

Letters to the Editor

Time For An Understanding

It is interesting to watch the developing feud between Portland's Black Leadership Conference and newly elected Governor Neil Goldschmidt's office in Salem.

The problem is apparently attributed to campaign promises allegedly made by the Governor in order to secure the group's endorsement during the recently completed gubernatorial campaign.

The BLC claims Governor Goldschmidt agreed to consult with them on certain issues pertaining to the Black community, citing appointments in the penal system and economic development as examples.

The group further claims that correspondence (including at least two certified letters) was ignored and numerous telephone calls were not returned. According to press statements, the correspondence asked Goldschmidt to explain how he planned to live up to promises he made before the Black Leadership Conference last March.

The Oregonian quotes Ron Herndon, co-leader of the B.L.C., as accusing the Goldschmidt campaign for "lack of coordination and, ultimately, respect shown the Black community."

The response from the Governor's office ranges from being "too busy to answer letters or return telephone calls," to a complete denial by the Governor that these promises were made.

While we may never know the real truth as

to what triggered the dispute, the differences between the two factions are trivial; lying on the surface—waiting for an amicable resolution.

Spokespersons from the Governor's Office attempted to downplay issues by offering the recent appointment of Freddy J. Webb-Petett as Welfare head in defense of Goldschmidt's commitment to Blacks. Ms. Petett, as the so-far lone appointee, most certainly is embarrassed to be used in this manner, and the comment on her appointment was an affront to other Blacks.


Goldschmidt need not define his record on Civil Rights. It is paralleled in this state only by that of the late governor Tom McCall, in so far as equal opportunities for all races are concerned. Throughout his political career, the Governor has earned remarkable grades, both locally and on the national scene, after serving his apprenticeship in the Civil Rights arena in Mississippi in 1962-63.

So, perhaps, to be branded insensitive after less than two weeks on the job may be somewhat premature.

The problems confronting Blacks in this state appear to mandate new direction—given the state of Oregon's economy. And, with the talent that is available in both camps, a meeting of the minds seems to be in order.

So, gentlemen, which shall make the first move?

Anonymous



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.

Racist Vigilantism and Against Blacks Police Attacks

Lynching a Black person—along with baseball, hot dogs, and Fourth of July picnics—is an American tradition. Scapegoat politics, or blame-the-victim vigilantism, always surfaces whenever the political establishment turns its back on civil rights for minorities.

The most recent publicized example of racially-motivated random violence occurred in a middle class, white neighborhood in Queens, New York, last month. Three Black men were forced to walk through the white area when their car broke down. Stopping briefly to purchase a pizza, they were harassed by a gang of white youths, who shouted: "Niggers, you don't belong here!" The Black men were chased and beaten with fists, tree limbs and a baseball bat. One victim managed to escape, and another brutally beaten man survived only by pretending to be unconscious. But the third Black man, 23-year-old Michael Griffith, was beaten and forced to flee across a highway. Struck by an automobile, Griffith's body smashed the windshield, was thrown against the centerline divider, and he was killed.

Although several white suspects were quickly arrested, the crimes provoked an uproar—as well as some hypocritical posturing by local white politicians. Mayor Ed Koch quickly termed the incident "a racial lynching" and "the most horrendous incident" of his nine years in office. But Koch, a vicious political opponent of most Black and progressive causes, had directly contributed to the anti-Black political culture in the city.

Black leaders in New York understood the real issues behind Griffith's death. Civil rights attorney C. Vernon Mason noted that it had become "more acceptable for whites to take the law into their own hands" when they encounter Black people. New York Urban League Director Harriet Michel observed, "The attackers felt that they had a right to punish Michael Griffith, and punish him because he was Black... Since this is not an isolated incident, finding the culprits is not enough."

We should expand Michel's critique to the entire country, because in the 1980s, racist violence and police intimidation have become almost commonplace. In Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, a New Orleans suburb, Sheriff Harry Lee announced a "new strategy for combating crime" last month. "If there are some young Blacks driving a car late at night in a predominantly white area," Lee stated, "they will be stopped." After harsh criticism from civil rights groups, Lee was forced

to rescind the order. But most local whites, Republicans and Democrats alike, rallied behind the sheriff. Lee is now the overwhelming favorite for reelection as sheriff this year. As both George Wallace and Ronald Reagan have shown previously, race-baiting is still a popular technique to win whites' support.

