

EDITORIAL / OPINION

GUEST EDITORIAL /

'Free South Africa Sunday'

Dear Ministers:

The inhumane and immoral system of apartheid continues to viciously oppress the majority of the people of South Africa. Although events in South Africa have been systematically removed from the evening news, the brutal repression of men, women, and children continues almost unabated. Witness the recent murder of the youthful Godfrey Domo, the banning of peaceful opposition organizations, the arrest of the Rev. Allan Boesak and Archbishop Desmond Tutu for leading peaceful protest, and the state sponsored terrorism against neighboring Southern African countries and African National Congress (ANC) membership.

In conjunction with anti-apartheid organizations across the country, Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF) will be building toward a national mobilization of anti-apartheid supporters on June 16th, the twelfth anniversary of the Soweto Uprising, to refocus national attention on South Africa. In preparation for June 16th, POSAF will be calling for **Free South Africa Sunday** in local churches throughout the greater Portland community. We are asking for your support in this endeavor. Specifically, we would like for you to allow a speaker from our organization or yourself to address your congregation on the issues of apartheid and post a sign on your church lawn that simply says "Free South Africa" for a period of time. We would like to suggest a date of June 12th for **Free South Africa Sunday** but are open to any Sunday that is convenient for your schedule. (We

are aware that June 12th has also been designated as the Day of Concern for peace in the Middle East for all houses of worship in Oregon).

POSAF has been leading the struggle in the Portland community since September of 1983 against the evils of apartheid. You may have answered our call in the past. We were successful in ridding our community of the South African honorary consulate in January, 1985, boycotted the South African gold coin called the Kruggerand and the importation of South African goods through the ports of Portland and Vancouver, and sponsored numerous forums, demonstrations, lectures, films, and symposiums to educate the Portland community about apartheid.

You and your congregation are also invited to the premiere showing of the new video documentary on the life of Steve Biko, the leader of the Black Consciousness Movement who was murdered by South African police in September of 1977. This showing will be at the Northeast YWCA on June 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. We hope you can come to see this important film. RSVP at 230-9427.

Please contact Avel Gordly at American Friends Service Committee, 230-9427 for more information or to confirm your church's participation in **Free South Africa Sunday**. I hope we can depend on your support for South Africa Sunday and help us rid the world of the evil and ungodly monster called apartheid.

Kamau Anderson
Chairperson

Perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

"What Is The Meaning Of The Jesse Jackson Campaign?"

The meaning is obvious. This great stride toward power and parity means that once again Black action and hope has been galvanized; great energies and resources have been mobilized. We have been along this road before. We have seen, but not reached "the mountain top."

What will become obvious is that if the social and economic 'mountain top' is to be reached, then, the goal must be pursued beyond the initial emotional surge—beyond "We shall overcome." I say that it is not the fault of the leaders-who-stirred-the-brethren when the final objective is not achieved. Where it may only take "Two to Tango," a multitude of disciplined, well-organized people are required to structure and MAINTAIN an ongoing and PERMANENT system of economic and social benefit. The establishment of such institutions IS the mountain top, and the splendid drive, dedication and courage of brilliant, charismatic Black leaders should never be wasted by the very people for whom they often gave their lives.

In this vein, we can speak, of course, of last century's Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist and orator, and in this century, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, A. Phillip Randolph, Madame C. J. Walker, Mary McLeod Bethune, The honorable Elijah Muhammed Malcom X, and the magnificent Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King (omissions because of the limit of space). After each such great thrust, it may be that we have rested too long on the 'plateau of consciousness', almost at waiting for the inevitable backlash and attrition. What I suggested earlier is 'Keep-on-stepping' tactic—build permanent infrastructure and institutions—starting now. Noah did not wait for the flood!

