

EDITORIAL

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

Lawmakers, listen up

BY THE METROPOLITAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

With President Clinton poised to sign The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, (Welfare reform), the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission unanimously passed an aggressive resolution.

In it they called on lawmakers and government executives to "take advantage of all state and local options allowed by the law to insure continued benefits to all needy residents regardless of immigration status."

Lowen Berman, MHRC Commissioner stated, "Our country and its people are facing a crisis. In a matter of weeks, The Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 is expected to take effect. This bill will directly impact millions of our people, denying food stamps, medical care, cash benefits and dozens of desperately needed services. All of us will be forced to deal with the resulting increase in poverty and social disruption."

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted December 10, 1948 by the United Nations, a docu-

ment to which the MHRC is committed, states that: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection..." and further states that

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

Therefore, the MHRC calls upon all Oregon, Portland, and Multnomah County lawmakers and executives to use all of their legal and other public powers to take advantage of all state and local options allowed by the law to insure continued benefits to all needy residents regardless of immigration status.

Violence in black and white

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON, PH.D.

Why is the FBI being so soft on them? They've got to do something."

The resident of Jordan, Montana was bewildered that more than a month after beginning of the siege, a small army of FBI agents waited patiently for a band of 20 Freemen holed up in a Montana ranch house to surrender.

The Freemen were wanted for land theft, check fraud and the swindling of banks, public institutions, and businesses of \$1.8 million. The FBI wait-out cost the taxpayers \$300,000 per day and Montana residents an added \$250,000.

FBI officials say they wanted to avoid a repeat of the blood bath that followed the siege at Waco and Ruby Ridge, which touched off public outrage and congressional investigations over FBI tactics.

Ramona Africa was probably bewildered that law enforcement didn't take the same precautions to avoid bloodshed and the destruction of property in Philadelphia more than a

decade ago. A week after the FBI wait-out in Montana began, Africa filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit in federal court against Philadelphia city officials for the March 1985 bombing of MOVE headquarters that killed 11 MOVE members. The group was awarded \$1.5 million in damages this year.

Although local police confronted MOVE and the FBI confronted the Freemen, there are similarities. MOVE, like the Freemen, was a radical fringe group. Their members were armed. They had members in jail and a history of prior confrontations with the law. Women and children were in the siege house. Neighbors and area residents complained about them. The bomb dropped on MOVE contained C4 explosive, reportedly supplied by the FBI.

In less than 48 hours, a Philadelphia police helicopter dropped the C-4 bomb on the roof of the MOVE headquarters. Six adults and five children were incinerated, 61 homes destroyed, and 350 residents were left homeless. Three days after the

MOVE bombing then Attorney General Edwin Meese told the California Peace Officers Association that the bombing was "a good example for us all to take note of."

The biggest difference, however, between the two groups is that the MOVE activists were Black men, women, and children. The Freemen are mostly White males.

The public veil over White violence is in stark contrast to America's open assault on Black violence. In 1995, one out of three young Black men are in jail, or prison, on parole or probation. Nearly half of America's one million prisoners are Black. The top heavy number of Black men in jail reinforces the public view that they commit most of the major violent crimes in America.

They don't. White males commit 54 percent of violent crimes in America, 60 percent of the urban hate crimes and the majority of serial and mass murders.

The O.J. Simpson, Mike Tyson, Mel Reynolds, and Colin Ferguson trial dominated press headlines for

months. The legal actions involving accused Oklahoma City bombers, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols; accused mass serial murders, Glen Walters and Charles Rathbun; accused child murderer Richard Allen Davis and accused double murderer Robert Acremont have barely made a media ripple.

There are thousands of Freemen, Militia, Patriot, Aryan Nation, Order, and neo-Nazi members at large. They are well-armed and financed. They have the tacit support of dozens of public officials, and the sympathy of millions of Americans. Many of their members agree with William Pierce who in the rabidly racist, anti-Semitic fictional blueprint for terror Turner Diaries wrote that "We are in a war for the survival of our race." Their key to victory is terror and mass destruction.

While they often get kid glove treatment from law enforcement, militant groups like MOVE get swiftly attacked and harshly prosecuted. Violence may come in Black and White, but law enforcement does not treat both the same.

Did "Uncle Tom" miss his own funeral?

BY CAMILLE HARPER

Whatever justification there may have been for calling successful Black Americans "Uncle Tom" because they catered to whites in order to succeed, that justification is dead.

