

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Reflections

I once read that in a bullfight there comes a time when, after being brutalized while making innumerable charges at the movement of the cape, the bull finally turns and faces his adversary, with the only movement being his heaving, bloody sides. It is believed for the first time he really sees the "Matador", and his final confrontation is known as "the moment of truth". And as we know, for the bull this moment of recognition comes too late.

The experience of Black people all over the world presents an analogous situation. For hundreds of years we have been charging at the banners that are held by the European Matadors. And those banners have been represented by such concepts as democracy, capitalism, marxism, religion and education.

I believe that now is indeed Black people's moment of truth, and it is time for us to look at the Matador and our situation.

In looking at the Matador, I recently read of the President's concern for the Contra "freedom fighters" and of his fight with Congress to add just another \$100 million dollars to the fat tab of the Contras to assist them in militarily overthrowing the government of Nicaragua.

After reading that article, I thought, if the President of the United States is that concerned about people having freedom and democracy, perhaps we Black Americans ought to stand and be counted as supporting some type of military aid to our struggling Brothers and Sisters in South Africa. I mean, here we are (some of us, anyway) marching around embassies and corporation offices shouting, "You should be ashamed," while Botha and his gang of thugs are murdering innocent Black men, women and children.

I recall when the Arabs and Jews went to war, the United States immediately sent jet fighter planes and other assorted toys of destruction and death—because the Jewish-American community demanded such for their kind. And I don't recall any protesting outrage when the OPEC oil nations began buying "reality weapons" to defend their kind.

So here we are, just like the bull, charging at some jive talk lip service cloaked in the cape of destruction, while Europeans and (white) corporate America continues to take care of business while killing off our kind.

During World War II, the Asian-Americans, particularly the Japanese-Americans, were happy and proud to be a part of the great American democratic dream—until they woke up to a nightmare when the American government suspended all of their rights and locked them in concentration camps because they were still "Japanese".

Yes, it was racism! Don't you dare fix your mouth to say it wasn't. They didn't round up and incarcerate German-Americans and all those others from the mix of hostile regions of Europe. And, oh yeah, in the eyes of most Americans, Black loyalty was still shaky during World War II, so we worked mostly in the kitchen and behind the lines, etc.

We have to understand that our liberation and those of our Brothers and Sisters around the world must come from within ourselves. And if our relatives in South Africa need weapons, we must find the way to provide them. We owe it to our ancestors, forefathers, ourselves and our children. For sure we can't demand that the rulers in Washington, D.C. (look-alike relatives to the English and South African invaders) send some "tangible aid" to our people, such as M 16's, Mac 10's and 11's, armored assault vehicles, tanks, etc. If we

did, I do believe that they would immediately begin work to repeal the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. Now, for those of you who don't know, the 13th Amendment allegedly abolished slavery; the 14th allegedly guaranteed us equal protection and due process of law under the law; the 15th, the right to vote. All three of these amendments can be repealed by Congress at any moment or declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

So, check it out. Oh, I know you ain't ready for this, but if Congress repealed the three amendments, or the Supreme Court declared them unconstitutional, by the time the news was released at 6 p.m., we'd be surrounded by the United States Army, Marines, Delta Forces, Satellites, National Guards, State Police, Portland Police Department, KKK and all other paramilitary units of every shade but Black. What'd you say? The Brothers in the military goin do what? No, Brothers and Sisters, they done had their weapons taken at 5 p.m., and placed in the briggs, stockades and Leavenworth.

After we are all surrounded and beat up, the other army, as proven by history, would appear—the Captains of Religion and Lieutenants of Education, telling us to be cool and non-violent. Some of those from Religion would remind us that "the Lord works in strange ways!"

Moving right along, just about everywhere one finds Blacks and Whites in close proximity, it seems that Whites are always in control. Be it in Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington or South Africa. And the real strange thing is that Black people (collectively) never seem to question this imbalance. We have Brothers and Sisters who become "highly offended and downright mad" if you even voice this question, and are quick to say, "We shouldn't be racist and treat them the way they treat us." Well, for those who think this way, I say "that to be a racist, you must be in a position to oppress and exploit others because of their race."

