

# EDITORIAL

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

Remember this about this week's GOP Info-mercial: Colin Powell and Jack Kemp may provide the cover; but Newt Gingrich and Ralph Reed wrote the book.

The most interesting thing to JaxFax about the GOP convention is that the delegates are not only ignored (an increasingly common phenomenon in the age of television)--they literally do not exist. This is a "virtual" convention.

No one cares what they think. Their views are in total opposition to those of many of the leading speakers. There is no controversy, no debate, not even any discussion.

The party nominee brags about not having read the platform, a document which the Christian Coalition largely wrote (even to the point of banning a "tolerance" amendment).

Until last week, Jack Kemp had better relations with urban mayors than he did with much of his own party.

Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition dominate the convention floor, with 102 whips equipped with

## NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

### You can't judge a book by its cover

cutting-edge, hand-held computer technology--yet they have nothing to do, except throw a few scattered boos at Colin Powell when he states his support for affirmative action and choice.

The Christian Coalition owns much of the GOP now; but up on stage, starring in this made-for-TV-movie, the most visible actors are pro-choice, minority, and female--Powell, Molinari, Whitman.

Pat Buchanan, the candidate most Christian Coalition members supported in Iowa and New Hampshire,

is invisible. And Newt Gingrich is only on camera long enough to embarrass himself by singing the praises of beach volleyball, as the embarrassment himself by singing the praises of beach volleyball, as the embodiment of freedom. Not the Contract On America--beach volleyball...

The truth is, despite the friendly TV images of inspiring minorities and perky females, this convention is not at all inclusive. The Republican Convention of 1996 is one of the most exclusive gatherings in modern political history. According to a

Washington Post survey:

- 61% of the GOP delegates are men.

- 92% of the delegates are white, and the number of African American delegates has been cut in half since 1992.

- 36% of the delegates have a net worth of more than \$500,000 (more than 1/3!), and 18% are millionaires (1.5!). No wonder they're trying to resuscitate the capital gains tax cut yet again.

- 74% of the GOP delegates are self-described "conservatives," while only 19% even call themselves "moderates."

Not quite a snapshot of a diverse, inclusive, economically struggling America, is it?

And that's not even taking into account the real power brokers in San Diego, the big-money, six-figure-donor, yacht-partying, special-interest lobbyists hanging around outside.

This is a "virtual" convention. The Republican Party it portrays has not existed since the days of Abe Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

## perspectives My Choice Has Been Made For Me

My sympathetic neighbor seems to think I've been put between a rock and a hard place.

It seems that the loosely-described guru of communications on lower Alberta Street is being mightily tugged (or pulled) in different directions at once. He may be right, for I do feel pressed to address two different areas of the reader's concerns -- and most immediately. But it seems my path has been set for me.

On the one hand, there are those who say, "it has really been a good summer with the 'Perspectives' column. Especially useful has been the discourse on 'language' and some often neglected applications to our daily affairs, for parents and our children as well. We have been made aware of nuances and implications in our communications that can make a huge difference in our lives--socially as well as in the all-important economic venues...etc."

That is all well and good, but my neighbor weighs in heavily with the other crowd "The national education gurus don't think Oregon has a ghost of chance in 'implementing' that 'Year 2000 Education Plan'" And many Oregonians believe that the national evaluators are looking at more than the nuts-and-bolts of the plan itself--at a lot more!

Measure 47, a sort of "Son-of-5", "cut-and-cap" tax (or anti-tax) measure brought before us courtesy of that per ennial fuss-budget, Bill Sizemore (pun intended). This new and perhaps fatal assault on school districts already in dire financial straits has brought together in urgent counsel and frequent confrontation some rather diverse collections of mayors, school administrators, commissioners, legislators and parents.

Just as in the case of Measure 5, the politicians have approached the business community very early on--but with an apologetic air (though still retaining an urgent tone. "In 1990 we were a little shrill--nobody figured that the economy would take off the way that it did... We projected an immediate collapse of the entire school system based on the best information we had." Both the city and county Chamber's of Commerce have been asked to form an

independent committee. To analyze "Measure 47," the new cry of wolf.

