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Letters to the Editor...

To The Editorial Manager:
I am writing in response to the Hers/His Opinion "Why Date White When You Plan to Marry Black?" printed in the July 18, 1990 edition of THE OBSERVER. After reading these two "perspective" articles, I felt obligated to respond as an eighteen year old daughter of an interracial marriage.

I do not deny the statistics Ms. Hughes presented, nor the fact that interracial relationships can cause social hardships for each person in the relationship. I do refute her stereotypes of the "successful" White man and the "very attractive" Black woman versus the "decent" black man and the "unattractive, overweight, inappropriately dressed, tacky" White woman.

I do not deny the historical background presented by Mr. Tucker, but I do question his allegations that a Black man could not, or might not provide the same stable home for interracial children as he would for Black children. I would also like to make it clear that there are only three races of people, Causcaoid, Negroid, and Monogoloid, and that "Italian, Jews, Asians, Mexicans" are not races.

My concern with these two articles is the fact that these two persons feel that it is appropriate to give advice to others regarding their social relationships. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived and died so that all of us would be FREE to make our own choices of any kind within the limits of the law. He fought for the right for all to have an equal education. I thought education opened up our understandings and widened the limits we might strive for, but now two Black persons whose writings reach many people have taken a stand which suggests to the readers that they should limit themselves...

As an interracial young person, I feel I have had the best of both worlds, and am equally familiar with my African, Danish, and Irish heritages. I have attended a school that was predominately White, and I have attended a school that was predominately Black and there were few noticeable differences in the ways that people related to one another. The biggest obstacle seems to be that ALL people are afraid of differences. As long as people like Ms. Hughes and Mr. Tucker continue to promote separatism, these fears will not subside.

We are all human beings and we are all striving for the same things. It seems obvious to me that by pooling each of our strengths we will come out with more than if we each progress alone. I have pride in giving back to the world all that it is giving to me, and I hope to stretch myself to become the best person that I can be. I can do this

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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.



Philip Morris' President Speaks Against Potential Advertising Ban

In a dinner assembly that drew over 600 guests--one of the largest crowds drawn in the history of the NNPA--President of Philip Morris (a tobacco retailer), John Murphy, spoke of the negative impact their industry would suffer in the event attempts to ban tobacco and alcohol advertising should succeed.

"We are linked as much by our common ground in the present as we are by our roots of solidarity in the past. For Philip Morris, these times are every bit as challenging as the mid-1950s, when racists boycotted our products--a boycott sparked by a donation we'd made to the National Urban League...a donation highlighted by a column in the Amsterdam News," Murphy said. "And for you, the economy is such that newspapers and magazines in this country are disappearing at an alarming rate...we won't have to wait long to watch the dominos fall: the repercussions for your newsrooms and printing presses will be direct and devastating." The Philip Morris executive goes on to call the restrictive proposal one that will "restrict commercial free speech."

Murphy cited a recent study by the Leadership Council on Advertising Issues that projected what the consequences would be if tobacco and alcoholic beverage advertising was reduced or eliminated. A five per cent across-the-board reduction in tobacco/alcohol advertising would result in, continued Murphy, the loss of 31,500 media and advertising jobs, 438 news and information outlets would be shut down and more than 200 radio stations would go off the air.

"The boom will fall most heavily on the diverse media that have contributed so much to the communities of this country, and that have been the advocates for those communities.

"You've been vigorous in making it clear to your communities just what restrictions on free speech really mean. The beauty of living and working in American is that although we may not agree with every point of view, we all have the right to speak or to use the press as a forum for our ideas. As free Americans under our Constitution, as long as something is legal, people and companies alike have the right to speak about it, and to sell it--to the whole spectrum of people and markets and communities.

"We will be sending a lot more public messages that say, in effect: 'Hey, look. We're good Americans, just like you. And if it's ever against the law to sell cigarettes or beer, then we'll deal with it. But until these products are made illegal, we've got our rights. But until these products are made illegal, we've got our rights. Our right to speak our minds, for starters. Our customers have their rights too. They have the right to learn about new products through advertising, for instance--including cigarettes and beer. And they have the right to read a newspaper that runs advertising for legal products.'"

Sincerely,
Kellie Barber
See page nine for a response

To The Editor:
Recently I ran for the office of City Commissioner, Position #2 in a blatant attempt to get the city to recognize many of the Portlanders (rather than a few) facing degradation. My platform spoke of our children facing workforce 2000, native Oregonians, Participatory politics, senior citizens, neighborhood activist, job opportunities, revitalization, and a vision of how best to make the most of human possibilities.

For years I have spent countless hours on strengthening the facilitation for human necessities. The neighbors living and dwelling in my neighborhood known as Sabin/Irvington Heights helped to formulate an association that is recognized by the Federal Government and incorporated in the State Of Oregon.

Although we are recognized by these governing necessities and entities, our own city plays hide and go seek with a bureau known as the Office Of Neighborhood Associations, whose salaries encompass over 1.2 Million dollars of taxpayers monies. A Budget they say, that helps facilitate the needs of the people in 92 neighborhood associations and seven coalitions.

Why is it then, that our neighborhood association faces a need for reorganization when we want to hold a block party? Because you don't affiliate with a coalition, and you need insurance to hold a block party in order to block off the streets. You will need "to get insurance on you own", was the reply. Doesn't our 1.2 million dollars cover all neighborhood associations? Of which, by the way, the federal government and state has recognized.

I surmise that it is high time that we abolish, apologize or re-evaluate the guidelines for neighborhood associations, and certainly look at re-educating the neighborhood bureau who receives our tax dollars known as ONA.

Betty Garner

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