

# perspective

## Channelling, Education Style: Is Channel 2 After You?

What seems so outrageous to northeast Portland residents is not the fact that a local television station has launched its own special exercise in blowing the whistle on waste and management in Portland Schools during the current budget crunch hysteria.

Certainly, they are as concerned as station KATU or taxpayers and parents in general.

What bothers the hell out of us is, that given the widely expressed concerns about schedule manipulation by the highly paid craftsmen like the plumbers in the "maintenance department", TWO BLACK JANITORS on loan to said maintenance department have been singled out for the lead target of a "MAJOR EXPOSE". KATU has revealed to us a "critical failure" in fiscal controls has occurred, dispatching a van and camera crew to cover 90

minutes of lawn mowing by two African Americans. Let's see, 1 1/2 hours X 2 men X \$12 = 36 dollars; Wow!

The gung ho cost accountants on the station's staff determined that it should have taken only a fraction of that time to mow the small strip of grass and therefore the time spent by the men seated in their truck "talking and smoking" was an incredible, albeit typical, assault on the district's budget. KATU surely thinks the public to be stupid. All of us know that workers don't just come to work in the morning, select their own schedules and take off on a carefree day of uncontrolled activities. Not in a bureaucratic system built on paper.

I spent years in accounting or administration in large enterprises and I can tell you that maintenance employees do not determine their own

schedules. In a large organization this is a complex process requiring detailed records and a system of progress reports that make possible a determination of the labor hours, materials and equipment needed to complete the jobs. Believe me, "two borrowed janitors" were not in control of their own destiny that day; it would be incredible that they were not operating from a "dispatch sheet" prepared by their supervisor—at least a day prior.

What seems to me just as ugly as the television station's calculated and racist attempt to leap on a band wagon of public concern was school superintendent Beirwirth's knee jerk reaction, "They'll probably be fired." We can understand his pressures, but this ill-advised response leads one to think there may be more we need to understand about this man. A seasoned administrator should know very well how the system works. And before he allows himself to be goosed by KATU again, perhaps he should take a look

at their racist employment record. It is a realistic frame of reference.

And speaking of "looking at the record", what will be their response of our black leaders, politicians and activists? (maybe the NAACP?). Of a dozen phone calls I've received on this volatile issue, all the callers have been of the opinion that if we "let this one go by, it'll be Sambo and pickaninnys next". I think they are right, how about you?

I note that Thursday night's school board meeting did not meet the expectations of many that it would be a heated session long to be remembered; that it would explode forth with pent up anger after almost a month of deadly simmering following the "blue Monday" announcement of budget cuts in March. In fact, the most spirited audience reaction was when Arlen I. Sheldrake reported that his committee was adamantly opposed to the proposed elimination of interschool sports. You would have thought the Blazers had just won in

overtime.

Superintendent Jack Bierwirth led off with a tortured review of budget variables and maybe (don't blame him, nothing is certain these days, not even taxes.) I would think that low income and minority parents are going to be greatly concerned over committee reports that agreed with "hits" recommended last month. \$666,000 from Research and Evaluation (Testing), Minority Teacher Recruiting, Whitney Young after school program at the Urban League, MESA, Building Monitors (tentative), Head Start Transition, Self Enhancement, Mentoring, Alternative Education and others.

There was continuing uncertainty on just how the DOI (Directors of Instruction) would be repositioned. The possible sale of the Blanchard Service Center was rejected on the logic that relocation tenants would cost more than gained on the sale. It still promises to be the most traumatic year in district history.

### Statement On Death Of Gladys McCoy By Urban league CEO Dr. Darryl Tukufu

The Urban League of Portland offers sincere condolences to Senator William McCoy and his family following the passing of Multnomah County Chair McCoy.

Gladys was an inspiration to all who believe in the cause of equality. She and the Urban league fought on the same side of many battles during her long career in public service. Her success at opening the door of opportunity will be her lasting legacy. During her tenure as County Chair, Multnomah County's work force and commissions finally began to reflect the diversity of the county's population.

We at the Urban League feel fortunate that we were able to recognize Gladys' contribution while she was still with us. In 1992 she received the League's Equal Opportunity Award, in honor of her tireless efforts to promote equality.

This past weekend I attended the funeral in Ohio of a dear aunt. I share the McCoy family's grief at the loss of a loved one at this time.

