

EDITORIAL

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The Portland Observer

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Letter To The Editor

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Measure 37 could damage recycling

To the editor:

Measure 37, the so-called "bottle deposit" initiative on the November ballot, would do considerable damage to the progress we've made since we adopted the Bottle Bill in 1971. Here are two reasons why.

First, our existing law includes just six kinds of pop and beer containers. These six apply to 90 percent of the roadway, beach and stream-side litter in Oregon. This is the main reason why Oregon looks so much better than other states! On the other hand, Measure 37 applies to almost 60 types of items from a grocery store, items that are primarily consumed at home, and which account for a very small percentage of litter. What a mess!

Second, Measure 37 would do severe damage to the progress Oregon has been making toward recycling. Why? Because we are getting used to curbside recycling and taking our trash to places where it can be recycled. That was one of the main goals of the original Bottle Bill. We Never intended grocery stores to be junkyards for more and

more empty containers like 37 proposes. Why should Oregonians reverse the productive trend toward recycling programs that has made us one of the leading recyclers in the nation? Also, the exemptions and inclusions don't make any sense. Why include 6 oz. juice cans but exempt 5.5 oz. juice cans? Why include low-alcohol wines but exempt regular wines? Why include senior nutritional supplements but exempt premixed alcohol drinks?

Our state legislature has passed lots of laws that don't work, but our Oregon Bottle Bill isn't one of them. I'm proud to have been a part of something that is really working. I was the original author and chief sponsor of our Bottle Bill law in 1969 and 1971.

It makes us--myself, the two co-authors and 23 original legislative supporters of the Bottle Bill--unhappy that someone wants to come along and fiddle with something that has worked so well.

I hope Oregonians see through all the smoke on this one and vote NO on Measure 37.

--Sincerely, Paul Hanneman.

To the editor:

It is time for Oregonians to increase recycling efforts. Measure 37 will accomplish expanding Oregon's landmark Bottle Bill. 94% of all bottles covered by our Bottle Bill get recycled compared to less than 30% for non-deposit bottles.

Measure 37 will triple the recycling of drinks like Snapple, Gatorade, juice, and bottled water.

Beware of the millions that will be spent to defeat this bill from out-of-state corporations about Oregon.

Sincerely--Joe Keating

The Rainbow/PUSH Action Network this week blasted the Republican Party's attempt to misuse the image and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with their misleading TV ads against affirmative action in California. Reverend Jackson called the GOP ads "blasphemy!"

For the right-wing Republicans to try to put Martin Luther King on the same team as David Duke is nothing short of an atrocity.

All Californians--indeed, all Americans--who support equal opportunity, tolerance, and fair play should come together now to denounce this divisive, cynical, hostile, political trick. We must stop Prop. 209. Those who never marched with Dr. King, nor stood with him in times of turmoil, must not be allowed to mis-speak his name, misquote his words, and misinterpret his dream. Dr. King would never stand with

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION Blasphemy

David Duke, Pat Buchanan, and Pete Wilson in opposition to Affirmative Action. The Republican Party should be ashamed of this vicious demagoguery. Jack Kemp and Colin Powell should denounce these tactics, today. And President Clinton and DNC chair Don Fowler must fight back, with money and advertising in California, to defeat this GOP wedge attack.

The Republicans are spending millions to create a racial wedge issue, in a desperate last-ditch at-

tempt to divide and polarize the electorate. Shame on them. And shame on us if we don't fight back. Even the late Lee Atwater, just before his death, denounced such hateful tactics.

The truth is, Title IX has made America better--just think about the women athletes on our Olympic team. The American with Disabilities Act, of which Bob Dole is justifiably so proud, is also affirmative action. The truth is, affirmative action is not a minority issue. When we include

women, African Americans, Latino/Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and the disabled community, this is a majority issue. Without the protection of law, those historically locked out will remain locked out.

Dr. King never confused his dream with American reality. That's why he said: "A society that has done something special against the Negro for hundreds of years must now do something special for the Negro." Affirmative Action.

Dr. King supported government action to repair past injustices. That's why, when he was asked by a reporter if he felt it was fair to request a multi-billion dollar program to assist the Negro or any other minority, Dr. King responded: "I do indeed...we have ample precedents for special compensatory programs." Affirmative Action.

These GOP race polarization tactics are wrong.

p e r s p e c t i v e s Beyond The Net, There Are Human Beings

I've been assured that some teacher lounges were buzzing following last week's article, "Are You Caught Up In The Net (of Education)?" And I may have interrupted heated debates; Power of PCs vs Oracle's network aficionados.

