

EDITORIAL/OPINION

PCC correct to honor Jackson

The Board of Directors of Portland Community College should be commended for naming the new Cascade Campus building after Reverend John H. Jackson. Their choice of Rev. Jackson is an appropriate one. Jackson is currently the minister of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Portland.

Rev. Jackson's commitment to the betterment of the Black community warrants such an honor. Rev. Jackson has been a strong advocate in promoting programs to serve youths and the Black community. His involvement in education resulted in the recruitment of more Black teachers in the Portland Public Schools. He is also one of the founders of the Portland Opportunity Industrial Center (POIC), the POIC is a facility that provides training for industrial jobs.

As a minister in the Albina Ministerial Alliance, Jackson helped to create programs such as the

self-enhancement program which prepares student athletes for high school and college. Jackson has also encouraged school dropouts to enter POIC programs.

The impact of Reverend Jackson's work throughout the years in the Black community will long be felt by community residents. Naming the building on the Cascade Campus after Rev. Jackson will insure that future generations of Black Portlanders will know of his dedication to the improvement of the social status of Blacks living in the city.

The Board of Directors of PCC, in naming the building after Rev. Jackson, recognize his dedication to Black education and job training skills. The Board of Directors should be applauded for making sure Rev. Jackson will never be forgotten in the Portland Black community.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Stone Pillow—a sign of the times

Too bad we didn't hear more about the CBS television movie *Stone Pillow* which aired Nov. 5. The movie may win Lucille Ball an award. It should, because her portrayal of an aging New York City "bag lady" in the movie was one of the most powerful and empathetic acting jobs to be seen on television in a long time.

"It was real," said a woman who had lived on the street in the Burnside area for two years.

Flora, played by Lucy, once had a nice home on a farm, a husband and children. But unseen economic forces (the exact reason is never explained) caused the family to break up and Flora took to the street. Before it was stolen, her shopping cart was very important to her because it contains all of her worldly possessions and because it also contained a photo of her boy.

We are shown realistic scenes of street survival—Flora sweet-talking delivery men for a few vegetables and fighting off thugs; and cops who rap on the grates with their clubs and order the hapless street people to sleep elsewhere.

In one powerful sequence, Flora finds herself alone at night in a burned-out section of Brooklyn. Hiding from thugs behind a wrecked car, an aggressive rat nearly pounces on her.

Stone Pillow is a sign of the times, perhaps all the more powerful because of its choice as the role Lucille Ball picked to make her comeback. Who can forget the lovable, laughable Lucy of *I Love Lucy* fame—the actress/housewife watched regularly by millions of housewives.

Like Flora, Lucy also once had a happy home and family. Her little crises in those good old days are that much more quaint in comparison to the changes in American life in the 20 years or so since Lucy went off the air.

In these days of Reaganism and the American dream turned into nightmare for the poor and unemployed, it seems almost as if in *Stone Pillow* Lucy is saying, "Look what can happen to the happiest, most secure of us." The movie is a powerful comment on the times by a gutsy lady, and we hope it is shown again.

Apartheid, fascism, and Reagan's sanctions

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

Part Two of a Two Part Series

Under classical fascism, wages of working people were frozen or substantially reduced, in order to increase corporate profit margins. Semi-skilled and unskilled workers were expected to survive at a substandard or subsistence level. Under apartheid, the whites of all social classes receive real, material benefits—higher wages, superior working conditions—which are extracted from the surplus produced by Black labor. In the critical mining sector, for example, white employees received about \$1,400 in averaged monthly wages, as of mid-1983. Indian mine workers averaged slightly less than half that amount, \$690 per month. Coloured mine workers averaged \$430, and Africans only \$260 per month. In manufacturing firms, the average monthly wages by race are: whites, \$1,290; Indians, \$460; Coloured, \$365; and Africans, \$320. The distribution of total wages reinforces the racial stratification in society as a whole: Africans comprise 71 percent of the total workforce, and receive only 29 percent of the total wages; whites account for only 18 percent of all South African employees, but received 59 percent of all wages.

Racial stratification in wages is even more striking in the agricultural sector and in domestic work. As of 1980, the average monthly wage of an African farmworker was between \$28 and \$40. Roughly 1.3 million Blacks work on white-owned farms, and receive barely enough to live on for themselves, and much less for their families. Approximately 700,000 Africans, mostly women, are domestic workers or household servants. Wages run from \$40 to \$80 per month in many areas, but are often lower.

