

EDITORIAL / OPINION

EDITORIAL

Freedom & Social Justice

Civil Rights Journal

by Alexander R. Jones

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Health Wars

Nearly 20 years ago, P. Joseph Lisa embarked on a trail of research that would bring him face-to-face with a sinister conspiracy to destroy competition in the health care industry. In his explosive book, "The Great Medical Monopoly Wars", he exposes the hidden battles, and details example after example of injustice and dishonesty in the medical establishment's drive to wipe out legitimate health care competition, and limit your freedom to select the type of health care you desire.

At the center of this conspiracy is the American Medical Association (AMA) which has waged this war in the media to discredit alternative health care providers. It has waged this war in the Congress to ensure only legislation is passed that will protect the AMA's monopoly. It has fought this war with the active cooperation of government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration.

One of the most-publicized and well-documented AMA attacks was the professional genocide waged against chiropractors. A secret 1971 AMA memo clearly states that the purpose of this infamous campaign was "first the containment of chiropractic and, ultimately, the elimination of chiropractic."

Unfortunately for the AMA, a group of chiropractors got wind of this effort and filed a restraint of trade suit against the medical giant in 1976. Later, in 1979, the New York attorney general filed a \$13 million criminal conspiracy suit against the AMA and others.

The results has been dramatic. Chiropractors are now officially recognized by the AMA as legitimate health care practitioners, and are allowed to send their patients to hospitals for diagnostic x-rays, something forbidden in the past.

"The Great Medical Monopoly Wars" covers the cases of numerous other targets of the medical monopoly conspiracy, and ends with copies of actual documents Mr. Lisa obtained during his research. It is an enlightening book which will forever change your viewpoint regarding the health care industry. It is published by the International Institute of Natural Health Sciences, Inc., P.O. Box 5550, Huntington Beach, CA 92615.

Alexander R. Jones is the Director of Minority and Third World Affairs for the Church of Scientology (R) International.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

The Northeast YWCA staff would like to express our appreciation to **The Portland Observer** for its assistance in "getting the word out" about our "Grand Opening" held December 3, 1987.

We want to compliment your staff for the story on the history of the YWCA, and the follow-up coverage of the "Opening". The center has received calls requesting information about our programs, and during the opening, people signed up to volunteer.

The **Portland Observer's** assistance has definitely helped in letting the community know about the Northeast YWCA. We believe the regular "reports" on the Northeast Center in **The Portland Observer** will help community members to become more familiar with our programs and activities, and it will also encourage them to participate.

Once again, the staff and I appreciate your continued support, and thanks to **The Portland Observer** staff for the lovely plant.

I look forward to working with you in the future. Happy holidays and best wishes to you and your staff for the coming new year.

Constance G. Carley
Director
Northeast YWCA Center

Editor:

This is an example of a mock application form given to my husband, Marco Polo Hernandez Cuevas (EF203594), an inmate of a Georgia state prison:

Application For Employment to Jesse Jackson's Staff, Candidate For President. Place of Birth: a) Charity Ward _____ b) Cotton Patch _____ c) Zoo _____ d) Back Alley _____ e) Free Clinic _____ f) Other _____

Source of Income: a) Theft _____ b) Relief _____ c) Welfare _____ d) Unemployment Compensation _____

Prior Experience: a) Gov't Worker _____ b) Black Panther _____ c) Evangelist _____ d) Pimp _____ e) Rapist _____ f) Used Hubcap Salesman _____ g) Dope Dealer _____

How Many Children Do You Have? 1st Wife _____ 2nd Wife _____ Neighbor's Wife _____

Shack Ups
In 50 Words Or Less, State Your Greatest Desire In Life (Other Than a White Woman).

Marco complained about the distribution of the form to the administration of the prison facility. Since that time, the prison administration has harshly reprimanded Marco,

threatened his life and told him he had better take a lower profile in the prison system.

We fear for Marco's life, for the Ku Klux Klan members are the instigators of the form and are the ones threatening Marco. Members can be found throughout the State of Georgia, therefore, we have requested of Governor of Oregon, Neil Goldschmidt and Governor of Georgia, Joe Frank Harris to make arrangements to transfer Marco out of the State of Georgia to another state, preferably Oregon.

