

EDITORIAL

BY REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON

Marion Barry's election could only occur in a democracy—in an open, free and fair election. Marion Barry's election could only occur in a country where the law, and equal protection under the law, is the standard. In one sense, the victory of Marion Barry symbolizes that a revolution can take place Within The Law.

The D.C. mayoral election defied the conventional political wisdom and the "expert" media pundits. Even though this was a Democratic primary race, Marion Barry's election is the political lesson most in the Democratic Party have failed to learn and have consciously ignored--that the way Democrats can win is to broaden the pool of historically locked-out voters through voter registration, not recycle Republican and Perot voters and call them "New Democrats."

There are as many people in this country who don't vote as do. Democrats ignore these voters (and Republicans act like they don't know they exist) because they are mostly minorities, or poor, uneducated, young and ill-prepared for the world of work. The experts based their prediction on a specific pool of voters, but failed to realize that Barry added more water to the pool by registering nearly 12,000 new voters. If they did know it, they did not believe these newly registered voters would vote--but they did--and he won six of eight wards!

Marion Barry's victory symbolizes hope for the young, the poor, those in trouble with the judicial sys-

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Marion Barry's D.C. Mayoral Victory

tem, and the unempowered. It shows that there is hope beyond prison and that there can be a resurrection and life beyond the crucifixion.

Marion Barry's victory was won, not with fingerpointing, fighting or violence, but with the power of the ballot over the bullet. Thousands of previously unregistered and unempowered people, many of them young and restless, saw a great light of hope--in Marion, yes--but mostly within themselves. If they continue to vote, to act and to agitate for a morally sound agenda of jobs and justice, they cannot be ignored.

Some will say, "Marion got away with it." That is not true. He did not get away with anything. He was caught, humiliated, dethroned, tried, convicted and jailed. He did not get away with it! He served his time and paid his debt to society under the law.

Others will say "they" got him. That is not true either. While the government may have been overzealous in its approach, ba-

sically Marion Barry got himself. He got himself because there were weak and neglected areas in his private life that made him vulnerable to the law--and for that he paid a heavy personal and public price.

Still others will say that Marion Barry's election dooms statehood for D.C. That is an excuse! The 600,000 disenfranchised residents in the nation's capitol should not be persecuted because Marion Barry was prosecuted. If good feelings and good relations with the mayor of D.C. was the missing link to statehood, then we would have had statehood in the first year of the Sharon Pratt-Kelly Administration.

Through all of his trials and tribulations, Marion Barry's spirit was not broken. Marion Barry taught those of us who live in broken communities, come from broken homes, and struggle with broken dreams that you can still overcome, rebound, be re-

deemed and make it.

Many, maybe even a majority living in D.C., identified with the strength of Mairon Barry. The majority of us have come in contact with the law and the judicial system, if not directly, then through family members, relatives or friends. In the nation there are now 1.3 million Americans in jail (including 583,000 Black males--Blacks are imprisoned at six times the rate of whites), 519 per 100,000, the largest number of persons incarcerated in any country except Russia. In just the past five years there has been a 22% increase in the jail population. The result? A decrease in crime? No! A reduction in violence? No! Yet, Tuesday the President signed a draconian crime bill that will dramatically increase this record number. An election appeal? Yes! A political ploy? Yes!

Our community had a deep, deep longing, not for the "come-back kid," but for the prodigal son to come home--and he did. A spirit of redemption resonated throughout the D.C. community for Marion Barry--as it does when a child comes home after wasting their life and treasure on ravenous living, and the family welcomes her or him home.

We can only pray that the hopes inspired by this election will not be dashed by those brothers and sisters who now resent the fact that the prodigal son came home. The race for mayor (in the general election) is still very much an uphill battle, and will be another very real test for Democrats and the Democratic Party.

perspectives

Immigration: Race, Money And Power, II

"My grandfather arrived in this country with .25 cent in his pocket. Fortunately, he had \$50,000 sewed in the lining of his coat."

citation of the book of these records).

These facts are very important because they fit a pattern where historians always have maintained that it has been nec-

Sign over a bar in Brooklyn, New York.

Equally important ties of immigrants to the "old country", as they used to call



By
Professor
McKinley
Burt

it, has been the two-way traffic of money between Europe and America--and in these later years, between Asia and American. No isolated and segregated race on the American mainland, such as African Americans, could possibly maintain a position of economic equality under these circumstances. In fact their condition could only turn for the worse--and it did!

The "emigration" of monies to America began with the financing of the colonies, and from the beginning was invested in enterprise which depended upon the slavery and cruel exploitation of blacks. This 'import' was paralleled by an inflow of administrative and management types to supervise the rapidly expanding infrastructure. So many African slaves were brought in to operate the plantations, farms, cotton gins and molasses mills that it became expedient to speed up European immigration to prevent a "dangerous ratio" of blacks to whites.

It is interesting to note that as late as the 1970's the media was reporting that the British Royal Family still held substantial interest in several large cotton plantations. But it is important to note that the talents of the African Slaves were equally applied to the operation of 'IRON PLANTATIONS'. From Saugus, Massachusetts down to the Chesapeake Bay area, there were over 235 of these high-skill operations run by complements of African, men, women, and 'children'.

The iron ingots they produced were shipped to England and returned to America in the form of finished goods that were sold at exorbitant prices. Fortunately for a truthful rendition of history and not the denigration of black technical abilities practiced by American scholars, The British Colonial Office kept meticulous records of the daily operations. We know the name, age, sex and daily production of every worker (I will later provide you with a

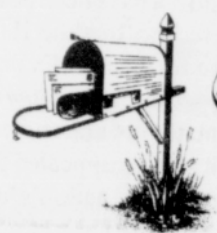
essary (even to modern times) to bring in white immigrants to properly develop and manage technology--and to exploit the labor of a 'less-than-competent' black. Especially in the last thirty years we have heard this lie from various federal agencies and 'think tanks' concerned with manpower projections. Way late in the game, after importation of German and Scandinavian Machinists and tool makers, it was finally determined that blacks with these skills existed, or could be trained.

For an excellent 'establishment' history of American, immigration policy, see "The Annals Of The American Academy Of Political And Social Science, 1966: Immigration" (This is one of the four publications that year). This covers the field from inception to that date; for more recent developments there are excellent materials at the library. As you will continue to see in my series here, these standard renditions of American social and economic history reveal only the tip of a cruel and frightening history.

Returning to that early period of white immigrant versus the black slave or newly emancipated "Negro" as he was called, I shall quote from such documented books as, "Following The Color Line" by Ray Stannard Baker (1905), "American Immigrant Leaders" by Victor R. Greene, "Going To America", by Terry Coleman, "Immigration Policy And The American Labor Force" by Vernon M. Briggs Jr. (1984), etc.

I am sure that there will be a number of raised eyebrows at the accounts of the turn-of-the-century SALES OF COCAINE to the black southern masses by the same greedy and immoral white merchants who also grossly overcharged them for food and medicine. These second generation immigrants, desperate to finally escape their poverty and hopefully rank with the southern 'genteel' classes, "sold a certain patent catarrh medicine with is nearly all cocaine...ten cents for wholly irresponsible acts." The habit, of course, was taken north during the great migrations.

(Continued)



Letter To The Editor

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

Health Reform Needed Now

When opponents of health care reform say, we have the best health care system in the world, they are not taking into account the millions of people who can't afford health insurance.

Just like the saying goes that we are one pay check away from

the poor house, we are also one job away from no insurance. Heaven forbid that one should be in need of medical help under those circumstances.

Some people still feel that if you can't afford it you don't need it. Let's face it, we are under the mercy of the insurance compa-

nies. How many of you have carried a policy that later proved not to give you the coverage you thought you had? Why do you think the medical and insurance professions are spending millions of dollars to scare the American public? Buzz words are hard to ignore: Socialism, government control, you

can't have your own doctor, who is going to pay for it? and of course the cartoons... We can't afford not to reform our health care as it works now. How many of you retired people have had changes in your insurance coverage? Now is the time and I urge you to support health care reform.

Edward R. Alcantar, Grants Pass

Civil Rights Journal

So Many Of Our Children Are Going Astray

An Open Letter To Rosa Parks

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON
Dear Mrs. Parks:

Those were your words to us after you were beaten up and robbed in your own home last week. "...We still have a long way to go and so many of our children are going astray." You so eloquently captured in words the state of our people today, just as you so eloquently captured in action the state of our people that day in Montgomery nearly 40 years ago.

You need to know, dear Mrs. Parks, how I felt last week and how I suspect millions of others of us felt as well. I felt personally violated, as I too, had been mugged. I felt a physical and spiritual pain too deep to name for you and for our people.

You see, Mrs. Parks, your neighbors said they see you as a communal grandmother. I see you as a hero of maybe shero would be a better word. I see you as the conscience of our people. On that cold day in 1955 you refused to give up your seat not because it would make you a legend or a leader, but because it was the right thing to do. And your dignity and your rightness launched a movement and the career of more than one civil rights leader. You proved that one person can make a difference.

You have been my hero for a long time, but that's not the only reason for this lamentation, for the sadness I feel deep inside me. You see, in the back of my mind, I always imagined that if Jesus were to come back to earth now, it would be as someone like you. As a wise and

dignified and elderly black woman, as one who knew life's suffering and sorrows as well as life's joy. And I keep remembering Jesus' words about as you do unto the least of these, you do unto me.

Look what we have done to you, Mrs. Parks. Look what we have done to the thousands of nameless African American grandmothers who also sleep in fear in their own homes. I am so glad the people of Detroit have rallied to your aid and are finding you a home where you will feel safe. But there are tens of thousands of others who don't have that option, who remain prisoners in their own homes. Tens of thousands of elders of our community are afraid of their own people, sometimes afraid of their own children and grandchildren.

Once we were a people who treasured our elders, who valued your wisdom and experience. Now we are a people who treasure only the almighty dollar and who stoop to any and everything to get it, including beating up old people, selling dope to children and supplying guns to young people.

Once we were a people of principle, who served as the conscience of this nation. That's why the whole world stopped for a moment on that day when you wouldn't give up your seat on the bus to a white man. Because they know that you were right and the system was wrong. Because you were willing to confront that injustice that day, black people in Montgomery were willing to walk to work day after day, month after month. And people of good faith

around the world came to our side.

Once we were a people who valued our children and who would go to the very ends of the earth to ensure that they had a better life than we did. We believed that knowledge and education and service and respect were the keystones of our community and that we as adults had a responsibility to pass those values on to the next generation.

Now, Mrs. Parks, I believe we are a people struggling for our very souls. Your mugging is but the visible and very sad evidence of that struggle. The brief life, and death, of 11-year-old Robert Sandifer is another tangible evidence of it. A child not yet five feet tall who murdered another child and who was murdered, in turn, by other children. An 11-year-old who was abused and neglected by the time he was only three months old. A troubled child arrested 28 times in his 132 months of life. A child whose parents, whose community, whose public officials had failed. A child, like thousands of others, for whose souls we as a people are struggling.

My prayer, Mrs. Parks, is that once again, by your story, we as a people will be ignited. That we will be ignited to do something about our fate. Because the choice is rally quite simple, isn't it? We can choose life or we can choose death.

We can choose death for our people. We can continue to allow other people to decide our future. We can continue to let drugs and guns be sold to our children. We can continue to pretend that just because our

own nuclear family isn't in jeopardy that there's really no problem. We can continue to blame white people, foreign people, rich people, poor people, conservative people or liberal people. We can continue to spend our own money for the here and now, at fancy conventions and meetings, at soirees and parties instead of on our children and on our future.

Or we can choose life for our people, a nurturing life of community where our elders are safe and able to share their wisdom, their guidance, their experience. A community where our children are safe and loved and educated and able to achieve their potential in this society. A community where men and women live in equality and respect and commitment.

All we must do to choose life, Mrs. Parks, is to follow your example and refuse to give up our seats on the bus. All we have to do is take charge of our own destiny and know that in rightness we will prevail. All we must do is do something positive with our young people in our own communities. All we must do is take on those whose only answer is to build prisons. All we must do is stand for what is right and others will join us. But we must take that first step like you did - alone and in faith.

You taught us that, Mrs. Parks. May we be strong enough and brave enough to once more follow your lead. May God grant you peace and a feeling of safety and comfort and may God grant us the courage to help "so many of our children who are going astray."

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970 by Alfred L. Henderson

Joyce Washington--Publisher

The PORTLAND OBSERVER is located at
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211

503-288-0033 * Fax 503-288-0015

Deadline for all submitted materials:

Articles: Friday, 5:00 pm Ads: Monday Noon

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer,
P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Second Class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

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Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year.

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