But, that is far from being the only erotic financial chasm which the city and school districts could find yawning beneath them, come November. There is the ominous economic events which could be triggered by passage of "Son-of-5", "Measure 46," which requires a majority of voters to approve any tax measure, might be seen as applying to bond measures passed after 1990. One billion in city of Portland bonds did not meet that standard. It is feared that gov-

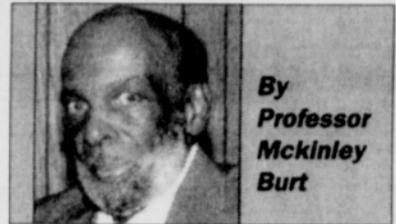
ernments maybe required to those debts FROM OPERATING BUDGETS.

Consider this. (My cyber space and computer land acquaintances in the Associated Oregon Industries are, and with a great deal of alarm). A court could rule this measure retroactive and the Portland School District would have to pay back the \$100 million in bonds already issue. Believe me, these matters are being given urgent attention by corporations that have made investments totaling billions--based, in great part on grandiose projections of an education system capable of supporting the new technologies (all the way back to Japan).

Of course, too, there are all those who have their personal and private urgencies. And we are going to get around to them in the coming weeks. There is deep concern over the failure of some promising 'independent schools.' The media reports that a private school intended to "put the fear of God in public education officials" has failed. The staff and 70 students of the "Parks Elementary School" in Gresham no longer have their dream of a "traditional back-to-basics" institution.

This has been a disappointment to a number of inner city parents who were closely following the progress of this private school--having made some overtures to an individual like the Gresham philanthropist, Loren E. Parks. This was in conjunction with several requests made of local corporations and foundations.

We will explore more of the urgent situations that beset the educational establishment.



By Professor Mckinley Burt

## The 20th century slave trade

BY JOE MADISON

This is amazing: Anyone who thought the institution of slavery was an chapter in the saga of man's inhumanity to man only need to look at the Baltimore Sun's series on the thriving slave trade of Mauritania and Sudan in Mica.

That's right -- it's 1996 and slavery is still going on in Africa. But very few people are talking about it.

What's worse, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, the world's most visible speaker on the injustices of the white man against the black man, is one of the biggest supporters of these Moslem nations. When he returned from his controversial trip to the Middle East and Africa, Farrakhan responded to rumors that slavery was still alive in Mauritania and Sudan by throwing down the gauntlet to reporters to go there and find it.

The Sun did. And the result was a gripping account of the widespread buying and selling of African children into lifelong forced labor, rapes

and torture of women. For about \$1,000, the two Sun reporters were able to purchase two young boys who had been enslaved by Arab masters. One of the reporters, Gregory Kane, appeared on my show. He recalled a popular torture in Sudan, used by the ruling Arabs on the suppressed Christians: Attaching one end of a rope to a camel, and the other end to the genitals of a slave and whipping the animal into a frenzy so that it sprints, dragging the captive along the ground. And just three weeks ago, the leader of Sudan's Human Rights Organization appeared at a bipartisan Congressional briefing and said that as many as 10,000 slaves were under government control.

Since 1983, Sudan's ruling Moslem government in the North has waged a viscous war against the Christians in the South.

But reporting on slavery in Mauritania and Sudan isn't new. Six years ago, *Emergence* magazine wrote that Mauritanian Arab masters were still subjugating Africans, even

though the government repeatedly said that slavery there had ended. (At an NAACP National Board meeting government repeatedly sid that slavery there had ended. (At an NAACP National Board meeting in 1994, I raised the issue of Mauritania and the board unanimously passed a resolution that condemned the situation and urged Congress to get involved. But reporters were more interested in covering the internal bickering of the group and didn't mention the action we had taken).

If Farrakhan's support of Mauritania and Sudan is surprising, then the silence of the Congressional Black Caucus and other black organizations is shocking. Veteran black journalist Sam Cotton recently wrote the one-time chairman of the CBC, Mervyn Dymally... "testified before Congress that slavery no longer existed in Mauritania. Dymally is a lobbyist for the Mauritanian government, paid \$120,000 for his services."

However, the current head of the

CBC, Rep. Donald M. Payne, is reportedly preparing legislation that would impose economic sanctions and arms embargoes against Sudan. But how effective would this be, when the United States virtually has no economic or military ties with Sudan or Mauritania to begin with?

The dual conspiracies of silence and denial on this issue underscores the missing ingredient in our circles of leadership--integrity. Steven Carter's book on the subject outlines an ethical litmus test that separates a leader from a misleader. His criteria for integrity is for one to: Discern what's right and wrong, take a position, even at personal cost, and publicly speak out on that issue. That's true leadership, Minister Farrakhan.

