

**EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY**

**Hicks Statements on Target**

Lucious Hicks, a member of the Black Leadership Conference, was on target when he was quoted as saying that "the organization could gain added credibility if it did not appear that we are turning our backs on any other Black candidate."

Hicks was referring to the leadership conference's failure to endorse Gladys McCoy and Jim Hill. The two African-American candidates are running for Multnomah County Chair and State Senator positions in November's general elections.

The Leadership Conference endorsed candidate Neil Goldschmidt before the May primary, and is now in the process of organizing a community campaign structure in support of Goldschmidt.

The failure of the Black Leadership Conference to endorse two African-American candidates who are seeking elected office does make one wonder about the motives of the Conference. It is no secret that if African-Americans are to rise both socially and economically, they must have political representation. Although the number of African-American elected officials has increased in the last decade, only a small number of them have gained access to political offices that carry clout.

For instance, there are no U.S. Senators or Governors who are African-Americans. Furthermore, there is only a small percentage of U.S. Congresspeople that are of African-American descent.

A U.S. Congressperson, governor or U.S. Senator inherits powerful political positions. The governor is the chief executive of a state. The responsibility of the U.S. Congress as a lawmaking body is to pass legislation designed to deal with the major problems that people face and to establish rules and sanctions. The power of U.S. Senators is well known to any political observer.

Granted the fact the positions McCoy and Hill are seeking are not as powerful as those positions just mentioned, nevertheless, they are offices that carry clout at a local level.

For example, the office of Multnomah County Chair has a lot to do with whom gets the jobs. This issue is important to the African-American community in Portland where joblessness among adult and youth is much higher than the population as a whole. It is vital that someone from the African-American community become Chair of Multnomah County in an effort to address such issues.

African-American candidates seeking political offices, whether it is in Portland or anywhere else in the nation, should have the support of African-American constituents. And if elected to public office, should be made accountable in full to the community.

However, at the same time, African-Americans must realize that because an African-American is elected to a particular office, changes do not occur automatically. The political process doesn't allow such a quick metaphor.

**Letters to the Editor**

tian caucasoid society. Racist philosophy attempts, in fact, to convince us that social inequality is inbred; that it is "human nature," and, so potent are its forms, that sometimes even anti-racists despair on even

seeing the day when they will have disappeared. In my travels around the world, I've noticed in few countries of the world today are the practices of racism so widespread and so reinforced as in Amerika.

I'm inclined to believe racism is a creation of the so-called christian caucasoid exploiters of yesterday and today, in order to justify, with biological reasons, the cruel exploitation and barbaric repression imposed on those considered "inferior beings." Yet we know the world is not divided into inferior and superior races; the world is divided into exploited and exploiting classes. Humanity is not aligned by color or by race. We are mixed races in Amerika. No one should consider themselves of a pure race, much less a superior race. Since people in this country must put an end to this obvious and repugnant system, educators must eliminate from the consciousness of everyone the remaining vestige of irrational racial prejudices. A radical social and economic transformation must take place today. We must strike at the economic roots that nourish racism. This can be done with massive Affirmative Action programs. Education should be made economically accessible to everyone. Unemployment must be totally eliminated, ending once and for all the competition between workers for

job opportunities. The effect of this single act on the perpetuation of racism cannot be underestimated. Through these measures, the economic and social base of racism will be destroyed.

Once we remove the perpetrators of racism, the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan will have no reason to exist. We must focus our attack on the roots of racism, on the institutions that give rise to and perpetuate it, rather than on its subjective expression. Virtually all the financial institutions in Amerika are controlled and manipulated by so-called christian caucasoid Americans. The Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan would not have an elitist, class-oriented society in order to perpetuate racism. It would no longer be to anyone's advantage, in any form, to be racist. This so-called christian

leadership of this nation could design a society in such a way that there is no economic benefit whatsoever for anyone that comes from being racist. This would eliminate the motive for racism, one of the very basic motives that an individual or an organization might have. If we had no problem of racism in Amerika, there would be no need for Affirmative Action.

