

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

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680) Established in 1970

Charles Washington
Publisher
Danny Bell, Yvonne Lerch
Account Executives
Micheal Leighton
Copy Editor

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager
Larry J. Jackson, Sr.
Director of Operations
Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager

Contributing Writers:
Professor McKinley Burt,
Lee Perlman, Neal Heilpern

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97211
503-288-0033 • Fax 503-288-0015
Email: Pdxobserv@aol.com

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.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural 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.

SUBSCRIBE TO The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer can be sent directly to your home for only \$30.00 per year. Please fill out, enclose check or money order, and mail to:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER; PO Box 3137, PORTLAND, OR 97208

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip-Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tyco layoffs unjust

We learned that Mattel Inc. plans to lay off 80% of the workers at Tyco Toys Inc.--115 at the Portland Distribution Center and 285 at the Beaverton factory.

The reason for this brutal decision has been explained by the great critic and historian Eli Siegel, founder of the Education Aesthetic Realism.

Eli Siegel saw what no other economist has seen--that the American economy, the profit system, has failed because it is unethical. The profit motive, he showed, comes from the ugliest purpose in a person, contempt, which Mr. Siegel defined as "the lessening of what is different from oneself as a means of self-increase as one sees it." It is contempt that is inconsequential to a person's well being, his or her right to make a decent living.

With tremendous feeling for people Mr. Siegel said: "...Man was not made to be used by man for money."

That's all there is to it. It is a corruption, it is artifice. It was seen as necessary by people, but it is against the nature of man. (Goodbye Profit System Update, Definition Press, New York, 1982)

What does a man-a husband and father feel--in Beaverton, for instance, knowing that he will be losing his job at Tyco, worried about feeding his family, paying the rent and health insurance? And what does a single mother feel as she looks into the eyes of her two children, distressed thinking about how she will support them?

As profit is thirsted after, the owners of Mattel have to make the feelings of these men and women utterly unreal. Meanwhile, it is the labor of these very same persons that have made it possible for the CEO and stockholders to live in such comfort and luxury.

As parents, ourselves, who have seen the joy and thrill on our son's face playing with his Tyco racing car, we are outraged to learn that the people whose hard work went into

making toys which have given children so much pleasure are being treated so brutally themselves. It is a horrible fact that as Tyco is throwing so many people out of work, they are callously announcing: that they will be increasing their quarterly dividend to its shareholders by 17%, shareholders who most likely never stepped one foot into a Tyco Factory.

Ellen Reiss, the Class Chairman of Aesthetic Realism explains what is happening all over America as she writes in the international periodical, The Right of Aesthetic Realism to Be Known: "Various people have tried to save...profit economics by getting rid of...decent salaries for people; firing people;...The American people...are being made to endure this misery...because some persons will not gracefully accept the kind, really irreversible, historical fact that ethics has put an end to the using of one's fellow human beings for private profit...The lie that somehow the only way productivity can go on in this nation is through certain persons' making big profits from the lives of others, is both ridiculous and an insult to America - her Declaration of Independence, her history, her earth. For America to have a just economy, for every person to be guaranteed decent living, and feel the pride dignity they have a right to, this beautiful, ethical question which Eli Siegel asked must be discussed honestly being a person?"

When this occurs America will be truly kind and have an economy that will thrive.

For more information you can call the Aesthetic Realism Foundation not-for-profit educational foundation in New York City, 212-777-4490.

Sincerely, Lauren Phillips
Blaustein Bruce Blaustein Victims of the Press. We sign our names this way because, despite notable exceptions, the press and media in boycotting Eli Siegel and Aesthetic Realism have hurt the lives of every American.

We finish excerpting Peter Edelman's Atlantic Monthly essay on welfare repeal. Edelman, a former Clinton appointee and an expert on welfare & poverty issues, entitled his article, "The Worst Thing Bill Clinton Has Done."

We remind our readers-and the Clinton Administration-that solemn promises were made last year, during the campaign, that the welfare bill would be "fixed." Most important, there was a pledge to create one million new jobs for welfare recipients, a crucial reform if we are to avoid social disaster in the next few years.

It is the Rainbow/Push Coalition's job to make sure that promise is not forgotten. America's poor children deserve no less.

