EDITORIAL / OPINION

GUEST EDITORIAL:

Racism In Japan

by John E. Jacob

acist incidents in Japan this summer have ignited a firestorm of protest and conern, with Japanese-Americans joining Blacks and others to condemn racism in Japan.

A high official of the governing Party made offensive statements about Black-Americans, and then apologized for his remarks, as did a Prime Minister a couple of years ago after a similar incident.

Further, news reports indicated that Little Black Sambo dolls and insignias were hot sellers in Japan. Some Tokyo department stores displayed Black mannequins with grossly offensive stereotypical features.

Given a pattern of racism, it's not enough to issue apologies for statements or to claim ignorance of foreign cultures or Black sensitivities. Some people think it doesn't matter what people in a faraway country think or do. I don't buy that. Racism in Japan is a matter of intense concern. Japan may be far away, but Japanese economic power isn't.

Japanese-owned plants and businesses employ increasing numbers of American workers. Their banks and financial institutions are playing a large role in extending credit and making loans here in America. Japanese acquisition of American companies and plants make them powerful forces in many local communities.

And there have been indications that some Japanese companies in America intentionally locate operations in areas where there are few Blacks. So it is imperative to know whether Japanese companies located in the U.S. share the attitudes that appear to be widespread in Japan.

And it is absolutely crucial to ensure that those companies not only abide by legal requirements regarding hiring and promotion, but that they also adapt to American expectations of proper

corporate behavior. A Congressional study of the behavior of Japanese companies in the United States is in order. Congress has the resources and the subpoena power to compel testimony and to establish the

Such a congressional investigation should determine the following:

1) Do hiring and promotion practices of Japanese-owned companies in the U.S. provide equal opportunities? Do those companies practice affirmative action? Do the locational decisions of those companies impact negatively on Black employment?

2) Do Japanese-owned or controlled financial institutions show discriminatory lending patterns? Do they provide credit facilities and loans to Black businesses and Black customers?

3) Do Japanese-owned companies and subsidiaries in the United States follow generally accepted corporate responsibility practices? Do they reflect responsiveness and sensitivity to local concerns? Are they involved in community betterment programs?

I would hope that such an investigation shows that the reported incidents of racism in Japan are not reflected in the behavior of Japanese companies in the U.S. We have enough racism of our own to contend with - this is one Japanese import we don't

Right now, there is no conclusive evidence that Japanese companies practice racism. But the news reports of racism in Japan and the lack of visible concern for Black customers and workers suggest that those companies must be scrutinized very carefully and made to understand the consequences of their actions, both positive and negative.

"Memorable Quote"



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

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.

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The Other Side

Thee Barber Shop Connection

by Harold Williams

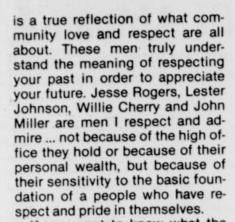
t is a place where brothers come together to share good times, bad times, anytime. The main characters that set the stage for this wholesome environment is Jesse Rogers, Willie Cherry, Lester Johnson and John Miller. These gentlemen get together every Saturday at the barber shop to bring each other up to date on the week's events. They are involved in the Leisure Hour Golf Club and help sponsor the young future golfers.

These men are involved in helping aging soldier who have paid their dues to society and who have been very involved in making others lives a lot better. Each year these gentlemen have a barbeque for many aging soldiers. Some are in convalescent homes, others are house bound and have very little mobility to get around and be involved in the community. The barbeques give hope to those who gave hope to others in the not-to-distant past.

Thee Barber Shop Connection

PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community" 288-0033



If you want to know what the Black agenda is all about, stop in at Thee Barber Shop and meet the governing board. They have a lot to say, sometimes funny, a lot of times serious, but they have no doubt that they are committed to one another and our community. Those of us who have no sense of history for what has been going on in Portland for the past 40 years should stop in sometimes and talk to these gentlemen. Bring your tape recorder. They have a lot to say. To these gentlemen I say "Hats off to you".





THE EDITOR:

Play Was Heavenly And Inspiring

Dear Editor: [For Garland]

I really enjoyed the play "Simply Heavenly". In fact, I came out to see it twice- Friday night and the Sunday Matinee. You are so gifted and I am pleased that you are enjoying this success in your hometown.

