

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Bring back Doonsberry

Portland's only daily newspaper — *The Oregonian* — is censoring a national opinion disseminated by opinion cartoonist Gary Trudeau because the subject matter might defame Frank Sinatra.

This decision is pure censorship and is an example of the double standard employed by this Newhouse paper. There was no deletion when their educational reporter libeled and journalistically assassinated the educational achievements of Black children. Their last-minute concern for others is hypocritical when, on a daily basis, they perpetrate racism by reinforcing stereotypes by calling low-income children of color "poor" and a Black youth running up a basketball court a "wild Jamaican."

This branch of Newhouse publication continues to misrepresent and misinform Portlanders as they bore us to tear with the homogeneous, status-quo journalism. Portland is part of a nation. Therefore, Portlanders deserve a national view and not one that trickles out of a narrow group of white males (this includes their editor who is Black) who runs *The Oregonian*.

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POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

by Rhys Scholes

"A white person is safer in South Africa... than in Albina," according to Representative John Minnis, the newest member of the Oregon State Legislature. Minnis' remarks came as he spoke on the floor of the Oregon House of Representatives in opposition to House Bill 2001 to divest Oregon funds from banks and corporations doing business in South Africa.

Minnis was appointed to his seat to fill the vacancy created when Pat Gillis was recalled by the voters of District 20. Gillis had defeated Minnis in the 1984 Republican primary but lost his seat because of evidence that he lied in his campaign literature and in the state voters' pamphlet.

Minnis' appointment was also marked by controversy. State law calls for vacancies to be filled by County Commissioners from a list of five candidates submitted by the appropriate party organization. District 20 Republicans submitted only Minnis' name rather than a list of five. County Commissioners reluctantly approved Minnis when it appeared that they had no other recourse.

Minnis' remarks on South Africa produced visible outrage on the floor

of the House. Immediately after his speech, the Democratic leadership moved to end debate, preventing angry responses to Minnis' comments by other legislators.

In his speech, Minnis quoted extensively from an article by Don McAlvery, editor of *McAlvery Intelligence Advisor*, which is a monthly analysis of global economics, monetary and geopolitical trends which impact the gold and precious metals markets. "Africa has advanced more in five years than the U.S. did in 25 or 30 years," he said.

"The Blacks in South Africa pay no income tax. The Whites subsidize the Black housing, medicine, and schools. A Black can have open-heart surgery for 1 Rand, and a White pays 15 thousand Rand. More Black children attend school in South Africa — 80 percent versus 44 percent in Nigeria, 68 percent in Namibia, and 43 percent in Tanzania (sic)."

The Representative also discussed the five new "nations" started by South Africa. These areas are generally known as "homelands." They are the arid, desolate reservations where the South African government has forcibly relocated Blacks in order to deny their citizenship in their own country. Most of the world, including

the United States and the United Nations have denied recognition to these so-called "countries." Minnis praised these "countries" and suggested that the lack of recognition resulted because they "did not gain their independence through a bloody coup."

Minnis attributed the unrest in South Africa to "Communists," who are seeking to overthrow South Africa in order to control "80 percent of the precious metals in the world." He said that Blacks are now eating side by side with Whites in South African restaurants and "staying in the finest, formerly White, hotels."

Again, referring to McAlvery's publication, he stated, "He actually proposes that a White person is safer in South Africa than he is in New York, or I might propose, in Albina, since I've worked there as a police officer."

Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF), 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.



Ebony says racism thriving

Despite affirmative action and civil rights gains in employment, education, and other areas, housing discrimination is still rampant in most metropolitan areas. Focusing on this lingering — and devastating — problem, the cover story in the May issue of *Black Enterprise* examines the insidious ways in which racial steering, as well as outright violence, are keeping Blacks from moving into predominantly white neighborhoods or suburbs throughout the country.

According to Otis Thorpe, president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers in Washington, D.C., changes can't be made until private industry assumes the burden of desegregation. "Realtors, the National Home Builders Association, private insurance agencies and mortgage lenders all must have a commitment to open housing and that would have a greater impact than any government program or series of court cases," Thorpe told *Black Enterprise*.

Many realtors in all sections of the country automatically direct Blacks toward Black neighborhoods and away from white areas to satisfy white homeowners who "don't want to sell to Blacks." If Black home buyers are persistent about a house in a

middle- or upper-income community, they are often denied mortgages or forced to accept less favorable mortgage terms.

Even if Blacks do move into a white neighborhood, they are still not safe from the very real threat of violence directed against them or their property. Indeed, according to *Black Enterprise*, violence against Blacks moving into white communities is on the upswing. In 1984 the Justice Department prosecuted 36 cases filed against whites for racially motivated violence. In 1978, only three cases were prosecuted.

"The incidents (of violence) we have seen in the past year are more numerous and more serious than any we have seen in the past ten years," says Kayle Williams, director of Chicago's Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities. "We think there is an indication of a worsening climate concerning respect for people's rights in the current Administration's seeming retreat from civil rights enforcement."

