

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Alfred L. Henderson/Publisher Leon Harris/Gen. Manager

PORTLAND OBSERVER

is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc.
5011 N.E. 26th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97211
P.O. Box 3137

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Phone Number: (503) 288-0033

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EDITORIAL

All the primaries have ended and the vote is in. From every numerical extrapolation it would appear that Jesse Jackson will not be the standard bearer for the Democratic party in the 1988 presidential election. And still his organization is furiously at work garnering superdelegates for the inevitable confrontation in Atlanta next month. Despite all of the apparent odds against his candidacy, Mr. Jackson can still convey a certain mystique among the voting public and within the political arena. In the perception of his detractors, every Black person has now become a political science pundit with regard to Jesse Jackson's intentions. Again and again and again we are asked, "What does Jesse Jackson really want?" The kindest thing that can be said about that question is that it is a curious euphemism. The meaning hidden between the lines is twofold. First, it is a mute admission that the Black populace has finally attained a level of maturity which is an irrevocable reference point to the decision making process of the power structure. Secondly, it suggests an unspoken threat to the present power brokers who are loathe to relinquish or to share such prominence among the closet racist element that has felt comfortable to surface within the Democratic party during the last eight years. New strategies to recapture control cannot be developed until the freshman partners articulate their demands. The interrogator really is asking, "What do Black people want now that they have attained more than a spectator position within the inner circle of the club?" To ask such a question is to express a certain insouciance for what Black people have been demanding for more than two centuries. We are demanding our rightful piece of the action. We want full participation in every aspect of this great nation whose limitless potential never could have been achieved without the sweat, tears and sacrificial lives extracted from millions of Black persons over the span of three centuries.

We no longer can depend upon the fickle opportunism of the American political circus. What one great reformer giveth in one generation another infamous revisionist taketh away from the next.

Currently, preparation is in progress to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. History has demonstrated the unfortunate observation that longevity does not confer perfection upon a principle that was initially defective, it only aggravates a deteriorating condition. Rather, experience improves the insight of the user. Mr. Justice Thurgood Marshall previously indicated that the constitution had to be amended more than 20 times to correct the imperfections that have emerged over the years. After two hundred years it is now a tattered patchwork of confusion which even its writers would find difficult to understand. A constitutional convention is long overdue. Many foreign sovereignties and even some of the 50 states have found the need to re-write their own constitutions. It is a process that should be repeated every 100 years. By so doing we could benefit by the social, philosophical and technological advances that evolve within an ever changing society.

Dear Editor,

I am a concerned resident who lives on the N.E. side of town. I feel that all four local T.V. stations have biased news reports regarding the N.E. side of town. The straw that broke the camel's back with me was on KATU Channel 2, June 8, 1988, when the news media interviewed the couple that had their house broken into. I am sorry that their house was broken into, as I was this couple's neighbor about eight years ago. At that particular time the neighborhood was very quiet and there were no problems. But neighborhoods do change.

The news media has been very biased in reporting N.E. crime. I Thank you, notice when things happen in Gwen Stokes S.E., S.W., Lake Oswego, and Resident of N.E. Portland

N.W. it is pushed under the carpet. The realtor who was interviewed on T.V. wasn't very helpful to the clients who had asked her about crime in the N.E. area, because she hadn't done her homework and apparently doesn't want to sell any houses. She apparently doesn't know that Portland's famous police department clump all crimes together. The police don't break down crimes by area or district. I would like to challenge all four stations to go around, especially to my neighborhood, District 19, or any other N.E. neighborhoods, to actually find out how the people who live there feel about crime.

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Deadlines for all submitted materials:
Articles: Monday, 5 p.m.; Ads: Tuesday, 5 p.m.

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope.

Subscriptions: \$15.00 per year in the Tri-County area.

The PORTLAND OBSERVER — Oregon's oldest African-American Publication — is a member of The National Newspaper Association — Founded in 1885. The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York

EDITORIAL / OPINION



Mary Hatwood Futrell
President, NEA

Hope For Homeless Youth

by John E. Jacob

Today in America—our land of plenty, our land of opportunity—700,000 children are homeless. They live in temporary shelters and welfare hotels. They "live" in old cars, abandoned buildings, alleyways. Almost always, they live in hopelessness.

These children—already struggling for shelter and clothing—must now struggle for an education, for the promised passageway out of poverty and despair. But despair persists. For thousands of America's school districts have closed their doors to homeless children.

Why? Because many residency requirements bar children who have no permanent address from attending public school. The result: 43 percent of all homeless school-age children do not attend school. These children, in the words of the National Coalition for the Homeless, are thereby denied "a much needed sense of place and continuity they lack in their fragmented lives."

My heart aches for these children—perhaps because I knew poverty as a child. But amidst poverty, I found solace. I had a home. And I had a second home—my school. Those blessings sustained me. But increasing numbers of children today must do without such sustenance. When these children are denied access to public education, they are denied the last source of hope they may ever know.

In 1987, Congress responded to

this crisis by passing legislation that appropriated \$5 million to help states fund the education of homeless youth.

This initiative, the Homeless Assistance Act, signaled a beginning—but only a beginning. Its provisions were—and remain—inadequate. If the \$5 million pie were divided equally, the share allotted each homeless child would come to \$7.14.

Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration evidently thinks that seven dollars is too much to spend to educate a homeless child. The Administration's proposed budget would totally eliminate this paltry appropriation.

I find that unconscionable. And I am convinced it runs counter to the common sense and uncommon compassion of the American people. They know that national security cannot rest on policies that neglect already neglected children. They know, too, that unleashing the full potential of every child is essential to the health of our democracy.

Americans, I believe, will not abide the heartless treatment of homeless youth. That is why we—each of us—must contact our Congressional representatives and demand that they reject the elimination of the education funding provision of the Homeless Assistance Act. If, instead, Congress increases that funding, we will all be richer. So, too, will our nation.

RACISM: At Home And Abroad

PART 1 of 2



by Professor McKinley Burt

My articles of the past two weeks were a documented demonstration that TARZAN IS ALIVE AND WELL—'At home and abroad: I emphasized that we are fighting a system carefully fashioned over a span of centuries for the control of all Third World people and their lands. It should be further understood that in consequence of an international linkage of greed and racism, a temporary success in, say, the war against drugs and gangs may do little to mitigate the problems of minorities in America. Powered by a 'world system' of cultural dominance, THE NEXT DEVASTATION IS WAITING IN THE WINGS.

You will understand, then, that Blacks must get 'ahead of the game,' and not simply react to the game of the day. One must beware of how our MEDIA—from prime-time news to textbooks—'colors' our perceptions as it not only packages the events of the day but 'translates' and forwards history within the cultural guidelines of Darwin's "favored races." A few years ago Dr. Marshall McLuhan at the University of Montreal made this fact crystal clear. He wrote a best seller, and from that moment on even a fool could understand how cultural

control of events is accomplished (Include Employment Opportunities).

So, those who simply castigate the highly visible multi-national corporations bring to mind the warning of Plato, the 'Greek' philosopher, "Existence as perceived is but the shadows on the surface of a pool; Reality lies beneath the surface." 'Reality' for Black Americans is America's educational and cultural establishment which for the most part dances to a tune of historical oversight and plain fiction. It is how you are seen to fit into the overall scheme of things—yesterday and today, at home and abroad—which determines when or if you shall be employed and at what level, and which determines how or if you shall be educated, or even where you shall live. The 'Desegregation Program' of the Portland Public Schools includes a series of "Baseline Essays in African History," that are designed to rectify many of the historical lies and omissions that have so cruelly affected the status of African-Americans.

Many American scholars were also educated in Europe and know better than to continue to deny an 'African Presence' at every instance of the formation of the world's civilization and culture. A well-rounded—IDIOT would reach a contrary conclusion, even without the evidence of artifacts ranging from ancient paintings and statues with their "Negroid" features to the preserved proclamations of Black Kings and Queens, Popes, and Poets. We have this situation in Egypt, Ethiopia, Nubia, The Sudan and in Libya (here, Isaac Newton credited the ancient African astronomer ATLAS with the concept of the sphere and its mathematics).

And, then, we have the so-called "Middle East" where today's "PERSIAN GULF" was called by the ancients "The Ethiopian Sea." Half of the oil ministers and tribesmen would be 'lost in the crowd' in America's inner-cities. And, there is India where the GANGES river is named for a great African general.

We've had an abundance of special commissions and task forces examining minority deprivation in America, and all come up with the same conclusions—that we are nowhere near where we should be in terms of equality.

Twenty years ago, the Kerner Commission issued its warning that America was sliding into "two societies—separate and unequal."

In 1988, we've had re-examinations of the Kerner Report's conclusions that reinforce the warning and say that its grim prophecy is coming true.

Most recently, a blue-chip national commission headed by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford and made up of political, business and education leaders drawn from both parties and all parts of the ideological spectrum issued a new warning.

It said, "America is moving backward," in its efforts to secure equity or minority citizens.

That's a conclusion amply justified by the facts, and it ought to be taken very seriously by America's policymakers and by the electorate. Certainly the number one issue in the presidential campaign has to be how to stop the backward movement and start moving forward again.

The report rightly suggests that continued gradualism is righting wrongs is unacceptable and that it's necessary to develop programs that produce results.

If opponents of affirmative action don't like mandated goals and timetables, they are challenged to come up with alternatives that produce equal or better results. For the only proper measure can be the effectiveness of such programs in moving minorities into the mainstream and in overcoming the barriers to equal participation.

I was a member of the commission, but what I found so remarkable is that a truly bipartisan consensus was forged among the members. There was general agreement that the pace of progress was far too slow; that America was moving backward, and that it is essential to assure full participation of minorities in American life.

But the challenge has been offered before—in countless commissions and task forces. What's needed now is the political will and leadership to implement programs to do the job, and to provide the leadership to build a national consensus behind the policies necessary to bring about positive change.



Civil Rights Journal

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The anti-apartheid movement continues to gain momentum throughout the world. Here in the United States, however, there is a need to increase public awareness and support for the freedom and independence of Namibia from the genocidal clutches of the racist government of South Africa.

While I was in southern Africa recently I talked to many Namibians about the illegal armed occupation and exploitation of their nation by South Africa. I also learned of eyewitness accounts of some of the most brutal acts of terrorism committed against the people of Namibia by the more than 100,000 soldiers of the South African Defense Force patrolling inside Namibia.

Namibia is a nation the size of California, Oregon and Washington combined. Its population is 1.6 million: 95% African and 5% white. Namibia is located on the southwest coast of Africa, bordered by Angola to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south.

Namibia is Africa's last colony and suffers from the continued imperialism of western nations, led by the United States, in unholy league with apartheid South Africa. Since 1969 the United Nations has condemned South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. In Namibia, just as in South Africa, Blacks live under a legalized system of racial segregation and oppression. They are denied all rights and have no voice or participation in the governing of their own nation. All rights and power are reserved for the white minority which is only 5% of the population.

Namibia is an extremely wealthy nation with many natural resources, including valuable minerals. Yet the wealth of this nation has been stolen by South Africa and supporting western powers.

All the Namibians I met overwhelmingly expressed their support for the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO) and recognized it as the liberation movement of Namibia. SWAPO's crucial role in Namibia's independence struggle has been universally recognized in the international community. P. W. Botha, the ruthless president of South Africa, announced in April that South Africa would take "fitting and effective action" against SWAPO.

In response, Kapuka Nauyala, SWAPO's representative in Zimbabwe, stated, "This is aimed at silencing SWAPO and other democratic organizations in order to stifle the mounting opposition to Pretoria's continued illegal occupation of the territory." It is our responsibility to help prevent the silencing of SWAPO.

What can we, in the United States, do to help our sisters and brothers in Namibia and in South Africa? It is urgent that we publicly support the Dellums-Cranston Comprehensive Sanctions Bill (HR 1560/S 556). This bill would require U.S. companies to leave South Africa, would ban all trade between the United States and South Africa and stop the flow of military and intelligence information between South Africa and the United States.

Additionally, June 16th is National Anti-Apartheid Action and Lobby Day, when hundreds of thousands of people will gather around the country to protest apartheid and express support for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.

While I was in Zimbabwe I read a copy of the 'Namibian' newspaper. A front-page article detailed a vicious atrocity that has become all too common in Namibia. It was the story of Rebecca, a young, 16-year-old Namibian girl who was riding her bicycle home from the market outside of Oshakati, in Namibia. Earlier that day there had been an explosion in town which killed 23 Namibians. A truck-load of South African soldiers stopped Rebecca and interrogated her. Then one of the soldiers shot Rebecca at point-blank range in the stomach. Rebecca did nothing to provoke this attack.

After shooting her, the group of white soldiers stripped her naked and then drank beer and shot up into the air, while she was lying in the road, crying out for help. Four hours later a fellow Namibian passed by and attempted to respond to Rebecca's cry. The South African soldiers pointed their guns at the man and told him to "keep moving" or they would kill him. Other witnesses confirmed that Rebecca laid there and cried for her life all night long. As dawn broke the next day, she cried out with her last breath, "Into your hands, Oh God, I come."