

Letters to the Editor

I'm So Disappointed

I am writing to express my sincere disappointment and my strong anger with the recent issue of the Portland Observer, February 18, 1987.

My sincere disappointment is with the entire tone of two (2) articles: one a front page article using a three (3) week old press statement from James Hall and written by Ray Hanson. The other is a lengthy series of inflammatory quotes by this same apparently remarkable Sabin Community Vice-President, Mr. Hanson. In the Northeast community we have sufficient problems needing a positive response from citizens and other members of the entire community that I am ashamed to think that legislators in Salem and public servants at City hall might think that Mr. Hanson reflects a broad cross section of this community.

Now to my real anger and frustration with the February 18th issue: twenty-four (24) column inches devoted to Mr. Hanson's ill-informed, gossipy and sanctimonious remarks on "Northeast Politics". Hanson, a Northeast Portland resident for little more than two (2) years, elected in a farcical election to serve as first vice-chair of a neighborhood association, does not in my mind deserve the type of press which one might expect if he had recently been elected to the Portland City Council, or as Chair of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

His comments are bitter, divisive and among the most self-serving I have read in any local column. While I have had my differences over the years with some of the local leaders Hanson attacks, I believe that the viciousness of the personal attacks against Ron Herndon, Mayor Clark and even fellow church member, Commissioner Bogle, are guttersniping remarks, undeserving of one column inch of a legitimate publication. I abhor those comments and urge your readers to let you know that they don't appreciate wasting their money to read such diatribes.

Let's Stop Child Abuse

This letter is intended to make the people aware of the actions of a State Agency that is destroying homes, and the lives of those it was designed to protect. The Children's Services Division was established and directed to protect children from abuse, physical, and sexual, certainly no one can find fault with the intent of the agencies proposed purpose. I do want it clearly understood that neither I, nor the group that I work with condone true child abuse. We believe that anyone that has truly committed child abuse should receive punishment to fit the crime.

We now know that the agency has been and is abusing society, with the latitude they have been given, and with they themselves establishing their own board administrative rules.

Perhaps what is really happening to our families can best be explained by a brief synopsis from the book "The Child Abuse Industry" by Mary Pride.

"Last year over one million North American families were falsely accused of child abuse. As a result, their homes were invaded by bureaucrats; dossiers were opened on them; their names were put in central computers, permanently on file; their children were asked leading question and encouraged to inform on them.

These were the lucky ones. The less fortunate ended up losing their life savings, their home, their children everything.

Sound far-fetched? It's happening everyday, right

He Does Not Speak For Us

In response to the February 18, 1987 issue of your publication, in which you printed an article entitled "Quotes From Ray Hanson On Northeast Politics," I offer the following:

Mr. Hanson is **not** the spokesperson for Maranatha Church. Maranatha is privileged to have both a Board of Elders and a Board of Directors, as well as a number of outstanding auxiliaries, none of which I am aware of Mr. Hanson being an official or representative member.

As a member of Maranatha Church, and only as an individual member, nothing more, nothing less, I feel it important that the community **not** be led to believe that Mr. Hanson's opinions are the general consensus of the body of Maranatha believers.

The word, "Maranatha," is mentioned once in the Bible. You will find it located at the very end of I Corinthians 16:23. "Maranatha" means "He is coming." The "He" of whom we speak meaning the Lord Jesus Christ. This serves to mean that we must all live our

Further, as President of a neighborhood which shares some of the same community members as Sabin, the Irvington Community Association, I deeply resent and completely reject Mr. Hanson's stupidity regarding "Fifteenth Street". Point one: Fifteenth is a numbered avenue, not a street, Mr. Hanson. Maybe after five (5) more years in Portland you'll learn a little more about the city. Point two: Fifteenth does not serve as a "railroad track separating rich from poor, Black from white." It serves in our community as a uniting avenue (yes with too much traffic), but not as a symbol of division. Point three: Commissioner Koch does live in an HCD neighborhood, Sabin, but alas, Mr. Hanson, he lives, according to you, on the "rich side of Fifteenth" and not in the HCD designated area.