Building on the past, those who came before him, Rev. Jackson has added new dimensions to the struggle, particularly the concept of the RAINBOW COALITION. In this context, we note that Oregon, which has a little over 1% Black population, saw a 35% white vote for Jackson; in Minnesota with 2% Blacks of voting age, 20% of

the caucus vote went to him; in Vermont, with less than a 2% Black population, Mr. Jackson got 20% of the vote. This is impressive, but perceptions of a looming solidarity with the other disadvantaged (and liberals) should be tempered by a review of history. Caution and structuring is needed.

After the Civil War and almost through the 1890s, there was a high level of solidarity among the Black and white workers in many areas. We find this situation in many industries and crafts: saw-mill, textiles, tobacco, longshore unions, coal mining, foundries, culinary occupations. Much of this economic camaraderie and goodwill collapsed under the pressure of hordes of hungry European immigrants and the playing of one group against another by wily northern industrialists. By the turn-of-the-century we find that the A.F.L. (American Federation of Labor) has been formed by such craft unions as the carpenters and other building trades, the machinists, the plumbers, steamfitters, and others—with a constitution forbidding membership by any Americans not White Males! Now there is a REAL QUOTA SYSTEM.

This time there must be 'foresight' and anticipation of efforts to derail progress; we need 'Labor and Craft Institutes' manned by trained economists who will accept the experienced-based input of working men and women. People with computerized data banks and economic forecast skills who can monitor business and industry, and who can devise or build legislation and/or institutions to handle technological change. This is the way it can be rather than only the wringing of hands and emotional protest ("Gee them folks are mean"). It must be for some reason that we have sacrificed so much to send our sons and daughters to universities. I suggest that one payout should be that these will be the ones to design and structure new institutions. "The Real Meaning of the Jackson Campaign" can be that the coalition of Americans that he has put together can provide a democratic context for the social structures we need.

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Civil Rights Journal

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY: BE FAIR TO JESSE JACKSON

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Jesse Jackson is breaking all records as he continues to win votes and delegates in the race for the Democratic nomination for President. The last state primary elections will be held on Tuesday, June 7th. In California, New Jersey, Montana and New Mexico 466 delegates are at stake.

In both Los Angeles, California and Newark, New Jersey I saw thousands of people rally in support of Jackson as he continues to define the key issues of this presidential campaign. Dukakis and Bush are increasingly being forced to respond to Jackson on the critical issues of the day: the drug epidemic, full employment, equal justice, a comprehensive national child care program, quality education for everyone, comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, and nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Since 1983, Jackson has been responsible for registering millions of new Democratic voters. In fact, Jesse Jackson has done more to pump new life into the Democratic Party than any other person alive. The building of the Rainbow Coalition has other person alive. The building of the Rainbow Coalition has not only expanded the Democratic Party; it has transformed the character of rank and file Democratic voters.

Now, as we move closer to the Democratic National Convention, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 18-21, one fundamental question needs to be raised. This is the question of fairness.

After all that Jesse Jackson and millions of his supporters have done to show their explicit support for a Democratic win in the upcoming Presidential election, will the leadership of the Democratic Party be fair to Jackson? Better yet, can the leadership of the Democratic Party afford not to be fair to Jackson?

Fairness means giving respect, but fairness should be measured in concrete terms. For example, the Democrats now control the United States Senate, in part because of the central role that Jackson played in registering and mobilizing the Black vote throughout the South in 1986. The Democratic Senate has directly benefited from Jackson's efforts by acquiring the chairs of the major Senate committees, due to the Democratic victory in 1986.

Fairness means that a reasonable number of United States Senators should openly announce their support of Jackson for President. Yet, to date, not one United States Senator has formally endorsed

Jackson's candidacy for President. Senators fall into the category of "super delegates" to the Democratic Convention and they have a responsibility to support the political mandate of their constituents. Why is it, then, that in the case of one who has done so much to help the entire Senate, no Senate has yet come forward to do what is right and fair?

Jesse Jackson won all the following primaries and caucuses: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Michigan, Alaska and Vermont. Yet, to date, not one Democratic Governor has endorsed Jesse Jackson for President. And in Puerto Rico, though Jackson won the primary, the Governor gave all of Puerto Rico's delegates to Dukakis. Fairness means that, at the least, in those states where the electorate overwhelmingly voted for Jackson, the Governors—who are also "super-delegates"—should throw their support to Jackson.