In Tampa, Florida several weeks ago, New York Mets pitching star Dwight Gooden and his friends were pulled over for careless driving. The white police officers claim that Gooden leaped from the driver's seat, swore and began to attack them. Gooden was forcibly subdued and charged later with resisting arrest and assaulting police officers. But eyewitnesses tell a very different story. Joseph Riley, a Black construction worker who saw the arrest, states that Gooden hit no one and that the police "grabbed him when he was reaching for his wallet." Gooden was smashed in the face with a flashlight, and went down. Jerry Halstead, a white executive who also witnessed the incident, states that Gooden was lying on the ground, when the police "were hitting him with nightsticks or flashlights." Even some policemen's accounts of the case are at variance with the details provided by other arresting officers. The Gooden case shows that neither money nor social status can protect innocent Blacks from becoming victims of racist brutality.

There are literally hundreds of similar cases each year, most of which are never publicized. Last summer in Brooklyn, for instance, a white gang attacked a Black bus driver without any provocation. Beating him senseless with baseball bats and garbage can covers, a crowd of neighborhood whites applauded and cheered the vigilantes. No arrests were made in the case.

These and other incidents are directly attributable to the Reagan administration's contempt for civil rights and civil liberties. The president has fostered the general attitude that Blacks have "been given too much" and that affirmative action is "reverse discrimination". As New York Black activist Charles Baron relates, political leaders and the legal system "are sending a clear message to police and vigilantes. This racist climate has created less respect for Black life." As long as the Black Freedom Movement remains on the defensive in its struggle against both Reaganism and racism inside the political arena and criminal justice system, these vicious attacks will continue unchecked.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey, N.D.

A couple of weeks ago, Jerry Garner, of the Portland Observer, wrote an article about recent studies that show that some drugs (especially marijuana) may damage the human immune system. He cited a recently completed study done at Tufts University on THC (the active ingredient in Marijuana), as well as mentioning cigarettes and alcohol as other immune-depressing substances. Today, I'd like to go a little further into the immune system and some of its stressors.

The immune system is a miraculous and vital part of the human system. It is made up of two separate classes of cells called the granulocytes and agranulocytes, which represent the cellular and humoral systems respectively. While we used to think that these two systems were completely different from each other, we recognize that part of the agranulocytes also have a cellular component to them. Jerry alluded to part of this, when he wrote about the natural killer cells that are depressed by THC.

The term "cellular" refers to the fact that this group of cells fights infectious organisms on a one-to-one cellular level while the humoral cells release chemicals into the blood system (old term, the "humors"), which specifically fight off an invading organism. The humoral cells are the ones that are responsible for immunity to flus, etc., and are the cells affected in the AIDS infection. Both systems are needed to assure health and avoid life-threatening infection.

While many people have considered marijuana a relatively harmless drug, we are now realizing that there are important immune and respiratory concerns involved with its use. As with marijuana, we are also finding that there are many other substances that affect the immune system.

Almost all stimulants that act on the adrenal glands have the potential to depress immune function. Part of the depression involves the increased depletion of vitamins C, B-6, and zinc as well as the long-term malnutrition found in many users of stimulant drugs. Cocaine (including crack) and speed are some of the recreational drugs that are in the category of stimulants that negatively affect the immune system. Other, lesser stimulants, that have been linked to immune depression in


research, include high intake of coffee and highly concentrated sugars.

Other drugs that have a known depression of the immune system include those known as anti-mitotic. Mitosis is the process of cell division and is necessary for an active immune process. At the most severe end of the anti-mitotic spectrum are the cancer drugs used to slow tumor growth. In the middle are the cortisone type of anti-inflammatory drugs which are prescribed as well as available in over-the-counter preparations. At the other end of the spectrum are drugs such as aspirin which, while less impactful than the two previous groups, still is known to moderately depress certain immune processes. In fact, all of these drugs are similar in their action, and dosage is the more accurate way of defining the severity of their immune-depression.

With the tragic onset of AIDS outbreak in the world, it is more important than ever to nourish your immune system through drug-free life styles. While there is still much that remains unknown about AIDS, I still firmly believe, as I wrote in Healthwatch over 2 years ago, that a depressed immune system is an integral part of the susceptibility to the life-threatening actions of the AIDS virus. As more is known about AIDS, the belief that some people who contact the virus can successfully fight it off is becoming accepted in the orthodox medical community.

A healthy immune system involves many aspects. There is certainly the choice to avoid immune-depressing activities and indulgences, such as use of recreational and pharmaceutical drugs. The negative effects of stress are also found to involve immune depression, and, likewise, stress management, including exercise, is helpful for a healthy immune system.

Finally, there are the known relationships of nutrition and the immune system. These include the intake of beta-carotene, Vitamin C, Vitamins B-1, B-2, B-3, B-6, and zinc and magnesium. These substances can be found in many whole foods as well as in over-the-counter vitamin supplements. Consult a knowledgeable person for appropriate dosage, if you plan to take these in supplemental form.



An Investment in Oregon's Recovery

by William E. Davis

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

When you hire winners, you can count on a payoff as surely as when you buy a winning lottery ticket. Recently, I saw an analysis that illustrates how hiring and keeping the best college and university faculty can pay off even better than that.

In a nationwide survey of university chemistry departments, the 23-member University of Oregon department ranked 11th in outside research dollars generated per faculty member.

This may surprise you: The UO chemistry department won an average of \$185,000 per faculty member in outside research support, more than prestigious schools such as Yale, UCLA, Northwester, Purdue and UC-Berkeley.

That and other money is being added to the Oregon economy because we hired outstanding faculty with excellent reputations.

But Oregon, long at the back of the salary pack, is struggling just to stay even.

The need to hire and retain excellent faculty is the reason the Oregon State Board of Higher Education established faculty salaries as its No. 1 general-fund priority in the 1987 Oregon Legislature.

Nearly everyone understands that to attract the best people, we must be competitive. After years of neglect, Oregon is beginning to do that.

In 1985, the Oregon Legislature voted \$40 million for higher-education salaries. This money was used not only for across-the-board raises, but also to recognize top professors and to pay more in highly competitive disciplines such as business and the sciences.

As a result, faculty salaries at Oregon's three major public universities are expected to rise to 76th out of 108 comparable institutions. This is good news for Oregonians who want their public colleges and universities to deliver the best not only in education, research and public service, but also economic recovery.

As recently as last year, faculty salaries at Oregon's research universities were an embarrassing disgrace, ranking at or near the bottom among comparable schools.

The State Board has asked for 6.5 percent faculty-

salary increases to keep up with raises the colleges and universities across the nation, plus 1.85 percent to move Oregon forward.

The State Board's goal is to pay salaries comparable to those in states of similar size and resources such as Colorado, Kansas, Arizona, Nevada, Iowa and Wyoming.

Reaching this goal will help our public, four-year colleges and universities do even more to stimulate the Oregon economy.

Oregon State University figures probably 50 faculty members on the Corvallis campus bring in \$100,000 or more annually in grants and contracts.

For example, a biochemistry professor brought in an average of \$377,000 a year over a five-year period, while a geophysics professor averaged \$375,000 annually for five years.

At the U of O, four recently hired science faculty together have attracted more than \$4 million in grants.

Unfortunately, we also have dozens of examples of good people who have left Oregon—and who have refused job offers from Oregon schools—for better salaries elsewhere. At the U of O, for example, two assistant professors of marketing left to earn \$5,000 and \$6,500 more at the University of Tennessee and University of Alabama. At Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, a computer-systems instructor left a \$25,600 job to earn \$45,000 (with a reduced teaching load) at the University of Iowa.

Top-flight professors not only attract research dollars to their states, which economists tell us turn over several times more in every sector of the economy; but these people also attract companies that want to be near the brainpower, and the research, of scholars and researchers who can help them develop and sell successful products. These companies, in turn, generate millions of dollars in investments and thousands of jobs.

Moreover, first-rate professors deliver excellence in the classroom, which helps to guarantee the career and personal success of our sons and daughters.

No doubt about it: Attracting the best college and university teachers and researchers into our state colleges and universities is a sure bet for Oregon.

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