

EDITORIAL/OPINION

The selection of Cleveland "Cleve" Williams as Superintendent of the Portland Park Bureau by Commission Mike Linberg was an excellent choice.

The former Senior Executive Recreation Policy Administrator for the city of Oakland, California, is well qualified to run the Park Bureau.

Mr. Williams' extensive background in the area of parks and recreation management is the reason he was chosen over 50 other can-

didates who applied for the position during a national search for a replacement for William V. Owens, who formerly headed the Bureau.

In addition, Mr. Williams is one of the few public servants who is willing to listen to the legitimate concerns of the public, be a representative of the community, and has the vision to prepare the Park Bureau for the changes in the future. Overall, Mr. Williams will be a valuable asset to both the Black community and the City of Portland.

"Que Sos Nicaragua?" Speakers, Exhibit comes to Portland



Charles Gray



Dorothy Granada

The Nicaragua Mobile Education Project, a photo exhibit and speaking tour sponsored by the national, interfaith organization Witness for Peace, will be coming to Portland, October 2-4, 1986.

The bilingual exhibit of poems, testimony and 70 photographs is an effort to bring the faces and words of Nicaraguans directly to the people of North America. The exhibit will be accompanied by three former Oregonians who lived and worked in Nicaragua as long-term staff members of Witness of Peace.

Dorothy Granada, Charles Gray and Bruce Bondurant will speak at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 2 at the University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette at the Buckley Center Auditorium where the exhibit will be displayed. The exhibit will be open to the public from 7-10 p.m., October 2; 10 a.m.-

10 p.m., October 3; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., October 4. Admission is free. Granada, Gray and Bondurant will speak on their experiences in Nicaragua. Granada worked for a number of years as a public health nurse with

Multnomah County. Gray is a former professor at the University of Oregon and co-founded the social change funding foundation, McKenzie River Gathering. Bruce Bondurant is presently a student at the University of Oregon.

Granata, 55, Gray, 61, and Bondurant recently returned from a one-year stay in Nicaragua where they accompanied delegations of U.S. and Canadian citizens into conflict zones to document contra attacks against civilians. Granada and Gray also worked in a resettlement camp as a nurse and carpenter.

The Portland program is sponsored by the University of Portland Cultural Programs office, Catholic Peace Ministry, Portland Central American Solidarity Committee, Portland-Corinto Sister City Association, Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation, Metanoia Peace Community, Council for

Human Rights in Latin America, and Portland Clergy and Laity Concerned. Following the Oregon tour, which will include Eugene, Salem and Astoria, the Nicaragua Mobile Education Project will be shown in Moscow, Idaho.



After a speech where the former chairwoman of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission warned of division created by the women's movement, a few women who are progressing and a majority who are not, Eleanor Holmes Norton met with a group of women to discuss the out-of-hand problem of teen pregnancy. Holmes was in Portland last weekend for the Women in The Year 2000 conference held at Mt. Hood Community College. Photo by Richard J. Brown

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

Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

Mr. _____
 Ms. _____
 Mrs. _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLIP IT
 TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK

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-Country area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Portland Observer*, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

MEMBER **NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION - Founded 1885**

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

National Advertising Representative
 Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
 New York

288-0033



Along the Color Line

by Dr. Manning Marable

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of sociology and political science at Purdue University. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

"Reagan in 1988?"

President Reagan's recent speech on the crisis of South Africa revealed more about the factors behind his domestic policies and the current state of American race relations than it did about the tyranny of apartheid.

Predictably, Reagan urged the South African regime to hold fast against the tide of Black liberation: "The South African Government is under no obligation to negotiate the future of the country with any organization that proclaims a goal of creating a Communist state." This statement was a vulgar lie on two levels. The mass democratic movement inside of South Africa, led by the African National Congress, is fully committed to a multiracial, democratic society. And the Botha regime in Pretoria has no plans to "negotiate" anything with anyone, so long as its faithful friend in the White House protects and defends its dictatorship. Dimly perhaps, even Reagan recognizes that his public statements don't square with the actual political conditions in South Africa. But the President's gut faith in white supremacy and anti-Communism blurs and distorts his comprehension of apartheid.

Equally predictable was the response of the establishment's media to Reagan's latest verbal assault on common sense. Columnist James Reston continued to praise Reagan's fierce opposition to economic sanctions, but added: "It was a typical Reagan performance—eloquent, hopeful and largely irrelevant to the main problem." Journalist Anthony Lewis was slightly more on the mark. "Mr. Reagan is on the side of P.W. Botha and the National Party rulers of South Africa," Lewis confirmed. "That was the real message of his speech. . . Reagan knows nothing of realities on the ground in South Africa. He sees South Africa as he sees all the world, through the glass of ideology." But even Lewis failed to understand why Reagan is so reluctant to sever his connections with the apartheid regime. Reagan and botha are ideo-

logical and political twins. The major difference between the two is that Reagan is leading the fight to crush Blacks' rights in a white-majority country.

The political forces of economic oppression and racial subordination see Reagan as their best hope to check the political advances of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, and working people. So desperate are our political opponents that some are even attempting to overturn the Constitution in order to give Reagan another four years in power.

