

# EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect Or Represent The Views Of The Portland Observer

BY REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON

**T**arget '96 is the theme of this year's NRC/CEF annual policy and strategy conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago from Thursday, February 29 to Saturday, March 2.

Every day it is becoming clearer that the gains workers, civil rights activists, women and progressives have struggled for and won over the past 60 years are under attack by the Gingrich-led forces in Congress. Their agenda is to cut back on these gains. Ours must be to fight back. Their agenda is to shut down the government. Our goal is to open up the government and America to all Americans. They shut the government down to protect the interests of the few. We must open up the government so that it will protect the interests of everyone.

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was followed by legislative acts of civil and political rights. African Americans were elected to office, 22 in Congress at our height. The Tilden-Hayes Compromise of 1877 was a turning point and conservative justices were appointed to the Supreme Court. The Plessy v. Ferguson decision of "separate but equal" in 1896 (legally) ended the First Reconstruction and by 1900 there were zero Blacks in Congress.

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the "March On

## NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

### Target '96

#### Reclaiming Democracy & Justice

Washington" and civil, voting and open housing acts followed, in addition to a "war on poverty" and the quest for a Great Society. Blacks were elected to Congress (a record 40 in 1992). Whites reacted politically and a series of presidents appointed conservatives to the Supreme Court.

Rep. Cleo Field's district (LA-4) was 65% Black. It is now 27% Black. David Duke, who lives in the 4th and won 55 percent of the White vote in a Louisiana Governor's race, now has the inside track on becoming the new congressman from Rep. Fields current seat. The seats of Cynthia McKinney (GA-11) and Sanford Bishop (GA-2) are threatened in the same manner. Every major civil rights gain is now under attack. 1996 increasingly is looking amazingly like 1896!

The private sector, taking its lead from conservative Republi-

cans and Democrats in the public sector, are retreating behind closed boardroom doors. This week Rainbow forces in Chicago met with Untied Airline officials. UA has 12 board members--all White males. In virtually every major city there are two new facilities--a new football or baseball park and/or basketball stadium; and a new jail.

We must come together in Chicago and plan to do something about this.

The Rainbow will target several private corporations for economic resistance; and target 40-to-60 CDs to deny Republicans control of the House and Senate. In Chicago a combination of clergy, labor, youth, women, civil rights and others will put forth a plan that involves: (1) coalition; (2) voter registration; and (3) direct action. We must pull out our marching shoes and picket signs again.

Thursday: Plenary with Marian Wright Edleman, Children's Defense Fund; Jonathan Kozol, author of *Amazing Grace* and other important education books; U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley; Carol Williams, Administration on Children and Families (DHHS); and Keith Geiger, President of the NEA.

Sports agents and athletes will meet to expand the security and well-being of our athletes and conclude with a Sports Banquet & Awards Ceremony.

Friday: Labor breakfast, John Sweeney, new President of the AFL-CIO has been invited to be the keynote speaker, to be followed by a plenary session on "The State of American workers"-- Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer has been invited to head this session; a Women's Luncheon "Women United: Honoring Excellence," Dr. Maya Angelou has been invited to be the keynote speaker; to be followed by a Women's Forum and a Youth forum; concluding with a GALA Dinner/Entertainment, honoring my 35 years of human rights work.

Saturday: headed by Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. and Cleo Fields, mayors, other politicians, political leaders and activists will conduct a national political plenary session; followed by a live national television broadcast (BET TEEN SUMMIT) on voter registration, voting and organizing for change; and the conference will conclude with my keynote address.

## perspectives "Communication" Is The Name Of The Game And You Had Better Be Good At It

**W**hat is, if you want to do more than just survive in this current culture of chaotic economic experience and uncertain futures. So, before you go overboard on the World Wide Net, or get lost in Cyberspace, first, get back to basics. Some things will never change; a need for facility with language -- and knowledge of how to classify information, once it is retrieved.

I have been amazed (and concerned) as I've become aware that several friends and associates, who previously were



By Professor McKinley Burt

"on-top-of-it" as the saying goes, are now pretty much out of it -- their orderly minds and disciplined approaches to the day's affairs have collapsed under an avalanche of data and information that they can't handle. Actually, I don't believe they could keep up if they were assisted by Manpower, Kelley Girls and several other Temporary Services.

I should have appreciated the problem earlier -- when first noticing a deterioration in relationships that had been based on timely and fruitful exchange of information which made possible a number of profitable enterprises. Or when I would encounter these people in coffee shops, offices, stores, lounges, cars vans or on street corners, looking like an over-equipped technician on the Star Ship Enterprise -- or an astronaut on a space-walk to retrieve a satellite.

Beepers, pagers, wrist watch calculators, 99-number alphanumeric memories, cellular phones with auto answer and auto redial, shirt pocket fits, programmable wrist watches that provide information on weather, the stock market, lottery numbers and ski reports (tells time, too). Leisurely, productive lunches that formerly produced useful referrals and valuable contacts develop into nervous twitching and a litany of "excuse me ... pardon me ... back in a moment ... can we finish this up next week?"