It should also be buried and forgotten. Uncle Tom belongs to the culture of dependency; he belongs to the welfare state thinking which elevated criminal street gangs to the level of folk heroes.

In fact, if anyone deserves the title of Uncle Tom -- and no one does -- members of street gangs deserve it.

These criminal groups loiter or stay out of sight, commit crime or don't commit it (often on other blacks), participate in programs or ignore them, give help or withhold it, according to their own agenda for gaining power and control. Often this means catering to a liberal white elite establishment, yet no one calls these members of street gangs Uncle Toms. No one should.

Uncle Tom is dead. He is a ghost revived to suit the purposes and agendas of certain individuals and interests; the time for Uncle Tom to attend his own funeral is overdue. Afterward, he should remain in the grave-

yard and rest in peace. Black Americans have important work to do. The leadership for the next century must be identified and developed; schools must be made to function; issues must be understood and debated; small businesses must be expanded and created; the opportunities in technology and research must be explored; ineffective policies must be replaced by effective rather than reactive ones; in short, there is a future to build. That construction will take much time, energy, and commitment. There is no time to conjure up ghosts like "Uncle Tom."

Uncle Tom thinking has caused

too many funerals, even as he missed his own. The funerals he caused have too often been for the young and the innocent, the dreamers and achievers, the poets and the businessmen of the future.

Uncle Tom belongs to the past. The present belongs to us, and the future belongs to our children.

The ghost of Uncle Tom must not be allowed to haunt that future. Welfare dependency and the criminal culture of street gangs must not control that future by waltzing with a ghost.

"Uncle Tom" must be exorcised, buried, and forgotten. Our children on it.

Band together for progress

To the Editor:

The attached is typical of the treatment HMO's are giving their members, especially senior. We have had no way to fight back. But this can be changed. I am inviting all people who have trouble with their HMO to call or fax me at 541-547-4663 or write me at P.O. Box 1030, Yachats, OR 97498. By banding together we can improve the system so we are better protected.

Mr. Preizler:

"Your good health is our first primary concern." Those are the first words one hears on the telephone when calling PACC.

That statement is a travesty.

My wife, Beryl, and I (seniors) were in Portland visiting friends Monday and Tuesday of this past week. Tuesday night we had dinner at Saylor's Old Country Kitchen in Beaverton. We left there at 10 PM and started walking to the car. My wife stepped over the divider in the parking area and her leg simply collapsed. As she fell we heard a "pop" then another when we landed on her bent-under ankle. She immediately said, "It's broken".

We picked her up and drove immediately to St. Vincent's emergency in Beaverton. Fortunately, there were few patients and they tried to expedite the registration because my wife was in so much pain. The pain was so excruciating that she started going into shock. Finally they determined that her ankle was indeed fractured in two places, gave us the name of a doctor in Portland, and discharged her about 1:30 a.m. The treatment there was performed because "Your good health

is our first primary concern," means something to St. Vincent's.

We decided that same morning that because there would be further visits after the ankle was repaired that we would return to the coast. So, we called my wife's cousin, who is a volunteer at Lincoln County Hospital, to find a good orthopedic man in Newport and to notify our Primary Care Provider, Tim Troutman, at Delake Medical Center in Lincoln City that we would be taking Beryl to the doctor she obtained. She was able to get Dr. Gerald Butler in Newport to see her. When she notified our PCP about Dr. Butler nothing was said that we couldn't see him.

We left Portland in a driving rainstorm that morning about 11 am. All the way, Beryl was in a great deal of pain, but kept dozing off intermittently as we drove. The pain increased as we kept driving. About 2:30 p.m. we reached Dr. Butler's office and were ushered into his care room immediately. Beryl was made as comfortable as possible, and placed on a gurney.

Dr. Butler practiced "Your Good Health Is Our First Primary Concern."

At this time, Dr. Butler's staff was on the phone to PACC people. They came back to and explained that Dr. Butler was not one of their referral doctors. We would instead go to a doctor in Florence, sixty miles south.

No way would I put Beryl through the pain and delay driving another sixty miles after just having ridden a hundred fifty miles to get to Newport, only to satisfy the greedy motives of PACC.

"Your Good Health is Our Primary Concern"?

Shortly, his receptionist came in and said PACC had rejected the claim. This infuriated me. I called PACC's office and took my venom out on Carol (wrongly). She interjected and said it was still pending. She gave me the pre-consultation number and said it would most likely be approved, and if it were her, she would proceed with Dr. Butler.