It was also great, just great to see so many of our talented brothers and sisters working in such a positive production. We must do all that we can to keep Langston Hughes alive and well.

the work of our "American" great

Just an added note...I encouraged a friend of mine who had been going through some ups and downs to come and she was relieved of some of the down feelings by the humor of the evening. So was I.

Peace and Love **Avel Gordly**

Play Was Simply Heavenly

Dear Editor: [Garland]

Bravo. Congratulations on your success with "Simply Heavenly". Susan Bouse, Sharon Mitchell and I thoroughly enjoyed Saturday night's performance. I am sure you are very proud. We appreciate the offerings of the comp

What theatre production are you tackling next? Whatever it is I know it will be a hit. Thanks again for your kind generosity.

And Regards, Carolyn K. Lee Northwest Faces Producer, KGW-

Discrimination At PCC

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of the city of Portland and a tax-paying citizen. On about June 27th of this year my attorney filed a law suit in the Circuit Court of Multnomah County. The suit names Portland Community College and alleges Unlawful Employment Discrimination among other charges.

I am a graduate of PCC and former employee. Based on my experience at PCC it is very clear that Discrimination based on Race is a regular practice at PCC. The conduct of PCC is outrageous and the results are disemployment of specific groups of people throughout the Portland Metro area and possibly the entire state of Oregon.

My experience at PCC is as following: I have been denied training opportunities to advance my knowledge and skills even though

there have been training for others with less seniority then me. I have been treated differently and that treatment lead the management of PCC to take retaliatory action against me. I have been unjustly placed in Disciplinary Probation status and unfairly reprimanded. I have been an employee of PCC for 48 months and I have served a total of 10 months in a probationary status approximately 21% of my employment was on probation. I have been shoved, insulted, disrespected and harassed on a regular basis. My former Supervisor attempted to lock me in his office. I have been to every level of the Administration at PCC to seek justice, but there is none. I talked to the President of PCC Dr. Daniel Moriarty and he told me "maybe you better get a lawyer," so I did.

Cleo Franklin

Corporate Doctrine: I Giveth, I Taketh ...

Dear Editor:

I believe, the Fred Meyer Foundation can never take away the Portland Urban League's spirit, vitality, resilence, persistence, humanism, and courage to job programs for the chronically unemployed and under-employed. NO doubt, it will take sophistication and innovativeness for the league to sustain its crippled employment vehicle. However, make NO mistake about it, it will be done! The Fred Meyer (snatch the money and run) fiasco should be a warning that the same benevolent hand that originally caste down a bucket (grant) containing \$691,000, earmarked for the job placement program is also attach-

ed to the large, hairy, white corporate arm which can instantly snatch away our hopes and dreams for something as simple as mis-application of funds. It was an error not a criminal act!

As a people, we must stand and band together! Our cohesiveness can move mountains and it also can move each one of us to support the Urban League and see that the lost funds are reallocated back to the league for the employment program. Let's change the corporate doctrine from I giveth, I taketh, to, I giveth to the people, the Urban League keepeth for the people!

Michael F. Bachanan

"Save The Children"



Along the Color Line

Dr. Manning Marable

S ince the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Jesse Jackson has remained on the national political stage, albeit slightly outside of the main spotlight. He caucused with the vitriolic mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, at the urging of future presidential aspirant Mario Cuomo, in order the bridge shattered interracial political relations in that city. Jackson expressed solidarity with Hispanic farm workers engaged in a strike, and has spoken eloquently on behalf of minority issues, women's rights and organized labor. In short, Jackson has remained the essential leader of the left spectrum of American politics.

But what hasn't happened, and indeed may not happen, is a thorough critique of the 1988 presidential campaign by those activists who took part in the Rainbow mobilization. Many Rainbow proponents were only reluctant converts to the Democratic Party, and remain skeptical at best on the long term viability of the existing political party system to address fundamental economic, social and political problems confronted by most Americans. They supported Jesse not because he was the "best of bad alternatives." They viewed their participation within the Democratic party primaries as a type of revolt against the hegemony of the two party system, a rebuke of the reactionary agenda of Reaganism and an assault against the drift toward the right among Democrats.

