

# 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,

I wanted to take this opportunity to let the people of District 18 know how well they were represented during the 63rd Legislative Assembly by Representative Margaret Carter.

It is rare when you find a freshman legislator with as many legislative victories as Margaret Carter accumulated during this past session. She was the primary sponsor of a measure that sets aside the third Monday in January as a legal holiday honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King. She led the fight for passage of the South African Divestiture bill recently vetoed by Governor Atiyeh. As a member of the Joint Trade and Economic Development Committee, Margaret was a leader in pushing for economic development legislation that will put people back to work.

In short, one of the primary reasons for the success of the 63rd Legislative Session was due to freshmen legislators like Margaret Carter. It was an honor to serve with her, and the people of District 18 should be congratulated for selecting her to represent them in Salem.

SHIRLEY GOLD  
House Majority Leader

To the Editor,

We are residents of a city being run by a 'religious' group, and are under constant harassment by the Rajneesh Police Force and Rajneesh Security from Rajneeshpuram. We are watched wherever we go, even if we just take a walk, they follow us in their vehicles.

We asked Rajneesh Police Force to stop the Rajneesh Investment Corporation from making so much dust on the hill above our home, and they said they were not going to do anything about it and left. We must call the Oregon State Police for protection.

If one is Rajneesh, the police force is helpful, protective and concerned. Conversely, when a NON-Rajneesh told one of the Rajneesh to put their garbage where it belonged, they were arrested and hauled 75 miles to The Dalles jail.

When incidents such as these occur in a democratic country, something must be done in order to preserve our freedom. We have a "Save Antelope Fund," Box 66, Antelope, OR 97001.

JIM AND JEAN OPRAY

## Black America,

It would appear that I have understated my case. I have said that I am for a better Black America. Know, that I meant that in all aspects.

On the 4th of July I was in Compton, California, handing out what remained of UNITIES June letter when I happened to overhear a woman explaining to her companion UNITIES objectives. It was her opinion that UNITIES prime concern is the education of Black youth. I can only say she has misunderstood me. For her misunderstanding I accept the blame. As the author of UNITIES letters I should have been clear and precise.

It is true, the education of Black America is an urgent concern of UNITIES, but so is employment, housing, crime, and the control of our resources. Yet, there must be priorities. Therefore, UNITIES number one priority is UNITY itself. With Black Unity and leadership, education, employment and a better Black environment becomes a by-product of that Unity. Then we as a people will have our share of the American dream, and it will not have been given to us.

Let me say this of UNITIES objectives for all of Black America. Today across America the majority of us live in old run down neighborhoods. I can't accept this. The schools that most Black children attend are over 40 years old. I won't accept that. It is extremely difficult for Black men to find employment. This is not acceptable to me. The crime rate in our neighborhoods is rampant. I will not live with this. Our youth live with little or no knowledge of the true history of Black America. This is unacceptable. The few Blacks that have succeeded, for the most part feel that they are above us. Little do they know or understand that if one of us is not free then none of us are.

I can say without hesitation or pause that all of my life a better Black America has been utmost in my thoughts. Only in recent years have I begun to understand that a better Black America is a better America for all.

Over the years I have heard Black men and women talk about the problems of Black America. Not once have I heard any solutions. I have seen men and women hunger for direction and leadership. I have seen it and understood, because I was one of the hungry.

In my hunger for a better Black America the persistent question has always been, How What and When? How do we do it? What will it take and when? The answers were long in coming. The answer in two words: *Unity and Leadership!*

No Black organization in America can hope to succeed without the support of all Black Americans. No Black organization has ever come close to obtaining that support. Why? The support that was asked for has always been in the form of marches, demonstrations, prayer or money. All these things can reach segments of Black America, but not one of them all Black Americans.

I can show you organizations that reach the middle and upper class Blacks. I can show you organizations that reach the religious segment of Black America. There are organizations for children, for the working class, for women. These organizations do not reach their constituents on a daily basis, let alone the rest of Black America. UNITY will! Not one of these Black organizations has had the wisdom to see beyond its own interest. No Black leader has ever said that in truth, we as a people must all succeed or none of us succeeds. Why UNITY?

Let me give a brief history lesson. It would have been impossible for our ancestors to have become slaves if we had had UNITY.

It would have been impossible for

Nat Turner to fail if he had had Black Unity.

Booker T. Washington and William E. B. DuBois: Two Black giants in our history. How much more could these men have accomplished with Black Unity!

Dr. King and Malcolm X. The two men had Black America in the palms of their hands. Even with that control there was no Unity or direction.

As you can see UNITY is not something that I thought of in an instant. It took much soul searching. I knew that for a Black organization to have a chance it had to reach all of Black America. Not only did it have to reach all Blacks, it also had to meet with approval of all Blacks. It could not be religious in its concept or leadership. That leaves out too many of us. It could not be for a certain class.

Again it would leave out too many of us. There could be no cost to anyone. We have had our hands out long enough. More than any thing Black America had to be aware. That is why I say UNITY must manifest itself. UNITY must reach into the hearts and minds of every Black in the country on a daily basis. It will!

How can UNITY do great things for Black America and not cost anyone anything? When the day comes that I know that Black America is thinking UNITY, I will explain, the HOW. Today my greatest fear is ignorance.

I call for Black Unity. I have received no response from the Black media. Why? I have not asked for a handout. I never will. Give me Black Unity and it is all that I will ever ask of you. Give me UNITY and Black America will have paid the price, nothing is free.

Who among you in the Black media will stand up. I need your help. I ask the Black media to assist me in this, the first true Black crusade for a better Black America. Give me UNITY and I will change the face of Black America forever. Give me unity of will, unity of spirit, of desire and I will take it to the bank. A Black bank.

Our future lies in UNITY. UNITY, for jobs that we can create. UNITY, for homes that we can build. UNITY, for schools that our children will look forward to attending. UNITY, for pride that all men need. UNITY, for a better Black America. UNITY, for a better America for all.

Let me end UNITIES letter with this statement of truth.

I have been asked why my letters made no reference to God. I say to you as honestly as I can. I am not of strong religious convictions. I would ask that you give your soul and spirit to God and the Church. I ask from you your body, your sinew, and your brain for UNITY. For those of you who hold the Bible close in your hearts I offer Isaiah, Chapter 40:

28) Hast thou not know? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.

29) He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall;

31) But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.

I say to you Black America. Let us mount up with UNITY!

H. TRAMMELL  
Standardbearer  
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Buena Park, CA 90620

P.S. For your social, civic, professional, or church organization to get on UNITIES mailing list send name and address to H. Trammell.

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