

Blacks Fighting Blacks

by George Ejim

The best thing that can happen to Blacks in the remainder of this decade is Blacks uniting themselves to make better use of the opportunities ahead. The years ahead are bright for Blacks and other minorities in the state of Oregon. The tiny number of Blacks in Oregon will once again have their course championed by those who care. The election of Goldschmidt into office as the governor of the state of Oregon and Gladys McCoy as the chair of Multnomah County Commissioners will open another era for Blacks and other minorities, especially the poor.

It is high time for Blacks in politics, business and other sectors to begin a program for statewide solidarity to determine their own course. By being strongly united they would be more productive and effective. There is much to be lost when useful energies are spent in destructive criticisms. If Blacks and other minorities would devote more time in lifting themselves and working on their problems, there would be tremendous opportunities for every one. My observation is that there seems to be growing evidence

that Black people are hurting themselves severely; they are causing more harm to themselves added to the problems that the system has placed upon them.

No matter what might have taken place in the past, the community would like to see Blacks renouncing their differences and joining hands together to begin a new era. The time has come again for them to lay down their differences and pick up those areas that will enhance the progress of the community for constructive statewide solidarity. United we stand, but divided we must surely fall.

Goldschmidt is ready to go. He has no time to waste, and ultimately no time for unimportant or insignificant issues. We must be ready to be part of the "Oregon comeback" in order to build a strong state where Blacks, Whites, and others can live and work together. The State of Oregon has the reputation of accommodating the poor, homeless, helpless and the weak in her own ways. For Blacks to join the mainstream in this administration, we must begin by uniting ourselves first. We must be concerned with the business aspect of the society, as well as the political and international problems affecting us. The South African situation must continue to be a supreme concern in our hearts. We must also show those concerns in our daily lives.

Blacks in Business

Black people in business should choose this year to take a lead in championing a better business understanding among minority businesses. Let there be special ways and means conducive to intuitive and inventive pursuits, as well as the testing of those insights that may lead to genuine leap-throughs into new frontiers such as, national and international business ventures. For example, Africa is an area yet undiscovered by Black businesses in Oregon. Nigeria, Kenya and Oregon can create a triangular trade which will benefit the three states especially in the areas of tourism, import and export of agricultural goods, industrial and management of manpower. Also, let there be spaces for scholarly business studies, scientific research relating to businesses among Black people. The society has moved rapidly into the academic and scientific business world, and Blacks must be integrated into the quality of the system in order to work within it. Everyone would love to see an in-depth Business research group among minority businesses. There should be no more irrelevant programs that only have the ability to help us temporarily. Let us discover innovative and tasteful ways to communicate and learn business and money matters. There should be a living and working business community with character oriented backgrounds. When we work in these ways we are about to see those deserted streets of Northeast Portland come back in full business. There is more room to cooperate and rebuild Northeast Union and Killingsworth where most of the minority businesses are located. However, when Blacks fight Blacks there would be only destruction and disaster left.

I challenge One Hundred Black Minority businesses to contribute five thousand dollars each into a common fund which will create a pool of five hundred thousand dollars. By the same token, I challenge the state government to match the fund with an equal amount. This plan would help the Black business community in the following ways: (1) It will aid the small businesses, (2) The fund will help to build a financial institution (Bank) exclusively for minority businesses, (3) The fund (institution) will be solely responsible for lending and monitoring the problems arising from bonding, insurance and credit procedures, (4) The institution will be responsible for an ongoing academic, scientific and scholarly research for Blacks and other minority businesses, and (5) The institution will be a guiding father and will serve as a protecting agent against failing businesses. The program could also be integrated into the metro-area colleges and universities where there are facilities. It is important that businesses among minorities share in contributing to the fund, because they will be careful with the management of their own money.

Blacks In Politics

It is within the frame work of this article to believe that every Black person in authority must have worked very hard for the community. It is not within our power to think that one Black is Blacker than the other. Within this context, every Black person in politics whether local or national has contributed immensely for this society. It will be very wise to support each other in any opportunities we may find ourselves. Those active citizens, we call activists, should not be ignored or neglected, for most of their works

Portland Trailblazer Helps Church Accentuate the Positive

When the Reverend Roy L. Tate led his congregation through the streets of North Portland in a church dedication march on November 23, 1986, the point was to announce the expansion of the following community action programs: Drug and alcohol counseling, free food and clothes distribution, etc. . . . It became newsworthy when Reverend Tate had to fight Mayor Bud Clark through the Portland City Council to win the right to march through the streets of the Albina community with police escorts. HE WON!

The Christ Memorial Church led by Rev. Tate continues to develop into a leading positive voice from the Albina area in its proclamation against drugs, prostitution and other negative behavior.

To be sure, the church is now announcing a Men's Day Program designed to promote "Positive Role Models For The Youth" featuring Portland Trailblazer Steve Johnson as the keynote speaker. The program will be on February 22, 1987, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Christ Memorial Church, 1552 North Killingsworth.

are thankless. It will be woeful for politicians to discredit Activists or Activists to discredit politicians. Every community service deserves encouragement. The rest of this decade will be productive only when the leaders of the Black community join hands to work together and support each other. We will have nothing to lose in working together and educating the young ones. On the other hand, we could possibly forfeit the benefit of the new era, when we confuse the society and misplace our priorities, on whom to trust and support as our leaders. It is not necessary to blow out the flickering candlelight of others' ideas so that our own light is seen to shine brighter. Instead, we should shield and protect the light of all, for every little light, even a spark, can become a divine flame. We have hardly scratched the surface of our unlimited potential. Many of us surely can add still more creative ideas. More will be needed as we involve ourselves more deeply with the work of helping other Blacks.

Finally, I would not fail to call on the attention of Black leaders to place more emphasis on the following matters: (1) The Black Studies Department at Portland State University, (2) Minority Business Enterprises in the Black community, (3) More Black involvement in politics, and the potential for developing an international trade between Africa and Oregon.

Our major problem is economics and we have to face it by making painful sacrifices, and by brotherly care.

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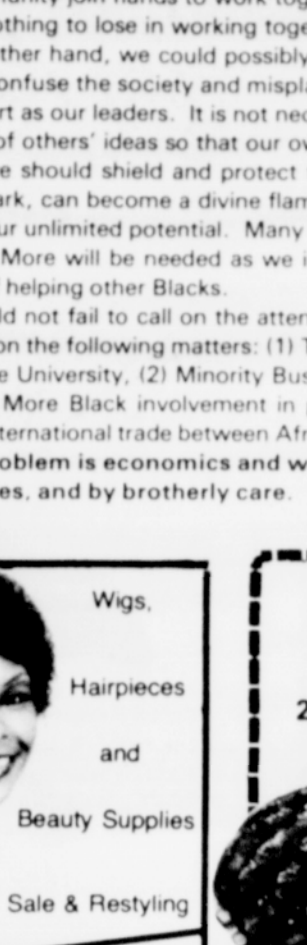
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