

EDITORIAL

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

This JaxFax is one in a series quoting short sections from Jesse, the new book on Jesse Jackson by Marshall Frady.

We are almost done, but we did want to immediately summarize many of the essential points Frady makes in his book, since book reviewers, journalists, and political analysts are often distracted from stating obvious truths by the power of the conventional wisdom.

"Jesse paid a very high price in those campaigns," Andrew Young submits, "but I think he may well have saved the country with them, at that critical time during Reagan. He restored a mass focus on black concerns, on poverty and other conditions holding a real danger of social eruption if left ignored. He inspired great hope in the black community. And his voter-registration efforts brought a liberalization of the makeup of Congress--it was how we got forty blacks in the House, how we got those Democratic victories in the Senate. In fact, those voter-registration campaigns of his were ultimately how we got Clinton elected, want to know the truth."

Bob Beckel points out, the party's "white male establishment never did get it that the Senate came into Democratic hands only because of Jackson's

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION Pilgrimage, Part 4

voter-registration drives in the South, but I know that to be true."

"Even Lee Atwater, the mongoose-shrewd genie of electoral strategy for both the Reagan and Bush White House, acknowledged, 'Jackson and his coalition gave the Senate back to the Democrats in 1986 and made possible a new liberal politics in the dying years of the Reagan administration.'"

"Beyond that, as Henry Fairlie reported, Jackson was 'bringing into the political mainstream a crucial number of American citizens who seemed to have permanently abandoned any hope or belief that they might one day find a place within it.'"

"It would also come to be generally acknowledged that it was Jackson's expansion of the black electorate that eventually supplied the margin to re-people the reach for the Louisiana gov-

ernorship by Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who had actually drawn the majority of the white vote in that election."

"Jackson ranged on into reaches of the American experience where no important presidential candidate before him had ever seriously ventured...Ultimately, his campaign embraced a sense of the American family more comprehensive than any tried perhaps since Robert Kennedy."

"Look, when it's all written down," asserts Bert Lance, 'who's the fella who really raised the question of health care in this country...Who was the fella who ultimately called attention in a large way to the plight of Mandela?'"

"Simply the popular span achieved by Jackson's populist apostleship was, Andrew Kopkind wrote, 'of historic

proportions. He traversed lines of class and race--African-Americans, Native Americans, Arab Americans, field workers, white displaced farm and factory families, the underclass and the working poor--to create a genuine populist force that played serious politics in the highest political arena.'"

"More than anything else, Jackson has set out on his foreign treks...as an apostle for the expansion of King's moral vision over the rest of the globe."

"Stanley Crouch...declared in 1988, 'If America cannot use this man in some way, by fusing his colossal ambition with his ability to inspire involvement in the democratic process...then there is a problem of political immaturity in our time much greater than any we have admitted...'"

"Whatever else might develop with Jackson... by 1995 one was beginning to hear appraisals of him like the surprising pronouncement even of Ben Bradlee: 'He is the heir to Dr. King, there's nobody else who comes close. In the last analysis, he remains a marvelously interesting cosmic man. I mean, a big figure in this century.'"

"Jackson, quoted by Frady: 'If tomorrow is my day, will find me still out there carryin' on the work I have all my life. Be out there marchin'.'"

Civil Rights Journal The U.S. And Hidden Killers

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

We don't think about them much here in the United States because we aren't forced to.

Our children are not threatened by them as they play, our farmers don't have to worry about them as they plow. But landmines threaten the lives of thousands of children and many farmers in other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, the U.S. government has come down on the wrong side of the debate about the production and use of landmines, with President Clinton recently rejecting a plea to ban immediately the American use of landmines. Instead, the President decided to allow the military to continue using landmines in Korea, while

seeking a permanent worldwide ban on these weapons in the next century.

Landmines are the small explosive devices buried in the ground which are detonated by trip wires or pressure plates when a person stands on them. Every year 20,000 people are killed by them and most of the victims are civilians. Thousands more are maimed by these devices, often losing arms and legs. The principal victims are poor rural people, often children and farmers. "The chances are ten times as great that the victim of a landmine is going to be a civilian rather than somebody in the military," said United Nations mine expert Paddy Blagden.

A recent State Department report estimates there are at least 85-100 million landmines scattered through-

out the world, with new mines being laid every day. They are available on the international arms market for as little as \$3 per mine. A third of all mines lie in Africa, with 10-20 million in Angola alone. Angola has one of the highest amputee rates in the world as a result of these mines.