The Department of Housing and Development, which is supposed to enforce the Fair Housing Act, has little enforcement authority and relies heavily on education and volunteerism. It may also have a distorted

view of the racial situation, according to *Black Enterprise*.

A HUD study in 1978 showed that there was a 72 percent chance of discrimination in a rental situation and only a 48 percent chance when a Black family wanted to purchase a private home. Most experts disagree with these findings and claim that the opposite is true: there is more discrimination against buyers than renters.

Martin Sloane of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing conducted the HUD tests, but agrees with the experts. "(HUD) regarded racial steering as positive treatment of Blacks," Sloane told *Black Enterprise*. "So their results were skewed."

Many private groups are organizing Fair Housing Councils in metropolitan areas, such as Milwaukee, Atlanta, and Northern New Jersey, to guide minority house hunters to reputable realtors who will help them find a house in the desired price range and area.

"It will be a long time before this ends," says Catherine Harris of the Atlanta Metropolitan Fair Housing Council. "I don't see integration happening anytime soon, but I wish it would."

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.

Please divest

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
Governor, State of Oregon
State Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

I cannot tell you how proud I was of the Oregon House and Senate for their foresighted passage of House Bill 2001. I am fully in support of this important measure which would bar state funds from being invested in any corporation or deposited in any bank which directly supports or lends to the government of South Africa. The measure would also require Oregon to divest funds from corporations

operating in South Africa if those corporations are not in compliance with the expanded Sullivan Principles and their recent modification. These Principles are minimal and do not place undue restrictions on corporate operations especially when juxtaposed to the intolerable and barbaric system of racial separation in South Africa.

I am aware, Mr. Governor, that you are contemplating the possibility of vetoing this very significant legislation. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Portland Urban League, an organization which has fought for civil rights in this country for 75 years, I strongly urge you NOT to veto this legislation.

It is so important for Oregonians, indeed all Americans, to understand that the only way to avoid violent revolution in South Africa is through concerted efforts to use economic pressure to bring about social reform.

America can be a great friend to South Africa — both in its present circumstances, and in the transition

toward equality in society. America can only provide such leadership if each of us takes the opportunity, when given, to express our outrage over the inhuman and unthinkable conditions created by the outrageous system of apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. Governor, I feel comfortable in saying these things to you and I feel as though you may understand. It seems to me that a veto of this extremely important and historic legislation would contradict your own public image and stance against racism within our own state.

I have never forgotten your sensitivity, for example, to the Raymond Richardson family when they suffered a terrible ordeal several years ago in the city of Milwaukee.

Your firm and aggressive action at that time reflected a commitment to the effort to eradicate the ugly scars of racism in our state and in our nation. House Bill 2001 is another opportunity for you to continue the leadership you have provided in the past.

Again, on behalf of human rights and human dignity, on behalf of the spirit of freedom and independence which epitomizes Oregonians, I strongly urge you to support House Bill 2001.

HERB L. CAWTHORNE

Learn to deal well with aging

by Marnie Frank

As I write this, I have learned that my 67-year-old father has had a stroke and is in the intensive care unit. It is timely that I should be thinking about the issues of aging as they affect people generally and now me, personally.

Those of us who live long enough will need to deal with the aging process, our own and that of people whom we love. There is so much that we can do right now to make our aging an experience of growth and resolution, but many of us deal with issue of aging through denial and avoidance.

Examine your attitudes toward older people. Attitudes toward aging begin in childhood. Those people who have negative attitudes toward the elderly now will regard themselves negatively whenever they cross the threshold of old age.

Get unbiased clinical information about the aging process and compare it to your beliefs. You may find that much of what you believe is not based on fact. Their quickness of response and recall slow down but their intelligence does not change.

Check out your insurance coverage. Our society refers to the later years as the golden years, but for many people these years are not "golden" at all. The physical and physiological changes that occur result in medical expenses that can be a financial drain. Medicare coverage is limited and there are many exclusions including outpatient drugs, eye glasses, denture, blood transfusions and routine physical exams.

Concentrate on health! Many people believe there is nothing they can do to affect the quality of their older age. This is not true! What you do

right now — whatever your age — can affect your body's physical health. If you smoke, quit. Eat healthy, balanced meals so your body gets the nutrition it needs to keep it strong. If you don't exercise at all now, begin slowly and build up. If you do exercise, keep it up. If you drink alcohol take a long hard look at your drinking habits. You may be over-drinking. What your body could tolerate at age 30 has a much harder time assimilating at age 60. Many people who didn't have trouble earlier become alcoholics in their later years.

There are many other aspects of one's life that affect the aging process and contribute to positive or negative experiences. Briefly, some of these are availability and quality of interaction with family and friends, the presence of meaningful activities in one's life, a sense of purpose in being

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