



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.

Chinese Olympics a Setback For Human Rights Congress' failure to object is reminiscent of Nazi Olympics of 1936

By WALT BROWN
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Republican leaders in Congress have again demonstrated the dishonesty of their party's so-called "compassionate conservatism."

Last month, as the International Olympics Committee prepared to meet in Moscow to decide whether to site the 2008 games in Canada, France or China, GOP leaders refused to allow a vote on a resolution condemning the Beijing selection.

House Concurrent Resolution 73 was introduced in April by Congressman Tom Lantos, D-Calif. The measure stipulated that China's selection as host site be contingent on the People's Republic of China releasing all political prisoners, ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and observing internationally recognized human rights.

Supporters quoted from official state department findings that said China continues to restrict freedom of religion. For example, Falun Gong practitioners were said to be subject to police beatings, detention under extremely harsh conditions, and torture.

China was also accused of violence against women, and of being coercive in its family planning practices -- which sometimes included forced abortion and forced sterilization.

The Chinese government was also said to restrict worker rights and use forced labor in prison facilities.

The Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy, a Hong Kong-based group, alleges that at least 10,000 members of the Falun Gong are being held in more than 300 labor camps and that 98 have been killed.

The Olympic committee's reasoning for awarding the games to China, in short, was that this would encourage the "Butchers of Tiananmen Square" to clean up their act.

But just a week after leading the committee down the primrose path,

Chinese leaders showed their true colors, again at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, by subduing a handful of Falun Gong protestors.

Holding the 1936 Summer Olympics in Nazi Germany didn't lead Hitler to clean up his act either.

Concentration camps were "in business" well before the opening ceremony on Aug. 1 of that year.

More than a year earlier, trade unionists rallied in New York City to boycott the 1936 games.

A rally poster urged "trade unionists" to help "liberate the race, religious, labor and other anti-Nazi prisoners held in Nazi concentration camps!"

And just two weeks before the opening ceremony, there was a "clean up" by Berlin police with some 800 Gypsies imprisoned in a "camp" within the city.

That August, while Jesse Owens, the legendary African-American athlete was winning four



(Above) A photograph from a Nazi Party lecture on genetics and race, two years before the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, focuses on one of 500 children in Germany viewed by the Nazis as racially inferior to their Germanic classmates.



(Left) Jesse Owens, the legendary African-American athlete, won four gold medals in the Berlin Olympics of 1936 under the cloud of Nazi Germany and Adolph Hitler's racist regime.

Olympic gold medals, a huge concentration camp was under construction outside Berlin.

When the camp opened in the fall, the prisoners consisted of political opponents of the Nazi regime, including liberals, socialists, and communists, as well as several hundred Jehovah's Witnesses.

One of the most poignant photos of this era was of an African-German girl standing with her

"Aryan" classmates. Nazi Germany used this photo in a lecture on genetics and race and to justify a policy of forced sterilization of people the Nazis viewed as racially inferior.

This girl was one of about 500 teenagers referred to as "Rhineland bastards," whose mothers were Germans and fathers were African soldiers of French colonial troops stationed in the Rhineland, in

southwestern Germany, in the years after World War I.

I wonder how many of the more than 300 Chinese "labor camps" today will still be in operation in the summer of 2008?

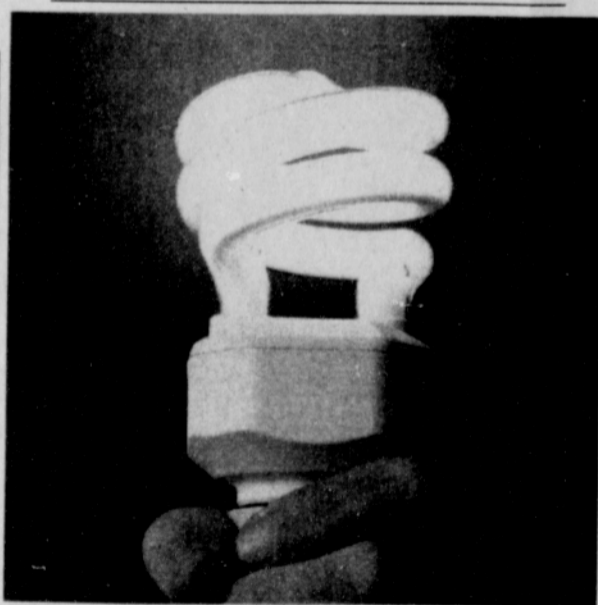
I wonder how many of these "labor camps" will be manufacturing products for sale in the United States in violation of federal law banning the importation of goods produced by slave labor?

I wonder how many of the thousands of reporters in Beijing during the 2008 Olympics will bother or even be permitted to leave their

air-conditioned and sanitized Olympic Village hotels to find out the answer to these two questions?

Former State Sen. Walt Brown, a retired U.S. Navy JAG Commander, served in China during WWII. A lifetime civil libertarian, he joined the NAACP in 1949 while in law school. Later he studied constitutional law at Harvard. In 1983 Brown received a special ACLU award for his work in Salem against the death penalty. He currently is Chair Emeritus for the Socialist Party of Oregon.

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