Old friends from the teaching fraternity (sorority?), parents and several students among our readers expressed concerns paralleling my own--apprehension spurred by "a hastily and weakly-structured excursion into cyberspace", powered by a hyperbolic public relations effort with all bells and sirens at full decibel. Several jokingly observed, "Well McKinley, at least you got that 15-minutes-of-fame promised by Andy Warhol. And you got yours thirty years ago!"

A favorable response from industry was not unexpected given that the 'launch pad' was a Beaverton electronics plant. But that aside, I was especially concerned by a plaintive query from a Jefferson High School freshman. He had long-planned to gain the same "fabulous experience" as an older sibling in the school districts "Saturday Academy" program at the school as directed by Mr. Michael Grice (until lately). "Where has he gone? Why?" It is asked in the general community as well-considering that all announced goals were achieved.

A number of parents and several teachers added a pointed caveat to their fulsome praise of this particular program; "there was such a marked improvement in math skills but beyond that, there was a renewed interest and focus on academics in general. So,

why in the world isn't there an across-the-board application of this successful teaching mode where these so-called, 'slow-learner' black children are concerned? And what about the past two decades of deliberate, deceitful and debilitating neglect of future Portland citizens? Ill-prepared for a world of technology."

I have no more information than the many who make inquiry: "Mr. Grice is on 'leave on absence'. He's in San Francisco doing even greater things. It's a shame he is gone--was he found guilty of subjecting some long-held falsehoods about black IQs to close scrutiny?" And then the inevitable, "Was it about money? Did he go down to San Francisco where he could get a 'white man's' pay for comparable work?"

The district can ill-afford to have public or staff projecting these scenarios. Not with television programs like "60 minutes" showing what incredibly high levels of academic achievement can be reached by black and Hispanic kids--dedicated and motivated teachers in a common-sensical learning environment of their own design and under their direct control. This was the exhilarating "Monroe Doctrine" documentary that played in September. The inspiring video tape is something you must have.

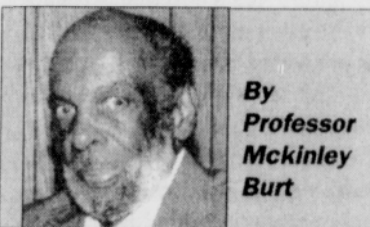
I was quick to order a copy for myself and the nearby 'Black Education Center', an exemplary institution itself. A \$200,000 a year black, curric-

ulum supervisor for the entire City of New York quits her job with this big city school system failing at its tasks and giving the usual excuses. She invests her life savings in an independent school, recruits and equally dedicated staff and goes from there. For info on the \$29.95 tape, call station WGBH, 1-800-255-9424.

Next week: community participation model where I organized my Toastmasters Club--engineers, teachers, mer-

chants, phone company employees, ranchers, etc.--in support of my 'computer/math demonstration'; The trend of white teachers and parents sending their kids over to my office for aid in developing motivational models around the incredible accomplishments of the 'Black Inventors'; The inexplicable turn-downs at Benson High Schools and at OMSI (Australia and Japan like my concepts); President Nixon and my scheduled 'Rose Garden' presentation that was canceled; That Belmont St. basement.

Lately, I have cited texts that may have seemed relatively advanced. I thought it useful to emphasize that arithmetics/mathematics involve an essential connection between quantitative concepts, symbols, and the language employed in their manipulation, e.g. semantics, semeiotics. There follows some down to earth volumes useful to student, teacher or parent for many of us, 'numbers' still have the habit of getting up and walking away'; me too.



By Professor McKinley Burt

"Mathematics For The Million: How to Master the Magic of Numbers", Lancelot Hogben, W.W. Norton and Co. pb. This still popular classic has been a standard for some time.

"Mathematics In The Making" Lancelot Hogben, Doubleday and Company, this 1961 classic is out-of-print, but it is a treasure at any price; try your used book stores. It has proven such a boon to students, adults included. Also there are the well-illustrated opening chapters on counting and measurement, and there is a very welcome acknowledgement of the contributions of different races and cultures; a jewel!

"A History Of Pi", Peter Beckman, St. Martins, 1971 you will find this little treasure very satisfying if, like me, you occasionally need a little lighter but relevant reading. Page 24 illustrates the African's derivation of Pi (off 1%), but i've found their 2500 B.C. formula at only 0.0001 error using "Ph".