The health care system is also

designed to maim and cripple the Black majority. As of December, 1983, doctor/patient ratios in South Africa were 1 to 330 for whites; 1 to 730 for Indians; 1 to 12,000 for the Coloured; and 1 to 19,000 for Africans. The identical situation is reflected in infant mortality rates. In 1980, whites had an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 13; for Indians, the rate was 24 per 1,000; Coloured, 62 per 1,000; and Africans, 90 per 1,000. Most observers believe the official rates are unrealistically low for Africans. In some rural areas, the Black infant mortality rate currently exceeds 300 per 1,000 live births. About 3 million African children under the age of 15 presently suffer from malnutrition. The lack of adequate food, medical and dental care inevitably effects life expectancy rates. Thus in South Africa, the average white woman lives 74 years, and the average African woman only 60 years. For males, life expectancy rates are 67 years for whites, and barely 55 years for Africans.

The legal system provides the totalitarian base for institutionalized violence and official terrorism against nonwhites. As Bernard Magubane observes, "The apartheid dynamic is built upon the fear, greed and violence of the white population." The Internal Security Act of 1982, for example, permits the banning of any anti-apartheid organizations, indefinite detention without charges or fair trial, the outlawing of newspapers and journals critical of the regime, and the use of random police raids and seizures. Hundreds of church leaders, trade unionists and civil rights activists are imprisoned without access to attorneys under the Internal Security Act, and many have been murdered while being detained. South Africa's per capita prison population is also the highest in the world.

Roughly 450 per 100,000 persons were jailed as of 1981, a figure which does not include the thousands of additional prisoners taken during the recent phase of protests.

The parallels between apartheid and fascism extend to key leaders within the South African government's ruling Nationalist Party. D.F. Malan, the founder of the Nationalist, secured a sharp reduction of Jewish immigration quotas into South Africa as early as 1930. Years before he became Nationalist Prime Minister, H.F. Verwoerd demanded a rigid "quota system for Jews in all occupations." Many of the South African supporters of Hitler in the 1940s joined the Nationalists, and many of the recent leaders of the regime were directly involved in the explicitly fascist Greyshirts and Boerense organizations. Nigerian diplomat Maitama Sula, the chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, has commented, "Apartheid is nothing but Nazi-ism copied, perfected, institutionalized and adopted as a policy of the government of Pretoria."

The Western governments learned too late that no compromises were possible with fascist totalitarianism. Similarly, Reagan's "constructive engagement" will fail precisely because the racist totalitarianism of South Africa cannot be reformed gradually out of existence. The apartheid state will only be eradicated when the majority of its people are empowered politically and economically, and neither weak sanctions nor corporate moderation of existing labor relations practices will promote the transition to democracy.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York.

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 usually published). We reserve the right to edit for length. Mail to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Jeanne Butterfield opens Pandora's Box

To the Editor:

Attorney Jeanne Butterfield has opened a veritable Pandora's Box. South Afrika's government counts on a lack of knowledge and misinformation about its genocidal policies and its threat to world peace in order to gain support from the international community. Apartheid South Afrika like Israel, spends millions of dollars in propaganda to create a false image about itself.

We are always reminded of a Jewish housewife in the boxcar for Dachau, yet, we are never reminded of our ancestors chained together in the name of Jesus, headed for a christian land.

We live in an age in which silence is not only criminal but suicidal. I compare untold numbers of Black Afrikans to the Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust, while the U.S., an Israel support this genocide, however piously they may declare their belief in "progress and democracy." One glance of the American leaders (or figureheads) conveys that Amerika is on the edge of absolute chaos. The will of the people, in Amerika, has always been at the mercy of an ignorance not merely phenomenal, but sacred and sacredly cultivated; the better to be used by a carnivorous economy which democratically slaughters and victimizes poor caucasoids and blacks alike. But most poor caucasoid Afrikans do not dare admit this (though they suspect) and this fact contains danger for the blacks and tragedy for the nation.

We know that we, the poor, have been, and are, the victims of a system whose only fuel is greed, whose only God is profit. We know that the fruits of this system have been ignorance, despair, and death, and we know that the system is doomed because the world can no longer afford it—if, indeed, it ever could have. And we know that, for the perpetuation of this system, we have all been mercilessly brutalized, and have been told nothing but lies, lies about ourselves and our kinsmen and our past. Some of us, poor caucasians and black, know how great a price has already been paid to bring into existence a new consciousness, a new people, an unprecedented nation. If we know, and do nothing we are worse than the murders hired in our name.

The Dachau-bound trains had Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, Black and French prisoners of war and a host of

other "undesirables" aboard those despicable expresses. I'm inclined to believe, Humanity is the chosen people. The failure of Nazis and others to bear witness to this truth made ghastly holes in a number of populations. All victims of whatever hue or persuasion have inherited a solemn obligation from their honored dead to see to it that the blood of the martyrs does not become the seed of any establishment.

The American media has not castigated Israel, yet black people are not free to live in the land of their birth. I was once asked to participate in a dialogue on outstanding problems of major concern to the Black and Jewish communities. So long as we were dealing with alleged Black anti-Semitism, there was sprightly exchange, but when some of us expressed a desire to proceed to semitic anti-Blackness, a spokesman for the Jewish side told us "we're too smart to get into that." The upsurge of apathy and perceived irrelevance terminated the dialogue for most Black communal representatives.