Finally, about 4:30 p.m. Dr. Butler's receptionist came in and told us our claim had been rejected.

"Your Good Health Is Our Primary Concern". Empty words motivated by

greed.

I am fighting for a principle here. How many other PACC members in regular or emergency situations have been denied necessary care because of an entrenched bureaucracy which is only bottom-line oriented.

"Your Good Health Is Our Primary Concern" is simply a catchword phrase which is not supported by its real intent - to have people subscribe you want them to think you have scruples.

While I think about it, I have called your staff a number of times requesting that a doctor be signed up in Newport.

We have to drive sixty miles to our PCP in Lincoln City because you either don't care how far a patient has to travel or you are satisfied with the status quo.

Actions like yours are what are giving the whole HMO plan a bad name.

Disgustedly, Willis S. Johnson

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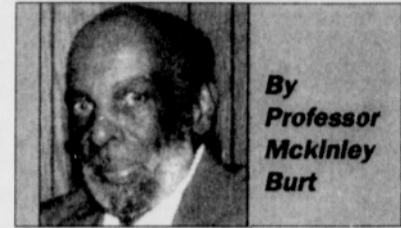
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perspectives

The future of higher education in Oregon

It has been suggested by a number of readers that it has all been well and good to have concentrated on the 'foundations' so thoroughly, but many of us parents are "between our own rock and a hard place when it comes to 'higher ed' choices for our kids. We can't afford an 'Exodus'... or to stay here."

I heard that! Let me tell you where I'm at this moment. Clipped to a big poster board at one end of the desk where I'm writing



By Professor McKinley Burt

are a number of news clippings relating to the state of higher education in Oregon and across the country. For an hour, now, my haze has focused on one, then the other, seeking to synthesize this motley collection of advice, cautions and warnings into a coherent statement of academic ship of state.

"Higher Education Plays Catch-up: Oregon Looks Enviously Across The River"--Professors' Pay Will Rise; So Will Tuition"--"Oregon Higher Ed Officials Plan Reforms"--"PSU's President Seeks Fairness In Reform"

"PSU High-Tech Programs Need Money, Not OSU's Control"--"The Reigning Brain Drain: Oregon Hurting"

Now, those are concerns that have been raised in just the last ninety days. Centering in collage of mostly dire and unintended consequences, is a clear warning of things to come; "The High-Tech Boom: Disorganization Dooms Oregon Efforts." This gem is from the Sunday Oregonian for Oct. 1, 1995.

After making a lengthy point-to-point comparison between the innovative, resourceful and forward-looking support structures provided to higher education in another state (Texas), our writer concludes that Oregon doesn't have the research programs that would attract the larger technology firms (Does it have the commitment?).

"But Oregon higher education's attempts to become a force on the high-tech scene also have been hampered by the system's own lack of organization--put the various

school's resources together, combine those with private industry and government conneration and you've got something--there isn't a strong coalition of those three groups in the state... but we're improving."

We will note that these assessments were made almost a full year earlier than those more recent head-

lines I cited here earlier. I have not seen any great flurry of movement toward achieving

such connections with these groups. I am a member of Oregon's largest industry group and I have not detected any ground swell of clearly enunciated and ambiguous support of a cooperative structure for the advancement of higher education. Among individuals of my acquaintance and their firms, yes; but, considering the lateness of the day, the expected movement is not there. What future indeed, have we?

On the other hand, all of the articles I have cited focus a great deal of attention on the performance of the administrators and other officials of the Oregon State System of Higher Education. Here, there is no lack of energy exercised in the exploration of their hindsight, oversights and just plain "lack of vision." In an inspired caveat, the writer of that last article (comparing Oregon with Texas) observes that "officials in Oregon are painfully aware of the state's reputation."

Though the American Association of State Colleges and Universities has made it official--that "since 1992, Oregon's spending on higher education has dropped more than 10%, the biggest cut in the nation"--the parents and students I know validated this ugly turn of events quite some time ago.

They offer up their bank loans, depleted savings and deferred dreams, all of which were dashed on the rocks of steadily increasing tuition and other costs.

Next Week: An in-depth look at the state systems.

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Charles Washington
Publisher & Editor

Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager

Daniel Bell
Advertising Sales Manager

Iesha Williams
Gary Washington
Production Specialists

Sabrina Sakata

News/Copy Editor

Paul Newfeldt

Graphic Designer

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Portland, Oregon 97211

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