

# EDITORIAL / OPINION



## It's Important To Get Out And VOTE!

by John E. Jacob, President National Urban League

If this November's presidential election follows the patterns of recent national ballots, barely half of all eligible citizens will vote. A major reason is structural barriers that make registration and voting difficult enough to discourage all but the most determined.

Some states purge voter rolls just before an election. Others restrict voter registration hours and require personal visits to registration offices, almost always during working hours when most people can't show up.

It doesn't have to be that way. Election officials have to see their role as facilitating citizen participation in the electoral process, not discouraging it.

Many states have laws that encourage broader participation. Almost half have mail-in registration. Others allow state agencies to register citizens that come to them for other services, such as drivers' licenses. And some deputize community groups to register voters.

This last is an important key to generating citizen participation, but it is too often neglected by local election authorities wary of aggressive voter outreach programs.

The likelihood that the next president will be chosen by a slim majority of eligible voters questions the legitimacy of our political institutions. President Reagan, for example, made sweeping changes in government policies without a clear mandate from the people—only about a fourth of eligible voters cast their ballots for him.

So American democracy needs a heavy dose of glasnost in the form of voting reforms that make voting as simple and as convenient as it is in other western democracies.

One big step forward would be universal postcard voter registration, in which every citizen could simply mail in a postcard and automatically be registered to vote.

Another would be to provide resources to community-based groups to encourage citizens to vote. It takes friends and neighbors to get people to the polls and to educate them to their citizenship responsibilities as well as to their own self-interest in voting.

Most of the half of the electorate that doesn't vote is drawn from the poor, minorities and the dispossessed. Traditionally, they've seen politics as a game for the affluent with little in it for them. Many feel hopeless about the future and about the possibility for meaningful change.

And many just don't see the connection between voting and their daily struggle for affordable housing, health care, and jobs.

Jesse Jackson helped break through the barriers of hopelessness and get people excited about his campaign, but the big task now is to transfer that interest into participation in the process that elects candidates at all levels of government.

People need to see that not voting is in itself a form of voting—it's a vote for the status quo, for reduced minority influence, for continued powerlessness.

The media are pretty good at informing citizens about personality conflicts and some of the big issues in a campaign, but they're less good at showing the connections between voting and influencing public policy. Community groups, churches, and neighborhood organizations have to fill that gap, and work hard between now and November 8 to get every eligible voter registered and voting.

## Creed Of The Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from social and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



## The Other Side The Green-Eyed Monster

by Harold C. Williams

We have something in our community more deadly than heroin, crack, or any other drug that one can obtain illegally or legally. It is the green-eyed monster.

The green-eyed monster has been with us for the past four hundred years. It has impeded the progress of Black people more than any single factor in our existence. The green-eyed monster separated us as people during slavery and it is separating us today. The green-eyed monster has a resentment against success. It believes success is a disease, and it only takes pleasure when one is down and out. The green-eyed monster cannot stand to see a Black lady or a Black man succeed. It begins to claw at their basic foundation of pride and dignity.

If we could get rid of the green-eyed monster, we would conquer

all other problems in our community. We wouldn't have a drug problem to poison our systems and destroy our minds. If we would destroy the green-eyed monster, we would have unity, love, and commitment for one another; the world would marvel at our uniqueness. The green-eyed monster is eating us inside like a cancer and we seem to refuse to seek ways to destroy this deadly virus. We have fundraisers for everything. We do research for all other diseases, but we ignore the green-eyed monster.

The green-eyed monster's name is jealousy. Let's find the cure for this disease and see how much progress we make in the next year. I'm sure we would all be amazed at what we can do when we bury the green-eyed monster.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

### Prison v. TaryAnne McIntosh

In the July 13, 1988, issue of Portland Observer, Jamil Cheroovee, in an editorial opinion called "To Hell and Back ... Prison v. Marian Reid," dispelled myths concerning the plight which Afrikan-American (Black) women are often forced to endure during incarceration in penal systems of America. Brother Jamil Cheroovee said, "Many Sisters/Brothers were under the impression that women's prisons are relatively 'pleasant' places and that any problems they may have are trivial when compared to those of incarcerated men." Jamil spoke of the conditions at the Maryland Correctional Institution at Jessup, Md. To Brother Jamil Cheroovee, we commend you for disputing, dispelling and clarifying some of the myths concerning our Afrikan-American (Black) women in prison.