We must protest against the policies of apartheid and the jailing of South Afrikan dissidents; also oppose the nuclear, military and economic alliance between South Afrika and Israel. With Attorney Jeanne Butterfield, we must speak up for the millions of Lebanese and Palestinians who are suffering a particular form of apartheid practiced by the Israeli government in Southern Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Private U.S. investors, companies and the government advance material and ideological interests in their ties with South Afrika which helps maintain the systematic exploitation of the region's Black majority by the so-called christian caucasoid minority.

Millions of dollars worth of U.S. built devices, aircraft, vehicles and spare parts have also poured into the South Afrikan market in part via Israel.

I'm about withdrawing from a mentality that sees the need to kill, harm and maim as a way of solving human problems; withdrawing from the role that this country is playing as police officer in the world, number one gun runner in the world, partner to exploiters. Will Blacks and poor caucasoids have to fight and die in some insane adventurism in Central America?

Dr. Jamil Cherovee

Dr. Drew's 'snack bar'

To the Editor:

Your editorial of October 16 expressed concerns related to the Dedication honoring Dr. Charles Drew. I hope we can resolve the misunderstanding that seems to have developed over what we believe was a very positive action.

During our campaign to raise the necessary funds to build the Center, we offered corporations and individuals the opportunities to underwrite and make personal designations for some highly visible public areas.

The Tektronix Corporation made a gift of \$50,000 and requested that the most visible and attractive area of the blood donor area be designated to remind donors of the major contribution made to Blood Banking by Dr. Charles Drew. They felt the Red Cross had made a major commitment to a predominantly black neighborhood and wanted to use their gift in reminding all blood donors of a black physician's contribution. This step was viewed in the most positive way and the suggestion that a "snack bar" was named after Dr. Drew is inaccurate.

The Canteen Area is not only beautiful but is a major area of the

Center and the Blood Donating process. It was chosen because of its visibility, role in the donation process, and is the area where donors recover and are thanked for their donation. The actual Dedication Plaque has a place of honor in the Recognition Wall at the front of the building.

I would suggest that anyone who is concerned about our intentions related to Dr. Drew come to the Red Cross building to see the area. I am confident they will feel much better about this area after having viewed it.

In addition, your readers may be interested to know that our major Research and Development facility in Washington, D.C. is being named after Dr. Jerome Holland, a black educator who served as the Chairman of our American Red Cross Board of Governors until his death in 1985.

Please know that the American Red Cross goals locally and nationally reinforce our commitment to equality, and we would never knowingly take actions that would compromise those goals.

Sincerely,
Adella Martell
Director
Marketing & Communications

Tip O'Neill— Reagan henchman

To the Editor:

I thank Secretary of State Schultz for threatening to resign if the power-crazed Reagan administration carried through its scheme to destroy the ABM Treaty by twisting the meaning of its language. Secretary Schultz knew both the governments and people of our Nato allies would be outraged by such manipulation.

But what about Democratic House Leader Tip O'Neill and stopping all nuclear tests? A few weeks ago a Resolution to do this was coming to the floor of the House for discussion and action. Reports say that 200 members were ready to vote to stop all nuclear tests—a "total freeze." Probably this reflected letters from the "folks back home" who will be voting next year.

I read that Ronald Reagan sent word to his apparently faithful henchman Tip O'Neill, that this would "embarrass" President Reagan at the Nov. 19 Summit. So the bill has not come to the House floor yet! As I understand, I remember a columnist's opinion that by day Democrat Tip O'Neill led the "loyal" opposition but that in the evening he socialized with President Reagan.

I feel that every Democrat, in fact every citizen, should write to Tip O'Neill (House Bldg., Washington, DC 20015) and insist that the "total freeze" Resolution be immediately brought to the House floor for discussion and vote. Your Congressman, or woman, can help with this, too. It could be just that extra pressure needed to get an end to all nuclear tests at the Summit Meeting on Nov. 19.

Yours very truly,
Violet Orr

Public hearings on income tax

To the Editor:

During the last legislative session, I received many inquiries from my constituents regarding the state income tax treatment of retirement income, including federal, PERS, and private benefits. Many people had concerns in this area and requested assistance from the legislature.

I wanted to let your readers know the Joint Interim Committee on Revenue and School Finance will conduct a public hearing on Saturday, November 16, 1985, at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room A of the Capitol Building, Salem, to address this important subject.

Interested citizens are invited to participate in this informal hearing by giving testimony personally or by sending written remarks to the committee. The address is 140 State Capitol Building, Salem, OR 97310.

I would be happy to answer any questions or assist in any way on this or any other concern that people may have. Please just let me know.

Sincerely,
Delna Jones
State Representative, Dist. 6
P.O. Box 5666
Aloha, OR 97006



Portland Observer



The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) 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.



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

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York

288-0033