"A real fix would involve, first, jobs, jobs, jobs-preferably and as a first priority in the private sector, where there is real work to be done.

"And then everything that enables people to be productive citizens. Schools that teach every child as well as they teach every other child. Safe neighborhoods. Healthy communities.

"Continuing health-care and day-care coverage, so that people can not

RAINBOW PUSH COALITION

The Worst (IV)

only go to work but also keep on working.

"Ending the racial and ethnic discrimination that plagues too many young people who try to enter the job market for the first time."

"Many of the jobs that welfare recipients and other low-income people get do not pay enough to pull them out of poverty. Continuing attention to the minimum wage and the Earned Income Tax Credit will be necessary.

"States should insist, as the City of Baltimore has, that all their contractors pay all their workers a sufficient wage to keep them out of poverty...and should fund their contracts accordingly.

"Current child-care and health-care policies are insufficient to allow low-wage workers to stay out of poverty even if transitional subsidies let them escape temporarily

when they leave the welfare rolls.

"Federal and state child-care subsidies should help all workers who would otherwise be poor, not just those who have recently left the welfare rolls.

"And at the end of the day we still have 40 million Americans, including 10 million children, who do not have health coverage. We still have to deal with that as part of a real antipoverty strategy."

"Welfare is what we do when everything else fails. It is what we do for people who can't make it after a genuine attempt has been mounted to help the maximum possible number of people to make it. In fact, much of what we do in the name of welfare is more appropriately a subject for disability policy.

"The debate over welfare misses the point when all it seeks to do is tinker with welfare eligibility, re-

quirements, and sanction. The 1996 welfare law misses the point."

"To do what needs to be done is going to take a lot of work - organizing, engaging in public education, broadening the base of people who believe that real action to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency in America is important and possible.

"We need to watch very carefully, and we need to document and publicize, the impact of the 1996 welfare legislation on children and families across America.

"We need to do everything we can to influence the choices the states have to make under the new law.

"We can ultimately come out in a better place.

We should not want to go back to what we had. It was not good social policy. We want people to be able to hold up their heads and raise their children in dignity.

"The best that can be said about this terrible legislation is that perhaps we will learn from it and eventually arrive at a better approach. I am afraid, though, that along the way we will do some serious injury to American children, who should not have had to suffer from our national backlash."

p e r s p e c t i v e s

Is science scientific, are scientists ethical? III

As we often do in these columns we begin by defining our terms--freely admitting that this approach can lead to confusion as well as enlightenment.

Especially, when we consider today's acrimonious arenas where it is a toss up whether to give weight to either words or deeds -- seldom daring to trust either category.

If we take Webster at his 'word,' "Ethics is the discipline dealing with what is good and bad, and with moral duty and obligation."

All well and good, but it would seem that as is usually the case in the affairs of man, there are 'different strokes for different folks' -for different professions, different nations, different religions and there is even dissension among the practitioners, philosophers and 'true dissension among the practitioners, philosophers and 'true believers'.

I took sort of an "unscientific" poll among my friends and associates (cross-generational), "As young people what was it that inspired so much respect and admiration for the scientific community - a 'reverence'

you might say?"

Most of us reflected on the phenomenal number of high school classmates who sought an opportunity to become scientists or physicians. Black or white, there could be no more rewarding goal.

Our pantheon of honored benefactors of mankind included Dr. George Washington Carver (that ironic place Tuskegee looms again); Dr. Charles Drew of blood plasma fame; Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in heart surgery; Dr. Louis Wright, first to apply the new antibiotic, aureomycin, to human afflictions - and there were many other of these dedicated savants who contributed so much to remedy and cure the ills of mankind, Dr. Percy Julian who developed cortisone for the arthritic and a drug to relieve glaucoma, and infinitum; black heroes among others.

We were all of us in agreement about the early structure of our dreams, ambitions and almost uni-

versal admiration and respect for what the world 'seemed' to view as mankind's most hallowed institutions. What no one seemed sure about was, "just when did the Philistines enter the temple?" Just when did

those horrors begin, the documented experiments cited last week? So we began to ask ourselves, "Must there always be an 'illusion' before there can be disillusionment."