And then you project that many will rush back to the office or home and try to download all this stuff into some form of cohesive and

intelligible scheme of things,--while answering more beeps and buzzes and rings, and even retrieving E-Mail and grocery lists. You may think I'm given to hyperbole and other exaggeration, which, of course, I am. But consider, yet - instead of pausing to reflect that yesterday's classification structure will not begin to support all the new information glut -- even the baby boomers contemplate a hurried supper, and, then, Internet news ser-

vices, discussion groups, online mags 'til dawn. And what prompted all these observations and the learned discourse? Why, one

of those usual neighborhood discussion groups, what else? Several of us had described "the most productive course we'd ever taught" and "a student who stood out as a skilful practitioner of the subject matter." Immediately to my mind came my PSU Urban Economics class of 1976 and the five members of the football team who took all three quarters. "Information Retrieval" was presented as the "Sine qua non" for all successful endeavors in life -- ordered and available on demand! But, basics first.

As I learn yet today when they're in the Northwest and stop by to visit, all consider that class an important experience in their lives. When Devereux Dixon (terror of the 1976 PSU backfield) calls from Atlanta where he is a successful mortgage broker he announces himself, "Information Retrieval baby, that's where it is." Recently returning from an international housing conference in Brazil, he emphasized how incredibly important it was to be able to transfer volumes of raw data to a meaningful and coherent structure from where it can be retrieved on demand in an intelligible format.

Today, I'm looking at my file photos and news clippings where all five players had formed a "Progressive Maintenance Company" as a class project for grades. We had appeared on Channel 8 after they had completed installing a basement under an existing house. A successful marketing program had been supported by basic information retrieval from construction media.

## Civil Rights Journal A Farewell To Jean

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

**S**omeone said it better than I. Our values are misplaced. You hear about the deaths of old sports and entertainment figures who have abused their bodies, but those people who have devoted their lives to justice so that the lives of others might be better get no lines in the newspapers or time on the television.

The world was a better place because Dr. Jean Sindab was in it and some 800 people came to Riverside Church in New York in the middle of a snowstorm to testify to her life of commitment to poor people, to oppressed people, to young people. Young people came, native Americans came, environmental justice advocates came, Southern Africans came and many of their friends and colleagues came to pay tribute to this gentle woman with an uncompromising spirit.

Dr. Jean Sindab was an Africanist, whose love for Mother Africa was central to her own identity. Through

her work at the World Council of Churches, she was able to work for the liberation of black people throughout Southern Africa and for the eradication of racism the world over.

Through her more recent work at the National Council of Churches, Dr. Sindab became a leading voice in the environmental justice movement. She helped black churches to understand the impact of environmental racism on the lives of their communities and she clearly understood the link between living in degraded physical environments, mass alienation and destructive violence.

Jean Sindab was also a vocal supporter of our youth and one deeply concerned about the violence which threatens to engulf them. She put together a program called "Things that make for Peace" and was an active participant in the Kansas City gang summit.

Jean Sindab died at 51 of breast cancer. Another warrior for justice felled during what should have been the prime of her life. Another front-

line casualty in the war against racial, social and economic injustice.

We seldom talk about the price one pays for being on the frontlines in the battles. We seldom talk about the early deaths, the nervous breakdowns, the health problems of facing into the winds of injustice and power. But they are clearly there and we as a community need to acknowledge them. And then we need to do something about them.

We need to take better care of our leaders. We need to embrace them, to support them, to demand that they take care of themselves physically, mentally and spiritually. We need to encourage our leaders to stop smoking and to find time for exercise in the madness of the world. We need to make sure that our men on the frontlines watch their blood pressure and their diets and have prostate cancer tests. We need to make sure that our women on the frontlines have mammograms.

It seems that I've lost a lot of folks I respect and love to cancer. Indeed, African Americans have the highest

overall age-adjusted cancer incidence and mortality rate of any group in the U.S. Black women are more likely than white women to die from breast cancer and black men are more likely to die from prostate cancer, for instance.

Cancer, I am told, is a relationship between a host and an invader. There are a number of factors which impact how your body reacts to that invader and clearly heredity, environment, social and nutritional factors all have a part to play in cancer. So do racism and stress.

Being a drum major for justice is full of stress. It means being sensitive to the plight of those who are oppressed. It means speaking difficult words to power. It means putting your life on the line, sometimes in not-so-obvious ways.

Tell someone you respect, someone who is on the frontlines for justice that you care. Make sure they take care of themselves. We can not afford to lose many more Jean Sindabs. We can't afford to lose many more drum majors for justice.

## Are Black Consumers Chumps?

**W**hen Whitney Huston and Denzel Washington were starting their film career movie studios targeted the Black consumers.

These studios would purchase ad space in Black-owned community newspapers such as The Portland Observer and the Seattle Facts.

However, when these Black stars crossed over and became mainstream stars the movie studios stopped placing ads in the Black community press.

No matter how aggressively the movie studios market "Waiting to Exhale" the issues, opinions and some of the lifestyles relate disproportionately to Black women. I have never seen a film where white females are resentful of Black women marrying white men.

The fact that Act III decided not to advertise "Waiting to Exhale" or any

other film in the Portland Observer is a slap in the face to our community who stand in line to buy tickets to movies from "Waiting to Exhale" to "Father of the Bride, pt2".



By Lanita Duke

refuse to advertise.

Act III is not alone in expecting The Portland Observer to run movie reviews while they and other promotional companies

The question for the Black consumer and those who believe that community newspapers should remain in businesses; Are we going to let these businesses treat us like chumps?

As we approach the year 2000 and after the Million Man March the answer is No!

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