Our son and I ask you, the public, to write or call to Governor Goldschmidt: Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310-1347, (503) 378-8024 and Governor Harris: Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334, (404) 656-1776. Please encourage them to transfer Marco out of Georgia.

Marco did what was correct, he needs our support. For our entire lives, we will thank you for making your voices known.

Mrs. Marco Polo Hernandez c.
The Hernandez Family

History Records

Concerning "Black Press Warned To Prepare For The Year 2000," 12/2/87: I'm inclined to believe media is best viewed as an organizer.

While newspapers, magazines, television and radio do inform and entertain, they first and foremost shape and collectivize an audience. Messages, attitudes, emotions, information, lies and distortions of all kinds permeate our consciousness — and big stakes are involved. For, to control the consciousness of a people is to control a significant element of their political destinies. "Lobbyist Charged With Making False Statements," 12/2/87, sheds light on the political stage.

I've given this matter a lot of thought. We need to provide an educational forum for the expression of the ideologies and attitudes of the Black movement in all its ranges. There is a profound relationship between politics and culture: one is the mirror reflection of the other. By continuing to register the best Black cultural and political thought available to us, **The Portland Observer**, continues in its historic function as an independent and reliable source of Black information and opinion.

I am not one of those who is a newspaper maker; not one who performs the task the newspaper and other media are asked to perform. Emerson once wrote: "We have the newspaper, which does its best to

Voting for Change in Keysville, Georgia

The African American citizens of Keysville, Georgia, 26 miles west of Augusta, liken their situation to the old plantation system. Most whites in their town have running water, Blacks don't. Most whites have a sewage system; Blacks don't. And most Blacks are dependent on the whites who control the town for their livelihood.

Now the African American community of Keysville has organized to change all that. On January 4th of next year the town will hold an election. It will be the first local election in which African Americans of this town have ever voted. The power relationship of the town could thus be changed forever.

It all started back in 1985 when the home of the Streetman family caught on fire. As members of the African American community frantically tried to put out the fire, they also called three county fire departments. The fire department for their county was 20 miles away. The other two, though closer, refused, saying Keysville was not in their jurisdiction. The Streetman home burned to the ground while the Black community watched, helplessly.

That's when the African American residents formed the Concerned Citizens of Keysville, spearheaded by Mrs. Emma Gresham, a retired teacher. At community meetings the group talked about their situation: about the outhouses and the lack of indoor plumbing; about having to haul water from their churches, from those few African American residents with wells, or from the creek because the African American community had no water supply. They talked about going 18 miles to the nearest clinic because there was no doctor in Keysville, and about sending their children almost 20 miles each way, every day, because the African American school as closed down after school desegregation.

They also talked about the white-owned nursing home which ran its sewage — including the waste from its patients — into an open ditch and through the African American community. They also talked about the economic and political stranglehold which the Marshall family, the owners of that nursing home, had

on the town. And about the changes the African American community could affect if that nursing home weren't the only game in town, and, thus, able to get away with paying barely minimum wages. Some even recalled how old Mr. Marshall, the white patriarch of the town, used to say he was the mayor of the town, even though no election had been held since 1933.

Administration of the town had been turned over to the county during the Depression. Now African Americans, who are 80% of Keysville's population, want it back. With the help of Herman Lodge, the county commissioner and Rep. Tyrone Brooks, their state representative — both African American — they began to reactivate the town government.

Now Mrs. Gresham is running for mayor. She articulates her platform like a practiced politician: "a government for all the people... a water and sewage system that the poor and elderly can afford... new jobs and industrial development... an A-1 city."

Mrs. Gresham, Mrs. Turetha Neely, who is Keysville's African American Superintendent of Elections, and others active in the struggle face heavy opposition, however. The Marshall's and other local whites haven't paid local taxes in 54 years and they don't want to start now. The Marshall's are even said to have threatened their African American employees with dismissal if they support the move toward self-government. Then, too, many white residents wonder why the Black folks want to change things; after all, if they need anything, all they need to do is ask.

Gayle Korotkin of the Christic Institute, a public interest law firm which has provided invaluable legal assistance, said it best: "Rights without power is meaningless. This election would mean real political power for the Black community."