Have you ever wondered about the lack of conflict between the White races' religion and racial discrimination? History teaches that they (Caucasians) have oppressed, exploited and murdered Black people all in the name of Jesus Christ! And with the blessing and sanctions of their churches. Ask yourself, if the Jews can build centers to honor those of their race who have suffered tragedy, should not we also honor those of our race who have been murdered as a result of racism? Should we allow ourselves and the next generation to forget that the "Pope" "then" blessed the African slave trade and the money it generated for the church coffers, and recently blessed every Italian pilot and plane on their way to bomb Ethiopian men, women and children.

The lesson learned from the 60's is that white liberals give lip service to Black liberation and all the while objecting that we want too much, too fast. Remember the CBS 60 Minutes expose on the political machine of Howard Hughes? The man spent megabucks to suppress our freedom advances, and you better believe that, though he is dead and gone, his brothers are seeing to it that our road to liberation is blocked at every turn. The struggle, of course, isn't over, and because of our high visibility, Black Americans cannot separate ourselves from it. So, beware that "if they got me last night, it going to be all about coming for you in the morning" unless we act as a people against the present genocide!

Charles A. Williams  
Uhuru Sa Sa Member

## Oregon Scholars: An 'Old-Fashioned' Idea

by William E. Davis

Here's an idea that's as all-American as the free enterprise system, and as down to earth as old-fashioned hard work.

The idea: Grant scholarships to top high school graduates to study in Oregon's colleges and universities.

You, like many Oregonians, may be surprised we aren't doing it already.

In fact, until the early 1960s, scholarships that rewarded students' high achievement and hard work were common in this country. Indeed, people held "scholarship students" in high regard.

Today, by contrast, all state and federal scholarship aid for Oregon students is based on financial need.

We must continue to help students who need it. But we also must begin actively sending a message to our youth that scholarship will be recognized and hard work encouraged.

An Oregon Scholars proposal will be submitted to the 1987 Oregon Legislature in January. Already attracting support from business leaders, educators and other citizens, it would work like this:

- Oregon high school students graduating in the top 5 percent statewide would receive \$1,500 to apply toward tuition and fees.

- The grants would be good at any accredited two- or four-year Oregon college or university, public or private.

- The \$1,500 could be renewed annually for up to four years for students who maintain a "B" average in their college studies.

- The program would cost an estimated \$2.3 million annually during the first biennium, and \$3.5 million to \$4.5 million in the second biennium to pay costs of renewable grants.

As a special provision, we have recommended that scholarships also be awarded to

the top 5 percent of blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans graduating from Oregon high schools. These students now are under-represented: The percentage of students from these minority groups going on to college is not much more than half that of Caucasian students.

Such scholarships can be powerful motivators to students, not only to excel in high school to win the scholarship, but also to continue to work hard in college to keep it.

Oregonians also have to worry about the growing number of students who indicate an interest in going out of state to school; for the first time, the percentage of Oregon's top high school students indicating an interest in out-of-state colleges exceeds that of those interested in Oregon's public, four-year colleges and universities.

When our "best and brightest" leave Oregon, many never return. Yet these students often become the kind of business, educational and political leaders every state needs.

When I was a university president in New Mexico, we had a privately financed merit scholarship program. Consistently, when we asked students if these scholarships made a difference, half said they stayed in New Mexico because of them.

Oregon Scholars grants should have that effect in our state, as well. In fact, Washington, Colorado and at least 13 other states already offer merit scholarships to top students.

Perhaps more important, these grants will send a message to our youth that we put a premium on hard work and high achievement.

These grants also will send a clear message nationwide that Oregon is serious about academic excellence in both our secondary schools and in our colleges and universities.

