

# War could postpone Super Bowl

By Aaron Fantress

If the current crisis in the Gulf erupts into war the NFL is considering postponing the Super Bowl scheduled to be played Jan. 27.

With the possibility of war becoming more and more probable (it may have already begun before this article is published) the threat of terrorist acts occurring in the United States is becoming a growing concern. If such events were to take place the Super Bowl could become a prime target of terrorism.

As of last Tuesday the NFL has only made one official comment concerning the Super Bowl stating: "The remaining post season games will be played as scheduled unless world events dictate a change."

It is more probable that the occurrence of terrorist activities in the United States would cause the Super Bowl to be postponed rather than a war itself.

Despite public backlash in 1963 the NFL continued games just two days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In the case of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a statement for Major League Baseball to continue scheduled games following the events in Pearl

Harbor. These two prior instances could serve as pretence for the NFL's decision regarding this year's Super Bowl.

Aside from the concern with public safety looms the petty concern with dollars and cents, which won't seem so petty to ABC who stands to make over \$60 million from airing the Super Bowl.

Six Super Bowl broadcasts rank among the ten highest rated television shows of all-time. Undoubtedly it is the single most watched event in the world. Advertisers will shell out a million dollars for 30 seconds worth of commercial.

It would be a shame to think that an economic decision could become the deciding factor when public safety is concerned. But reflecting on the history of our country such a decision is not unlikely.

Along with the Super Bowl other public places of prominence will be affected by a war in the Gulf. Popular places like Disney World, New York's Times Square, and other prominent places in the United States would have to be considered prime targets of terrorism. If things were to get bad in the Gulf these places would be perfect places for Iraqe terrorist to attack. And with 100 million viewers and 80,000 people in the stands the Super Bowl would be the best target of all.

**"The remaining post season games will be played as scheduled unless world events dictate a change."**

National Football League statement

## Area Leaders Vow To Work For Rights

BY: JANELLE HARTMAN  
(The Register Guard)

A gathering Friday of the community's most visible leaders produced a signed pledge to work toward greater understanding and acceptance of the Eugene-Springfield and its cultural diversity.

The pledge was drafted by the Metro Area Leaders Task Force on Human Rights and Affirmative Action, a little known group formed a year ago to share information about local human rights need and efforts.

Task force members include University of Oregon President Miles Brand, Lane Community College President Jerry Moskus, Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller, Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette, Eugene, Springfield and Bethel school superintendents and representatives of area minority councils.

The pledge, signed during a news conference at the Lane Transit District offices in Glenwood, states that the community's leadership is committed to ensuring protection of human rights, respecting and reflecting cultural and individual diversity, fostering mutual understanding and promoting inclusive-

ness, justice and equity.

"We want a community in which the human rights of all persons are respected and considered important," Brand said. "We want to build a community that is inclusive, tolerant and welcoming to all."

Task force members said their efforts extend to all minorities, including people of color, homosexuals, and the homeless.

The group came together early last year, inspired by a speech delivered at the university in January by syndicated columnist Manning Marble. Marble, a noted social scientist and author, spoke on "Ethnicity, Race and the Multicultural Century."

Minority leaders said Friday that they consider the group's efforts an important step in the Eugene-Springfield area's march toward better understanding of human rights issues.

"We're very fortunate to have so many leaders agreeing that this is something they have to deal with," said Chuck Dalton, past president of the local NAACP. "Most of the country is polarized on these issues now, and that polarization is something I desperately hope we can avoid in our

small community."

While the task force hasn't drafted a list of its own specific goals, members said they will continue meeting to support and encourage human rights projects within the individual organizations.

"We're standing up here saying that we believe that together we can give leadership and help those in the trenches who are working for human rights to be more effective," Miller said.

Bobby Green, a Eugene city councilman and task force member, said he hopes the group will serve as a springboard for the establishment of a local multicultural center, a project he has strongly advocated.

"To my knowledge, (the leadership) is supportive of this idea," Green said. "And if those individuals believe in celebrating diversity, then I think that message can be carried over into the majority population."

"We're very fortunate to have so many leaders agreeing that this is something they have to deal with," Chuck Dalton

Past local president NAACP



photo by Veronica Green

## Business Profile: Billy Flowers

Chiropractic appeals to Dr. Billy Flowers because "it allows me to work in the natural healing arts and I can blend my intellectual and physical talents." Dr. Flowers has owned Irvington Chiropractic at 2114 N.E. Hancock for five years. "It's the second largest healing art (traditional medicine is first)," he commented. "there is a growing awareness of nutrition and exercise and people don't want drugs and surgery any more."

Dr. Flowers was born in Portland graduated from Grant High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Washington State University in Black Studies with a history minor. He did graduate work in education Administration at Western Washington State University and then turned to Chiropractic at Western States Chiropractic College here in Portland. "I felt it was the best niche for me. I've always been physical and I've always been interested in the human body," he said. "And I had been helped myself by a chiropractor when no one else could help."

Help with tuition costs came when he served as Student Body Vice-President and when he received the Harvey Lillard Scholarship named in honor of the very first chiropractic patient—a black man.

Dr. Flowers feels education he received from Western States was excellent. "It's regarded as one of the premier schools of chiropractic in the country," he said. "The Northwest Council of Accreditation has rated the basic science course as 80% equivalent to those at the University of Washington or OHSU." He was the first black chiropractor in Oregon and the only one currently practicing.

The business problem which proved to be the greatest challenge for Dr. Flowers was finding start-up capital, and the next challenge was "disseminating information, marketing—letting people know there is a choice. Now I have one of the fastest growing practices in the city," he said.

One issue that all chiropractors face is acceptance by the insurance industry. Dr. Flowers feels that insurance companies have been resistant to recognizing the field because of a lack of understanding. "They're geared more to the medical model. Insurance coverage was originally for catastrophic health problems. For first aid and emergency medical treat-

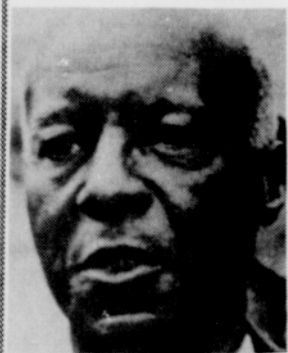
ment, traditional medicine can't be beat. But chiropractic focuses on prevention and health without using surgery or drugs—drugs can cover up symptoms," he commented. And he finds that traditional medicine hasn't lived up to its promises. "The United States spends two times as much on health care as our closest competitive countries, yet we don't have the #1 life expectancy and our infant mortality is very high. Obviously spending money is not the answer. Only four cents out of every dollar spent on medical care is spent on prevention," he added. And he feels chiropractic is becoming more and more accepted. "Credibility is not a problem for those who have a direct encounter with a recently trained chiropractor. It's here to stay because it's accepted by the ultimate authority—the people."

Dr. Flowers considers black-owned businesses "critical-through development of black business is how we will create jobs for young blacks. Most big businesses started as small businesses. But blacks have to develop a business mentality. People need to become proactive and look for black professionals and support them. We can make significant economic gains with a proactive attitude. We don't have to depend on government hand-outs which engender more dependency on hand-outs," he added. "We need a nice (black-owned) supper club, hotel, nursing home, retirement home. There's a market—the dollars are there."

Dr. Flowers and his wife are committed to Portland and to the northeast neighborhood. "We could live in many areas but we live in northeast because that's where our money comes from...All communities are made up of people and they can never be strong if all the people with potential to improve it leave. All that remains is devastation."

Dr. Flowers feels his practice stands out because of "our dedication to our patients and our commitment to excellence. We are concerned with enhancing human performance on every level through chiropractic science." Irvington Chiropractic also offers a unique service: "We've developed our own HMO for maintenance and restorations," added Dr. Flowers. First time patients can get a no-cost evaluation (with an appointment).

Irvington Chiropractic is located at 2124 N.E. Hancock. For an appointment with Dr. Flowers call 287-5504.



A. Philip Randolph

# A. Philip Randolph Institute

## Martins's Dream Lives in Delta Pride Victory



Martin Luther King, Jr.

BY JAMIE PARTRIDGE AND DONNA HAMMOND

"All labor has dignity."  
"Organized labor can be one of the most powerful instruments in putting an end to discrimination and segregation."

"Our needs are identical with labor's needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor's demands and fight laws which curb labor. That is why the labor-hater and labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth... The two most dynamic and cohesive liberal forces in the country are the labor movement and the Negro freedom movement..." — Martin Luther King, Jr., 1961, AFL-CIO national convention

Martin Luther King was assassinated April 5, 1968, while supporting a strike of Memphis sanitation workers.

