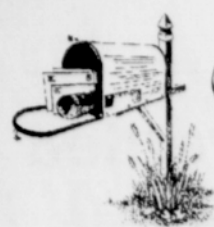


EDITORIAL

The Portland Observer



Letter To The Editor Alone The Color Line

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

"Jim Crow Revisited"

BY DR. MANNING MARABLE

In the era of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court decision of May, 1954, which finally abolished the "separate but equal" principle in our public schools, liberal educators and social reformers argued that Jim Crow segregation was designed to perpetuate inequality.

A half century ago, the most glaring examples of inequality in the public schools were the sharply different material conditions which separated the races, in terms of teachers' salaries, instructional materials, and the basic conditions of learning. In many Southern states, the expenditures per pupil ratio between white and black students was four to one, or even greater. Black teachers would normally receive one-half or one-third the annual salaries of white public school teachers.

High schools in the Northern major cities such as Chicago or St. Louis frequently denied admission to African-American students, at least up to the Great Depression. Older textbooks which had been used for years by white students, which were filled with outdated and even erroneous information, were distributed to black elementary and secondary school children. Black high schools, when they did exist, frequently did not have courses in physics, calculus, chemistry or foreign languages. The equipment in the biological sciences was inadequate and often nonexistent. It is hardly surprising that within this Jim Crow learning environment many African-American students lagged behind their white counterparts.

We are frequently told that Jim

Crow education is a thing of the past. But a recently-released study by the Harvard Project on School Desegregation illustrates how far we have retreated as a society from the vision of equality and social justice articulated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement.

In academic year 1991-92, 66 percent of all African-American students and 73 percent of all Latino students were in predominantly minority schools. This was the highest concentration of black people in segregated schools in nearly a quarter century. The largest increases in racially polarized public schools were found in Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, Tennessee, and Alabama. The lowest proportion of whites in schools attended by African-Americans was found in New York state. Gary Orfield, the chief researcher in the Harvard Project, was pessimistic about his findings. Orfield declared: "The civil rights impulse from the 1960s is dead in the water."

one example of the continuing burden of racial inequality in our schools is found in Connecticut, the nation's wealthiest state. Today, the enrollment in 140 of Connecticut's 166 school districts remains 90 percent white, with 80 percent of the African-American and Latino students concentrated in 10 percent of all school systems. As of October, 1992, Hartford, the state capital and largest city, had 93.1 percent minority students in its public schools. Across the Connecticut River, East Hartford's public schools were 38.1 percent nonwhite. But the racial percentages in Hartford's other suburbs' public schools were strikingly different: only 7.6 percent nonwhite students in

Newington, 6.7 percent in Wethersfield, 17.2 percent in West Hartford, and 8.3 percent in Glastonbury. Statewide, African-American and Latino students comprise more than one-fourth of the state's total public school enrollment.

For nearly thirty years, there were efforts to deracialize Connecticut's public schools. In 1966, a voluntary desegregation plan called "Project Concern" was initiated, with 266 black innercity students transported into the white suburbs. Project Concern sent counselors to answer the questions of black parents whose children participated in the program. By 1969, 690 children took part in Project Concern, which received Federal, state and foundation funding.

But problems surfaced almost immediately. Project Concern soon encountered severe budgetary problems. By the late 1970s, Project Concern reached 1,175 children in twelve grades. But by 1992, its enrollment had fallen to 680 children. Critics correctly called it an example of racial "tokenism." Creating a one-way street for black children into the white suburbs perpetuated the illusion that integration in the classroom was identical with academic excellence. It did nothing to transform the curriculum or dynamics of learning.

In April, 1989, Civil Rights proponents filed a lawsuit on behalf of Hartford's black schoolchildren, Sheff v. O'Neill, charging that Jim Crow conditions existed in the public schools. To foster educational equality will require a fundamental change in how education is financed, and an infusion of capital and resources into predominantly minority schools. The pursuit of racial equality must be waged in our public schools.



Enclosed is a photograph of a billboard on Sandy Boulevard. It is an advertisement for Dan and Louis' Oyster Bar. It has an image of three cartoon oysters. The inside of the oysters are dark faces, with white eyes protruding. They are wearing sneakers. The caption reads: "Still shuckin' and jivin' after 85 years."

My first reaction when I saw this billboard was shock. Why would any business use such a blatantly racist image in advertising in this day and age?

My second reaction was surprise that the African American population of Portland has tolerated such an attack this long.

There are many organizations working very hard to improve the condition of African Americans in Oregon. A lot of these efforts are

focused on our children. We try to instill in our children strong values and a strong, positive sense of themselves. This is their first line of defense against many of the problems they will face. But we have a powerful enemy in our struggle to build our children's self esteem: the negative stereotypes of shuffling Sambos, happy slaves and carefree jigaboos. These images send a powerful message. They say, "You, Black people, have no dignity. You have no pride. Don't aspire to greatness. Achievement is not for you."

These images bombard us from all sides, from television, film and sports. Kids with no positive self-images are kids who turn to gangs and drugs for substitutes for self esteem. We must take steps to eliminate these negative depictions of ourselves when-

ever we can. We can't do much about images from Hollywood and New York, but we can sure enough do something about Dan and Louis Oyster Bar.

I would like to work with your organization to and others to coordinate an effort to have this advertising campaign ended. I envision a letter-writing campaign, to include letters to the management of Dan and Louis Oyster Bar, followed by a media campaign, if this is not effective. I will contact you during the coming week to discuss this with you and to get your ideas about this issue. If you would like to contact me, I can be reached at the following numbers: 275-9644; 232-1633. Thank you for your help. We're not shuckin' and jivin' anymore.

Fredrick King

CEO Named For North/Northeast Portland Community Bancorp

Leon C. Smith, 46, has been named president and chief executive officer of the North/Northeast Portland Community Bancorp (NPBC). Smith, currently a division executive and senior vice president of the Bank of Boston in Waterbury, Conn., will begin his position in Portland in early February.

"Leon brings a strong banking background and a great deal of dedication and vision to his new position," said Mike Henderson, interim chairman of the group responsible for organizing the new bank. Henderson is also president of PacifiCorp Financial Services, Inc., a subsidiary of PacifiCorp.

The bank is in the process of establishing itself in North/Northeast Portland with start-up-funds from settlement of a lawsuit between PacifiCorp and several environ-

mentalist groups.

Before being recruited for this new position, Smith was previously chief executive officer of Emerald City Bank Seattle. His family still resides in the Seattle area. During his two years as CEO, Emerald City made a remarkable turnaround by increasing the loan portfolio from \$3 million to \$6 million and decreasing delinquent loans from 40 percent to less than 2 percent. However, the effort to raise new capital stalled and the bank was dissolved after Smith left.

Smith's vision for the Emerald City Bank--as a hub of community reinvestment--is similar to what is planned for the new North/Northeast Portland Community Bancorp. Plans are to have it in operation in 1995.

The incentive to explore the creation of such a bank came from a legal settlement between PacifiCorp and a

variety of other interests in 1991. PacifiCorp agreed to fund a \$1.7 million grant with the ultimate goal of establishing a self-sustaining, private financial institution to provide development funding to low and moderate income residents who do not qualify for loans under conventional lending criteria. An additional \$300,000 is set aside on a matching basis to encourage additional community contributions in the development project.

The project has been guided to this point by the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) and Neighborhood Partnership Fund (NPF). OCF developed a task force comprised of community leaders. Enlisting the help of Shorebank Advisory Services, the task force decided that the development of a community bank to support the community itself would be the best way to use the settlement money from PacifiCorp.



Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

I am very concerned about the increasing support of the anti-depressant drug Prozac. It seems that every time you turn around there is another article saying how wonderful this drug is and how it has helped people. I have had some personal experience with this drug and none of it has been positive.

Prozac has been linked to over 1700 deaths (nearly half of these are from suicides) and to date there are over 28,000 adverse reaction reports filed with the FDA. Pre-Market Tests by Eli Lilly (The Manufacturer Of Prozac) showed at least 15 deaths linked to the drug. Drug oversight authorities in both Sweden and Norway have refused to authorize Eli Lilly to market Prozac in those coun-

tries because of the adverse reactions associated with this drug.

There have been many cases of people committing horrible suicides, sometimes coupled with murder, while on Prozac. One such case took place on April 16, 1991, when former San Diego, California, Deputy Sheriff Hank Adams shot his wife and himself to death in front of his 17-year-old Daughter. Adams, who was taking Prozac, had no history of violence. Another incident involves Prozac user Joseph Wesbecker who, in September 1989, gunned down 20 of his former co-workers in Louisville, Kentucky, killing eight and then himself. Three days prior to the

killings, Wesbecker's psychiatrist described him as exhibiting an "Increased Level Of Agitation and Anger." The Psychiatrist also wrote, "Plan -- Discontinue Prozac Which May Be Cause."

People who have nearly killed themselves or killed other while on Prozac have described becoming progressively more hostile and aggressive after starting on the drug. In these cases, when the Prozac was discontinued, these seemingly inexplicable feelings of aggression disappeared.

I would certainly like to see more articles on the truth about some of the truly deadly drugs that are allowed on the market by the FDA.

Scott Sulak

Honest People Have Rights Too

From The Teaching Of Scientology, written by Ron L. Hubbard

After you have achieved a high level of ability, you will be the first to insist upon your rights to live with honest people.

When you know the technology of the mind, you know that it is a mistake to use "individual rights" and "freedom" as arguments to protect those who would only destroy.

Individual rights were not originated to protect criminals but to bring freedom to honest men. Into this area of protection dived those who needed "freedom" and "individual liberty" to cover their own questionable activities.

Freedom is for honest people. No man who is not himself honest can be free--he is his own trap. When his own deeds cannot be disclosed, then he is a prisoner; he must withhold himself from his fellows and he is a slave to his own conscience. Freedom must be deserved before any freedom is possible.

To protect dishonest people is to condemn them to their own hells. By making "individual rights" a synonym for "protect the criminal", one helps bring about a slave state for all; for where "individual liberty" is

abused, and impatience with it arises which at length, sweeps us all away. The targets of all disciplinary laws are the few who err. Such laws, unfortunately, also injure and restrict those who do not err. If all were honest, there would be no disciplinary threats.

There is only one way out for a dishonest person--facing up to his own responsibilities in the society and putting himself back into communication with his fellow man, his family, the world at large. By seeking to invoke his "individual rights" to protect himself from an examination of his deeds, he reduces, just that much, the future of individual liberty--for he himself is not free. Yet he infects others who are honest by using their right of freedom to protect himself.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a guilty conscience. And it will lie no more easily by seeking to protect misdeeds by pleas of "Freedom means that you must never look at me." The right of a person to survive is directly related to his honesty.

Freedom for man does not mean freedom to injure man. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to

harm by lies.

To preserve his freedom one must not permit men to hide their evil intentions under the protection of that freedom. To be free, a man must be honest with himself and with his fellows. If a man uses his own honesty of protest the unmasking of dishonesty, then that man is an enemy of his own freedom.

We can stand in the sun only so long as we do not let the deeds of others bring the darkness.

The least-free person is the person who cannot reveal his own acts and who protests the revelation of the improper acts of others. On such people will be built a future political slavery where we all have numbers--and our guilt--unless we act.

It is fascinating that blackmail and punishment are the keynotes of all dark operations. What would happen if these two commodities no longer existed? What would happen if all men were free enough to speak? Then, and only then, would you have freedom. On the day when we can fully trust each other, there will be peace on Earth.

Health Plan Application Available, Meetings Scheduled

Continued from front

percent of clients will receive their care from prepaid health plans that are paid a set amount per month for all persons who have chosen that plan, Thorne said. The plans are then responsible for managing and paying for their enrollees' care.

"We've been very pleased with the response we've received from the medical provider community," Thorne said. "More than 20 plans have signed contracts to serve Medicaid clients under the health plan, and these plans will be available in almost all areas of the state." Elsewhere, she said, clients will choose a primary-care provider to manage their care, and the state will then pay for actual services rendered.

Thorne said legislators' intent was to help low-income people who frequently delay medical attention until they be-

come seriously ill and require hospital emergency-room treatment, to instead seek preventive care and early treatment.

The health plan's Medicaid expansion covers all major diseases of women and children, covers virtually all current Medicaid Treatment, and exceeds federal Medicaid requirements by providing dental, hospice, prescription drugs, most transplants and routine physicals and mammograms. The health plan generally doesn't cover conditions that get better on their own (such as viral sore throat), conditions for which home treatments are effective (sprains, food poisoning), cosmetic conditions (scar removal, benign skin tumors) and conditions where treatment is generally ineffective (such as aggressive treatment for advanced cancer, although comfort care will be provided.)

Happy Valentines Day



From The
Portland
Observer