The costs for treating civilians wounded by landmines is enormous and most of the countries affected are the poorest. Mine injuries require surgeons, large supplies of blood and antibiotics, prosthetic devices and close follow-up. Indeed, the individual, the family, the community and the nation are all severely impacted by the consequences of landmines.

With President Clinton's recent announcement, the United States stands

with China and Russia in continuing to insist on producing and using landmines. Thirty-nine other nations, including our closest NATO allies, have now stated their support for an immediate and comprehensive ban on the mines. Even the U.S. military is divided on their use, with 15 high-ranking retired military officers urging the President to ban these weapons in an open letter this spring.

There is no rhyme or reason why our military still uses landmines, whose principal victims are civilians, often innocent women and children. The U.S. can do better than this--we can be better than this.

(You can write to President Clinton at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500.)

Vantage Point: The Epidemic Of Church Burnings

The rash of Black church burnings is not diminishing.

It is intensifying. During the last week two churches have burned in Greenville, Texas, two in northern Mississippi, one in Oklahoma, one in North Carolina, and news has just come across the wire that a church has been burned on the Eastern Shore in Maryland.

It is clear that organized white supremacist groups and random racists are unleashing their venom and hatred against Africans in America by attacking our most sacred and independent institution, the Black church. While public officials and media pundits pontificate about whether there is a national conspiracy, a rein of terror is being directed at the very heart of the Black community. This epidemic of domestic terror-

ism must stop.

The core coalition spearheaded by the National Council of Churches, which includes the Center for Democratic Renewal and the Center for Constitutional Rights, has succeeded in forcing the federal authorities to break their silence and end their denial about the racial motivation behind the burning of Black churches. This is a positive step in the right direction. Unfortunately, it would appear that in many instances the focus of the investigations of the church burnings has been mis-directed. The pastors of the affected churches have revealed a disturbing pattern of harassment and intimidation by local, state and federal investigators. Rather than focus on white supremacist organizations that are active in virtually every state where these burnings have occurred, the ATF and FBI

have often treated pastors and congregations as if they are the primary suspects. Pastors and members of the congregations have been intensely interrogated without the presence of attorneys, and asked to take lie detector tests. Church financial records have been subpoenaed. The victims of the church burnings have been treated like the villains.

The coalition has demanded that these kinds of tactics stop. It is an insult to the Black community that it has taken so long to see the ugly hand of racism in the bombing of Black churches and an outrage that there is the presumption that Black people are burning their own churches. There is a widespread feeling in the Black community that if these churches had been white churches, Catholic cathedrals or Jewish synagogues the federal authorities would have responded much soon-

er and white pastors, priests and Rabbis would not be the primary objects of the investigations. This dual standard is racist in and of itself.

While the coalition is demanding that the federal authorities end the harassment of Black pastors and congregations and is pressing for a more aggressive focus on white supremacist groups and organizations, steps are also taken by the coalition to combat the wave of Black church burnings.

The Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR), which has been the most authoritative source for information on this crisis, is continuing to conduct exhaustive research to identify the scope of the crisis in terms of the actual numbers of churches that have been burned since 1990. CDR has also been in the forefront of answering the question of who is burning Black churches.

"It is this type of continuing discrimination that makes affirmative action so necessary not just in employment but in education as well," said Elaine Jones, director counsel of the NAACP-LDF. "How can we reverse this persistent condition if the doors to higher education are slammed shut to minority students?"

"The goal of Americans for A Fair Chance is to help Americans understand the truth about affirmative action," asserts Marica Greenberger, co-president of the National Women's Law Center. Affirmative action is simply giving everyone an equal chance to succeed on their own merit. Too often a person's race or gender has meant that they are not even considered."

The consortium, which plans to launch a series of public education initiatives, has already secured the agreement of noted actor Charles Dutton, star of the television program "Roc," to record a public service announcement. The consortium can be reached by calling (202) 662-8600.

perspectives

Top Educators Catch Up, Cont'd

Last week, many of the readers were startled to learn that the leading educators in the world had, themselves, been educated to a fundamental biological fact: "Nature, in the form of 'smart' genes, does not change at anything like the speed with which IQ has risen."

Though sorely wounded in recent decades by racist clap trap concerning the cognitive abilities of non-whites, (from Jensen and Shockley to the "Bell Curve", we are both surprised and elated of what the "enemy" has long made us aware of--that "nurture" overrides "nature" in a span of "generations".

Then it is not too difficult to make abundantly clear the inference of chicanery and manipulation made last week when I quoted both U.S. military records and the research of noted anthropologist, Stephen J. Gould ("The Mismeasure Of Man")...to the effect that African American IQs in the North consistently measured higher than those of Southern whites.