We will always remember Gladys McCoy as someone who gave back to the community.



by Professor McKinley Burt

# This Way For Black Empowerment

## CBC Gets Bill Clinton To Pay Attention To Zaire!

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

I read with great interest recently of the humanitarian assistance that the State of Virginia is providing to the people of Huambo, Angola, who are victims of the tragic civil war that has recently resumed in that country. I greatly appreciated the role that Governor Douglas Wilder, as an African American elected official, took in bringing the plight of our African brothers and sisters to the attention of Americans in all communities.

There is another struggle in Africa where African American leadership has made, and must continue to make, a crucial difference. For the last decade the New Alliance party, together with our colleagues in the Rainbow Lobby, have led a grassroots campaign against U.S. support for the dictator of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko. Last August, Zaire's Sovereign na-

tional Conference elected the popular opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, as Prime Minister of a two-year transitional government charged with redressing the country's severe economic crisis and preparing for elections in 1994.

However, the U.S. State Department, under President Bush, insisted that the dictator Mobutu be allowed to remain as the "ceremonial" president of Zaire. This has created a serious political impasse in Zaire. Mobutu has used his control over the military to undermine every initiative taken by the democratic transition team headed up by Tshisekedi. This campaign of intimidation has included firebombing opposition newspapers, inciting ethnic violence directed at Tshisekedi's kinsmen, deploying tanks around the Bank of Zaire and other government buildings to prevent Tshisekedi's appointees from taking charge, and fuelling

Zaire's hyperinflation by flooding the money supply with worthless currency. Last January when the rank and file soldiers rioted over their worthless pay, Mobutu deployed his elite security forces against them, killing over 1,000.

Tshisekedi and the Zairian people have taken grave risks to end 27 years of dictatorship and bring democracy to their country. Critical to the success of their efforts is as strong show of U.S. support for Mr. Tshisekedi's government, and unequivocal sanctions on Mobutu and his entourage, designed to bring about his peaceful withdrawal from the country. I have been in close contact with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, urging them to take the lead in lobbying the Clinton Administration. In response, Rep. Donald Payne, a member of the House Subcommittee on Africa, initiated a sign-on letter to the President, asking him to send a personal

message to Mobutu telling him to step down or risk sanctions such as the freezing of his assets, refusal of visas, and expulsion of his ambassadors. Rep. Payne's letter was co-signed by 34 members of Congress, including most CBC members. CBC member Alcee Hastings, the newly elected Congressman from Florida, sent a similar letter to the President.

Rep. Payne also sponsored, with Rep. Harry Johnson, the chair of the African Subcommittee, House Resolution 128, which expresses the support of Congress for Prime Minister Tshisekedi's government and urges the president to impose a variety of sanctions on Mobutu.

In a gesture which I believe is without precedent in the Bush and Reagan Administrations, President Clinton responded directly to the CBC on an issue regarding Black Africa. In a letter to Rep. Payne, President Clinton said his Administration was

"exploring with Belgium and France what additional measures we can take" to help bring about Mobutu's withdrawal.

The Clinton Administration must move more rapidly and affirmatively in support to the democratic transition in Zaire. The success of Mr. Tshisekedi's government has implications for all of Africa. Zaire is fabulously endowed with natural resources; it has the agricultural potential to feed all of Africa. Its people have demonstrated their commitment to a peaceful transition to democracy despite all of Mobutu's provocations. Unlike Somalia, Liberia and Angola, civil war has not yet broken out, and the people have not lost hope. President Clinton must not lose hope. President Clinton must not lose this historic opportunity to avert another "African disaster". I believe that African American leadership of this country-working together with the African Ameri-

can community at the grassroots-can make all the difference in how President Clinton shapes his Zaire policy.

I think it's extremely positive that the CBC got Bill Clinton to pay attention to Zaire. But we can't let up. We must pressure the Clinton administration to relate to the Tshisekedi government directly, now-and not wait, as was the case with President Aristide of Haiti, until he is in exile. There are legal and political moves that the president can make to choke off Mobutu's money supply, and to deliver some material aid-including food-immediately and directly in to the hands of the transitional government. The political climate exists in Washington to exert such pressure. It's in Washington's power to break the stalemate in Zaire. And it's increasingly in our power to effect a political restructuring in which Washington will have to adhere to the pro-democracy policy decisions of the American people.