Recently on Aug. 8, 1988, I received a letter from TaryAnne McIntosh, an Afrikan-American (Black) woman incarcerated at the Oregon Women Correctional Center (OWCC), asking me for legal assistance on a civil rights action she had filed in the Federal District Court of Oregon against three Correctional employees: Manfred Maass, Superintendent of the Oregon State Penitentiary; Robert Schiedler, Superintendent of the Oregon Women Correctional Center; and Gerald Boyd, Educational Director at the Oregon Women Correctional Center, for discriminatorily denying her to attend college classes (sic) here at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP).

TaryAnne had attended college classes here at OSP in 1987, along with other European females. Indeed TaryAnne had visited her Brother who was here at the OSP for quite a few months without being considered a security threat. In early May 1988, TaryAnne, along with several other European women prisoners applied to attend college classes here at OSP during the summer term. TaryAnne, in the early part of June 1988, was called to register as other female prisoners at OWCC and was under the full understanding she would be allowed to attend college classes. However on June 16, 1988, the educational director at OWCC informed TaryAnne that her college class program had been cancelled by the Superintendent of OSP, allegedly because of TaryAnne's extensive disciplinary reports. TaryAnne has related to me that she asked the educational director of OWCC why she has been given the impression she had

been approved to attend college classes when registering and then all of a sudden told she could not attend college classes. TaryAnne has related to me, via writing, that the OWCC educational director changed what he previously said and then told her the decision to deny her was made for the safety of OSP.

TaryAnne McIntosh has only had one major disciplinary report during her entire four year incarceration at OWCC. I have checked, and many of the European (White) women prisoners who were and are allowed to attend OSP college classes, and still are coming, have had as many, and in cases, more disciplinary reports than TaryAnne McIntosh, including disciplinary reports for dirty urinalysis while at OWCC.

TaryAnne has never had a dirty urinalysis or refused to take a urinalysis while at OWCC, and indeed does not take drugs.

TaryAnne is a perfect example why, in contradiction to statements or ideas, the community should not get involved in corrections. The community as a whole, and particularly the Afrikan-American (Black) community, should and better get involved in corrections, and definitely so when corrections staff blatantly deny "educational programs" to an Afrikan-American female attempting to get education before release back into the community.

I ask the community to ask those in corrections here in Salem why TaryAnne could not attend college classes?

Asmar Habeeb-ullah Saleem aka: Clarence Eugene Jones Box 44215 2605 State Street Salem, Oregon 97310

### Seattle Black Community Says Thanks

Thank you for your interest and support of youth and scholarship in the Seattle Black Community.

Your generous contribution to the 1988 Miss Soul Community Festival Queens scholarship pageant was greatly appreciated. It provided us with the resources necessary to materialize the academic and social dreams of our community's young people.

Once again thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely, Virgie Harris, Pageant Director Seattle, Washington

## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL



## Stop The War On Angola!

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

After spending most of the month of August 1988 in the African nation of Angola, 19 African-American church and civil rights leaders have returned to the United States with a renewed sense of struggle and commitment. We all feel a sense of urgency concerning the Reagan administration's continued military and financial support of the brutal war that is being perpetrated against the People's Republic of Angola.

We saw first hand the effects of the continued atrocities being committed against the people of Angola by the terrorist group, UNITA, led by Jonas Savimbi and supported by the United States and South Africa.

Now that South Africa has been defeated by the valiant and courageous combatants of Angola in defense of their homeland from South Africa's invasion, the eyes of the world are watching the current peace process facilitate a complete withdrawal of all of South Africa's armed forces from all remaining Angolan territory. The recent victory of Angola has changed the course of African history. The crucial victory won by Angola against South Africa at the battle of Kuito Kuanavale in southern Angola in March of this year set the stage for the current peace process now unfolding.

The four nation peace talks between Angola, Cuba, United States and South Africa will hopefully also lead to the withdrawal of the armed forces of South Africa from Namibia. In fact the future of southern Africa hangs in the balance of the outcome of the current negotiations.

Throughout our tour of Angola there was one predominant central theme that stood out:

Angola's Yearning and Quest for Peace. Angola's President, His Excellency Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, emphasized to our delegation, "We want peace and we are willing to do all we can to achieve peace." It appears, however, that President Reagan remains more committed to war on Angola than for the cause of peace in the region.