Within an electoral system which discriminates against Third Parties, building a democratic opposition to conservative and reactionary politics is exceedingly difficult. If the progressives select the more liberal of the two parties, they are forced to work within a set of coalitions which do not share its fundamental principles or objectives. If they operate outside of the liberal/ centrist party they run the risk of being perceived as utterly irrelevant and quixotic. The basic dilemma is thus resolved by operating simultaneously inside the political party of reform, while also organizing within communities and neighborhoods in social protest movements. But the strategy will fail unless the proorganization outside of the decade will be lost.

mainstream party which permits them the flexibility to mobilize their core constituencies in a dynamic manner. Politics is not merely the process of elections; it is the struggle for power, and the realization of every group's objective interests. Since the bulk of the Democratic Party's leadership do no share common interests with low income people, Blacks, Hispanics and others, one can be sure that their notions of "power" will be radically different. Jackson has used the analogy

"it takes two wings to fly," a progressive and conservative wing within the Democratic Party, in order to achieve electoral victory. The analogy is perhaps better suited for the Rainbow itself. Jackson's electoral mobilizations of 1984 and 1988 have formed two rather distinct constituencies-the progressive and left forces, which include community activists, trade unionists, women's groups, etc., and the more moderate liberal groups, represented by the traditional leaders of civil rights organizations, the majority of the Congressional Black Caucus, most Black elected officials, etc. The latter group shows no inclination to split from the Democrats; rather, it perceives the value of Jackson's rise to political prominence as a lever which could extract influence and administrative positions within the political hierarchy for themselves and their associates. The more progressive forces within the Rainbow Coalition, clustered around National Director Ron Daniels and others to his left, view the situation very differently. They are calling for a more permanent and democratic structure for the Rain bow, which transcends the politics of personality. The Rainbow can only become effective if it takes the concrete steps to devel op an active program outside of the Democratic Party. At minimum, this would include a national newspaper, a permanent national staff, dues structure, regional field organizers, and local chapters which take up local as well as national issues.

The next stage for the Rainbow is the development of permanent, progressive nucleus of activists who are engaged in social justice issues on a national basis. If it fails to do this, the most imporgressives build an autonomous tant political opportunity of the

Perspectives



Will Technology **Replace Teachers?**

by Professor McKinley Burt

o sooner had the ink dried on last week's column which detailed the computer-induced woes of the Black workforce, than the Oregon educational establishment burst forth with its own trials and tribulations -**Curriculum By Satellite!**

At least eight Oregon school districts have 'dishes' that enable them to receive an 'interactive' television lesson in their classrooms - taught by a single teacher and originating from a suitably-equipped studio anywhere in Oregon, or anywhere in America, or in any part of the world! In such an "interactive" system, students may talk with the instructor by phone or electronic writing pad. The instructor in Oregon may ask a student in Montana to work out a problem so that thousands of students around the country can see the solution on their screens.

Anticipating a possible displacement of teachers - or a later cap on hiring-educators are manning the barricades with a vengeance. Already in the fray are the Oregon Educational Association, the Oregon School Board Association, and the State Board of Education. I have become fairly knowledgeable about the technology (with the aid of experts in the field), having designed my own corporation to deal with the competition. I was a much too frequent flyer in the 1970's making presentations in the major

cities - and losing a ton of luggage and clients. Today I have distant clients awaiting hookups for the 1989-90 school year.

I would draw your attention to the point I made in last week's article, that Blacks have not adequately responded to the encroachment of technology upon their economic welfare. You have just seen how fast Oregon educators have responded to a threatening medium (But its not just 'apprehension' - "the system has tremendous potential," they say).

In that same article I cited the U.S. Post Office as an industry where I thought Blacks could have been more aggressive in preparing for the inroads of technology. But there are other workplaces that need and have needed our attention, and for sometime. Immediately coming to mind are the following: The Railroads, Meatpacking, Iron Foundrys and Steel Mills and Airlines. It is much too late for the Pullman Porters and Dining Car People, but certainly it is indicated that devastating processes are universal across the board.

I have said here before that Blacks (like some other ethnic) groups) should have their own economic institutes dedicated to their own specific problems. I do believe that we have sacrificed enough in the education of our young people in the fields of technology and economics to be getting our share of the returns.