

EDITORIAL

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

When Chou En-Lai was once asked what the impact of the American Revolution had been upon history, he replied: "It's too early to tell."

We should keep that thought in mind as we approach the publication of Marshall Frady's biography of Jesse Jackson.

Jesse's only 54. Almost a full score years younger than Bob Dole, the Republican nominee for President. A full four decades younger than Strom Thurmond, again running for the U.S. Senate. And still younger than Ronald Reagan was when he was first elected governor of California back in 1966. The final chapter of this book has not yet been written.

Nevertheless, JaxFax would like to congratulate Marshall Frady for the spirit of respect with which he approached this complicated task. JaxFax had our disagreements with parts of Frady's Frontline television show this week--we found the pop psychology ending weak and out-of-place (why not end the show with the victory of Jesse Jackson, Jr., to Congress, the clearest possible public validation of the Jackson family's years of service?); we noticed a few factual errors; and we disagreed with some of the interpretations voiced on the show.

But Frady seems to have told a story that needed to be told, and with

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Pilgrimage: Part I

a true sense that the life of Jesse L. Jackson is a real American story. He has filled in some missing history for the younger generation, and reminded the rest of us of our own journey these past 36 years.

Among other truths, Frady illuminated:

- The fact that Jesse and Jackie Jackson were activists from college onward.
- That they have raised a wonderful family, an intelligent and talented next generation of Jacksons that will leave their own marks on American culture and politics.
- That Jacqueline Jackson is a remarkable woman of spirit and steel, with her own fascinating story to tell.
- That Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was Reverend Jackson's true mentor.
- And that Jesse L. Jackson, virtually alone among modern-day public figures, has remained dedicated to

the original principles for which he first joined the struggle, despite the passage of time.

Frady's own words, from the 4/29-5/6 New Yorker magazine, sum up this later point I:

"Jackson is about the only figure remaining from the classic days of the civil rights movement who is still actively working at it, and, in some what the same way, he has become one of the few remaining voices of any force who are still unabashedly campaigning, like the Last Believer, for the old liberal conscience in American politics--to the point where he has come to be regarded by many as a kind of orotund anachronism." (Emphasis added.)

What we find strange is that most pundits somehow regard this commitment as a failure of Jesse's, or as some sort of weird and inexplicable behavior. Imagine--a public figure that for nearly 40 years has fought for the same basic set of principles...

What a concept! In this age of poll-driven leaders, would the media pundits approve of Jackson if he were more "flexible" in his beliefs?

At the end of an otherwise fascinating TV documentary, Frady apparently felt compelled to end with one of those pop psychology questions that are constantly raised about Jesse Jackson--why can't he stop?

Our first reaction, of course, is that he is still young, by political standards. He is younger, for instance, than both Colin Powell and Louis Farrakhan, the two African American children growing up in poverty, this does not seem like the right question.

In a country with a higher percentage of African Americans in jail than under apartheid South Africa, this does not seem like the right question.

In a world where the divide between rich and poor is growing despite the end of the cold War, this does not seem like the right question.

Perhaps the real question should be--Jesse Jackson has never stopped marching; why has the rest of America?

How can we go on as a nation with no urban policy? With our children gunning each other down on their own streets? With our public schools in so much trouble?

The answer is painfully clear--we can't. And Jesse Louis Jackson will continue to say so. God is not done with him yet.

perspectives

What Is History: Part II

I was very surprised at the number of readers of last weeks article who were as equally surprised by my closing statement -- "the true history of the darker races on this planet was deliberately rewritten and distorted by the real revisionists in the latter half of the 19th-century; in an attempt to justify slavery and colonialism."

A number (of readers) said, "I never thought of the racism and denigration in this fashion; I just thought that 'they' were naturally racist and cruel, or at best, a natural 'clash-of-cultures' was at work. You have made a logical connection that may call into question the bulk of our efforts to demonize many of our neighbors."

The same readers went on to chastise both educators and media ("they have access") for failing to deliver on their most noble charge: "To faithfully deliver and disseminate facts and information in a truthful and dispassionate manner." And I would say, that for so many who occupy the very highest places in their disciplines and professional associations to play to the prejudices of the vulgar crowd is a shameful stain on a democracy.

