

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Portland Police Bureau Needs More Black Officers

The recognition of Portland Police Officer Harry Jackson for his outstanding service and personal commitment to neighborhood safety by the Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime is a testimony to the importance of Black officers, especially in areas with a large Black population.

While Blacks are statistically over-represented as perpetrators and victims of crimes, they are under-represented as professionals in the criminal justice system. For example, the Portland Police Bureau has more white women on the Bureau than Black men and women combined.

The under-employment of Blacks in the criminal justice professions has been identified as contributing to high Black crime rates. Black criminal justice professionals share common physical and cultural traits with other Blacks; they understand the nuances of Black life; and are, therefore, better able than whites to inconspicuously work in Black surroundings to establish contacts in order to gather information needed to prevent and solve crimes.

The latter explains why drug houses and drug dealers operate openly in Northeast neighborhoods. Besides the constitutional

issues that may arise from conducting a drug investigation, the other reason the Portland Police Bureau has not been successful in closing down drug houses is due, in part, to the absence of Blacks in the Bureau's Vice and Drug Unit.

Another highly visible consequence of Black under-employment in criminal justice is the common situation wherein white police officers patrol predominantly Black neighborhoods; thereby lending credence to the proposal that Black communities were analogous to the "colonial" model of European domination of non-whites, and that consistent with this model, white police officers performed the role of alien occupation troops whose only justification for existence was to protect white property in Black communities and maintain white domination of Blacks.

The Portland Police Bureau should make a sincere effort to recruit more Black officers. An increase in Black officers within the Department will increase Black identification with the system and result in lowering Black alienation from the Bureau and the criminal justice system. This will benefit the Black community, the Police Bureau, the justice system and the entire city.

## Letters to the Editor

The silence of The Oregonian is deafening on one of the biggest upsets in Multnomah County election history by Gladys McCoy for chairwoman of Multnomah County. One story buried in the forum section, and she was opposed by the very people she has tried to help over the years. This demonstrates who is the proven vote-getter in Multnomah County politics.

They say politics make strange bedfellows. Her opposition sure made some strange bedfellows. Politics can be just as dirty as labor relations. This time the people won, and the lady with class will take over as chairperson of Multnomah County in January. So Happy St. Patrick's Day to the real Black Irish, Gladys McCoy. Sincerely, Bernard Kelly

## What Can He Do In An Unjust System

Mayor Bud Clark's controversial appearance (style of dress), at the recent reception for the newly appointed South African Ambassador, Edward Perkins, might have served as an omen and raises a question. How can we, (I did not attend), serve as well-wishers to a man Pretoria will disrespect, because he'll be seen as inherently inferior, regardless of who he represents?

The Mayor's dress is an irrelevant side issue. Instead, concern should be focused on the plight of our Brothers and Sisters in South Africa, whose daily struggle for freedom is costing their lives. We need to keep in mind that Edward Perkins is going to be representing a government that tried to stop sanctions against South Africa, even though the majority of U.S. citizens wanted them. While sanctions are not a solution to ending apartheid, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Tutu, Allan Boesak and many, many others believe they could contribute to the demise of the racist social system. Our government has a stake in making sure that the economic exploitation of Black South Africans continues, as it has been U.S. Companies that reap profits from their cheap labor.

Anybody can say they abhor apartheid, as this government does, but is the U.S. government prepared to help bring about not only the end of apartheid but a just redistribution of the land and wealth in South Africa? Is that the dialogue in which the Ambassador will be "constructively engaging"?

Sending a new Ambassador to South Africa, Black or White, sends the wrong message to Black South Africans who are faced with daily repression and state-sponsored terrorism. Since September 1984, over 2,330 people, mostly Black, have been killed. There

have been 35,000 detentions since 1984, with 22,000 of those occurring since June 2, 1986! Many of those killed have been children.

Recently, Maki Mandela, daughter of Nelson Mandela, spoke at a press conference at the University of South Alabama. Among other things, she said that President Reagan isn't a popular figure among Blacks in South Africa, that "people have no confidence at all in Reagan. They feel that Reagan is propping up the white racist system." She further stated that appointing a Black U.S. ambassador is pointless, that "whether the ambassador is White or Black, what can he do in an unjust system?" And that is exactly the point. The new Ambassador will be representing U.S. government policy, which to date has been a tragic failure. This policy of "Constructive Engagement" has no credibility in this country, witness the recent historic passage of sanctions legislation in spite of a Presidential veto. The Black-led Anti-Apartheid Movement (Free South Africa Movement, TransAfrica, Congressional Black Caucus, Washington Office on Africa, national Black United Front, Call to Conscience, etc.) has also rejected U.S. policy toward South Africa, as an ill-conceived and failed policy.

The Ambassador is probably a very nice man, but he has accepted the wrong job at the wrong time in history. This will not be the first time that our government has made a stooge of a decent human being for bankrupt political ends.

Avel L. Gordly  
Director  
American Friends Service Committee  
Southern Africa Program



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## 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.

### "Blacks and the 1986 Election

Three important lessons for Black politics emerged from this year's election.

First: The number of Blacks elected to the house of Representatives will continue to increase, as more Congressional districts gain Black and Hispanic voter majorities. Floyd Flake of Queens and Kwesi Mfume of Baltimore replaced departing Black Democrats in Congress. In Mississippi's delta, attorney Mike Espy challenged two-term Republican Congressman Webb Franklin. By mobilizing a strong Black turnout and by winning a small fraction of the white vote, Espy became the first Black leader since Reconstruction to represent Mississippi in the House. In Atlanta, civil rights leader John R. Lewis easily won election to Congress. The total number of Congressional Black Caucus members will now reach twenty-two.

Another Black Democratic candidate, Faye Williams, should have been elected to Congress from Louisiana's Eighth District. Her opponent, Clyde Holloway, a conservative white nurseryman, was inarticulate and devoid of coherent policy ideas. In public opinion telephone surveys taken several weeks before the election, Williams was ten points ahead of Holloway. But patterning himself after former Senator Joe McCarthy, Holloway scurrilously attacked his Democratic opponent, describing her in his campaign literature as "ultraliberal, pro-abortion, for gay rights, for gun control." Holloway went so low as to smear Williams' personal life, telling voters that she had previously maintained a "love affair" with "a known Communist." In a largely rural district that is only 42 percent Black, a liberal Black Democrat would have a hard time winning even under the best of circumstances. The gutter tactics of Holloway worked—but Williams should be back again to contest the seat in 1988.

Second: The Democrats owe their new majority in the U.S. Senate primarily to Black voters. In California, whites voted for Republican challenger Ed Zschau over incumbent liberal Democrat Alan Cranston by a margin of 50 to 47. But Black Californians who comprise 9 percent of the state's electorate, gave Cranston an 82 percent mandate, and the Democrat narrowly won. North Carolina's whites gave Republican Senator James T. Broyhill 56 percent of the vote over Democratic opponent Terry Sanford. But Blacks in that Southern state, who total 16 percent of the electorate, gave

the victorious Sanford 88 percent of their votes.

Republican Senator Jeremiah Denton of Alabama was firmly ahead of conservative Democrat Richard C. Shelby among whites, by a 61 to 39 percent margin. But Alabama Blacks comprise 21 percent of the state's voters. Despite Shelby's rightwing views on many issues, he was considered more acceptable than the dangerous Denton. With 88 percent of the Black vote, Shelby narrowly upset Denton by 11,700 votes. And in Louisiana, Democratic Congressman John B. Breaux defeated Republican challenger Henson Moore for the Senate, by winning 85 percent of the Black vote. Moore gained 60 percent of the white vote, but it wasn't enough.

Third: The Black vote remains the most crucial component of the Democratic Party's electoral base, specifically because of its dependability. According to a recent New York Times/CBS poll, the Democratic House candidates nationwide did best among these groups: Blacks, 86 percent; Hispanics, 75 percent; Jews, 70 percent; members of union households and government employees, 63 percent; fulltime students, 62 percent. The bad news for Democrats is that they continue to do relatively poorly among other electoral groups which have historically supported their party. For instance, 64 percent of all blue collar workers voted for Democratic Congressional candidates back in 1982; this year, their share was 55 percent. Adults earning less than \$12,500 annually voted nearly 3 to 1 for Democrats in 1982; this year, low income voters again went Democratic, but by only 56 percent. Democratic candidates continued to do poorly among all white males (47 percent), evangelical Christians (31 percent) and even first-time voters (49 percent).

Blacks, in short, are absolutely essential for any Democratic successes in 1988. This is precisely why Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Coalition must immediately investigate all possibilities for an independent, Third Party presidential campaign for 1988. There is no respect in politics unless the promise of rewards is balanced by the fear of punishment. The Republican Party's agenda is antithetical to our interests, so we cannot enter this party to punish Democrats. However, we cannot expect any major public policy gains from those we have elected unless we have a potential electoral vehicle which can "punish" Democrats who betray our real interests.



## Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey, N.D.

The recent elections have not changed much of the Oregon House and Senate makeup. While there were a few changes in both sections of the Legislature, none of these changes will significantly change the positions of these bodies in most areas of legislation. The election of Neil Goldschmidt to the position of governor will make a philosophical difference, but how well that can be converted into actual legislative change remains to be seen.

The results of both elections and initiative measures send some clear messages as to the feelings of the Oregon electorate. Almost all tax issues were defeated. Oregonians once again showed their displeasure with the idea of a sales tax, while also opposing progressive plans such as the homestead exemption measure offered by Fair Share. This leaves the Legislature with the task of finding improped support in such areas as health care, while the majority of Oregonians feel that additional taxes are unacceptable. We know that the Reagan administration has no plans to help support state social services, so our Legislature has a major task ahead in compensating for the diminishing federal support for health and social issues.

The failure of the toxic waste initiative was something that was a personal letdown for me, as I thought that Oregonians would show a greater respect for our environment. While

the E.P.A. has said that the U.S. cannot today afford to clean up its polluted water, we as voters helped to sustain the penny-wise attitude that leaves pounds of cleanup and potential cancers to our children and grandchildren. I had thought that our residents had moved from the "industrial era" belief that rivers and aquifers offer a perfect sewage receptacle. With the Presidential veto of the Clean Waters Act, we will certainly see a continuance of present increases of drinking water-associated problems, which include cancer, heavy-metal toxicity, cardiovascular disease and many other aspects of contamination. With no clear-cut easy solution to this problem, we may well join Europe as a bottled water society in the near future, and Oregon's state fish may have to be changed to the carp.

The one thing that impressed me about this election was how strong a factor money and advertising was to the end result of the elections. It appears that the common sense, issues-conscious, voting public of Oregon is showing the national trends towards the marketing of candidates. Let us hope that our independent natures help to move us back to a more issue-conscious populace, or our current "short-term" approach will guarantee us long-term problems.

Good luck to Neil and all of our representatives as 1987 looks to be a challenging time for the State of Oregon.

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