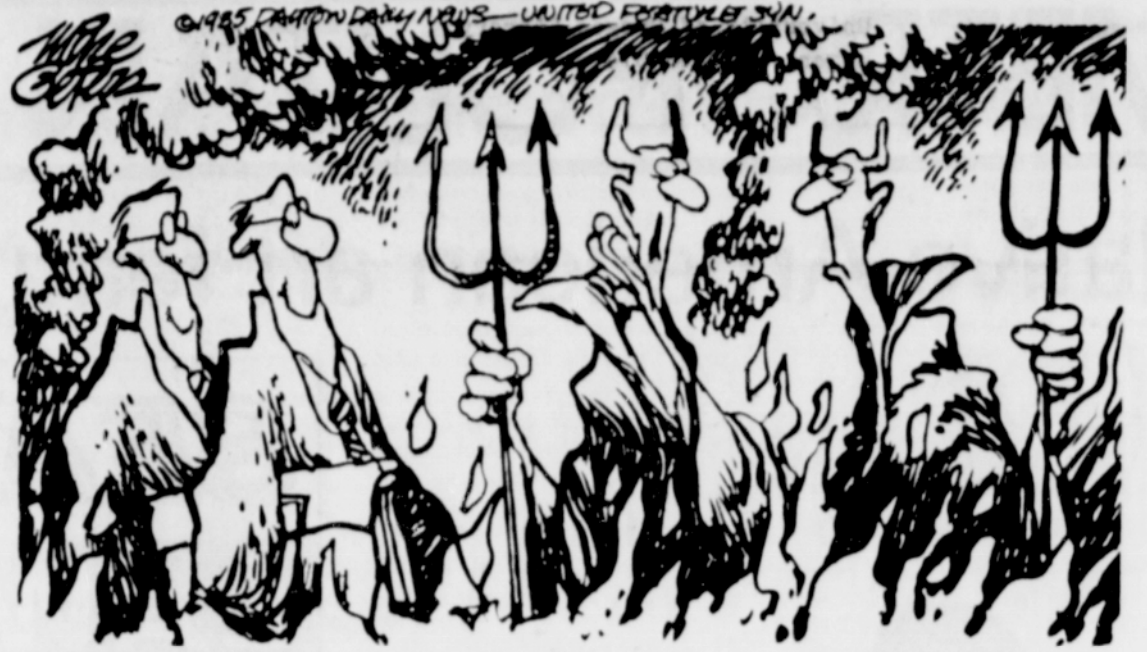
continues to avoid and fight independent health and environmental studies, the concern and call for action is being compromised by politicians.

Let's assist McCoy in rectifying his mistake. We understand the pressure a large corporation such as Teledyne Wah Chang or its supporters can level on a politician, and it's easy for McCoy to become isolated since he visits his constituency infrequently. Write McCoy and urge him to vote positively in the wishes of those who voted 'Yes' on ballot Measure 9. If not, the efforts of Ballot Measure 9 would have to be repeated.

Voters in District 2 deserve a much more progressive representation since McCoy survived the 1984 primary on the increase in voter turnout due to the presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson.

The wishes of our district should not be compromised or ignored. Urge McCoy to reconsider his vote on SB624:

Senator William McCoy  
State Capitol Building, Rm. S-209  
Salem, Oregon 97304



IT'S A REAGAN ADVANCE TEAM... HE WANTS TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PATCH UP RELATIONS.

## Apartheid: Black responsibility

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

Two weeks ago, hundreds of thousands of students seized administration buildings, boycotted classes and held rallies demanding that their universities halt investments in corporations doing business in South Africa. At the University of Wisconsin at Madison, several hundred protestors occupied a conference center at the State Capitol; At the University of California at Los Angeles, at least 200 protestors took over a campus building, following a demonstration of 2,000 students. Rallies and protests occurred at over 75 campuses nationwide.

At my own university, about 400 students met on our campus yard to protest investments in South Africa. Subsequently students marched to the main administration building and spontaneously conducted a sit-in which lasted several days. Anti-apartheid faculty held lectures and discussions on the moral, political and economic reasons justifying total divestment. Some Black students were in the leadership of these protests, but the majority simply disappeared. Had they been studying for exams, which are still three weeks away, there might have been a valid excuse for inactivity. But some were clearly afraid to "get involved"; others didn't understand "what apartheid was"; and still others, a tiny minority openly supported U.S. investments inside apartheid.

This incident, albeit insignificant in the general trend of anti-apartheid

struggles, raised for me several concerns. We may point to reams of statistics which illustrate that colleges which have divested have not suffered; we may cite evidence that virtually every legitimate trade union, religious and political leader of Black South Africa favors sanctions against the regime; we may even repeat, for the thousandth time, the cases where U.S. firms have provided technical and material support to the mechanisms of violence which maim and murder African people. But we cannot mobilize effectively to aid in the liberation of South Africa so long as Black Americans themselves are confused, divided and disoriented about our stake in the worldwide struggle against racism.

Too many Afro-American youth have not been educated or motivated to comprehend the direct connection between racial oppression in South Africa with the Reaganite racism inside the U.S. Defenders of the status quo may say that agitation has no place inside educational institutions. But education without a social conscience and a political orientation is no education at all. Students involved in the "sit-in" movement across the South a quarter century ago learned more about racism and politics than in any course on contemporary government. An education for Blacks which provides technical abilities without a sense of racial heritage and political commitment creates a generation of Clarence Pendletons.

But perhaps the larger question is

whether we can expect the battle against racial inequality to include all Black people. Some Blacks, for various reasons, clearly identify with systems of exploitation. A few have even convinced themselves that fundamental, democratic change isn't possible in the short run, hence accommodation is now the name of the game. Given the growth of the "Black Anglo-Saxons" in corporate circles and effective offices since the late 1960s, we can anticipate even more defections from the ranks of the civil rights movement; Blacks who pay lip-service to racial justice but whose actions demonstrate a commitment to apartheid and Reaganism.

Our struggle along the color line must include all people — including many whites — who have acted in concert with us to destroy apartheid, poverty, and social injustice. Reform and democracy will require a broad coalition of progressive forces. But we cannot expect all Afro-Americans to rally for divestment, affirmative action, or for full employment, in an environment which rewards capitulation and subservience. As thousands of white students illustrated last month, the fight to abolish racism is not fundamentally a black-white conflict. Nor are our opponents solely white.

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

## Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown

The Church of Scientology is converging on Portland to protest a \$39 million verdict by a Multnomah County jury. The Street Beat team asked, "Did you feel the verdict awarded last week was excessive?"

**Craig Wiebe**  
Unemployed

"Seems like the verdict was right, but I question the \$39 million judgment."

**Nikki Willis**  
Bookkeeper

The money award is too much. You don't get that much when you kill someone."

**Denny Osborne**  
Musician

"They charged up the church on just one case. It sounds as if the judgment was way off."

**Sandy Korpenfelt**  
Bartender

"The verdict might be correct, but the money judgment was outrageous."

**Carl Smith**  
Musician

"I don't think it's a freedom of religion issue. They frauded that woman. I think they'll appeal that \$39 million verdict and it will come down."

**Rebel Owings**  
Housewife

"I don't know the issue but the cash award did seem excessive. Makes me wonder how far people can go."

## 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.

To the Editor,

So far, 12 Portland Police officers have been "reprimanded" for buying T-shirts that said, "Don't choke 'em, smoke 'em." As reported by The Oregonian, their names cannot be released, because the agreement the Police Bureau has with the union representing the officers prevents it. What kind of trust is that supposed to inspire? I believe the names should be published for the whole city to see, so

the residents of Portland will know who these officers are. Their purchase of these T-shirts exposes a racist mentality, and not exposing their names hides them from the reaction they rightly deserve from the Black community. Are Black residents of Portland supposed to live in fear, not knowing if the officer standing in front of them is a racist or not?

One of the officers involved in the death of Mr. Stevenson was involved in the opium incident a few years ago. I'm sure he was "reprimanded," too. See where he ended up? Reprimands in the file are worthless. On the other hand, so was the whole inquest process, so what's new? The inquest was mainly a public coroner's report, deciding who died, when and how. We knew that already! All the

inquest turned out to be was a gigantic public relations gesture toward the Black community. The Black residents in this town are angry and scared, and should be. Attempts by the authorities to calm things down and gloss things over should be seen for what they are: attempts by nervous public officials trying to maintain power.

I am white, but not one of those whites who deny racism in Portland because they have never experienced it firsthand. That's sticking one's head in the sand. Truthfully, isn't that really what the authorities want us to do — trust them totally and stick our heads in the sand? Well, we're not going to behave exactly the way they want us to anymore.

ROBERT HANSEN

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