

# OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

## Mobilize the 'Mob' to March on Ballot Boxes

### Remember Dr. Christine Blasey Ford

BY DR. RON DANIELS

We must never forget the humble, dignified and courageous testimony of a Dr. Christine Blasey Ford before the Senate Judiciary Committee. With no outside witnesses being called, the hearing was deliberately rigged to be a "she said, he said" spectacle. We must never forget the bias treatment of Dr. Ford by the committee's chairman Charles Grassley, who complimented her for coming into the lion's den, and then attempted to discredit her in his opening statement. He also slammed Sen. Diane Feinstein, ranking member of the committee, another woman, for messing up the coronation of the "choir boy," Judge Brett Kavanaugh, by not violating Dr. Ford's explicit wish that her story be held confidential until she was prepared to make it public. Grassley and the Republicans were more concerned about the "process" than a credible allegation of sexual assault. To add insult to injury, the hearing proceeded with the cowardly, Republican white men hiding behind a hired hit woman, attorney Rachel Mitchell, to do their dirty work.

Through it all Dr. Ford, who volunteered that she was "terrified," calmly and courageously told her story, emphatically asserting that she was "100 percent certain" that it was a youthful, drunk-



en Kavanaugh who viciously and violently assaulted her. The whole world witnessed her courage and determination to come forth under adverse circumstances, an unlevel playing field, to tell her story as a matter of non-partisan civic duty. She was believable and credible. She told the truth!

Then came the calculated, angry, defiant, belligerent, hyper-partisan testimony of the "choir boy," Judge Kavanaugh,

victim!

When the Democratic members sought to question Kavanaugh, he arrogantly tried to turn the tables by refusing to answer or posing questions back to the senators. When Mr. "choir boy" was asked about reports by high school and college classmates that he drank heavily, he cavalierly dismissed the inquiries and even insulted Sen. Amy Klobuchar, another woman, by asking her if she had ever drunk too much! The sense of privilege and entitlement oozed

into the halls of Congress to challenge senators to believe Dr. Ford's truth. For a brief moment a memorable encounter in an elevator, with wavering, retiring Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, gave rise to hope that an FBI investigation would reveal the lies of the choir boy and validate Dr. Ford's truth. But, the White House deliberately limited the scope of the investigation in a manner that rendered it a charade. Neither Dr. Ford, Kavanaugh nor scores of witnesses to the choir boy's drunkenness

ing of Dr. Ford at a campaign rally and his subsequent characterization of the women and men who marched, rallied and protested to support her as a "mob;" a label that was subsequently echoed by Grassley, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Sen. Lindsey Graham to feed "red meat" to the Republican base and fire them up for the mid-term elections. These white men readily put power over principle and their political agenda over the truth of a victim of sexual assault; they spat in the face of the untold thousands, if not millions of victims of sexual assault, by insulting demonstrators, many of whom were women by branding them a "mob."

But, "truth crushed to earth will rise again." The "mob" of righteous, indignant people, some of whom have never voted before, must be mobilized to rise up and defiantly march on ballot boxes with the words "we remember Dr. Christine Blasey Ford" reverberating through-out the land. Let the nation forget, the images of the "orange man" mocking Dr. Ford should be replayed repeatedly on social media platforms and in campaign commercials. The vile ugliness of Trumpism and all that it represents must be eradicated and the cleansing must begin with the massive, irresistible mobilization of the "mob" to march on ballot boxes on Nov. 6th in the critical mid-term elections. We remember Dr. Christine Blasey Ford!

*Dr. Ron Daniels is president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and distinguished lecturer emeritus, York College City University of New York.*

*We must never forget the legions of women and men who courageously organized protest rallies and demonstrations in support of Dr. Ford and marched into the halls of Congress to challenge senators to believe Dr. Ford's truth.*

ugh, who proclaimed that he was "100 percent certain" that he did not assault Dr. Ford. The cowardly Republican senators quickly pushed Mitchell aside, tripping over themselves for a turn to heap praise on Kavanaugh for his judicial record and life of public service. They expressed sorrow and outrage over the shameful way he was treated in having to face a decades old accusation based on "no corroborating evidence." Suddenly, the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault against Dr. Ford was being treated as if he were the

out of every pore in his body. Judge Kavanaugh lied about his habitual drunkenness and if he lied about that, he most certainly lied about assaulting Dr. Ford. The image of this angry, defiant, belligerent, arrogant, truth-denying man interrogating the members of the Judiciary Committee is a spectacle that should forever be seared into our consciousness.

We must never forget the legions of women and men who courageously organized protest rallies and demonstrations in support of Dr. Ford and marched

and out of control behavior were interviewed. It was sham foisted on the American people under the guise of conducting a thorough investigation. The white men, who controlled the process, were not interested in justice, they had a political agenda; the decisive control of the Supreme Court to sanction their retrograde policies for decades to come.

Finally, against the backdrop of the choir boy's belligerent behavior during the fake hearing, we must never forget the "orange man's" despicable, repeated mock-

## Endearing and Rewarding Community Activism

### Thanks to all who join in work for progress

BY DR. AUDREY TERRELL

I relocated from the Midwest seven years ago to here in the Pacific Northwest. As you know there has been an influx of people moving here in the past several years. As one of the relocators, I would like to give a special thanks to the many people who have shown me support in my various endeavors while living here.

As a retired International



United Auto Worker Union executive from the headquarters of car-making Detroit, Mich., and as vice president of the Oregon Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, I have gained much support.

I have found solidarity among the many union brothers and sisters who seek to broaden the mindset of the age old labor movement.

In addition, as a licensed minister, I have bonded with numerous community women of faith in the Women at the Cross Ministry. I have seen and participated in the group's yearly dual events which

have brought tremendous encouragement and value to my spiritual growth.

As President of the Portland NAACP in 2013 and 2014, and even when not being a Portland native, the support and outpouring to my services and the organization was phenomenal. Portland residents rendered special efforts to bring the chapter into compliance, increase its membership, and move the agenda of the organization. At the year end of 2014 and with active community supporters, all the chapter's issues had been positively addressed and \$800 was in the chapter's bank account to move forward. Supporters are to

be commended for all your hard work.

As president and chief executive officer of Dr. Audrey Terrell Institute (DATI), the support and contributions from this area has been limitless. The International UAW Education Department supported my academic goals through tuition assistance in earning a B.A. from the California State Hayward, a M.A. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a PhD. from the California Institute of Integral Studies.

The importance of education and working are a necessity in my personal opinion. In furthering this ideology, a special thanks goes out to churches and pastors,

stores, eateries, restaurants, TV, print and radio media and most importantly community organizations and leaders, and academicians in making the past four years at DATI growth and accomplishments immeasurable.

Thanks to all who have made my efforts as a community activist endearing and rewarding. The field of activism is broad. So to those who have set up roots here, please be encouraged to go forth to make a difference in the lives of the many underserved and disenfranchised to gain the quality of life we all deserve.

*Dr. Audrey Terrell is president and chief executive officer of the Dr. Audrey Terrell Institute.*