So we must call, write or fax our representatives on Capitol Hill and groups like the CBC, TransAfrica, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the NAACP and others, and demand that leadership by shown in ending the suffering in Sudan and Mauritania.

## The New Black Voice

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

Four years ago, just after Ross Perot's 1992 presidential campaign, when I myself was an independent candidate for the presidency, I was invited to address a group of supporters of Ross Perot in southern California.

The topic was building an independent movement that could bring together Americans of different political persuasions, economic status, and racial backgrounds. I must confess I was nervous. I was going to

speak to a crowd of 400 Perot partisans, very few of whom were African American, and frankly I had no idea what the response would be like. I believed very passionately - as I still do - that the American people can overcome our differences and come together to save our country. This was my dream. And I must tell you that when I finished my speech and this room full of Perot supporters rose to their feet and gave me a standing ovation, I felt certain - probably for the first time - that my dream would become a reality.

And indeed, it has. For this month, hundreds of hundreds of thousands of Reform Party members around the country from many walks of life will come together in this most historic experiment in grassroots democracy to select the Reform Party candidate for president and move us further down the path of building a new party of the American people.

It is amazing to me how plain old grassroots democracy frightens the political establishment. It is a measure of how alienated our government and the two major parties have

become from the American people - from you and me. They are panicked that ordinary Americans are standing up and saying we don't like what's happening to our children and neighbors, whether we live in the suburbs or the inner city. These are the kinds of things the majority of Americans are profoundly concerned about. And we have decided to take matters into our own hands and build a new political party. This had shaken the political establishment, including both political parties and the media - to the core.

## Psychiatric school programs

A recent report on changes in the educational system show that children are being used as "guinea pigs" for psychological behavioral programs in schools and mind altering drugs such as Ritalin are being prescribed to them--all without parental permission.

Literacy scores have plummeted and juvenile crime has tripled as a result, with the number of children arrested for murder expected to increase by 150 percent in the year 2010. Documents from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration show that children as young as five are committing suicide on psychiatric antidepressants.

Parents, horrified by this Brave New World "mental health" approach to education, have increasingly sought to home-school their children--yet even this has been at a risk.

In the state of Colorado, for example, this could have constituted a charge of "educational neglect" and both children and parents may have been ordered to undergo psychological therapy.

The bill that proposed this was narrowly defeated in May this year.

The recent release of U.S. Justice Department statistics showing increasing juvenile crime has prompted the reprint of a compelling booklet. *Psychiatry: Education's Ruin*, which traces how our education system has been brought almost to the brink of collapse because of the psychiatric and psychological programs introduced into it in the 1960s.

More than a quarter of a million copies of the booklet are being distributed to legislators, teachers and parents. The message is clear: "If you value your children's future, if you value the future of our society, insist that psychological and psychiatric programs are removed from schools."

Bruce Wiseman, an educator and national president of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) which produced the booklet, stated, "No parent, teacher, or educator would have believed that the result of psychiatry's methods in schools would be the wholesale destruction of schools and children's desire to learn. Who could have predicted that the end result of education would have been illiteracy, vio-

lent crime and children taking their own young lives."

In 1965, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed which opened the door to put psychiatry and psychology firmly into our schools.

As of 1994, psychologists and psychiatrists in schools almost outnumbered teachers.

The cost of educating America's youth is now \$300 billion a year and a substantial portion of this is used to finance psychological programs and experiments.

Educational psychologists and psychiatrists claim that if one student excels and another does not, the self-esteem of the slower student will be harmed. Their solution was to "dumb down" the curriculum.

Psychologist William Coulson, once a supporter but now a staunch

opponent of psychological influence in schools said, "One of the effects of self-esteem programs is that you are no longer obliged to tell the truth if you don't feel like it..."

Behaviorist approaches to education, which preach that there is no "right" or "wrong," have had devastating results: 13 percent of American 17-year-olds are functionally illiterate and the percentage may run as high as 40 percent among minority youth.

Between 24 and 44 million adults cannot even read the poison labels on a can of pesticide or a letter from a child's teacher; in 1988 alone, 28,100 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 were arrested for aggravated assault and by 1992, it had jumped to an unbelievable 63,700 arrests.

From the Citizens Commission on Human Rights International.

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## The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)

Established in 1970

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Advertising Sales Manager

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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, 12:00pm

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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Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year

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