

# EDITORIAL

**D**o not mistake what happened on Tuesday. A "right revolution" took place. Not since World War II has Congress seen such dramatic change. Republicans gained over 50 new seats in the House (the outcome of about 8 races is still pending) and 8 new Senate seats—plus one switch (Richard Shelby of Alabama switched from Democrat to Republican).

## NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

### Right Revolution Wins

While the initial words of Democrats and Republicans were bipartisan and sweet and low, it won't last. The Democrats who remain are generally more liberal and the new Republican majority is more conservative. The only counter to prevent Clinton from caving in to the Republican right and conservatives in his own party, if he is to be countered, is his base—people of color, workers, women and progressives.

The election results send a clear message—unless REAL Democrats offer REAL hope based on REAL change voters will choose REAL Republicans. If a Democratic Congress can't deliver health care, an urban policy or investments in our economic future, voters will choose FALSE hope and a counter-revolution—tax cuts for the rich, an increase in military spending and a balanced budget. Sound familiar?

Republicans signed a "Contract with America." Democrats signed a "suicide pact" with each other. Most Democratic candidates ran away from the President, some Democrats even ran commercials against him. Democrats ran away from their legislative and political achievements. Democrats also ran against their base, using so-called "tough-on-crime" and

"welfare reform" commercials. Progressives certainly should not be tolerant of crime nor defend unworkable and dehumanizing welfare programs, but neither should they tolerate Republicans or Democrats using covert race signals in their (crime and welfare) commercials to get elected to office.

While progressives and people of color may lose later with regard to social policies, the Democratic Leadership Conference (DLC)—the "moderate" Democratic organization formed to offset the influence of the National Rainbow Coalition after the 1984 presidential campaign, to appeal to white males, and to pull the Democratic Party back to the "center"—were the big POLITICAL losers on Tuesday. With a DLC President (Clinton) and a DLC Vice President (Gore), the DLC Chairman, Dave McCurdy lost in Oklahoma, both DLC candidates running for the Senate in Tennessee, Jim Sasser and Jim Cooper, lost big time. Another DLCer, Charles Robb, would have lost in Virginia except Ollie North was so extreme that he divided his own party and had Senator John Warner (R-VA); Marshall Coleman,

a third party Republican candidate; Nancy Reagan; Norman Schwarzkopf, former Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger; and other Republicans aligned against him.

While Democrats face an identity crisis, Congressional Democrats lack a unifying vision or legislative agenda. The White House has lost the political initiative. Republicans, on the other hand, are clear on their agenda. If there was any doubt about where the new Republican majority plans to take the country the new Speaker of the House made it crystal clear the day after the election. Although Mr. Gingrich said it might take a decade, he promised to bury any remnants of what he disdainfully calls the "Great Society, counterculture, McGovernick" Legacy and return America to a more black-and-white view of right and wrong.

He said, "There are profound things that went wrong starting with the Great Society and the counterculture and until we address them head-on, We're going to have these problems."

Three hundred Republican candidates ran on the Contract with

America. Within the first 100 days of Congress it calls for the passage of legislation in the House that, among other things, includes: a new crime bill which focuses on sentencing, the death penalty, increasing law enforcement, cutting the previous crime bill's social spending to fund prison construction; prohibition of welfare to minor mothers, cuts in Aid to Families and work requirements for welfare; an increase in businesses; a limit on punitive damages and reform of product liability laws; and support for term limits.

In the Senate they propose to enact a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution; putting prisoners to work and building less resort-like prisons; and a reversal of defense cuts and the prevention of future ones.

Read carefully the words of Newt Gingrich spoken on CBS Morning News on Wednesday morning: "I think that we have an obligation to listen carefully to what was clearly a voice for lower spending, for less Government, for lower taxes, for much tougher provisions on criminals. I think it's pretty hard to look at governorships, state legislatures, to look at the Senate and House, and not conclude something fairly big was happening in America last night."

JaxFax may listen and hear a different message than Newt Gingrich, but Rainbow supporters should not underestimate the program or the will of those now in power to turn back the clock on civil rights, voting rights, workers rights, women's rights, the environment and the other political and social gains made since the 1960s.

## perspectives

### The I.Q. Attack: The Insecure And Politicians Draw The Bell Curve (conclusion)

**N**o, I didn't leave out that third category, academics; they come under the heading of "politicians."

Certainly we must list mainstream sportswriters among the insecure. These are the people who for so long insisted that black football players were not mentally equipped to be quarterbacks (or sportswriters). Among them we find the same shaky rascals who advanced the theory of "a special physiology" to explain black dominance in every sport to which they gained entrance (articulated heels and butts," what about 'Tiger' and golf?)

I've received many phone calls and letters since I began this series; a number from parents who have done



By Professor McKinley Burt

two things. First, they have used the articles to restore many a child's self-image (especially last week's which demonstrated that the I.Q. score is not 'written-in-stone.') Second, several say they have just gone out and spent a bundle upgrading the "cognitive environs" around the house as per my prescriptions. Ask and "thou shalt receive," 284-7084 (kids ages, grade, etc.)

While I'm trying to recall the name of that young black female astronaut with the vibrant personality - and degrees in science, medicine and astrophysics - I'm leafing through my 'desk-top I.Q. Bible' "Practice For Scholastic Aptitude Tests: Complete Preparation for the SAT and PSAT (Verbal Part and Math Part)." It is out of printing now but there are many books out now - though not so concise and neatly packaged. What I liked about the first little manual was that you could just scan though it and immediately become aware of what SAT and PSAT were all about ("Mae Jemison" was lady's name.)

It is obvious from the book that the home environment of the high I.Q. achievers I described last week was just the type of cognitive incubator that would produce students capable of "eating those tests for lunch". The right books around, the current magazines on the coffee table, a similar peer group, and at least one adult around with the time and inclination to tutor, guide, reinforce and nurture. It will work

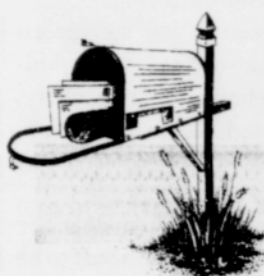
as I've see and demonstrated over the last 30 years, first in The Dalles, Oregon where I was an award-winning consultant to the school district, and then at Portland State University where I wrote those "cognitive prescriptions" for many students who were parents.

Come to think of it, what I've been doing over the years is developing a "Neo-Headstart Program" that takes over where the original left off, and that seamlessly integrates into a second stage while accepting the fact that "it takes an entire village to raise a child." I have now reached the age and circumstance where I can realistically assess the educational inputs and outcomes of the two generations that followed mine,

black or white, rich or poor. A special circumstance was the disintegration of that idealized middle class background of mine at about the time I entered high school - for a three year sojourn (but still reading voraciously).

The descent to the "deep ghetto" as they called it provided a new perspective, a new peer group and new paradigms for "making it." This experience has proved invaluable through the years, enabling me to analyze many socioeconomic factors in a different light, and to expose the stereotypical denigrations thrown at minorities by such ilk as the "I.Q. Charlans," like "Jensen, Shockley, Ravitch, Farrett, Et. Al."

So it is the case now that when you come to page 270 of that nefarious publication of Charles Murray, "The Bell Curve," you will be able to refute and condemn the vicious, bald-faced lie presented by the author: "Ethnic differences in measured cognitive ability have been found since intelligence tests were invented." Fortunately, I've been able to formalize that "Pre-Headstart Program" development into a formal structure that is being tried out in Beaverton and several large cities in California, the East and South. Thank you former P.S.U. students, white and black. I remember what they say about a prophet in his own land!



## Letter To The Editor

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

### Build Relations With Newcomers Of Color

BY KATHRYN FLEWELLEN

**A** majority of the one million newcomers who have come to the U.S. each year of this decade are people of color, Asians, Latinos, Africans, and blacks from Caribbean countries.

We African Americans often have mixed emotions about these newcomers of color. The legacy of racial discrimination has left us economically and politically vulnerable, and we wonder if new immigrants and refugees pose an additional threat to our already tenuous situation. Some of us may resent Caribbean and African immigrants and refugees because we believe these newcomers look down on us and do not want to associate with us. On the other hand, many of us spoke out against the racially-charged policy toward Haitian boat people which barred them from applying for asylum in the U.S. And many of us have registered our objections to the limited number of African immigrants permitted entry into the U.S. annually. Given this complex and sometimes contradictory set of views, what

position should African Americans take on immigration?

I believe that we must develop a strong and well-articulated commitment to the rights of immigrants and refugees that is reflective of our struggle for racial and economic justice and for a positive identity.

As descendants of the largest forced migration of a people in modern human history - African slavery - we have a great deal in common with today's immigrants and refugees of color. We have a unique understanding of the racism and xenophobia many of them confront. Like today's immigrants, we know what it means to be used as cheap labor, then locked out of the wealth of our labor produced. And we know how it feels to be blamed for everything from national unemployment rates and budget deficits to crime.

We who are the descendants of slave migrants can be proud that our struggle for civil rights, equality and social justice has set the moral tone for how all other "minorities" should be treated in this country, particularly immigrants of color. Our struggle produced the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted cit-

izenship of every child born in the U.S., including children of all immigrants and refugees.

Our struggle to keep slavery from tearing apart our families gives us a framework for empathizing with refugees, many of whom come seeking freedom from ethnic, religious, political, social and gender persecution. It helps us understand why immigrants who become naturalized citizens and legal residents seek to bring their spouses, children or siblings to this country.

Our struggle produced the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which protects any person of color in the U.S. - immigrants and native-born Americans alike - from various forms of discrimination.

We have a moral obligation to create what African American theologian Cornel West calls "a prophetic framework" - which directs our anger and action at continuing patterns of racial discrimination in employment, housing, urban neglect and the banking industry's neighborhood investment policies.

We African Americans cannot oppose fair and generous immigra-

tion policies due to fears of job displacement or losing the status of being the largest "minority." We cannot betray our centuries-long campaign for justice by joining forces with the anti-immigration movement. We African Americans must "lift as we climb," leaving no community of people behind to be victimized by racism and poverty. We must remember the tragic history of divide and conquer - too little for too many.

As we African Americans prepare our children for the 21 Century, we must ask ourselves, do we want them to be leaders in the traditions of Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois, Martin Luther King, and Mary McLeod Bethune, who believed in justice for all? Or will some of us, through our rhetoric, encourage them to bow to the ugliness of anti-immigrant bigotry? The choice is ours.

*(Editor's note: Kathryn Flewellen is the director of the National Immigration Forum's Migration Project, an umbrella group for more than 200 organizations that advocate fair and generous immigration policies.)*

### The O.J. Case: Racist Conspiracy Or Collective Paranoia?

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

**N**ational of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan recently warned that the media has "destroyed" O.J. Simpson. He fingered Time magazine for doctoring the cover picture of O.J. to make him look more sinister and menacing. Farrakhan claimed that Time "did the same to me" in a cover picture.

O.J. is only the latest smear target. The Nation of Islam warns that sinister plots, secret relationships, hidden agendas and covert plans are being hatched to destabilize black organizations and wipe-out black leaders.

Many blacks agree. It is now respectable, even fashionable, to talk about conspiracies and plots against blacks. On nearly every talk show I've appeared on this year the host has asked, "Do you think there's a

conspiracy against blacks? Many African-American telephone callers on these shows dutifully chime in with an assorted list of plotters that run the gamut from international Zionists to the CIA.

But why has the O.J. case brought the conspiracy fears of African Americans exploding to the surface? He never visibly identified with black causes. He moved easily in the corporate world of money and power. His friends and personal relations were mostly white. Yet those are precisely the reasons his plight has heightened black paranoia. If the mainstream media could relentlessly assault his character and prosecutors could orchestrate a damaging campaign or convince the public of his guilt even before a trial, then every black was fair game.

A majority of African Americans in July CNN and Newsweek

polls insisted there was a conspiracy by "unknown forces" to frame him. They reasoned that "O.J.'s fall from grace reinforced the deep belief by much of the public that black men were a menace to society. This would provide still another excuse to marginalize, repress and eventually physically eliminate blacks.

O.J., say the conspiracy theorists, is the latest link in a racial plot that began in the 1960s. It goes like this. Following the urban uprisings, the ghettos were flooded with drugs, alcohol, gangs and guns. During the 1980s AIDS was imported in. The "white establishment" wanted to stop blacks from developing unity, strong political organizations and programs to counter oppression. The plot was to bet blacks to self-destruct.

Some blacks, like Farrakhan, named the "unseen forces" behind the plot. "Where do the drugs come

from? Who is the unseen hand. The government of the United States." In editorials and articles, the Nation's newspaper, The Final Call raged that the "unseen forces" had a global master plan to plunder Africa's strategic minerals and annihilate African-American leaders.

There is certainly no proof that any of this is true. And most whites and some blacks laugh at, ridicule and lampoon much of this as the lunatic ravings of crackpot fringe groups that trade in paranoia. Still, we must remember the old line that even paranoiacs have enemies. Historian Richard Hofstadter observed that Americans have always had a special affinity for "a paranoid style" in times of crisis.

*(Editor's note: Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of The Assassination of the Black Male Image.)*

## 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.

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned. If accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and can not be used in other publications or personal usage, without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1994 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver