

# EDITORIAL

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The Portland Observer

## "I Thought You Knew, But I See You Don't!"

I feel something needs to be said and done concerning the supposed "proposed budget" that was in the Oregonian on Monday, May 5, 1997.

I know my Northeast brother and sister will read the Observer and Skanner, I don't know about the Oregonian. Did Northeast Portland see the proposed budget cuts, winners vs losers? All the winners I saw didn't live over here in Northeast Portland where I'm from, I haven't seen a mounted patrol, horses and all that good stuff like downtown Portland and north, northwest with the Auto Theft Task Force. All I see is "Losers" over in Northeast Portland. The headline read "Gang enforcement faces personnel cutbacks, what does that mean? All we have over here in Northeast Portland is gangs, gangs that sell drugs, crack houses and at the same time Northeast Portland is growing. We have new businesses coming up everywhere, new housing units coming. Have you seen Martin Luther King Blvd. lately?

Northeast Portland is portrayed as a mostly black community. I must tell you we are Gods rainbow, everyone over here is trying to make it. I would like to ask Mayor Katz where did she get the statistics or how did she know what to eliminate when she decided what has to be taken away? Because crime is not down over here in Northeast Portland, I don't know what reports you are looking at, but I see everyday with my two

own eyes drug exchanges going to and from work and dropping my kids off at school in broad daylight. How can Northeast Portland survive without the neighborhood Response Team, Gang Enforcement, and Crime Prevention? Officers Rico, Cash, Jackson, Kirkland and Foxworth are the backbones of Northeast Portland. If it hadn't been for now Sgt. Harry Jackson and others we would still have heavy prostitution on the streets of MLK and its starting to pick back up. And I must give props to the Drug Unit at the Northeast Precinct they give it their all, you can call in and communicate with the officers one on one, but how am I going to do that if everyone is going on the streets at North-east Precinct? How do you merge and cut at the same time? We think you for not having to lay off the officers but what about the units that were changing Northeast Portland?

If I have my issues mixed up here I wish Mayor Katz would make things clearer. It just looks bad when I see a quote from our own Chief Moose saying "It kind of makes sense to stay with a winner." Well Chief you stay in the hood too and you should be just as concerned as a northeast resident as I am, you're the one staying by the new apartments coming up on MLK. Just wanted Northeast Portland to know we are being left out when it comes to making decisions for our own community. Just remember only certain people hold elective positions only so long.

Thank you,  
--Thought You Know

Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/Push Coalition met with President Clinton in the White House, in an effort to put adequate enforcement of civil rights laws back on the public policy agenda. The meeting was held after Rev. Jackson sent the President a letter raising numerous concerns about the lack of proper attention to Dr. King's legacy.

Excerpts from the letter are given below:

--Dear Mr. President,

I have sought, unsuccessfully, to meet with you over the past several months, along with other civil rights leaders, to discuss the ominous assault on equality of opportunity and equal protection under the law that is taking place across this nation. The attacks now threaten to undermine the civil rights laws which so many sacrificed so much to create. Yet in the face of this crisis, the basic structure of federal civil right law enforcement is in a shameful disrepair that renders it weak and ineffective.

Today, the laws guaranteeing equal opportunity are not being ad-

## RAINBOW PUSH COALITION

### Dear Mr. President

equately enforced. The US Civil rights Comm. reports critical civil rights agencies are under-staffed, under-funded, and unable to enforce the law...

There is no Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Justice Department. This key leadership position in civil rights enforcement remains vacant, with no appointee yet named. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance is frozen and ineffective...

The federal courts are hamstrung by numerous vacancies, many with no nominee even suggested.

Federal courts in California, were the fallout of Prop. 209 will be litigated, have eight vacancies. These positions, so essential to the justice struggle, lie dormant, apparently a low priority, for reasons that those

of us committed to equal justice under law simply cannot fathom.

There is no civil rights liaison in the White House. Christopher Edley, Jr., who served in your administration until recently, notes in Not All Black and White: "For all the great success the Clinton Administration has had in achieving racial diversity in the cabinet, the subcabinet, and the judiciary, the situation has been lame when it comes to the President's own White House staff..."

At a time when civil rights are under attack across the county, when fundamental issues of social justice are at stake, the absence of a strong administration response raises questions about the views represented in the inner policy circles.

Who is there at the White House

to insist that funding and staffing of the civil rights agencies must be a priority? Who is charged with insuring that strong judges, committed to enforcing equal opportunity under the law, are nominated with dispatch?

Who is there to remind political advisors that fine rhetoric is not a substitute for strong policy?

Who is there to ramrod a strategy to counter those working to gut civil rights laws across the county?

Who is charged to insure that work is available for the young mothers now required to move from welfare to work? Who is there to remind the political advisors that moving people off of welfare is easy, the challenge is to lift them out of poverty?

The crisis is now urgent. The need for a coordinated, strong policy response is clear.

--Respectfully, Rev. Jesse Jackson

The President did respond quickly, meeting with Rev. Jackson & Wade Henderson, and promising another one next week. The question that remains is, what will be the policy response?

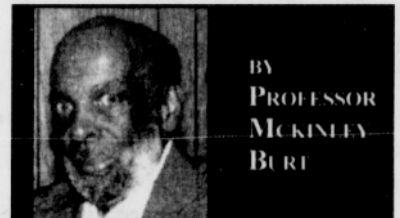
## Science, medicine and ethics, conclusion

This, of course, is a discussion that should never be concluded - not as long as human beings and their frailties cavort about the world's stage. No matter how lofty the profession nor how sacrosanct we hold the calling, it must be remembered that as with "liberty", vigilance is essential to your good health.

We begin today with a concession to those of our readers who wondered how we could omit the names of famed physical scientists - especially since it seems that no significant negative aspects have been attached to these savants. I think that the answer is self-evident. We were mostly about the healing sciences and the relevant delivery systems, this being the area of most critical concern to the public. If for no other reason than to demonstrate at least a passing acquaintance with the venue we list the following cast of character: from an earlier time to a fairly late period.

Max Planck, 1900 (quantum hypothesis); Albert Einstein, 1905 (special theory of relativity); Max Born, 1926 (Probability interpretation of

wave function); John Von Neuman 1932 (quantum logic); Richard Feynman 1949 (Feynman diagrams); David Bohm 1970 (implicate order); and during this period we could cite the unattributed discoveries: Positron, Neutron, Meson, Quasars, Etc.



BY  
PROFESSOR  
MCKINLEY  
BURT

It is not that these were other than good men, decent human beings pursuing a quest into the "nature of things", questions that have intrigued man kind from the beginning. Again, our assessment and critiques were directed at that element of the scientific community that quite obviously had "gone wrong", that no longer honored the sacred oaths of their professions or their promises to "do no harm."

There are, of course, many who will say that the collective efforts of the physical scientists I named led directly to "the splitting of the atom

and the resulting horrors unleashed upon an unsuspecting mankind." We may acknowledge that, along with the fact that science is a serendipity affair at best, but will defer such a discussion until a later date. For now we shall honor the request of those parents and guardians who requested more citations of major minority achievers in science that could motivate their charges.

Some of these magnificent contributors may have been listed before in these pages but we have a new generation now that in many cases is receiving less such relevant knowledge than the preceding. This fact must be corrected because motivation and role models are the key. We begin with Dr. Ben Carson, the gifted young black neuro surgeon, a gifted talent from the inner-city who is known throughout the world as the best at separating Siamese Twins. "Gifted Hands," The Ben Carson Story, Zondervan Publishing House, 1990.

A Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, perhaps the greatest food chemist who ever lived; the modern method of preserving meats (flashdrying); his introduction of sterilized spices (ethylene

oxide) and antioxidants revolutionized the meat packing and other food industries; among this African American's 105 U.S. and foreign patents are scores of other innovations that render our food supply as safe and healthful as it is today.

B. Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright, a pioneer in clinical antibiotic research faced and overcame the same racism and bigotry as did the other strong blackmen we honor here. In 1917, a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps, he introduced the intradermal method of vaccination for smallpox which became standard in the U.S. Army Medical Corp. and eventually around the world. In 1928, Tompkins became the first black police surgeon in New York history. His many other contributions to the health and comfort of the peoples of the world are too lengthy to list here.

An excellent book citing such contributors as above is "Black Pioneers of Science and Invention," Louis Haber, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1970. Ask for latest edition. This book has detailed accounts and excellent pictures and diagrams. 7 scientists, 7 inventors and bibliography.