Of course, we are only able to make the argument for fairness because of prior massive turnouts of voters for Jackson on primary day. Every vote—particularly on June 7th in California, New Jersey, Montana and New Mexico—will count and will increase Jesse Jackson's leverage at the Democratic Convention.

Jesse Jackson deserves to be President. The Democratic Party must face this reality. The leaders of the Democratic Party have respected Dukakis; Jackson deserves no less. If, by chance, the leaders of the Party are willing to gamble with the future of the Democratic Party by being unfair to Jackson, then millions of Jackson supporters should not be expected to come out on Election Day in November. And this will not be Jackson's fault; it will be the fault of the Party bosses.

When I was in southern Africa recently, hundreds of people spoke to me of the importance of the Jackson candidacy. They saw it as a campaign with worldwide significance for the cause of justice and freedom. Jesse Jackson is the only presidential candidate who has lifted up the fact that South Africa is a terrorist state. Jesse Jackson's campaign has literally increased the hopes and aspiration of millions of people throughout the world, particularly in Latin America, the Middle East, and in Africa. We, who have an opportunity to vote, must take this historic opportunity seriously. The future of the world is at stake.

OPINION

by Dr. Jamil Cherovee

"More Blacks die in one year from Black-on-Black violence than in nine years of the Vietnam War; and we were 35 percent of the casualties in Vietnam."

"In other words, you were safer in Vietnam in an actual war than you are walking the streets of the so-called ghettos of Amerika... The caucoid man would never kill you if you were not so quick to kill one another," Minister Farrakhan emphasized. Black people are a threat to caucoid society because our birth rate is greater than that of caucoids in Amerika.

"If we become politically and economically mature, we could dominate the economic scene and take control in the house where we were once sold as slaves. No wonder the Black male is an endangered species," he said. The increasingly popular campus lecturer and student of the Honorable Elijah Muham-

mad, The Raised Christ, focused his brilliant light on the reason why the Black male in particular was singled out for destruction, and indicated that "the male carries the ideals of the nation, according to the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad."

Since the Black man is the original man, the Adam of the scripture, his nature is the nature of God Himself, and the ideals he carries are the characteristics of the Divinity. When these ideals are absent from the world, the world is under the veil of death. Thus, the work of resurrection of the Black man will ultimately result in the springing to life on earth of a new world order, based on divine principles.

Dr. George McKenna, the first speaker on Saturday's agenda, pointed out that Black males are "first to be incarcerated, to die a violent death, and are over represented in prison, poverty and expulsion from school," but he suggested that "public schools

more than anybody else must rescue Black males," because that is the "only place law provides they must be."

The high school principal indicated that Blacks "have to come to grips with the fact that a program is needed that must deal with the Black male, since he is the 'most at risk' in this society," and Black parents, "must demand from institutions that they be responsive."

As the principal of George Washington Preparatory High School, located in South Central Los Angeles, Dr. McKenna developed and implemented the Preparatory School Model, a program stressing academic excellence at all levels. In four years, he successfully changed an inner-city high school that had been torn by violence, low achievement and lack of community confidence into a school which now has an attendance waiting list, and where nearly 80 percent of the youngsters enroll

in college.

Dr. Edison O. Jackson, the Superintendent of Compton Community College (CCC), speaking before the next presenter, said that it was "time to stop talking and get involved and do something." Dr. Edison believes it was time for Blacks in positions of authority to begin to "make a difference" for Black youth, and that he is carrying that message with him wherever he speaks at conferences on education.

"I am your wildest nightmare," declared Lee Rodgers, a former gang member, "banging, slanging and hanging", who now counsels youth and talks to community groups to help them understand the gang experience.

"I am a product of you. I am what you are: your son, your brother... I am a self-made master of city streets, and now I have crossed over into your

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