(William E. Davis is chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.)

son, the civil rights leader remains the most charismatic and visible of all leading Democrats, Black or white. According to a poll conducted by the Washington, D.C.-based Joint Center for Political Studies, Jackson's name is instantly recognized by 97 percent of all Blacks and 90 percent of whites. By contrast, presidential contender Gary Hart is recognized by only 62 percent of all Blacks and 79 percent of whites. Sixty-nine percent of all Blacks and 22 percent of whites polled want Jackson to challenge Hart, Mario Cuomo, and other white candidates in the 1988 Democratic primaries. Almost two thirds of all Blacks want Jackson to win his party's presidential nomination. This represents a large electoral bloc committed to progressive policies, which the Reaganized Democrats are now dismissing as irrelevant. But Jackson constantly reminds these new converts to conservatism: "When you combine all of those who have been rejected by Reaganomics, you get the majority of the American people."

The Rainbow Coalition now faces its greatest test, which will probably determine the future of civil rights and progressive politics for the next generation. Jackson and many Rainbow leaders assume that their strategy must be to pressure the majority of Democrats back to liberalism, while not jeopardizing

either Cuomo's or Hart's (the probable presidential nominees) chances against George Bush or some other Republican challenger in the 1988 general election. Four more years of Reaganism, they reason, would destroy more human needs programs; set back civil rights, education, and health care; and guarantee an even more reactionary Supreme Court. But this strategy is based on the now-questionable assumption that the Democratic Party, once in power, would implement a modest version of Great Society-traditional liberalism, and not the lukewarm version of Reaganism of the 1980s. Unfortunately, even if a Democratic candidate emerges victorious in 1988, the odds are that he would pursue a domestic and foreign policy agenda which in many respects would be hardly distinguishable from that of Bush, Robert Dole, Howard Baker, etc.

So perhaps the real issue is not whether Jackson should run in the Democratic primaries. We ought to carefully explore the possibility of a Rainbow presidential campaign in the general elections, and the sooner, the better. We might be better off building a strong social protest movement against the Reaganism of both major parties, than endorsing another Reaganized Democrat in the general election.

## Along the Color Line

by Dr. Manning Marable

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of sociology and public affairs at Portland University. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

### The Rainbow Coalition vs. The Democrats

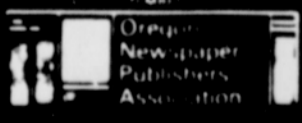
The strangest sideshow during the revelations about the Iran-Contra arms conspiracy has been the bizarre behavior of leading Democrats. Most are stumbling all over themselves trying to act as "responsible" critics of President Reagan and his cowboy aides. When Reaganite ideologue Patrick Buchanan claimed that NSC member Oliver North should be compared to the "abolitionists" in their justifiable violations of slavery laws, most Democrats failed to attack such rightwing lunacy.

The reason for this failure is clear. Since 1984, both major parties have become "Reaganized." Liberals in the Republican Party have virtually ceased to exist. The Democratic Party under national chairman Paul Kirk has moved swiftly to the right on most public policy issues. Instead of focusing on the problems of traditional constituents—Blacks, Hispanics, feminists, trade unionists, the unemployed and the elderly, Kirk insists that Democrats must concentrate on the "broad national audience." Kirk warns that prospective Democratic presidential candidates must avoid engaging in "negative, polarizing and party-bashing campaigns." And he also urges Democrats not to insist upon "narrow litmus-

test demands" that candidates must support. This Reaganized strategy is a recipe for disaster, of course, because the Democratic Party lost the majority of support among white middle class voters in general elections three decades ago, and they'll never recover it. Its only hope for long-term growth lies in the direction of the Rainbow Coalition. But it refuses to move in that direction, because the mass-mobilization of millions of minority and low-income voters would radically change the political character and leadership of the Democratic Party.

Kirk's biggest headache in this scenario is Jesse Jackson, who understands exactly what's at stake. "The rightward drift is not only coming from the elephant, but the Democratic donkey," Jackson recently stated. The leading Democratic conservatives, including former Virginian Governor Charles Robb, Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Florida Senator Bob Graham, and Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, as well as others, are essentially "political schizophrenics," Jackson explains. "They are looking like Kennedy and behaving like Reagan."

Despite the continued attacks against Jack-



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