

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Governor and unions lack respect for Dr. King

Governor Vic Atiyeh and several state employees labor unions recently revealed their lack of sensitivity to thousands of Oregonians' efforts to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gov. Atiyeh announced that Dr. King's holiday on Jan. 20, will not be a paid holiday for state employees.

Atiyeh made the announcement after several unions, including the Oregon Public Employees Union, Federation of State and Municipal Employees, the Association of Engineering Employees, the Federation of Oregon Parole and Probation Officers, and the Oregon Education Association at Hillcrest and MacLaren Training Schools refused to trade Lincoln's holiday for Dr. King's holiday. Only the Oregon Education Association, which represents the schools for the deaf and the blind, and the Oregon Licensed Practical Nurses Association agreed to trade Lincoln's holiday for Dr. King's holiday.

Gov. Atiyeh blames the unions and the unions blame Atiyeh. Both Gov. Atiyeh and those unions which opted not to trade holidays in order for Dr. King to be honored share the blame equally. Atiyeh has proven in the past that he is insensitive to the aspirations of Black Oregonians living in the state of Oregon and abroad. Gov. Atiyeh vetoed HB-2001, a measure that would have disinvested

Oregon money from South Africa. Atiyeh's announcement that state employees want to be paid on Dr. King's birthday is pure hypocrisy, since the governor appointed the State Commission of Black Affairs to encourage activities on King's birthday, while state employees are working. Atiyeh's timing for the announcement was also bad, since community leaders and union representatives are working towards a resolution.

The union's action was just as shocking as the governor's. Instead of supporting efforts to honor a great American, who stood for what this nation is supposed to be, the union was trying to get an additional paid holiday. Members of the Federation of State and Municipal Employees should be especially ashamed of their actions. Dr. King was killed in Memphis while representing members of that union against the City of Memphis.

Oregonians should be outraged by the actions of both Gov. Atiyeh and those labor unions. Both the governor and the unions lack respect in honoring Dr. King in a manner deemed fitting for an individual who gave his life for the betterment of the entire world. Furthermore, the actions by the governor and the unions diminish the memory of Dr. King.



## Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

### Help for endometriosis sufferers

Last week I met with Dorsie Hathaway, President of the Portland Chapter of the National Endometriosis Association. The Endometriosis Association is a group which is attempting to educate and offer a referral network for women suffering from Endometriosis.

Endometriosis is a disease affecting women in their reproductive years. The root of the name comes from the word "endometrium" which is the scientific name for the tissue that lines the uterus and is shed monthly during the menstrual cycle. The disease is a condition in which this tissue (the endometrium) is found in areas of the body outside the uterus. The migration of this tissue results in "nodules" which, like the uterus, respond to the monthly hormonal changes, but unlike the uterine tissue, when menses comes there is nowhere for the blood to exit and may result in internal bleeding. Along with the nodules and bleeding are common symptoms of low back pain, increased cramping, pain during sexual activity, pain early in the cycle which worsens up to menstruation heavy and irregular bleeding

and often infertility. While these symptoms are common, one or more may be absent in individual cases.

While endometriosis was relatively unseen in the 1930s and 40s, it has become a fairly common condition in recent years. For this reason the Endometriosis Association was formed with the goals of "exchanging information about Endometriosis, offering mutual support and help to those affected by endometriosis, educating the public and medical community about the disease, and promoting research related to endometriosis" (from Education Support Research handout of Endometriosis Association).

Dorsie became involved with the Association because of her own concerns with endometriosis. She has had what is termed "conservative surgery" which means the removal of affected tissue while preserving fertility. This is a type of treatment that can diminish symptoms yet still allow the woman to have children. This treatment is certainly not a guaranteed cure, as even in total hysterectomy there is still about 5 percent of

women who experience a reoccurrence of symptoms. Other common "mainstream" therapies include hormonal therapy to alter the effects of estrogen on the endometrial tissue. The hormones/drugs used include estrogen/progesterone pills, progesterone alone and/or a testosterone derivative (Danazol, Cyclofenol). Side effects are a problem for some women, and complete removal of symptoms is not common.

While a cure has yet to be found, Dorsie recommends women to "Arm yourself with knowledge. You may not feel that you can control the disease, but you can make controlled choices about how it is treated." One source of information is the Endometriosis Association. Literature and contact sources can be obtained from Endometriosis Association, P.O. Box 92187, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. There is a local chapter which holds regular meetings, and is developing a referral network for treatment and support professionals in the area. The national address will direct you to local contacts.

## 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.

### Oregon Legislature pay raises

To the Editor:

In a time when many Oregonians are accepting cuts in pay and benefits, it seems that our legislature assembly may have been somewhat insensitive in raising their salaries. In fact, as a former member of the Oregon Legislature, I was appalled at the exorbitant pay raise which legislators gave themselves during the last session. The depressed Oregon economy calls for belt tightening, not fattening salaries at this time.