Conservative Democrat William Keenan of Portland, Oregon, has established a political action committee, the "Third Term PAC", which advocates the repeal of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment, ratified in 1951, prohibits any person from being elected to the U.S. presidency more than two times. The gimmick has been picked up by Republican Congressman Guy Vander Jagt, who is also Chairman of the GOP Congressional Campaign Committee. In a letter sent to 300,000 people, Vander Jagt stated: "Ronald Reagan is one of the greatest American Presidents of all time, and I want to keep him on the job." The problems in this hasty maneuver are immense. First, the Democrats control the House of Representatives by a wide margin, and the Congress would have to pass this new amendment by the required two-thirds vote. Second, it would be virtually impossible to get 36 state legislatures to pass a new constitutional amendment by the 1988 presidential elections. Vander Jagt's alternative scheme, however, is to push for Reagan's election in early 1989 as Speaker of the House of Representatives, a powerful post which legally does not require House membership.

The consensus viewpoint from both Black South Africa and Black America is, however, quite clear: Reagan is no friend of ours. Two terms for Reagan was too much.

Letters to the Editor

Is It Open Season On The Constitution?

Concerning "Open Season On Blacks?" BY Sister Eva Kutas, Regional Vice President of The National Lawyers Guild, Portland Chapter, it may be open season on those who allow the letter of the law to defeat the purpose of the law. I'm not a student of Western Jurisprudence, but I do believe the document claims to represent the fruit of all basic political documents governing the Western world. It is a fine instrument, the Constitution. When the Constitution was drawn up by its founding fathers, Blacks were here but the Constitution was not for us. And, at the time that the Constitution was drawn up, Black people were swallowed up in Amerika and were called three-fifths of a human being. Here the political document that Amerika bases

her political life on and her system of law on classified us as sub-human. Some will say, "Well, don't forget, Brother Jamil, we added to that the amendments, you know. And, we have amended our great document." So you have. Isn't it easy to amend a document; but you have not amended the work done by your fathers in destroying a nation of people. How easy it is to write words on a paper that they are now recognized as full

human beings, but not one step has Amerika taken to amend the work of their fathers on our fathers. What work is that? The work of robbing our fathers totally; the work of taking from us our names, our language, our religion, our God, our basic human rights; all of these were stripped from us and for 300 years the so-called christian caucasoid people of this nation denied us the human right to know. When they decided that it was all right to teach Black people, they taught us what they wanted us to know about ourselves and about them.

So we are over 100 years up from slavery, yet we are in the same or worse condition today than when our fathers were so-called emancipated. Yes, my dear Sister Eva, they amended the Constitution but they have not amended or restored Black people to their own mind, so that Black people can think, act and do as other civilized human beings on the planet. When our Black Brothers and Sisters from Afrika and the Third World look at us, they see us as so pitiful. They wonder what, if anything, could be done to restore us to sane minds, to human intelligence, where we would act by one another as any oppressed people should. Anybody else oppressed can find unity.

"Shooting Leaves Man Dead" by Jerry Garner (Port-

land Observer, 7/30/86): Here we are oppressed on all sides, and we are battling each other as though we were free with no enemy around us, while beautiful Sisters stroll Union Ave. We can and will revive those whorish women and doped-up men. They are only in a shallow grave, waiting for the master word, waiting for the master grip. We know what the Masons and Shriners are referring to when they say that Hiram was hit on the head and brought on a westerly course, and buried in the north corner where there was no light, a little sprig of Acacia coming out of Hiram's grave to show that Hiram, though dead, had the power to live again if only someone could apply the master grip.

Even though Black People have been evilly mistreated in Amerika, you do not find Black people involved in espionage or involved in treasonous behavior against this country. With all we have suffered, Black people remain loyal and faithful to Amerika. And even though Amerika's army is full of young Black men and women willing right now to pour their life's blood out on foreign battlefields for this country, Amerika still evilly mistreats the people of those soldiers.

As you know, Sister Eva, neither Hitler nor any other man could have murdered six million people without the collaboration of many more or at least their shameless passivity. We must begin to question the right of a might which now murders in cold blood and wantonly smashes out any spark of rebellion in a desperate effort to erase those men/women of courage who dare to struggle for their freedom. We are taught in school to honor the slave owner Patick Henry for saying "Give me liberty or give me death", but we are simultaneously mesmerized with materialism and taught to value just about everything else above liberty. Those like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who dare to emulate Patick Henry's ultimatum are gladly given death. I believe you will agree, Sister Eva, continuous reevaluation and re-assessment of all legal institutions, processes and principles are required if effective legal strategies are to be employed against inequality, injustice, and racism. Since Slavery was nourished and sustained by racism and violence, racism and violence have been institutionalized against Blacks, especially in the administration of justice. Some of the great provisions of the Constitution still lay dormant for large numbers of poor people, regardless of color. Police Union leader Stan Peters and some of Portland's police may force "Open A Veritable Pandora's Box" by the House Judiciary Committee.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee