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# The Portland Observer 25¢

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Clinton Wins!!



BY STAFF

A lot of folks are saying "Congratulations!" and many are exclaiming, "Thank God it's all over!" In the biggest voter turnout in decades--driven not only by a bitter presidential contest, but by hundreds of equally intense struggles over regional issues and offices--we have a very stressed out and exhausted electorate in the aftermath.

With the Clinton/Gore victory, there is no question but what the prize has been well worth the effort and those of us who have been demanding change are breathing sighs of relief. It is not that a great number of Americans who have felt

so ignored and victimized by an uncaring administration are naively anticipating an overnight reversal of their fortunes, but that there clearly is now a realistic possibility for change. And the people feel that with the many new and important changes in the makeup of congress, they can reasonably expect to influence the system in their favor over the next year.

The restoration of confidence and hope should have an exhilarating effect on all of us, including the important officials and policy makers. The effect of this groundswell of expectations cannot be overestimated and undoubtedly will be

reflected early on in key decisions that should spur the economy in a favorable manner. The same should hold true for long overdue policy corrections in the areas of health care, family maintenance, education, retraining of the workforce, urban problems, and other factors of social redress where America has been seriously disabled.

At 6 P.M. last night Democratic national chairman described this election as a watershed for America and very obviously we believe this to be exactly the case. Now, lets get on with it and begin structuring some meaningful change right here in Portland, Oregon.

### Vera Katz



Portland's  
Mayor Elect

★ ★ ★  
**Oregon  
Voters  
Defeat  
Measure  
9  
Measure  
4  
Measure  
5 & 6**  
★ ★ ★

## Election Eve And Still Counting

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

There is more suspense in the air than there was just before the first shuttle launch after the Challenger disaster. And, obviously, this piece is being written just hours before final election returns. However, it is not about predictions or oddsmaking, there is some more serious and basic business to be taken care of.

Regardless of outcomes at any level, from president to dogcatcher, it is a fact that so much harm has been done to this nation in the last twelve years that the course of the ship cannot be changed overnight. Far from that magic eventuation, we shall be fortunate indeed if corrective measures are seen to take hold by the end of the first year of a new administration. If actually we have succeeded in bringing in a "new" set of politicians.

It is surely the case, then, all those strategies for economic survival that have been implemented by a frightened and suffering citizenry will have to be maintained, even improved. Even where one's favorite knight or lady in shining armor is elected, it has just been indicated that a time element is involved preceding the accomplishment of all the promised good deeds. And we also know, "all that glitters is not gold".

As opposed to any relaxation of effort or any complacency, now is the time for all of us to intensify our struggles to convert this "plantation" to

a decent way of life. This means our vigilance cannot be lowered, nor can we lower the pressure on our leaders or institutions as we demand a full and competent engagement with a failing system. And, certainly, we must demand at the same time a redoubled effort and commitment on our own part. We may be due no more excuses than the failed politicians who have made careers of denying responsibility for the saddest state of our economy in many a decade.

Every aspect of our economy and infrastructure is in a disaster mode: Industry and small business, education, urban structures from transportation and sewers to power sources, orderly transition of a cold war defense posture to a viable peace time economy with a realistic program for retraining the workforce, further deregulation of industries known to care little or nothing about the environment, the failure to develop a universal health care program in the face of an unserved population numbering in the tens of millions, the development of illconceived plans to "boost international trade" which are really only devices to "export jobs" to cheap foreign labor markets--obviously financial rewards to big industrial campaign contributors and supporters of the administration.

Add to this the dangerous and socially debilitating failure of the justice system to address the issues of crime,

drugs and a level of incarceration of citizens unprecedented in the entire world (ignoring the root economic causes)--then, I am quite right in suggesting that there will be no quick fixes or solutions no matter who is elected or where, even given some alleged "mandates". What seems clear to me is that I have been right on target with my current series of articles running in the "Perspectives" column on page 2 of this newspaper; "The Thrill Is Gone".

I have been making the case that these frightening times of economic and social stresses demand that our African American community (and others) launch and develop new and improved criteria for effective leadership and institutions. I have even provided documented role models of no mean stature, demonstrating that fifty years ago and earlier, we had here in the northeast community blacks who built an economic and social infrastructure worth many millions.

We are busy indicting politicians at every level in Washington for "excuses and lack of responsibility"--what are we to say about our own state of affairs when the models cited above did their thing with no "talking heads" on television, few colleges degrees, no federal assistance, and who faced a racism and prejudice making today look like the promised land. I think we better get with it whatever the election results.