The Concerned Citizens are asking for Justice Department observers on January 4 and after to insure fair elections. We must all support them in their request. For through the act of voting on election day, they risk much. Their victory will be our victory.

make every square acre of land and sea give account of itself at your breakfast table." That is a proper function for the press. But, I am rather one of those who is a consumer of news, whose daily work is affected by what the newspapers, and of course, radio, television, all the media purvey, and I am one of those whom the newspapers ask to give an account of himself.

But, there is another sense in which the press is terribly important to me. For what is true of my role and yours as a Black person in all aspects of American [sic] life is also true in my and your relationship to the press. We are frequently excluded, distorted and patronized. And yet, the seller of the newspaper will take a quarter from me as from a caucasoid hand. The media in this country profoundly underplay Black people in any but the most menial jobs: We are allowed to sweep the TV studio just as we are allowed to sweep the White House, and even the mansions of the governors. But, those who use the media to advertise their products will take my dollar, as long as it's green, just as quickly as they will take a caucasoid person's dollar. In brief, the caucasoid-owned and controlled press and other media in this country are profoundly racist, just as in every other institution in our nation.

Now, aren't you surprised? Didn't you think, by watching the line coverage Black folk get in your newspaper and on the radio and TV screen, that Blacks owned most of the radio and TV stations and newspapers in the country? Of course, you're not surprised, for you know, as well as I do, that wherever the caucasoid power structure has con-

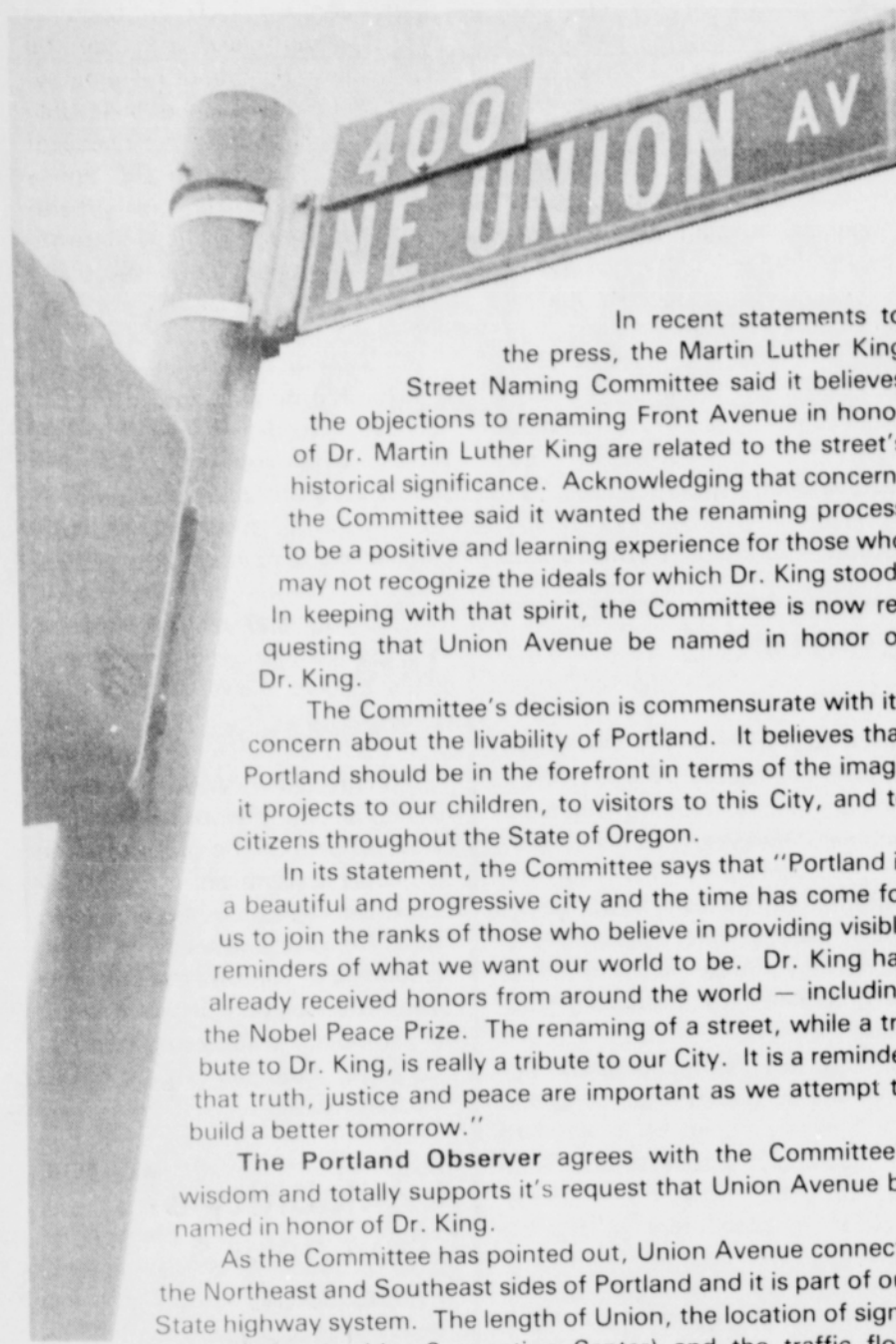
trol, racism is institutionalized as part of its system of control. The media are surely no exception.