"Number Words and Number Symbols: A Cultural History of Numbers," Karl Menninger, M.I.T. Press, 1977. This book is the most interesting and accurate account you will ever read about how the major cultures of the world developed their concepts of numbers, counting, quantities and measure. Editor says, "excellent linguistics and etymology but you don't have to be philologist or mathematician to enjoy it (480 pp)." A must for those who would design a meaningful curriculum in these areas (public, home or alternative).

--Continued next week; with additional and later bibliography.

Civil Rights Journal: CIA And Drugs?

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

Conspiracy theories are nothing new in communities of color.

I remember the rumors circulating after the riots of the 1960's that the government was building concentration camps for black folks. Preposterous? What happened to Japanese Americans during world War II? What about the government's experiment with black syphilis patients in Alabama during the 1950's and later?

Now, we read in a respected daily newspaper that for most of a decade the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) supplied crack cocaine which was sold to street gangs in Los Angeles in order to funnel millions of dollars in drug profits to a CIA-backed guerrilla army in Nicaragua. The crack cocaine provided in this scheme, we are told, helped spark a crack explosion which devastated the African American community not only in Los Angeles, but across the nation.

To the editor:

There are several good candidates in this year's Portland City Council races, but none have Jim Francesconi's commitment, roots and track record of success in helping inner Northeast and North Portland. Jim has worked for 20 years for our community ever since beginning as a full-time volunteer at St. Andrew's church at N.E. Alberta and Ninth Avenue.

It's almost too diabolical to believe, built according to the San Jose Mercury News, that is exactly what happened. A recent series done by this California newspaper examined the actions of a Los Angeles crack dealer names Ricky Donnell Ross and his connections with drug dealer Oscar Danila Blandon Reyes, who allegedly had ties to a Latin American-based CIA agent who told them that they were raising money for the Contra revolution. That revolution, you may remember, was supported by the Reagan administration but received only limited funds in its early days of operation. It was the need for additional funds to support the Contra's guerilla war that caused the linking of cocaine sales and the war.

The series in the San Jose Mercury News examines how Blandon's boss in the cocaine operation, Juan Norwin Meneses Cantarero, has never spent a day in a U.S. prison, even though the federal government has known of his drug dealings since

1974. Indeed, agents from four government law enforcement agencies have complained that their investigations were hampered by the CIA or unnamed "national security" interests. Even a U.S. Senate subcommittee was unable to pierce the wall of secrecy surrounding these operations.

One of the most frightening aspects of this story is the decision by Blandon, the middleman, to make cocaine, which had been only available to the rich, affordable and available to the masses in the African American community in South Central Los Angeles. Within only a few years, crack cocaine had devastated the African American community across the nation.

Using the Crips and Bloods street gangs as distributors, Blandon and Ross were able to devise an extraordinary marketing strategy. As a result thousands of young black men are now serving long federal prison sentences for selling mere handfuls of the drug and thousands of African

American families are in crisis.

During the Congressional Black Caucus fall meeting, a hearing was held on these allegations and several thousand jammed into a hearing room to hear more about these charges. As a result congresswoman Maxine Waters, in whose district most of this occurred, and other members of the Black Caucus met with CIA Director, John Deutch. Mr. Deutch said he had no reason to believe such allegations, which would have taken place before his tenure. But he expressed his outrage at the charges raised and pledged to get to the truth in this matter. He assured Caucus members that an independent investigator will look into the allegations and make a report within two months.

Is this just another conspiracy theory? Or did agents in the CIA conspire to sell drugs in the African American community to fund their own guerilla activities in Nicaragua? For the sake of all of us, we must find out the truth.

Francesconi for City Council

Jim Francesconi has already achieved wonderful successes for our community. He has been instrumental in creating the Youth Employment and Empowerment Coalition that has produced nearly 600 jobs for gang-involved youth in Northeast and North Portland. That has plugged these young people into the economy--rather than the criminal justice system. The saving to us all in reducing crime and heart-

ache to families is beyond measure.

Jim has been a leader of the Portland Organizing Project, a coalition of 16 churches in North and Northeast Portland that is a veritable rainbow coalition showing how citizens of different backgrounds, the elderly, the working poor, renters and homeowners can unite for concrete actions.

Sewer rates are lower for many in Southeast and Northeast Portland, and

more citizens can afford homes today--because POP's successes at city hall.

And importantly, Jim pledges to expand his neighborhood-based principles to our most pressing housing, jobs, crime and traffic problems throughout our entire city. He has earned my vote November 5 to become our next Portland City Commissioner.

--Avel Gordly