

EDITORIAL

Two congressional districts in Chicago are being challenged in federal court by a lawsuit that charges they resulted from 'racial gerrymandering.'

The lawsuit states, the boundaries of the mostly Black 1st District on the South Side and the largely Latino 4th District on the West Side were drawn to guarantee a seat in Congress to members of those minority groups. Let's review the arguments.

Have the rights of whites been violated by the creation of these districts? No. White voters are not denied their share of political power. However, even with the enforcement of the VRA, Black (and other minorities) continue to be barred from a fair share of political power nationwide. For example, there are slightly over 8,000 Black elected officials. We are 12% of 500,000 is roughly 60,000 political offices that should rightfully be held by Blacks. Eight

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Voting Rights Act Lawsuits Hit 2 Districts Gutierrez And Rush Jeopardized

thousand (8,000) is a mere 1.6% of the offices that should be held by Blacks if elected on a fair basis.

Latinos are 10% of the population. In proportional terms, 50,000 of the 500,000 elected offices should be held by Latinos. The present 4,000 officials is a

mere 1/12th of the offices that should be held by Latinos, if elected on a fair basis.

Does the Shaw decision advocate the appropriate remedy? No, advocating a color-blind remedy in a race-conscious society (i.e., a demonstrated history of whites not vot-

ing for racial minorities) is divisive. Our opponents argue "any race-conscious" remedy is unlawful and therefore must be avoided. They argue for laws that are "neutral". But to argue "neutrality" is to argue for the status quo, which confirms that race is a primary factor in voting!

Racial gerrymandering or equal opportunity? The VRA does not advocate "racial gerrymandering" or "political apartheid".

What it says is that race may be a factor--along with income, party affiliation, geographic compactness, etc.--in drawing boundaries, so that those who have been excluded historically from an Equal Opportunity of being elected to office will have a fair chance. Historically, incumbency has also been a major factor. Court rulings that do not use the language of "equal opportunity", but instead use language like "racial gerrymandering" to interpret and affirm the voting rights of minorities, jeopardize the Voting Rights Act.

Civil Rights Journal Pulling The Plug On Public Broadcasting

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

If you were to believe everything you heard in Washington these days, all teen mothers are bad, everyone on welfare is lazy and public broadcasting is only for the elite. All of us outside the beltway and in the real world know that all of those caricatures are untrue, unfair and misleading.

Yet Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Sen. Larry Pressler, among others, continue their attacks on public broadcasting, threatening to take away federal funding and make public radio and television just one more commercial network. Just what we need in this country, another television network filled with violence, buffoonery and O.J. Simpson stories.

The Congressional attackers claim that public broadcasting is only for the elites of the country. How condescending - to think only the rich and well-educated enjoy watching nature shows or documentaries

or Sesame Street or listening to opera or jazz concerts. How condescending and how untrue.

The reality is that most viewers of public broadcasting come from households earning less than \$40,000. By one poll 80 percent of all Americans watch public television at least once a month - that makes public television used more by Americans than any other federal service other than highways.

For people of color and poor people, public broadcasting has provided a unique service. Every day tens of thousands of Americans learn to read or earn their high school equivalency through public broadcasting. Every day a million children in rural Georgia actually go to school via public television. Every day tens of thousands of poor children, who often have few educational opportunities in the home, watch Sesame Street or "Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?" and learn something.

For many African Americans, public broadcasting is the network which has tried to tell our stories to the broader American society. For

example, the award-winning series "Eyes on the Prize," produced by Blackside, Inc. told the story of the civil rights movement to America, through the eyes of the participants. More recently, "The War on Poverty" told the story of that era of modern history from the perspective of those who were a part of those efforts.

Henry Hampton, founder and president of Blackside states "in our many documentaries we have revealed, in a thoughtful and we believe compelling way, America's history through the eyes of its diverse communities. We could not have presented this complex history so successfully without the strong support of public broadcasting."

What is becoming increasingly clear is that the attacks on public broadcasting are not really about fiscal concerns. Clearly, public broadcasting must tighten its belt and increase its productivity, as must all public services. But at \$1.09 per citizen, public broadcasting is one of the most cost effective federally-subsidized programs. And the attacks

are not about a desire of the electorate to cut public broadcasting dollars since there was no public outcry for such as the polls last fall.

Rather, the attacks on public broadcasting are about limiting the public debate and world view to the positions and perspective of the conservatives leading the attack. In the past these same attackers have argued that public broadcasting is under the influence of those liberal establishment types, even though they could cite only a dozen hours of "too liberal" programming among 6,000 hours of programs each year.

Rather, the attacks on public broadcasting are about a belief that everything in this country should be commercial. I guess public libraries will be next and public schools won't be far behind.

The attempt to pull the plug on public broadcasting is really an attempt to pull the plug on the diversity of attitudes and opinions and perspectives which make this country strong. It's an idea which makes "Dumb and Dumber" look pretty smart to me.

perspectives And, Now, Back On The Education Ranch

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Last week we revisited the Oregon political sector ("State Of The State"), and this week we will see what has been going on in education. We did close, however, by addressing an important issue: To remain in the economic mainstream, Oregon must be able to offer convenient, affordable and quality education that today's industry demands (But are they sure what they demanded?). And I stated further that in order to keep that stream of brain power online, it would have to be paid for, generously and consistently. It was given that this might require lottery funds, special legislative acts and taxation, consolidation of institutions, whatever -- "It has to be done, even if it takes a SALES TAX!"

Before looking at more of the critical issues confronting the education process in Oregon, let's have a



By Professor McKinley Burt

brief overview at the national level. True to the November forecasts the Republican - led congress has led attacks on student loans, student grants, provisions for children with physical and mental disabilities, school lunches, and English-as-a-second language. Conversely they are pushing for vouchers and school prayer.

In respect to Oregon's new educational frontier, school reform, which is formally known as the "The Educational Act for the 21st Century", the critics of the plan seem to have finally caught up to the level of disapproval that I voiced here last spring. Before citing any of these criticisms it might be well to acquaint readers with the source of this "Oregon" School Reform Plan. It is based on recommendations from the "National Center on Education and the Economy", emphasizing certain "Certificates of Mastery".

The title focus of this industry-oriented and supported organization is what you might expect, better preparing our youth for the work-

place. So, how can it be surprising to anyone that the certificate standards are geared toward training and skills--not knowledge. Many Portland parents are terrified that they will have the often-quoted experience of a very dissatisfied mother: "The district's idea of minimum basic skills required for graduation is a frightening concept--my daughter passed them in the fourth grade."

A lot of other people around the state are equally as concerned. The school Reform Act has been described in some quarters as "the Workforce Act for the 21st Century." It is good to know that revisions are in process. For instance there is an on-going rewrite of the law by a group of House and Senate education committee leaders. Rep. Dennis Luke, R-Bend, chairman of the House Human Resources and Education Committee says, "I don't know whether I'm for the "Certificate of Advanced Mastery" requirement or not--I Don't Know What It Is!" And they are still dealing with

the question I brought up a year ago: "What exactly will Oregon high school diplomas mean to other states in the future". To date, the structure

still seems shaky to many. As I mentioned last winter, I've been tutoring the children and grandchildren of some of my fellow members of the "Associated Oregon Industries". I Can't help teasing some of them about their loud demand several years ago "that the school system get down to basics, throw out the frills and give us a 'workforce' ready to perform."

Now, many are having second thoughts about just how the educational process should develop. Interesting my math/science tutoring approach is based upon curriculum techniques I developed for The Dalles school system thirty years ago -- and subsequently rejected or ignored by several Portland school superintendents.

Also, out in the Washington County area I showed the Portland Observer articles on the scholastic achievements of two African American girls, Tara and Tova Johnson. The request for copies has reached the hundreds.

Cont'd next week



Letter To The Editor

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

One Observation

BY MICHAEL AVERITT

It's hard to imagine the American dream", or better yet a humanitarian dream where you are living in the midst of a constant nightmare".