The last paragraph, headed right wing, etc., to me is truly frightening. From a neighborhood perspective, we have people of all faiths, races and ethnic backgrounds. Dragging one church into the middle of local neighborhood politics as Mr. Hanson is attempting to do, will destroy the entire concept of neighborhood associations and coalitions. I am delighted to see some Maranatha Church members involved in neighborhood associations; Irvington's former chair was a member of that congregation, and our Board last year contributed to that church's Social Justice Ministry for its efforts to provide emergency services. However, the church's influence must not extend to taking over neighborhood associations. Mr. Hanson's self-aggrandizing commentary on the Bible would be best left to the Sunday School: since he has a place for the other three (3) major leaders, Hall, Bogle and Koch, perhaps in his own megalomania he is the martyr bringing them all together.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Levy

here in the U.S. and Canada. A network of federal, state, and local agencies are snatching children right from under their parents noses. This is the CHILD ABUSE INDUSTRY, and every year it threatens more and more families. Here's how it works:

- It defines "abuse" so vaguely that all families are "guilty".
- It operates hotlines that are open invitations to malicious slander.
- It denies due process and a fair trial to those accused of child abuse.
- It grants immunity to hotline callers and welfare bureaucrats.
- It allows those parents who really are abusing their children to stay in their home if they cooperate and undergo "therapy"

These are just a few of the shocking facts Mary Pride has uncovered in this eye-opening study. If you are a parent, you owe it to yourself and your children to read this book and find out how you can protect your family from THE CHILD ABUSE INDUSTRY. Before it is too late."

I share Mary Prides concern for the family and urge everyone who cares about the survival of the family to read this book. For order forms, write: Lynn Oster, P.O. Box 1446, Albany, Oregon 97321.

Sincerely,
Lynn Oster

lives on that promise—the promise that Jesus will return. If we conduct the acts of our lives in accordance with the faith and knowledge that Jesus Christ, indeed, will return to claim those belonging to Him, then we take care both our motivational and manifest acts are **truly Christian**.

We are a Bible-believing Church of Charismatic persuasion. The Lord has blessed us with a beautiful Sanctuary. We make many a joyful noise. The whole experience is extremely uplifting and revitalizing to my own spirit. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend to you my own personal invitation to come, taste, and see that the Lord is good! Our main service of the week is held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Maranatha! For He, indeed, is coming again! God Bless You.

Sincerely,
Cora E. Williams
Individual Member
Maranatha Church



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey, N.D.

Unlike "The Trouble With Harry", the trouble with PPOs is not that they are dead but that they are multiplying. Preferred provider organizations (PPOs) are springing up across the country under the promises of better care at lower costs. What many people feel they are bringing is more limited care with less personal choice.

PPOs are still being presented to the consumer as a way to let insurance companies choose the "best" providers, so that consumers can choose within a "cost contained" population for their health care. Like another dinosaur rising from the fossils, this is simply not the solution to our modern crisis in health care.

While an ever-increasing percentage of our gross national product goes to the nation's "health" care (now around 13% of the GNP!), we seem less and less able to provide and guarantee care for our seniors, the indigent, the medically needy, pre-natal care, rural care, as well as general preventative care for the majority of the population. The PPO direction of insurance companies is at best a bandaid on a cancer, and I feel, as do many others, that it is an alarming step backwards in American medicine.

The problems associated with the PPO design have been numerous and have received must publicity including a recent one-hour documentary on PBS. Some of the major problems include:

1) With an emphasis of cost per disease condition, we find that PPOs have little incentive not to use the entire reimbursement even when the individual case may warrant less care. The converse is even less attractive: this being the case of holding off needed care because the allotted dollars have already been spent on the individual patient.

2) Often PPOs will only cover services rendered at particular hospitals. You may have a condition that is rarely treated in the covered hospitals, yet you cannot go to one with a specialist in your area because his/her hospital is not included.

3) PPOs often exclude entire professions within the healing arts. Many policies offer choice of doctor but define the term "doctor" differently from policy to policy. The charge that PPOs circumvent state non-discrimination laws will probably be decided in the Supreme Court. Currently it is up to the consumer to find out if their policy includes such providers as clinical psychologists, podiatrists, chiropractors, nurse practitioners, naturopathic doctors, optometrists, etc.

4) Narrowing the selection process and limiting professional participation in PPOs is contrary to all principles of open market competition.

These are some of the major concerns that have been brought against the PPOs. Groups such as Fair Share and others have made the redress of current PPO trends as a major legislative goal of their present agendas. In addition to the numerous consumer groups and individuals challenging the growth of PPOs in this country, there are many professional organizations which see their members as being discriminated against by the PPOs, and who have joined the fight against this narrowing of American health care.

While it is clear that we need some measure of

change in our current health care, the problem is not a lack of PPOs. The very basic problems include high risk therapies, liability costs, high levels of side effects in drug therapy, an over-emphasis in high-tech, late-stage and experimental care, unnecessary surgeries, as well as an almost complete omission of preventative and individualized care directed at improving quality as well as decreasing risks of serious illness.

