

Opinion

Opinion articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer

USPS 959-680
Established 1970

STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF,

PUBLISHER
Charles H. Washington

EDITOR

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Gary Ann Taylor

ASST. PUBLISHER

Michael Leighton

COPY EDITOR

Joy Ramos

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Parker

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033

Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail

news@portlandobserver.com

subscription@portlandobserver.com

ads@portlandobserver.com

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

Portland Observer
PO Box 3137
Portland, OR 97208

Periodical Postage paid in Portland, OR

Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year

DEADLINES

FOR ALL SUBMITTED MATERIALS:

ARTICLES:

Monday by 5 p.m.

ADS:

Friday by noon

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.

Somebody Ought To Say Something

By L. K. Bass

It's Not Just About the Words

One thing that the Derry Jackson debacle proved is that words do hurt. They can attack the spirit and pain the soul. They even have the potential to forever change your heart and in essence who you are. One thing that both the Jewish and African-American communities know all too well is this:

Words matter, for they become the pegs that ideas are hung on.

We've all been children, wounded or devalued by words. So you can remember what that's like. Unable to understand or defend; often forced to rationalize your way to comprehending the incomprehensible. And with every occurrence you probably asked yourself why? Not why me, but why? And when you got home, seeking comfort and counsel, if your house was like mine, you always heard: "Turn the experience around and show them what you're made of."

So, how do I feel some forty years later over the 'Jackson debacle'? Deeply pained. Not just by the words, but by their possible effect. Will the lesions left by the delivery of the Jackson interview leave us sore if untreated? Will ethnic tensions swell? Will a non-

monolithic African-American community, sorely in need of two Portland Public School advocates and having two for the first time ever, find itself with only one, amid a Jackson departure? Will this occurrence become a two-steps forward, 10 steps back experience for our community as a whole? And the biggest concern of all: What will be the ramifications for all children whose educational future is being directed by people whose time, focus and monies are being spent on an unnecessary reality?



Lydia K. Bass

Like many, I understand the source of Jackson frustrations: not just the on-going achievement gap but the reasons for it; findings of violations for seven years by the Office of Civil Rights regarding ESL children; the on-going struggle for parity in education... However, we get into certain roles in life, and being an elected official is definitely one of them, where you do not have the luxury of venting anger and frustration. When you are entrusted with the educational direction and future of chil-

dren, you do not have the luxury of publicly trading off during a board meeting with 'whose atrocity was worse'. And frankly you don't have the right to conduct yourselves in a way that jeopardizes the ultimate well being of children. You can't espouse respect and parity, while at the same time being disrespectful and callous - it's incompatible; you can't affirm if you are putting down. What this climate does to the heart and spirit of children is at minimum pathetic. We can only begin to imagine the damage that this spell over has on children, to those that teach them and to those that support both.

From all that I've seen, heard or been witness to over the last year, I'm not so sure that Jackson is the only bad apple in the bunch. All I know is that it's time not just to make a change but to be changed. Individually or collectively, we all have defining moments in life and to the PPS Board, I say this is definitely one of them.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

Martin Luther King Jr. showed us that prejudice can leave you scarred, but strengthened.

There's an opportunity here for the board to show us all what they're made of. Even mistakes can turn out to be the one thing necessary to make a worthwhile achievement.

Fabric Depot

THE LARGEST, MOST COMPLETE RETAIL FABRIC STORE IN THE WEST
August 14 through August 28, 2001

ALL HOME DEC

30% OFF*

Includes all prints and jacquards, curtain lace, upholstery, vinyl, awning canvas, burlap, table padding, Graber & Driz drapery, hardware, home decorations.

ALL BRIDAL & SPECIAL OCCASION

30% OFF*

Includes bridal fabrics, silk, laces, tulle, trims, hoop skirts, tiaras, veils and more

FLANNEL

30% OFF*

Includes Quilters, Children's & Woven Plaids

DENIM

30% OFF*

\$5.99-\$12.99

LABOR DAY ONLY - September 3rd
40% OFF ALL CRAFTS - OPEN 9AM-6PM

Be sure to check www.fabricdepot.com

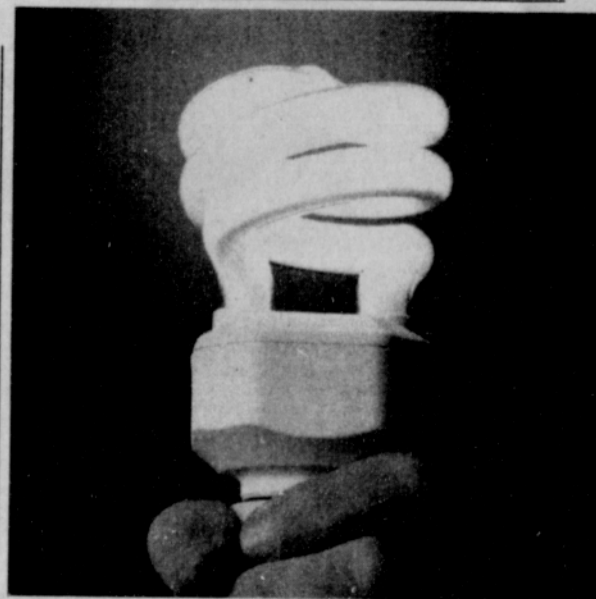
*Discounts do not apply to previously discounted or marked down items. 8/14/01 thru 8/28/01



RETAIL HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00am-9:00pm
SATURDAY 9:00am-7:00pm
SUNDAY 10:00am-7:00pm
WHOLESALE HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00am-9:00pm
SATURDAY 9:00am-7:00pm
SUNDAY 10:00am-7:00pm

RETAIL - WHOLESALE
700 S.E. 122nd Ave.
Portland, OR
(503) 252-9530
Visit our website at www.fabricdepot.com
1-800-392-3376

Change is good.



And it's not as hard as you may think.

A lot of things, from the growth in high-tech industries to increased population, tell us the energy crunch our region is facing right now will continue for awhile. Dealing with it means that each of us has to change the way we use energy. And we have to start now.

Here are some changes and tips that will make a difference now and in the future:

- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in lights that remain on three or more hours per day. They use only one quarter the energy of regular bulbs.
- Clean lightbulbs and fixtures. Dust can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent!
- Turn off one 60-watt light that would normally be on during the peak summer hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If every one of our 1.5 million customers did, the energy saved could power about 45,000 homes.
- Install dimmers. The amount you dim equals your energy saved. For example, lights dimmed 15 percent reduces energy consumption up to 15 percent.
- Install motion sensors or timers to automatically turn lights on and off. Motion sensor lighting is great for outdoors and in your workshop or laundry room. Timers are the right choice if you'd like an indoor light switched on and off at specific times.
- Make saving energy a habit.

Do the bright thing.
Call us at 1-800-222-4335,
and ask for a copy of our
Bright Ideas booklet.



PACIFIC POWER