And, indeed, I proceeded to give further evidence of black intellectual competence in the demonstrating of a superior cognitive ability among my own childhood peer group. And, further, described the "nurturing" process which produced these educational accomplishments in a highly discriminatory and oppressive inner-city climate; techniques and methods which I integrated into my own teaching practices and curriculum design (acknowledging it takes a whole village to teach a child as well as to "raise" one). But racists are not interested in facts.

In this same vein, a local reader who knew me 'back then', and whose grandchild was in the Urban Economics class I designed and taught at Portland State University, says, "It is important for today's generation to know just how critical that incomparable 'early childhood education' was to us." She pointed out that in the terrible depression of the 1930's, "the black middle class was hit twice as hard because, of course, they were first to be laid off."

She went on, "But the world should note that when the family fortunes disintegrated and our parent's income relegated us to the deep, deep ghetto, we never missed a beat. When a

number of us dropped out of high school to work because we had no clothes or had younger sisters and brothers to take care of, there remained the public library and correspondence schools. And with that par excellence 'early childhood education' we had gotten it doesn't seem to have materially hindered our futures."

She's quite right, of course, many of us (like me) never returned to a high school, and they didn't have a G.E.D. process in those days. What we did was make careers of surpris-

ing (or disappointing) by 'floor showing' on college entrance exams or the IQ tests given by personnel departments who thought "this will be the end of it."

In Oregon, after all these years, I still retain a vivid image of shocked Anglo Saxons at Lewis and Clark Law School (Northwestern) and at the personnel office of the Harvey Aluminum Co. "Where did you all say you were from?", they would ask of new students or new hires, black high school dropouts from the South. Of course, many readers are aware of the rigorous high school curriculum I have detailed there a number of times. Portland will be lucky if they reach that standard of math, science, language and literature by year 2010 let alone "Year 2000."

Many of us, black and white, are very much aware of the ugly economic and cultural game practiced in this troubled nation. The distortion or omission of historical and demonstrable facts to the contrary continue in the on-slaughter against the intellectual abilities of peoples of color. High school dropouts, as I have described them, have gone on to become capable doctors, engineers, lawyers, college professors, or mathematicians.

Yet we have a continuous manipulation of fact and fancy (and statistics) aimed at presenting blacks (or deliberately training them) in the mode of Rudyard Kipling's famed description of the indigenous people of India, "The white man's Burden." The British, of course, were in the process of extracting trillions of dollars in labor and natural resources from their "burdens". Sounds familiar, as the new prison-building industries become hot items on the stock market. What happens to "burdens" when no longer needed? **Concluded next week.**



By Professor Mckinley Burt

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.

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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.

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY MESA MENDENHALL AND LEILA MCDOWELL, SPECIAL TO THE NNPA

Six of the nation's prominent legal organizations headed by women are launching an effort to protect affirmative action, a policy increasingly under assault in Congress, the courts and state governments.

A bill co-sponsored by now-retired Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Senator Charles Canady (R-FL) is expected to come to a vote soon in the House.

The bill, called the Equal Opportunity Act of 1996, would effectively outlaw affirmative action by eliminating any consideration of race and gender in federal programs, including contracting, employment and educational opportunities.

"Affirmative Action is needed today because discrimination is still very prevalent. We can't afford as a nation to turn the clock back to the days of segregation, of separate and

unequal," states Barbara Arnwine, Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Her organization is joining with the Asian Pacific American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Women's Law Center, and the Women's Legal Defense Fund to establish the consortium. "Americans for a Fair Chance: Opening Doors to Opportunity through Affirmative Action."

Statistics paint a grim portrait of continuing discrimination in the United States. African Americans who constitute 11 percent of the total workforce, make up less than three percent of lawyers and dentists and less than four percent of doctors, industrial engineers, engineers and managers in marketing, advertising and public relations. African Amer-

ican men with a college degree earn \$798 for every \$1,000 earned by their white male counterparts. The disparity in earnings increases as the education levels rise. Ninety-six percent of corporate CEO's are still white men.

Nationally, Blacks earn about one-fourth less in wages than whites and unemployment remains twice as high. The disparity for women is also telling. Women still make on average 11.3 percent of African Americans.

In 16.7 percent of the instances in which both the White and African American received offers, the White applicant was offered higher wages. White applicants were also notified of job vacancies while applying for another position at a rate 48 percent greater than African American applicants.

Letter To The Editor
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