Every generation has pledged to end this nightmare, and "make it better for those to come". After several non-progressive generation and no closer to any form of realization of that dream", the youth of today want results now, no longer do they feel content with living off what the white comfortable majority feel is significant progress for quote "Black African American".

The African American has no economical base, like all other ethnic groups, his entire earned monies has to be invested into all white organizations and corporations who determine whether they will allow success, or not. With out a economical base there can be no economical legacy for future generation.

Because of these conditions the African American see the piece of American pie as a figment of his imagination.

Many youth of today have been deemed militant because of their form of expressions to combat racism and oppression.

They are constantly being told and shown that in America revolution like communism, will not be tolerated.

The white man has been successful in continuously dividing the black man and has increased his ability to do so by engaging the black mans help against himself.

There's a youth war being waged right here in America, and as long as it can be confined to black on black and doesn't spill out onto white America's turf it has their blessing.

After the so called stop page of slavery the white man has seemed to convince the intelligent blacks that colonization is as foreign as American propaganda.

Every state has institutional divisions that are in fact ran as colonies.

The main one being the penal institution. In these institution racism is alive and not only well, it's being introduced and practiced.

Since black have been convicted and sentenced to penitentiaries at alarming rates, and in most cases only because they are poor improperly represented, and black.

Because of the number's it have created a problem for staff member in these institutions.

As we have seen in South Africa, the white man will never concede to a black majority rule environment.

Being the oppressive genius the white man is, he has resolved that dilemma by sacrificing that minority of whites in a majority black penitentiary. There he invokes rules and laws that gives all more time and unfavorable conditions. Now it's the reverse, when the majority is white, he reverts back to a Democratic system where one man one vote comes into play.

This means that most privileges are put to a vote and the majority rules.

So you can see the disadvantage it put the blacks at. There is no doubt who is at the bottom of the heap and who directs all of the traffic in insti-

tution like these. When you find an institution located, geographically in the North and away from the Mason Dixie line, it's one of pure punishment for the blacks. In the surrounding cities or areas a lot of black's have been lured into a false sense concerning black white relationship.

For some reason they seem to think that they have progressed to a level of acceptance when in reality it's tolerance at it's lowest level. Because of this, black on white crime have been dealt with as harshness equivalent to slavery day. To top it off, the descendants of past plantation owners are the administrators of this swift unjust punishment perpetrated on them.

This institution are broken down into cliques and clubs that have everything but the for whites only signs. Blacks are sprinkled through out the institution to give the indication, to outside observers, that justice and equal opportunity are equal.

But in reality the scattering of blacks is to discourage black unity and to totally prevent any black group situation from ever being formed with out white control. All inmate jobs of substance are controlled by whites alone and passed down with the care of a legal inheritance.

The kitchen, vocational training, activities, living quarters, education clerks, and department, job placements etc. are all white ran and white inmate controlled. Here the black mans dignity has and will suffer. He has had to constantly fight against overt racism and the degrading with all types of indignities including being called boy regardless of age.

The white man now has a new addition to the boy game. He now has a tool called (gang related). Everything culturally black has been defined as gang related black, dress, walk, talk, colors, music, style, and association is at risk of punishment. In this also, age has no relevancy. Out side of these main institution are a number of so called "camps". These camps are fully furnished with and dominated by the unholy of all racists.

It's staffed by red neck's who still hold current klan cards. Most of these camps are located in areas where the skin heads or klans have strong holds. There too the blacks are victimized by staff and inmates under the majority rule play. At these places there are two hundred or better inmates but the black population will never exceed twenty for obvious control factors. With all these disadvantage the black man is still his worse enemy.

Surrounded by all this adversity it would seem that it would draw the black men closer together. His constant lack of support for his fellow brothers and his exploitive nature has further divided the black rank and files.

Everyone seems to be pulling in opposite directions with a strong sense of the I, me syndrome. Competition amongst black is fierce and has become very unhealthy because of the lack of true competitive spirit. It's turned into an arena of showmanship not sportsmanship. With acknowledgement of these conditions in our penal institutions, such as they are, we need not continuously explore the problem and work toward a solution no matter how.

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