Several readers pointed out that in my listing of 'Latter Day Saints Of Racism' as if it were, I omitted the name of the most recent recruit to that repulsive tribe of fearful (but dangerous) clowns who would rather see a nuclear holocaust than multiculturalism (in a multicultural world at that). We speak here of Mary Lefkowitz, author of "Not Out Of Africa: How Afrocentrism Became An Excuse To Teach Myth As History."

It is the pseudo-educators of this ilk who, in the words of one black columnist, would almost force one to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Newt Gingrich in denouncing "the super-left wing hypocrites who have infiltrated the education fraternity." It was twenty-five years ago that I came face to face with the insecurities and racist diatribes of her Ivy League-educated tribe during the Oceanville-Brownsville ur-

ban schools confrontations between black parents and racist white teachers and superintendents.

Having reached New York, on my nation-wide book tour "(Black Inventors Of America)", I was immediately caught up in the struggle between blacks who wanted black teachers, principals and authentic black history in the 99% black schools...and the vested white teachers who came in each day from the bedroom suburbs like an occupying army. Tenure or seniority was not to be achieved by any other race, for the managers of these educational plantations had the same iron grip on the schools and curriculum as did the absentee landlords on the real estate.

I soon discovered that in New York as elsewhere, it was the con-

temporary version of colonialism and slavery that demanded a supporting process of justification e.g. control and administration of cultural history. And so obvious were the economic factors that drove the whole racist machine. Generations of the same families of white teacher had succeeded each other in particular black districts--many immigrant relatives from middle-Europe.

And the same dynastical relationships held (still hold) for the ownership of the real estate. So it is to be understood that much of the hysteria about "history standards" is like Plato's observation about "shadows on the surface of the pond"--the real action is somewhere else. Ms Lefkowitz Suggest in her hysterical book that neither the Greeks nor the Romans knew what they were talking about when they credited blacks with important contributions to the world's culture and technology -- "it was misunderstood in both antiquity and modern times."

It is unfortunate that Freud and Jung are not still around to personally attend to the warped and bruised psyches of this psychotic tribe of education writers. Any doubt that their diatribes have over than an economic basis fades away when we realized that these same 'used-to-be liberals' now lead the fight against affirmative action and 'set-asides!'

Concluded next week.



By Professor Mckinley Burt

Civil Rights Journal: Tears For The Babies

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

When I returned to New York last week it seemed that I was inundated with stories of children.

I was inundated with stories of abused, neglected and murdered children. I was inundated with stories of out-of-control parents and children attempting to kill other children. So many stories in so short a time. So many tears for the children and for our people.

First, there was the story of the whole family found in a South Bronx housing project. The children were found malnourished and covered in feces. The youngest was found dead in the trash bin behind the building. Some neighbors said they heard crying often. Others said they didn't even know there was more than one child.

Then there was the story of the mother in Queens who killed her infant with a small barbell weight when the baby cried. And the story of the mother who threw the baby out a window. And the story of the father who shook the infant so hard that the baby suffered brain damage.

And then, a continent away, the story in California of the six year old

and twin eight year olds who broke into an apartment to steal a tricycle. The thought of little children burglarizing is bad enough. But then, to learn that the six year old kicked and beat the one-month-old infant they found in the apartment makes you want to cry for the infant and cry for the child.

There's something wrong in this nation, where children must fear their parents and must fear other children. There's something wrong when the most vulnerable are left unprotected. There's something wrong when families don't protect children, when communities don't protect children, when our nation does not protect children.

There's something wrong with this nation when we want to take federal dollars designated for child protection and turn them back to the states, at the same time that nearly half of the states have had their child protection systems taken over because they aren't working. There's something wrong when month after month children are being killed by their parents and killed by other children and cities like New York seem to be incapable of stopping the killing.

We must make a better America.

We must make an America where every child is safe, every child is fed, every child can thrive. We must make an America where child protection systems work -- where families and neighbors and schools and churches and social workers and public officials protect children.

We must all become involved -- not as mere spectators or complainers about bad parents or welfare or "those people." We must get involved in helping to teach parents how to be parents.

We must get involved in helping young, single overwhelmed mothers by providing support systems, parenting education, job referrals and child care opportunities.

We must get involved in helping to stop the drug trafficking in our communities which is tearing families apart. We must address the impact of HIV/AIDS on families in our communities. We must help young fathers and grandparents raising children.