The preponderance of opinion among our group was no, we had not deceived ourselves, had not been deluded by the conscious efforts of entire professions and their supporting institutions - something profound had happened between then and now. A gradual change, true enough but always provoking a rude awakening.

So it is with those of us who were taught so early on that, "a scientist is a searcher for truth" and that recorded organized medicine began in Africa with Imhopteps, chief vizer

and physician to king Narmar. This genius, a product of the sophisticated support structure of Egyptian Temple Schools left his prescription on papyri where they meet favorable professional opinion yet today. Agricultural endowments were the support.

How proud we were when our teachers described this dedicated and honorable medical practice that was in full flower several thousand years before the 'borrowing' Greeks and Hippocrates - an honorable institution that dispatched its dedicated physicians all over the known world and which gave us the universal medical symbol, the caduceus with its intertwining snakes.

So what has happened to institutions which were the epitome of hope, inspiration and respect? To the "Hippocratic Oath" and admonitions like "Do no harm." Is our "rude awakening" due to a newly vigilant and assertive media -- or has it indeed been a "gradual change" from a hallowed, humanistic institution to market place; from professional to entrepreneur? Or from prescriptions to drug and gene patents?

Civil Rights Journal: More signs of hope

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

If you only watch television uncritically and only know the stereotypes of young African American men, you might believe they are all gang members and criminals. But there are millions of young black men who are making positive contributions not only to their own communities, but to the whole nation.

LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman, two Chicago 18 year-olds are two of them.

Jones and Newman have received a host of awards for their journalistic work which tells the story of their neighborhood. Newman live in the notorious Ida B. Wells housing project.

Their radio documentary, Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse, was aired on National Public Radio and told the story of Eric Morse, the 5 year-old who was pushed out a window by two boys, 10 and 11 years old, when he refused to steal candy for them.

For this outstanding story Jones and Newman received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, making them the youngest ever to receive the prestigious award and the first radio documentary to win the prize. Working with journalist David Isay, Jones and Newman won the grand prize over eight other journalists.

The two young men were not out looking for journalism prizes when they made the documentary. "We

were trying to help the community so that this won't happen again," said Newman in a recent jet magazine article. "To throw a 5 year-old out the window...makes no sense," he added.

While they were happy to win the award, they believe that the cost was too high. "I'm, still looking at the death of a 5 year-old, and for me to win an award, I can't forget that," said Jones, adding, "If I could give that award back to bring Eric back, I would."

Jones and Newman interviewed their friends and neighbors about Eric Morse's death. They also talked to relatives of the victim and the suspects. Eric Morse's mother gave her only interview to the young men. "She felt comfortable with us be-

cause she knew we would understand what she was going through. We come from the same environment," Newman explained.

The two boys who killed Eric were convicted and were sentenced to a maximum security juvenile prison, becoming the nation's youngest children to be so sentenced.

In addition to the Robert Kennedy prize, Jones and Newman have also won a Peabody Award and a Hillman Foundation award for their documentary. Their first radio documentary, Ghetto Life 101, done when they were 14 year-olds, won more than a dozen national and international awards. They have recently written a book, Our America: Life and Death on the south side of Chicago.

A portrait of inequality in America

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN,
3200 13TH STREET, NW, (202)
588-8764

Although the United States is the richest, most technologically advanced nation in the world, far too many American children--Black, white, and Hispanic--are struggling to live, learn, thrive, and contribute in America.

Black children, despite significant progress since legal segregation began to crumble, still fare worse than other children in America.

For example:

*78 percent of white children live with both parents, but only 39 percent of Black children do.

*63 percent of white children live in homes their parents own, but only 28 percent of Black children do.

*23 percent of white children have both a father at work and a mother at home, but only eight percent of Black children do.

*Some 30 percent of white children have a parent who completed college, but only 13 percent of Black children do.

*71 percent of white children are covered by private health insurance,

but only 44 percent of Black children are.

*16 percent of white children are poor, but more than 41 percent of Black children are. 19 percent of white children live in central cities, but more than 48 percent of Black children do.

*7 of every 1,000 white infants die in the first year of life, but 16 of every 1,000 Black infants do.

*6 percent of white infants are born at low birthweight



Letter To The Editor

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