### Catfish Workers Fight the Power

If Martin were alive today, he would have been speaking, organizing and marching with the Delta Pride

workers of Indianola, Mississippi. The 900 catfish production workers of Delta Pride are almost all African American and mostly women. They went on strike against some of the most powerful forces in the South, rich white former planters, and won.

Dr. Joseph Lowry, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that "God may have chosen Indianola in the '90s, just as he chose Birmingham and Selma in the '60s, to be the watershed that turns this country around...this struggle may be the flagship for the rest of the nation in the struggle for economic justice for blacks."

Your picket line is the front line of the battle by poor people for a decent standard of living." Jesse Jackson told the strikers. "In addition to your picket signs, you carry with you the hopes, prayers, and best wishes of millions of hard working Americans of all colors."

### Dignity and Dollars

In late December, the company settled. The union said the contract had "equal portions of dignity and dollars

that signals the dawn of a new era for workers in the Mississippi Delta." The new agreement at Delta Pride includes job classification upgrades, an immediate average wage increase of about 75 cents per hour, more vacation time,



A. Philip Randolph America's foremost black labor leader, worked closely with Martin Luther King to organize the 1963 March on Washington. The A. Philip Randolph Institute is the political base of the Black trade unionist. Local meetings are on the second Thursday, 7 PM at 1125 SE Madison. Call 235-9444 for information

a joint labor-management safety committee, an additional paid holiday, improved grievance procedures and big part of the "portion of dignity"—unlimited bathroom privileges.

Charlie Horne, vice president of the Mississippi AFL-CIO and an activist in the A. Philip Randolph Institute,

said, "There is a trend in Mississippi to greatly exploit workers through jobs that pay low wages with no benefits. The victory at Delta Pride will make it somewhat easier to organize workers. They will begin to see that only a union can build a level playing field between them and management."

"The coalition -- of civil rights groups and trade unions -- is rebuilding and coming together again," said the Rev. Lowry concluded "The coalition has come together again, but we must not only save ourselves here, we must save the nation."

### A New South

The politics of this country will never be changed until the politics of the South are changed. The advances in African-American political empowerment, made possible by the Voting Rights Act, have already forced a significant shift in representation. Further shifts can be made with a larger and more effective organized labor movement, that is politically active.

One worker captured the essence of the struggle against the wealthy farmers, who also own the catfish process-

ing plant, saying the owners were "trying to bring the plantation mentality into a building." The average age at Delta Pride, the country's largest catfish processor, with 38 per cent of the national market, was \$5.05 per hour, the inadequate health benefits offered by the company left many workers the victims of carpal tunnel syndrome, a muscle disease caused by repetitive motion. In addition, workers were constantly harassed on the job -- including timing their trips to the bathroom.

After voting to go union, with United food and commercial Workers in 1987, Delta Pride workers were faced with a "final offer" of 6.5 cent pre hour raise, they went on strike, the three month strike saw strikers subjected to violence that recalled the pre-civil rights days of the 1950's and 1960's ranging from police brutality to rock throwing and drive by shootings.

"It is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages." — Martin Luther King

### A National Struggle

The struggle for a decent union contract tied together issues of civil rights, workers rights, and human rights. It touched people of conscience all over the nation. Support came not only from the labor movement but also from the Congressional Black Caucus, churches, community organizations, and the civil rights community.

The struggle of a handful of Black

women against the "old money" plantation owners came to be viewed throughout the country as a symbol of a New South rising. Rallies in support of Delta Pride workers attracted some of the most prominent civil rights and labor leaders in the country. A nationwide consumer boycott developed and major grocery retailers in St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Washington D.C., the West coast and other cities agreed to stop handling Delta Pride products.

Although Indianola may be the turning point, there are clearly many battle ahead. Large sectors of the labor force in the South remain to be organized. Those sectors which are predominantly Black and female, among poultry workers, in rice production, and in the growing service sector, are opening up to unionization. These coming struggles—in conjunction with the ongoing movements for civil and human rights—may well make the South the critical battleground for democracy and justice in the 1990s.

"I have the audacity to believe that people that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." — Martin Luther King