

HERMIT HERALD

VOL 1 ISSUE 52

JULY 29, 2020

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“Things aren’t always as they appear and people aren’t always who they say they are”

WOLVES IN SHEEP’S CLOTHING:

So let’s talk about Portland today. Along with my observations I will quote frequently from an opinion piece by Mitchell S. Jackson, a black professor at the University of Chicago who grew up in Portland.

First of all, are our readers aware that Portland is probably the biggest lilly white city in America? Yep, according to the most recent census, the state of Oregon is 86.7 % white and 2.2 % black, while Portland is 77.1 percent white and 5.8% black.

Using a term like “lilly white” seems to also be a pejorative, perhaps hinting at a bit of racism.

Beautiful Oregon racist? Oh no, say it isn't so. As Mr. Jackson points out, "Let's be clear: Oregon was intended as a white man's Zion. And since its admission to the union, it has remained one. That isn't intended to distract from, or in any way excuse the ongoing state of violence there, it's just that there should be no serious discussion of my home state or what's happening in my home city that excludes or forgets its founding ethos."

"Oregon's first provisional government passed a law excluding blacks from the territory and though it voted against slavery, thanks to a member of its first provisional government- a former slave owner- it amended this law to disallow blacks within its borders for up to three years. You wouldn't know unless you Sherlocked, that Oregon boasted the largest KKK chapter west of the Mississippi, that it waited more than a hundred years after the civil war to ratify the 14th amendment and that it took almost 90 years to ratify the 15th.

"In the years since, Oregon's largest city has done a bang up job of marketing itself as a bastion of lefty quirkiness as well as a place for

great food, beautiful landscapes, formidable cultural scenes and, of course, Just Doing It. But the laws keeping black people out? Oregonians didn't vote to scrub them from the state's books until 2002."

According to Mr. Jackson, Portland espouses its favorite slogan, "Keep Portland Weird." And he speaks of how the city has become a haven for leftists from around the country.

Mr. Jackson complains that there has been no media coverage of the peaceful black protests in the Numbers, that part of the city, "that black people were dispersed to when whites gentrified previously black neighborhoods."

In short, Mr Jackson believes the leftists, political radicals have hijacked the sincere efforts of the BLM movement and totally diverted the attention to their own hatred of authority and government. George Floyd is only a catalyst, giving them license to create the havoc that has now gone on for more than sixty days.

Here's what I read and see happening. You have essentially two groups, the peaceful protestors and the radicals. Homeland Security labels them anarchists. Their buffer zone for the past week has been the "Wall of Moms" – puleeze !! The radicals began their rampage in late May, burning and looting dozens of businesses. After ruining a large portion of the Portland business community they turned their attention to statues of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. One of the men who pulled down the Jefferson statue said, "It wasn't vandalism, it needed to be done."

Naturally, it isn't in the police training manual that they are to stand by while "aggrieved" white radicals (notice the word, white) rip the city apart. The police get involved and voila, major on- going confrontations.

Then, most recently, the lawless take on the \$130 million Mark Hatfield Federal Government building. The police, unable to adequately protect it, are replaced by Federal officers and the Mayor, Ted Wheeler, screeches that he needs no help. This, by the

way, is the one Portlanders call, “Tear Gas Teddy”. The police were using tear gas at his instruction long before the Feds arrived. Essentially, what is happening is that early evening the leftists mingle in with the peaceful protestors, hiding under their skirts, if you will, or wolves in sheep’s clothing. When it gets dark – harder to see, harder to film, harder to catch- they come out and do their nihilist thing for the umpteenth night.

And the media breathlessly reports lines like, “Oh my God they’re dragging these poor people off in unmarked vans – it’s, it’s like Venezuela” Geez!! I can assure the hysterical ones that these people are being taken and booked in accordance with criminal law. They are not being taken to black sites and tortured with cattle prods.

To further demonstrate what an “Alice through the Looking glass” world it is in Portland; rocks, laser beams focused on police, commercial pyrotechnics fired at police, human feces, water bottles and trash bags all directed at law enforcement are met by pepper spray and tear gas and the protestors would

have you believe the police started the whole thing.

Echoing Mr. Jackson, a BLM activist on site in Portland, Rachelle Dixon, says, “To see people standing in Portland destroying property and not actually doing the work of advocating for black people was disturbing. I think they are a distraction from the everyday needs of people of color, especially blacks. My life is not going to improve because you broke the glass at the Louis Vuitton store.”

Singing the praises of the rioters in Portland, a few hundred miles to the south, in Oakland, Cat Brooks, a racial justice organizer has single handedly redefined the criminal justice code. “I don’t consider property destruction violence. Violence is when you attack a person or another living, breathing creature on this planet. Windows don’t cry and they can’t die.” Makes you feel warm and fuzzy all over, yes? Hey, wait a minute; police cars, retail store locations, police precincts, Federal buildings, they don’t cry, they don’t die – no crime here. Go get em tiger.

Portland is its own special case, but by being a model, or not, we are seeing more and more violence erupting in cities of all sizes. Peaceful demonstrations are more and more just the preamble to nights of violence and criminality.

I read just today criticism of the Administration for protecting Federal property which the local law enforcement has not been able to do. The other day, 59 police injured in clashes in Seattle. 60 blacks shot and 14 killed by blacks in Chicago, but that really had nothing to do with the protests, that was just a below normal gunshot count for a Chicago summer weekend. The media is saying the Administration should be focused on the Corona Virus, the cities can take care of themselves - really?

Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago says the only Federal help she needs is “intervention on gun control and investing in community programs”. The only thing lacking on that wish list is a marshmallow roast and a chorus of Kumbaya.

INSURRECTION ACT OF 1807:

We discussed this in issue 36. Essentially, the President has the authority to demand that violent protestors disband. If it becomes a prolonged situation the Insurrection Act may be invoked where U.S. Military can be called in to restore order. Most press coverage omits reference to this Act ever having been enacted. In fact, Grant, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and George H.W. Bush all used it.

Today's military leaders are against it, in effect saying that was then, this is now. I suspect part of the rationale is that minorities make up about 45 % of the military. In any event, it seems that sending non military Federal officers to these hot spots that are out of control is the best we can do.

To those who would say that violence begets violence, I would counter the police and the Federal officers are not there to incite violence. They are there to arrest law breakers, stop the violence/looting and restore order to the community. Don't cry if you get pepper sprayed trying to assault an officer or destroying property.

AND SO:

Reading the foregoing I hope the readers have come to the conclusion that the serious BLM supporters, not only believe these riotous events are a distraction, they are actually hurting the cause.

For the fifth time in 52 issues, I go back to my advocacy that this country needs a Marshall Plan for the inner cities, big and small. Blacks and indigenous Americans have gotten a bad deal in this country for about 400 years. Individual reparation proposals are ridiculous, like Publisher's Clearing House; a \$100 check every week for the rest of your life. Instead we need trillions of dollars over a long period to improve education, health and opportunities.

We demand that our NATO partners spend 2% of their GDP on mutual defense. We should have a similar allocation for doing what's right for this important sector of our population. All our politicians do is make grave statements with long faces, while corporate America runs

around in circles promising to hire more, promote more all in the hope that, like so many similar crises, this will all die down within a few months. I agree with others who say, "This times feels different."

In the meantime statue toppling and riotous behavior help not a whit and, in fact, turn many away from supporting a bona fide call for help.

Your faithful scribe,

PB