

EDITORIAL

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

Jn Sunday, 4/14, Jesse Jackson and the National Rainbow Coalition joined Patricia Ireland and the National Organization for Women, at NOW's "Fight The Right" rally.

This will be a massive march, and we will walk with NOW as they fight back against the current right wing tide.

Join us, to send a message to Newt Gingrich and his conservative cronies that we will not stand idly by while our freedoms are curtailed, while affirmative action is cut back, and while this nation's social fabric is ripped to shreds. The social justice gains of the 1930s and the 1960s must be protected.

When we join together, we can launch a massive movement that can take back our Congress, our Senate, and our state legislatures this November, we started Sunday.

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
The Good-Thanks to B.E.T. for

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION Fight The Right

broadcasting "A Celebration of Life", from the Metropolitan Baptist Church in D.C. It was 5 hours of sorrow, joy, remembrance, and history, in honor of Ron Brown. Wonderful, moving speeches; glorious singing; a brilliant eulogy by Reverend Jackson, to wrap it all up; and a spirit in the church that bonded 1,500 of Ron's family and friends together. It was a night we will never forget.

The Bad--Unfortunately, it was a night that Bob and Newt forgot! When Lee Atwater lay dying in his hospital

bed, Ron Brown visited him. But when Ron Brown died in the service of his nation, GOP leaders Senator Dole and Speaker Gingrich were apparently too busy with partisan politics to attend the funeral. My, my, my. Next time they harp on character, or family values, remember these services.

The Ugly--Bob Grant has done it again--open mouth, spew ugly hatred. Now it's up to Disney to act. Disney Corporation owns WABC, Bob Grant's talk show radio station, but has so far refused to move against

Grant's racism, which has been criticized in earlier JaxFax columns.

Last week, on April 3rd, the day Ron Brown died, Bob Grant struck again.

Ron Brown--a veteran, and a public servant whose plane went down while on a bipartisan trade mission--was reported missing on April 3rd. That day, according to FAIR, and a 4/10 Jack Newfield NY Post column, "before Ron Brown's body was found, and while there were reports of one survivor.... Grant told a regular caller:

'My hunch is that he [Brown] is the one survivor. I just have that hunch. Maybe it's because, at heart, I'm a pessimist.'

The caller laughed and said: 'I know what you're getting at.'

This ugliness is not Mickey Mouse stuff. It's serious. We call on the Disney Corporation, WABC, and Bob Grant to apologize to the Brown family for this disgraceful comment--the latest in a long line.

perspectives

Which Road To Rome Lead To An Effective Structure For School Funding?

Last week I submitted the idea that the most vexing and discouraging problem facing our school district (and others) is the design and implementation of a financial support system that is "adequate, stable and affordable."

It was only with a tongue partially in cheek that I pointed out there had been successful endeavors of this nature throughout the recorded history of mankind; beginning with the temple schools of Egypt in North Africa, touching upon the University of Timbuctoo, just a little to the south on the same continent (where Europeans went for learning in the Middle Ages) -- and concluded by citing the educational legislation introduced by black congressmen during Reconstruction.

It is perfectly natural, of course, that we are besieged by a seemingly inexhaustible supply of proposals, a wishful cornucopia of solutions with a range only exceeded by the number of promised disasters if each and every such solution is not adopted forthwith. Since we cannot very well invoke the sword and crescent to impose a rational educational structure upon the populace--as did the ebony Moors in their invasions of Europe--we must adopt more benign solutions. Quite naturally, as in any coherent planning process, it occurs that we begin by establishing priorities -- economic ones as well as educational needs. This obviously will be quite difficult in the present 'Wild, Wild West' atmosphere prevalent in the Pacific Northwest. Many of us seem to 'want it all: Daily, the media sounding board reverberates from the cacophony of big spenders -- with few if any dollars, they want tens of billions.

"Baseball teams and stadiums, Ice Hockey teams, North/south light rail systems, Massive new water and sewer sys-

tems. Extensive esplanades along the east bank of the river, new as well as sophisticated expansions of civic and cultural institutions: theater, ballet, art and science centers, Orchestras, museums. And then, a subway has been proposed for downtown.

Now how do you suppose the advocates for these big ticket items propose to pay for them? These politi-

cians, these civic leaders, the media-anointed-and-appointed "movers and shakers, the focus groups, the think-tankers, the editorial pundits, even those who strive from the "letters-to-the-fee" that "we just ain't gettin' the oil." So what do we do about the situation...do we form our own focus groups and think tanks, those of us who indeed think that structured funding is the priority; to be established 'before' embarking upon those divisive discussions about 'what' is to be taught and 'when'.

A number of readers have strongly suggested that is the teacher organizations themselves who long ago should have taken the lead in establishing the priority of stable and structured funding in the educational process. Others, reflecting on the matter, insist that this was not the province of teacher organizations (even if, perhaps, it should be). The latter maintain that the latter groups are purely and simply labor unions, and all rhetoric to the contrary, they are simply about their member's welfare; it is imply that "the public has mistaken their mission."