## Katz Says Proposed Budget Will Address Growing Domestic "Cycle Of Violence"

Mayor's Proposed Budget to Fund The Implementation of Portland Police Program to respond to Domestic Violence

Citing the growing number of local crimes involving domestic violence, child and elder abuse, Portland Mayor Vera Katz today announced that her proposed city budget for release this Friday will fund the implementation of the proposed Domestic Violence Program within the Portland Police Bureau.

"A recent report from the Portland Police Bureau stated that the Police Bureau receives over 11,000 emergency calls per year involving domestic violence," said Katz. "We must directly address this growing cycle of domestic violence."

Katz also cited recent reports that showed there were 8,700 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Oregon, up 9% from the year before. The State Children's Services Division

released statistics this week that indicate 32 children died as a result of child abuse or neglect. The number was a record high for the state and double the number who died in 1991.

"My proposed budget will fund the implementation of the previously proposed police program to deal with domestic violence, child and elder abuse," said Katz. "This is a critical problem. Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of injury to women and children in this

country and it is a growing local problem."

"It breaks my heart when I read some of these reports that talk about children being poisoned, battered, shaken and stabbed," said Katz. "As Mayor and Police Commissioner, I will not stand by without responding. Within my proposed budget, we will put more resources into law enforcement targeted towards domestic violence." According to the Portland Bureau of Police, the domestic violence and child abuse program will implement a system of "contract diversion" for those suspected of abusing women, children and the elderly. It will also provide a higher level of "support, advocacy and assistance to victims."

Katz's budget will propose adding seven new positions in the next fiscal years to form a Domestic Violence Program within the Family Services Division of the Police Bureau.

Contact Sam Adams at 823-4120 for more information.

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Cough syrup won't help a cough. Antacid won't soothe an upset stomach. Unless you take them the way they're supposed to be taken. So read the medicine label. After all, drug companies don't write labels for their health.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

**CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL**  
By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
**The Struggle For Full Employment**

The spring of 1993 has now become another critical time for a renewed national debate on the issue of full employment. The need for jobs in the African American and other people of color communities has reached a crisis stage. This is certainly the situation in many of the nations urban centers. Yet, in addition, we have found from our own survey that joblessness is also a growing problem in rural America.

Joblessness is a civil rights issue because so much of the ultimate impact of racial discrimination on the African American and other people of color communities leads to a displacement from the mainstream of American life, from employment and education to economics. The Civil Rights Movement, therefore, must exhibit the capacity to help determine the outcome of the debate now gaining attention on Capitol Hill concerning President Clinton's "Job Package."

Clinton has presented an "Economic Stimulus Plan" which includes a billion-dollar summer jobs program for the nation's youths who have been entrapped in a spiral of continuous unemployment for the last several years. Members of the Congress are now weighing the efficacy of the Clinton Plan. There are many who are arguing against a "Stimulus" approach to solving the bad state of the U.S. economy. Those who take that position say that the priority should be on reducing the huge national deficit.

We believe, however, that the economy does need a significant stimulation from the infusion of new money for new programs. Further, we maintain that any national strategy that involves the infusion of new financial resources into the economy should include specific programs that are designed to confront the growing unemployment in the African American and other communities historically disenfranchised.

Although conservative Republicans have been successful in slowing Congressional approval of the Clinton proposals, the Congress during the next thirty days will be taking critical votes that will directly effect the summer of 1993. The call for quick response from the grassroots on this matter should be urgently issued. All the members of Congress should be contacted as soon as possible.

Just look at what is at stake: a \$1 billion program for disadvantaged youths which would add 7000,000 extra jobs-including for the first time drills in reading, writing and mathematics. In addition there would be another billion dollars to expand the existing urban job corp programs.

At a time when unemployment of African American youth in some cities is higher than 70%, the crucial timeline of this pending action by the Congress cannot be overstated. The high rate of drugs, Black on Black violence, crime and other self-destructive activities in the African American community are related to high unemployment.

We join with the Congressional Black Caucus and other concerned organizations in efforts to pass a strong "Jobs Bill." We must not let our children down. We must not let our communities continue to wreak havoc as a result of joblessness.

Full employment must become a rallying slogan of the Civil Rights Movement. Our collective efforts on this issue will not only help to create jobs, but also will help to save our communities.