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# OPINION

## In My Own Words:

It's time for action and time for change

BY PATRICIA STUART

As your Mayor, I will work to ensure that government decisions on budget and finance are transparent, accessible and responsible to our citizens.

As your Mayor, I will work to support and encourage our Portland Police to fulfill their mission, which is "to reduce crime and the fear of crime by working with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property and promote individual responsibility and community commitment." (source: portlandpolice.com). I will hold accountable the few who don't. I will give my support and recognition to the many police who do.

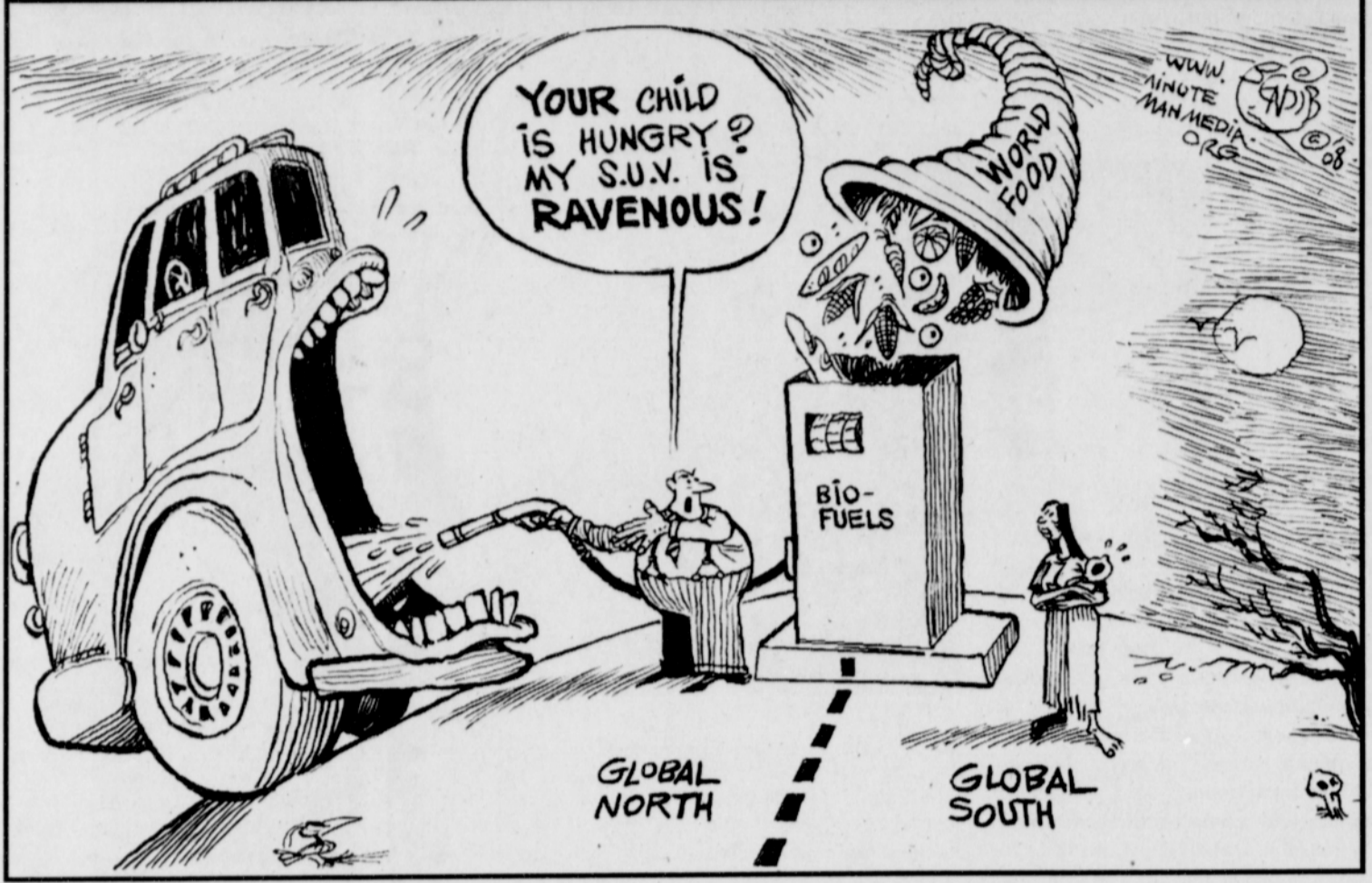


As a community advocate and organizer in northeast Portland, I planned informative legislative events. I established a speaker's bureau that prepared citizens, especially seniors to present testimony that helped establish the Oregon Health Plan.

As a grant writer, I authored grants for social-services programs for women and children. I raised three children here, so I'm familiar with the needs of our community and our schools. I am an independent person. I don't have any allegiance to any business or political cause. My only endorsement will be your vote. It's time for action, time for change.

Patricia Stuart is a candidate for Portland Mayor in the May 20 Primary Election. To volunteer, call 503-995-7580.

STAPLE PRICES TRIPLE AS MUCH OF THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY IS DIVERTED TOWARDS FUEL CONSUMPTION



## Demand Freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal



A multiracial group gathers in downtown Portland on March 28 to support imprisoned black radical journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

BY JORDANO SARDO

In a cruel blow to justice on March 27, a three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the appeal by political prisoner and black radical journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal for a new trial.

The panel upheld Mumia's false 1982 conviction for the murder of a

Philadelphia policeman, gained by racist jury selection, coercion of witnesses and violation of Mumia's constitutional rights.

The panel's long-awaited decision also said that if the prosecution wishes to reinstate the death penalty against Abu-Jamal, which was over-turned by a previous judge, it must hold a new jury hearing,

which could reconsider only Mumia's sentencing, not his conviction. The only sentencing options are the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The voices of all of Mumia's supporters need to be lifted immediately to protest this appalling decision!

The ruling ignores a record of racist bias in this case that is now more than 25 years long. Mumia has been out-spoken against police misconduct and on behalf of African Americans and all the oppressed since his teenage years as a member of the Black Panther Party.

It is because he is a leader with integrity and principles that he became a target of the system. And we cannot afford to let that system silence Mumia as it has silenced too many of our militant movement leaders in the past!

What civil rights activists do now is crucial. Robert Bryan, Mumia's head attorney, says that he will appeal the new decision, which included a strong dissent by one member of the three-judge panel in Mumia's favor. It is time to shake the system to demand freedom for Mumia!

Demonstrations were held on March 28 around the country to insist on a new trial. In downtown Portland, Mumia supporters gathered in the cold to publicize the injustice of the ruling and re-new visibility to Mumia's case. National demonstrations will take place on April 19 in San Francisco and April 26 in Philadelphia.

For more information and news updates, visit freemumia.com and freemumia.org. To get involved locally, contact the Freedom Socialist Party at 503-240-4462.

Jordano Sardo is the Portland organizer for the Freedom Socialist Party.

## What Would Martin Think?

40 years after his assassination

BY DARRYL R. MATTHEWS, SR.



have become since the founding of the Civil Rights Movement he headed? What would Martin think about what we have done with the baton (the legacy) he passed on to us?

Can we truly say that we have

so many issues. He was concerned that the movement was losing ground. He was concerned because a myriad of voices were raising questions about he method of non-violence that he practiced. People were upset because it appeared that little progress was being made. And, at the same time, lives were being lost for the sake of an unrealized freedom and equality.

It has often been said that God speaks through His people...and; one has to believe that on many occasions God sent messages to and through Martin Luther King Jr.

In our lifetime, we will likely never fully know the legacy and the true value of Martin Luther King Jr. However, as the nation pauses to

*We cannot hope for another Martin. We must all become like Martin.*

answered the call to uplift the down trodden with our time, talent and treasure when there is clearly still an urgent need?

What would he think of the high profile, publicity seeking pretenders who have no plan and no clear objectives other than to extort money from corporate America, delivering no results of real consequence?

What would Martin think about the reluctance or refusal of our youth to take full advantage of the educational opportunities from which their forbearers were legally excluded?

We have young people who are looking for and in desperate need of role models...instead they are given the pressures of striving to have more and doing less.

In the days before his death — Brother King was wrestling with

recognize Brother King on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assassination, we must believe as King, that we people of faith, have been called by a mighty God to continue to do his work.

Brother King would want us to expand our focus from Civil Rights to Silver Rights; to become more financially literate and economically empowered. He would not want us to trade old masters for pagans. Possessions can be taken in the blink of an eye ... just ask the folks in New Orleans.

Many great men and women have gone on before us and not one of them sought greatness. But, through their tireless works greatness was earned because they put self last and others first. Henry Ward Beecher said, "Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength."

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CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015

news@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com

subscription@portlandobserver.com