We must not allow them to destroy the Black press. It seems to me we need to look at racism in greater detail, not only to understand what it is, but ultimately to understand how to fight it. For that is the order of the day; that is the legacy left us by the great leaders of our recent past, by Dr. Martin Luther King and by Malcolm X and by Paul Roberson and by W.E.B. DuBois. It is a legacy which tells us that the struggle against racism is the first task which Black people face, not because we care a whole lot about educating our so-called Christian caucasoid oppressor, or about making him/her our friend, but rather in order to get him/her off our backs, so we can go on about the business of living.

History records, from the very experience of our own people, the great importance of the media to our struggle. We have found some of our greatest leaders on the pages of newspapers or magazines: Frederick Douglass on the North Star, W.E.B. DuBois on the Crisis — and we may well find them there again.

There is just not enough space for me to deal with institutionalized racism of the caucasoid-owned media. The task of the media in the hands of Black people today is to seek hope, to suggest means of struggle, to develop our talents, to revise any self-debasing image of ourselves. That is the task which the Black media can perform, only if you — if we — join hands in the struggle for a media free of racism, free of middle class bias, and ultimately and in truth — free.

Dr. Jamil Cherover



In recent statements to the press, the Martin Luther King Street Naming Committee said it believes the objections to renaming Front Avenue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King are related to the street's historical significance. Acknowledging that concern, the Committee said it wanted the renaming process to be a positive and learning experience for those who may not recognize the ideals for which Dr. King stood. In keeping with that spirit, the Committee is now requesting that Union Avenue be named in honor of Dr. King.

The Committee's decision is commensurate with its concern about the livability of Portland. It believes that Portland should be in the forefront in terms of the image it projects to our children, to visitors to this City, and to citizens throughout the State of Oregon.

In its statement, the Committee says that "Portland is a beautiful and progressive city and the time has come for us to join the ranks of those who believe in providing visible reminders of what we want our world to be. Dr. King has already received honors from around the world — including the Nobel Peace Prize. The renaming of a street, while a tribute to Dr. King, is really a tribute to our City. It is a reminder that truth, justice and peace are important as we attempt to build a better tomorrow."

The **Portland Observer** agrees with the Committee's wisdom and totally supports its request that Union Avenue be named in honor of Dr. King.

As the Committee has pointed out, Union Avenue connects the Northeast and Southeast sides of Portland and it is part of our State highway system. The length of Union, the location of significant landmarks (the Convention Center) and the traffic flow clearly meet our criteria.

What's in a name? History, pride, heritage, and positive change. To rename Union Avenue in honor of Dr. King is to bring about a historical change we all can be involved in. Not only that, it gives us all a chance to understand the process and know exactly how to implement it when the need arises again. It gives our children the important chance to be involved with a process they will be required to keep in place decades from now.

Therefore, **The Portland Observer** requests that the City Council of Portland and Governor Neil Goldschmidt support the efforts of the Martin Luther King Street Naming Committee to rename Union Avenue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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