With almost no publicity, legislators raised their base salaries, which they receive 12 months each year, by over 28 percent. From the \$700 before the session, they added their monthly salaries in three steps, reaching \$901 in January 1987.

In addition, they approved a raise from \$300 to \$400 per month in their expense allowance when not in session, plus a raise in daily per diem when in session or committee meetings from \$44 to \$50, and added a special allowance of up to \$150 monthly for larger districts.

On top of this pay, members enjoy such perquisites as free residential phone service, paid medical and dental insurance for the member and family, paid life and disability insurance, fully paid enrollment in the Public Employees Retirement System, and their spouses may draw up to \$2,000 per month during sessions for serving as the staff member.

Oregon has always operated on the concept of a "citizen legislature", coming together as a public service during legislative sessions, and then returning to their farms, jobs or business. With total pay for the biennium nearing \$35,000 plus up to \$12,000 for the spouse when serving as the staff member, we are approaching a professional legislature, where an increasing number of people with little or no prior work experience serve in the legislature as their only jobs.

I am working to collect signatures on the initiative petition to repeal the unreasonable pay raises. The petition also limits the number of days legislators may collect per diem for legislative sessions to 120 days in odd numbered years and 150 for the legislative biennium. We need your help to collect 83,361 valid signatures.

Petitions may be obtained from the sponsoring organization, Oregonians in action, 1533 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97214, or by calling 233-1231.

Sincerely,  
Bernard (Bud) Byers

### PassinArt reviews

To the Editor:

PassinArt, moving from one generation to another displaying meaning of culture, art and history. A local Black theatre group (PassinArt) has once again taken works from two Black playwrights and created on stage—images, symbols, and feelings relating to our blackness.

These two one act plays entitled: *How Do You Do*, by Ed Bullins, directed by Clarice Bailey and *Funny House of a Negro*, by Adrienne Kennedy, directed by Michael J. Grant, are concerned seriously with relationships and the impact of the word Black in our time, with political and spiritual values, with the reality of our struggles in its fullest sense.

Often times white journalists have extreme difficulty in reviewing plays with such intensity and meaning. As a conscious Black woman with a passion for the theatre and knowing from a personal experience what constitutes a particular perspective in the works of Bullins and Kennedy, I was not surprised, but distraught after reading the reviews of the plays in the *Oregonian* and *Willamette Week*. There was evidently not an understanding for whom they (Bullins and Kennedy) write; what determines their interest as writers; and whether there is a difference between the types of events, characters, themes, etc. . . . that Black male and female writers select in order to dramatize their stories.

Also, the reviews seemed construed towards destroying the truth in the messages of both plays. For example, by assuming the Black community nor the cast understand the plays and the message the writers are attempting to convey in their works. No specific examples or evidence was given to support the accusations written.

Black writers and critics are acting on the old adage that one must speak for oneself if one wishes to be heard. We are realizing that no one else can or will say what he or she has to say, and that silence condemns the silent to misrepresentation and neglect. Langston Hughes immortalized this idea in verse, and his words are most appropriate for the Black writers, their creations and critics:

... someday somebody'll  
Stand up and talk about me,  
And write about me—  
Black and beautiful—  
And sing about me,  
And put on plays about me!  
I reckon it'll be  
Me myself!  
Yes, it'll be me.

I encourage the community to attend the final weekend (Dec. 13-15) of the two plays at the Interstate

Firehouse Cultural Center. We should not let ignorance interfere with our support of the local theatre group, PassinArt.

Sincerely,  
Gina E. Wood

### Antelope petitions

To the Editor:

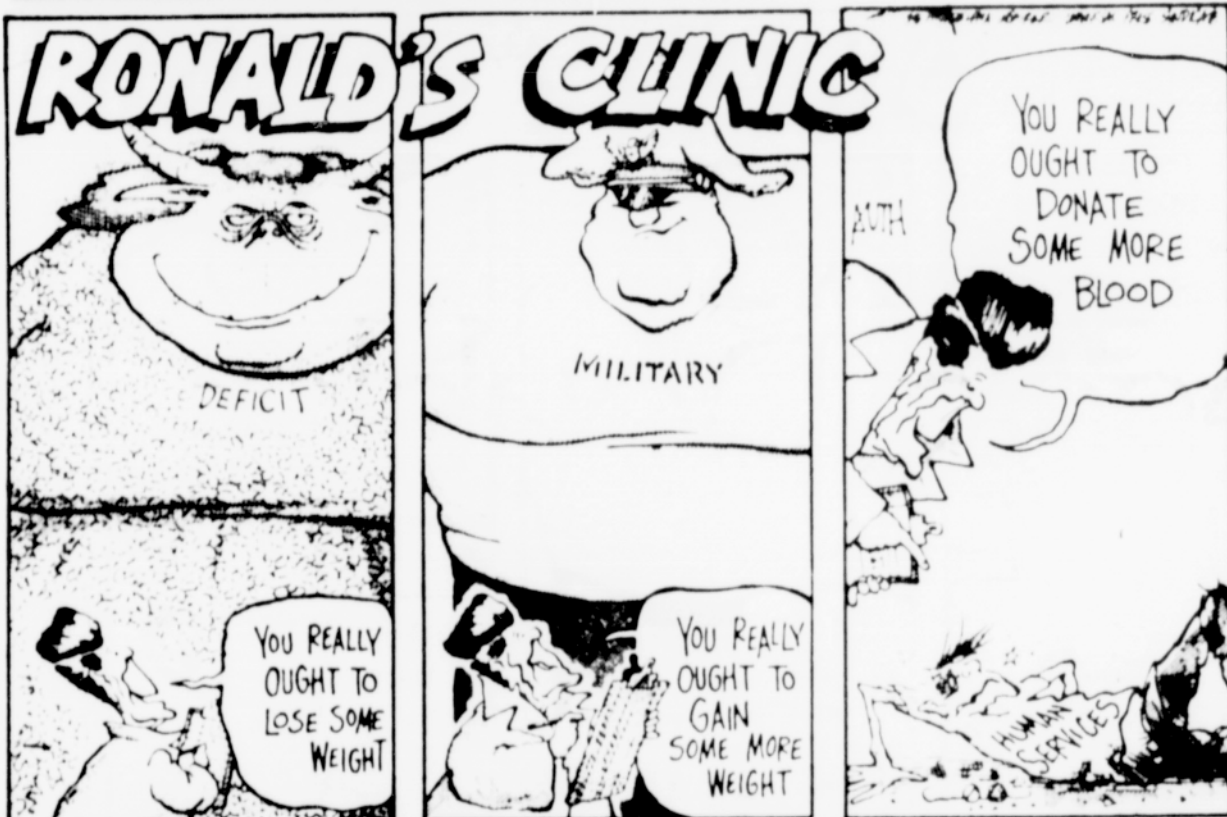
We would like to express our thanks to all the people of Oregon for their help in circulating the petitions and also their financial assistance. Without you, we could not have hoped to accomplish our goal of disincorporation.

We are now asking you to please send in all the petitions with signatures you have gathered, in case something unforeseen happens in the future. This will enable us to know how many signatures we would still need.

The Wasco County Court has appointed four new city council members. One of the first issues of the new city council will be to place the issue of disincorporation on the March ballot.

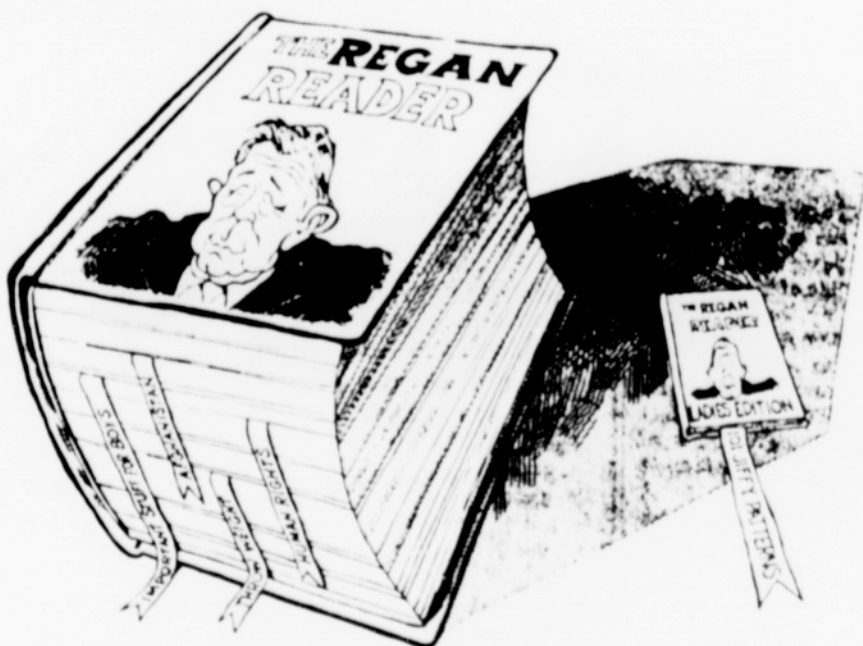
Thanks to all of you,  
Jim and Jean Opray

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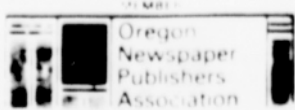
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