And then, we must march. On June 1 the Children's Defense Fund and 2,300 other organizations are sponsoring a national march in Washington to enable all of us to make a stand for our children. Called Stand

for Children, this march's hope is to mobilize hundreds of thousands of Americans at the Lincoln Memorial to collectively pledge themselves to work for our children -- all our children -- and to say to our legislators that we as a nation will not turn our backs on America's future -- our children.

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Come to Washington on June 1. make a Stand for Children in your own life. And then get busy in your own community helping the children. Let's wipe our teas and roll up our sleeves.

(For information call 1-800-233-1200 or fax 202-234-0217 or e-mail: standinfor@mailback.com)

Vantage Point

An Abusive Society Produces Abusive And Violent People

BY RON DANIELS

Despite statistics showing a decrease in crime over the past few years, fear and anxiety over crime remains at the top of the agenda of most Americans.

Predictably, within the American body politic, politicians of both political parties continue to exploit these fears and anxieties by offering up mindless get tough on crime initiatives and laws.

More prisons, tougher sentencing, mandatory sentences (three strikes and you're out), no frill prisons, the reintroduction of chain gangs, and the reinstatement of the death penalty have become the order of the day. The prison/jail industrial complex is now a fact of life in the U.S. as shallow, opportunistic politicians trip over themselves trying to prove whose toughest on crime

The great tragedy is that though crime is down, the streets are still largely unsafe, and the amount of violent crime is still at epidemic levels when compared to previous periods in American history. For all of the hoopla and political demagoguery about crime, the U.S. is still the most violent and unsafe society among the world's western, industrialized nations. All of the political posturing and the huge allocation of tax payer dollars expended on crime and punishment have simply not produced the promised result, a safe and secure society. This is because the diagnosis and prescription is misguided and wrong.

Within the field of psychology and psychiatry there is a theory that people who are psychologically and physically abused as children are predisposed to grow up to be abusers themselves as adults --- abuse begets

abuse. I believe this theory can also be applied to social systems within nations, that an abusive society will produce abusive and violent people. Hence, in my cause of the epidemic of crime and violence plaguing the U.S. For example, it is a well documented fact that communities that have been hit with large lay-offs and loss of jobs due to plant closings experience a marked increase in domestic violence, divorce and economic crimes - burglaries, robberies etc.

America is an abusive society which places a priority on the profit, property and the privileges of the rich and the super-rich over the welfare of the vast majority of people of color and poor and working people and the struggling middle class. Neglect, abuse and violence have virtually become the norm in terms of public policy and the reckless behavior of giant trans-national corpora-

tions. In the interest of further enriching the privileged classes the masses of people are being forced to suffer. And, this callous and blatant neglect of the health and well being of the majority of the people is breeding crime, violence, fear and anxiety.

The failure of a nation to ensure food, clothing and shelter or the means to acquire them in a society which glorifies consumerism and material success is criminal. As Martin Luther King put it, "a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." Civil society is dying in the U.S. as a direct consequence of the demise of the culture of rights and the destruction of the social safety net for human beings that generations of social justice advocates fought for and won in this nation.



Letter To The Editor

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

Woters of Coos County have a unique opportunity to show support for your public land.

Coos County Commissioners are submitting an advisory measure for guidance regarding the Coquille Tribe's request for 92 square miles of prime forest land transferred from Bureau of Land Management oversight to trust status under the Bureau of Indian Affairs for their use and benefit. Tribal trust lands are exempt from

most civil law, including taxation, environmental law, right of appeal and fair labor laws.

After failing to prevent the measure from going to voters, the Tribe is spending thousands of dollars to bait the hook of tribal trust control. This does not even consider what they are spending to lobby Congress.

Senator Hatfield, Representative DeFazio, and Governor Kitzhaber have cautioned them to enlist local support, without which these officials are not supporting a transfer, even though each of them has complimented some features of the scientific study. Unless there is a transfer, the proposal is moot.

Informed voters realize the seriousness of their choice, for they are choosing on your behalf as well as their own, knowing that if this timber land does go into trust, other groups will be swift to claim even more public lands for their benefit.

Coos County voters need to send a clear message to their Commissioners, the Governor, and Congress, rejecting transfer of your public lands to a sovereign nation.

Jean McNamar

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