It is sad that a country that has such advanced knowledge in medicine cannot find a way to provide care to all its citizens. While this is an acknowledged problem, I do not feel that we can depend on profit making institutions such as insurance companies to devise a way to remedy the problems of the poor or the elderly. Certainly the PPO is far from the solution.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Harsh Reality

It should come as no surprise. Like a cesspool, it has been seething over the years, surfacing periodically to remind us of its ever-existing presence. But, then again, it was never really in the past. Some of us may have labored under this illusion—which perhaps explains why we allowed ourselves to become lethargic in our quest for equality.

And understandably so. For we were placated with tid-bits of hope from some of our former leadership. I'm referring to the King's, the Kennedy's, the Johnson's, and the Carter's, etc. Because they believed in RIGHT, they were able, through persuasion, to negate most rekindling efforts. They were true heroes. But, almost all of yesterday's heroes are either deceased or ineffective. It seems there is no one left to stem the rising tide of..... RACISM!

True, we have Jessie Jackson and others, but the question comes to mind, "What can they do?" The damage has been done.

Every time a Democratic President leaves office after doing a good job, along comes a Republican President and, not only undoes the good that has been done, but somehow seems to fan the fires of racism with an idealism contrary to human dignity. I hasten to add that no Republican President, past or present, is being labeled a racist.

But when the power of this nation's highest elective office is used to thumb its nose at respected spokespersons for Blacks and other minorities, when the power of this nation's highest elective office is used to relegate civil rights to a state of regression, when the power of this nation's highest elective office is used to staminate the Constitutional rights of Blacks, people

take notice. And, as fate would have it, those who do, usually manage to sway public opinion in their favor.

This perhaps explains how a place like Forsyth County, Georgia, can serve as a breeding ground for racists and bigots, or a foreign leader branding Blacks and other minorities as inferior to Whites, or the epidemic resurgence nationwide of anti-semitism towards Jews.

Races are pitted against each other in violent confrontations in the schools, on the job, and in the streets. It has all the appearances of a well-orchestrated organized conspiracy. And it's gaining momentum.

Simply stated, this nation is on a collision course, and its aftermath promises to be nothing less than tragic. But it's not restricted to America alone. It's in England, it's in France, it's in Russia, it's in China, it's everywhere. Racism, which sprung its roots in the "land of the free" and "the home of the brave", has effectively mastered the art of widespread fear. Racism, which many thought was lying dormant, has been injected with new life by a society corrupt with greed and power.

We need new leadership. We need someone who would remind Forsyth County, Georgia, that this nation is still governed by the Constitution of the United States, not by laws adopted by a racist community. We need someone to remind foreign leaders that before they espouse racial superiority, they should inventory grave sites in this country to be reminded that Blacks and other minorities gave their lives and shed blood to preserve peace in their homeland. Most of all, we need someone to bring into focus the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of some of our past and present heroes, lest this country crumbles to its knees in despair.

DRUG ALERT!

(The following are excerpts re-printed from a flyer being distributed by the New York City Police Department to schools and families in that city. Portland residents should advise their children of this danger.)

The Police Department has informed us that there is another danger in our community. It's called "BLUE STAR" and it is sold all over the United States. It's a white piece of paper with a little blue star soaked with LSD which is a very dangerous drug. It's the size of a pencil eraser. You can pull it off the piece of paper and put it in your mouth. This drug can also penetrate the skin just by touching the paper. Some of these pieces of LSD come in colored papers which are like stamps and appear with a Mickey Mouse picture, Superman and other comic characters.

These stamps are packaged in a red box with a Mickey Mouse print and are wrapped with aluminum foil in a sealed box. This package contains five stamps and is a new method to sell LSD in order to get more customers.

If an innocent child were to use this drug they would be in trouble. Please advise your children about this drug.

Some adolescents give this drug to children in order to get them to test it and then keep them as customers. If you see someone sick because of this drug and know who is selling it, please call the police and inform them about it.

The symptoms of this drug are vomiting, hallucinations and change of body temperature. Please take care of your children and don't let them go alone to the street and to the stores.

If you see these packages,

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THEM!!!

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE PRECINCT!!

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

Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

Mr. _____
Ms. _____
Miss _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLIP IT
TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK

Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 969-5801) is published every Thursday by Erie Publishing Company, Inc. 1463 NE Kings north 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-County area Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

288-0033

MEMBER NATIONAL NEWSPAPER Association - Founded 1885

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

National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York