Our delegation was shocked and outraged to hear reported in the news while we were in Angola that both President Reagan and Vice President George Bush have stated their intentions to continue to finance UNITA's terrorist war against Angola even after South Africa announced a cease fire. It is our belief that Reagan's current policies and Bush's intentions are flagrant violations of international law. These policies are immoral and unjust. These policies are sinful before God.

We collected strong evidence that shows the United States support of UNITA has contributed directly and indirectly to the massacre and murder, rape and torture, and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Angolans. There is a long trail of African blood that can be traced from Angola directly to the White House in Washington, D.C. President Reagan's hands are drenched in Angolan blood by his continued support of the UNITA mercenaries.

As citizens of the United States who have seen first hand the pain and suffering of the people of Angola as a result of the atrocities committed by UNITA and South Africa, we demand that the United States stop all support to UNITA immediately! We demand an end to Reagan's war on Angola.



## Perspectives

### He (She) Who Laughs Last

by Professor McKinley Burt

A person may not only "laugh last," but may also be last. One may have smirked while reading the recent soliloquy on curriculum by that guru of education, Secretary William J. Bennett, "James Madison Elementary School: A Curriculum for American Students."

So what is new about his calling for "essential particulars in seven basic subjects through eighth grade; English, mathematics, social studies, science, foreign language, physical and health education and fine arts?" Well, la-de-da and deja vu, but don't laugh simply because you may have advocated all of the above from day one. Too many souls were lost on the high seas of 'methodology' that engulfed the teacher colleges.

Do you remember my description of Los Angeles' Windsor Hills Elementary School—a 95% Black learning machine, structured by Black teachers and parents, and which won top city honors for excellence with its classic curriculum (Parent's Magazine, 1969)? And I did cite my own ghetto-based curriculum of fifty years ago, structured by the same folk: Again, math, science, grammar, history, Latin, French. Come on! What's new pussy cat?

More pointedly, recall my citations of educational excellence among Black students and teachers immediately following the Civil War. Charlotte Forten and other dedicated Black women were founding schools in the Carolinas and Sea Islands (anticipating Secretary Bennett by a

hundred years). But hear this. Daniel Payne, a 'free Negro' of Charleston, opened his first school in 1829—arithmetic, Playfair's Euclid, English grammar, geography, biology, chemistry, astronomy and Greek (you've been peeking, Mr. Bennett).

No wonder, then, that in 1894, ex-slave, inventor and South Carolina Congressman, George H. Murray, was able to deliver a passionate, literary gem of a speech to his white colleagues. He requested Federal support for the Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition, September 18, 1895.

"There are still traducers and slanderers of our race ... I hold in my hand patents ... showing the inventions that have been made by colored men ... stoves to locomotives, steam engines, motive power of industrial machines, improvements to farm, factory and railroad." (92 on the list, eight by Murray).

Find that in the Congressional Record, 53rd Congress, Second Session, p. 8382.

Now, you can understand the fear and horror that gripped the establishment when it was realized what Blacks could accomplish with schools of their own design. You 'know' what underlay the ferociousness of the lashback and re-segregation at the turn-of-the-century, the Klan, the lynch mob. There should be more than a germ of suspicion as to reasons for more recent degeneration and neglect of the inner-city learning apparatus—for gangs, dropouts and non-competitors, no laughing matter.

## PORTLAND OBSERVER

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PUBLICATION  
Established in 1970

Alfred L. Henderson/Publisher

Gary Ann Garnett  
Business Manager

Joyce Washington  
Sales/Marketing Director

Danny Bell  
Sales Representative

Ruby Reuben  
Sales Representative

Rosemarie Davis  
Sales Representative

Leon Harris/Gen. Mgr.

Nyewusi Askari  
News Editor/Staff Writer

Mattie Ann Callier-Spears  
Religion Editor

Bill Scheider  
Copy Editor/Photographer

Richard Medina  
Photo-Composition

Lonnie Wells  
Circulation Manager

B. Gayle Jackson  
Comptroller

### PORTLAND OBSERVER

is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc.  
15 N.E. Killingsworth St. • Portland, Oregon 97211  
P.O. Box 3137 • Portland, Oregon 97208

Phone Numbers: (503) 288-0033 (Office)  
(503) 288-1756 (Classified/Display)

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: \$20.00 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.