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## The Portland Observer

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Charles Washington  
Publisher & Editor

Mark Washington  
Distribution Manager

Gary Ann Taylor  
Business Manager

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.  
Director of Operation

Yvonne Lerch  
Account Executives

Mike Leighton  
Copy Editor

### 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

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

### Born at the beginning of the 19th Century, the Black Press is 170 years old.

The pioneer publishers included Frederick Douglass, John Russwurm and W.E.B. Dubois. Early struggles for freedom in America found Black Editors on the front line of the battle. Chicago has long been producing militant black writers and editors who have carried on the tradition and continued the legacy, campaigning for justice and equality for Black America and liberation for African nations. Names like Etta Moten Barnett, John Johnson, John Sengstack and Louis Martin come to mind. Chuck Stone, Be Holman, Eddie Williams passed through Chicago on their way to national prominence.

Now in 1997, this legacy is protected and projected by another Chicagoan, a militant Black Women Publisher of the Chicago and Gary Crusader newspapers, our own Dorothy Leavell, President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association since 1995. She is a fierce defender, a fearless fighting crusader for the Black Press and a champion for justice for Black People.

Dorothy has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the influence of the Black press on the American Government policies that affect the life and destiny of Black Americans. She has opened doors and torn down walls in the private sector to secure a fair share of corporate advertising in Black newspapers. She has con-

fronted the economic power structure and powerful political figures whenever unfair and unjust actions against the Black Community are discovered. She has earned the confidence and support of her colleagues in the 200 publications strong NNPA with its eleven million readership.

So I Was Just Thinking. Who else had the courage to mobilize nationwide support for the million-man march when the majority media and "go along to get along" Blacks were against it? Who else had the intestinal fortitude to defy the white power structure and the hostility of anti Muslim activists and pay tribute to Minister Farrakhan as the Black Press Newsmaker of the Year at the National Press Club in Washington, DC? Who else took a stand behind Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Maxine Waters and the legendary civil rights activist Dick Gregory when they challenged the CIA on the Cocaine in the Black Ghetto issue? Who else would take the moral high ground and stand on principle to turn down an invitation to meet with the President of the United States because he would not include her Board Members in the meeting...? The answer is No One Else! Nobody but Dorothy. No Black Leader but the leader of the Black Press has stepped up to the plate and

hit home run after home run on behalf of Black America. No NNPA leader has matched the militancy of the late Carlton Goodlett, going against the odds on a "High Risk, high gain" strategy. No one else has stood tall when it was unpopular to support a Doctrine of Fairness for Sub Saharan Africa and protest the racist double standard that would give Most Favored Nation Status to Red China while seeking economic sanctions against a Black Nigeria.

Yes, this female fighter for freedom is a consummate practitioner of confrontation politics and anti establishment strategies needed by an oppressed and disadvantaged people. The power of her pen, the opinion making power of her Black Press Colleagues, the voice of Black America is thrown behind other Black leaders like C. Delores Tucker of the Black Women's Political Caucus, Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women, Rev. Joseph Lowery of Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Merle Evers and Kwesi Mfume of the NAACP, High Price of the National Urban League, Presidential Candidate Jesse Jackson of Operation Push, Coretta King of the Martin Luther King Center, Minister Ben Chavis, head of the Black Leader's Summit, Rev. Leon

Sullivan of OIC of America and the African Afrikan - American Summit.

Across this nation if you find a battle going on against racism, against poverty, against injustice and inequality anywhere, anytime you will find Dorothy Leavell on the firing line at the cutting edge of history. So when she goes to Corporate America to seek advertising for Black Newspapers they see the advantage of saying "Yes!" to her requests. When she asks Coca-Cola, General Motors, Anheuser-Busch, Texaco, Philip Morris and other Fortune Five Hundred Companies to listen, they listen!

When she petitions the White House in the Battle for the Mind of President Clinton and urges Black Americans to do for Africa what Jewish Americans do for Israel. The president is more than willing to respond positively and the masses of Black American prepare for a second million-man march. With Women!

Surely we need to keep this lady on the case! She not only talks that talk, but she walks that walk. And she has only just begun! She has a plan that needs more time to complete. She needs to continue what has been started.

The NNPA 1997 election in Norfolk Virginia should give her a mandate to go forward together with her Board and constituents against the odds of government and corporate downsizing and the resurgence of racism in America as the struggle continues.

Letter To The Editor  
Send your letters to the Editor to:  
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