I'm inclined to believe, the most powerful tool of class oppression is racism, and that the ruling class in Amerika knows it, and uses it for all that it is worth. The separation of men according to pigmentation under the supremacy of the so-called christian caucasoid race is one of the most monstrous attacks on the essential unity of mankind that has

ever been perpetuated.

The Ku Klux Klan (derived from the Greek word "kyklos," meaning circle) has evolved into a terroristic, secret society dedicated to depriving people of color of their citizenship rights. The cowardly carnivorous animals in human form have committed atrocities unequal in the chronological history of events against people of color. They are led by racial and religious fanatics; Anglo-Saxon, native-born Protestant superpatriots. The Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is a fraternal order and will accept Jews or Catholics, if they give up their religion. They claim the symbolism of the burning cross at all Klan gatherings has been used by crusaders for the last 19 centuries. Yet, there weren't any crusaders until the 11th Century. Today they claim to use the cross as a rallying point to meet oppression and to establish Christianity. I was under the impression Christianity was established 1986 years ago. They claim not to believe in violence. Yet, many local officials and the Justice Department blame the KKK for 32 bombings in Alabama, 40 bombings in Georgia, racial killings in Alabama, 35 church burnings in Mississippi, the ambush killing of Colonel Lemuel Penn, the castration of Blacks in Birmingham, the murder of Reverend James Reeb and Mrs. Anthony Luizzo in Alabama, plus many floggings of Civil Rights workers and labor leaders. The Christian Knights of the Klan claim it does not indulge in violence. Its activities, however, indicate otherwise.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee

**Letters to the Editor**

**OPEN Season on Blacks?**

Will the ouster of Penny Harrington bring about an open season on black and other minority communities? Will police officers feel they have renewed their license to "smoke 'em" now that the police chief who was "too close" to the community is gone? It is the responsibility of the community who was justly outraged at police misconduct in the Stevenson case to make sure it doesn't.

Never before was there a police chief who consulted with black community leaders before making decisions that affected their community.

Never before was there a police chief who came to the black community and many Portland communities to answer questions and criticisms. "Never again" is the motto of

police union leader Stan Peters and some of Portland's police.

The police are charged with the duty of serving the people, all the people, of Portland. The conspiracy to eliminate the chief represents irresponsible foot-dragging. For the general community it was fiscally and socially unsound, but for the black community who have been vexed and harrassed by the police it represents a giant step backward. Sidestep...sidestep...sidestep...

Eva Kutas

Regional Vice President

National Lawyers Guild

Portland Chapter

P.O. Box 1308

Portland, OR 97207

**TO THE EDITOR**

Recently I found the best resource available when you have a pension plan problem. I don't know why I hadn't thought of it before.

After 18 months of getting the runaround with a teacher's pension plan fund and substantial attorney fees, I received their newsletter asking me to contact my senator in support of their legislative bills.

Then it struck me to write my senator to help me talk to this company and resolve the issue. Senator Packwood's Portland field representative, Teddy Stamper, contacted

me by phone on receipt of my telephone call. The issue was resolved in two days.

I urge anyone with similar problems or concerns on issues regarding pensions to call your senate or representative office. That's what we've elected them to do although most people don't think about calling on them.

I can personally recommend the office of Senator Packwood.

Jean M. Ridings

P.O. Box 546

Fairview, OR 97024

**The So-Called Cristian "Kukloi"**

Concerning the Editorial, "Hayden Lake Incident, A Reminder of the Continuity of Racism," July 16, 1986. Americans of all colors who have experienced it know that racism poisons the life of this nation, dividing people one from another and endangering the human rights and dignity of all. So imbedded are racist practices and ideas here that it sometimes seems they cannot be overcome, that they are a permanent feature of this so-called Chris-