Next week, we will examine particular remedies, from the oft-demonized sales tax to a "State Education Tax" like the present income tax, to an "Investment Structure" which incorporates the proposition that education really must be an 'investment' in the same sense that the business and financial communities use the term (with stockholders?). How far is Rome?



By Professor McKinley Burt

Civil Rights Justice

Lament For My Three Brothers: An Open Letter To Young Black Men

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

To my young beautiful brothers:

The poet T.S. Eliot once wrote that April is the cruellest month. When it comes to African American men, Eliot was certainly right.

On April 4, twenty-eight years after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., we lost three black men of excellence, three black men who were pioneers and role models and leaders not just for black America, but for all America. Within 24 hours we lost Carl Stokes, Haywood Burns and Ron Brown. Reverend Jesse Jackson, at the funeral of Carl Stokes said, "God was lining up his giants."

Carl Stokes was the first African American elected mayor of a major American city. We have so many African American elected officials now that it is hard for you to know the feeling of pride and excitement on

that November day in 1967. But Carl Stokes' election was hard fought and it was only the power of his charismatic smile, quick wit and intelligence that enabled his victory. After his political career, he went on to become a municipal judge, a television commentator and finally, a United States Ambassador. Carl Stokes lived a life of excellence.

Haywood Burns' name is not one you may know, but his life was dedicated to supporting names we all know. A brilliant lawyer, it was Haywood Burns who defended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Angela Davis and the inmates at the Attica prison after their uprising. It was Haywood Burns who taught law students at Queens College and City College in New York and fervently believed that the criminal justice system of this nation must work for all Americans, especially those who are oppressed. Haywood Burns dedicated

his life to excellence.

Ron Brown also was a lawyer by training, his first job was working for his people at the National Urban League two decades ago. A fierce opponent of injustice, Ron Brown took the Washington Office of the National Urban League to unprecedented heights, even during Republican administrations. When he went to the office of Senator Ted Kennedy, Ron honed his political acumen and used all of his prior experiences in the 1988 campaign of Jesse Jackson.

So, many of us were not surprised when Ron Brown defied all the odds, overcame all the racism and became chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Nor were we surprised when he pulled off the impossible and Bill Clinton was elected president. Nor were we surprised when he did not take the expected cabinet offices, but lobbied for and won the job of Secretary of Com-

mmerce. Ron Brown was an uncommon man, who, while fighting against this nation's injustices, also believed we could be better in this nation and that all people could be lifted up to reach their highest potential. Because of Ron Brown, doors are open for you that never were even cracked before.

Carl Stokes, Haywood Burns and Ron Brown all came from humble roots. But they were men who did not internalize their ghetto limitations and the defined roles that society had placed on them as black men. "They turned bitter into better," said Reverend Jackson at the Stokes' funeral.

Now it's up to you, our young black brothers to pick up the mantle, to strive for excellence, to ignore the stereotypes and to never forget the dreams and aspirations of your people. You have big shoes to fill. But if you do, then their living will not have been in vain.

Letter To The Editor

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

Many voters share Congressman Peter DeFazio's objections to the undue influence of special interests/big bucks in politics. (Register Guard, 3/31) So it's gratifying to know that Republican votes, at least, can now choose a candidate who refuses to play the big money game.

Jeff Lewis is distributing posters

headlined "Wanted! \$25 from 100,000 Oregonians!" to help him defeat Gordon Smith and Lon Mabon in the Republican primary for US Senate.

Jeff is backed by volunteers working full-time in appreciation of his views supporting equal rights for All, separation of church and state, no governmental intrusion in abortion access and sound fiscal policies. Jeff Lewis is

a welcome choice for many mainstream Republicans dismayed over the hurt done our communities and our party by religious political extremists intent on forcing their agenda on all. The differences, if any, between Gordon Smith and Lon Mabon are minuscule. Their messages of intolerance and intrusion into the private lives and choices of citizens are the same. Religion performs a legitimate role

in society--but it's not meant to be a controlling role. Our country was founded as much on freedom from religion as it was on freedom of religion. Jeff Lewis supports both.

April 30 is the deadline to register Republican. A vote for Jeff Lewis on May 21 is a great first step to help stop extremist agendas at the pass. Let's do it.

Carol Berg

To everyone at The Portland Observer,

The news about Ms. Joyce Washington's illness stunned me, as I am sure it did everyone.

It is a small thing to write and express my sorrow, but I hope that you take comfort in the many expressions of people like myself who admired Joyce Washington and her work.

You can be proud of your association with Ms. Washington and proud of the work you completed together.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely, Clarice M. White

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970

Charles 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. © 1996 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.

SUBSCRIBE TO The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer Can Be Sent Directly To Your Home For Only \$30.00 Per Year.
Please Fill Out, Enclose Check Or Money Order, And Mail To:

SUBSCRIPTIONS, THE PORTLAND OBSERVER; PO BOX 3137, PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Zip-Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thinks She's The One.

Every Heart Counts. Care About Cholesterol.

National Cholesterol Education Program
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services