**1.2 Million Needs To Be Used As a Downpayment On Jail Space**

Tuesday, July 8, 1986, the Oregonian carried an article written by Gordon Oliver entitled "Neighbor Groups Mull City Proposals For Operation Rules." On Saturday, July 12, 1986, the Oregonian responded in an editorial entitled, "Good Neighbor Guide". We would like to respond as representatives from Sabin/Irvington Heights Neighborhood Association residents. We feel that our response is more than warranted as our neighborhood group brought out the same three "possibilities" for improvement that the Oregonian so gracefully put. (1) Representation and accountability (2) Freedom of Speech (3) Examination of ONA. Let us cite our examples of these three categories:

Some of us were fortunate to be able to attend The Oregon State Sheriff's Association conference for Crime Victim's Rights, whereby we learned (in June '86) that this program can offer assistance to burglary victims. They offered a symposium of testimony, facts, and data from keynote speakers (such as myself) who shared experiences necessary to make a comprehensive statewide plan for improvement of the victim's rights. When we attended this meeting, little did we realize, that this Association of people existed.

The committee appointed by Sarah Newhall, Director of Office of Neighborhood Associations, does not include any members from Sabin/Irvington Heights Neighborhood Association. Nor was S.I.H.N.A. invited to attend. (although we are officially recognized by the City, State and Federal Government.) We did hear about these meetings by our adjoining neighborhoods and we attempted to voice our opinion on one occasion, last year, at City Hall. "We

can't have a bunch of people, or we would never get anything done," one committee member reported. "How come we were not notified in the mail about these meetings?" One member from the N.E. Coalition is your representative, someone responded.

The point we make here is loud and clear. Office of Neighborhood Associations is not the people who live and work in my neighborhood. The review panel is not made up of volunteers who had to iron out disputes without the help of the City. In order to insure that your mistakes can be rectified, it seems only logical to have representation on a review committee of those who were actually involved. Draft proposals should not have been drafted by those who reflect an opinion of someone's character, rather than what the real conflict or issue is.

It is time to challenge the Examination of the review committee, why were those people appointed? It is time to challenge why neighborhood associations exist. We thought they were "to promote communication between citizens and city government as well as to increase citizen participation at all levels of decision making". Why, then, would a district board be allowed to settle a boundary dispute about what association a volunteer would like to belong to? Why then would neighborhood associations of fewer than 200 households be discouraged?

Free Speech—at present the city has minimal code requirements governing neighborhood associations, (as they should, because no two neighborhoods are alike). This so-called review committee has no right to try and establish guidelines for the content of a neighborhood newsletter, unless of course they are considered as dictatorships for

Neighborhood Associations, using South African tactics, and, if that is the case, we can assure you that we will do everything in our power to recall that 1.2 million that we pay as taxpayers and law abiding citizens. We will promise the people that we can donate our 1.2 million dollars used in this fiasco to a downpayment on more jail space, rather than jobs for the staff of ONA.

The bottom line is that neighborhoods can operate without the support of ONA and can surely do without the petty politics. We have walked more streets than anyone of the ONA staff and have documentation to prove it. We can challenge ONA to demonstrate to us any neighborhood that consistently has 200 households established as working volunteers in their neighborhood associations. We can challenge her on their findings to be similar to ours. The homes that have been contacted by newsletter or door-to-door will participate only when there is an issue, or they are having problems in the immediate neighborhood.

The bottom line is that community volunteers concentrate on helping neighborhood people who really have significant problems. WE are going to operate our streets as we see fit, and no directive from the City can tell us, the taxpayers, what we can or can not do. It is scary to think that these people want to hold that much power over volunteers who do not receive one even cent, or odd, for that matter.

Sabin/Irvington Heights Neighborhood Association asks all of our neighborhoods as free speakers, and taxpayers to voice your opinion on abolishing this organization and using the 1.2 million dollars as a downpayment on a Neighborhood Association Jail!

Betty Garner  
4205 N.E. 16th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97211

**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.



288-0033

National Advertising Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
New York



MEMBER



**PORTLAND OBSERVER**  \$15 for one year  \$25 for two years

Mr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**CLIP IT**  
TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK

