

Possible strike, conviction make headlines

By Janet Paulson
Of the Emerald

Major Eugene headlines during spring break included movement toward a possible strike by 4-J School District teachers and another conviction in the 1983 homicide of a Springfield 7-Eleven clerk.

Eugene school teachers voted Thursday to strike if a settlement between the teachers and the school board is not reached. Bargaining between the two groups broke off indefinitely after a meeting Monday night.

Negotiators for the teachers and the school board are divided on several issues, including salaries, benefits, performance evaluations and bargaining representation.

The school district employs about 1,200 teachers and currently is advertising for substitute teachers in several Western states. If teachers do strike, schools probably will be closed for about a week or until enough substitute teachers can be found.

On March 24, Christopher Blaine Boots, 23, was convicted of aggravated murder in the death

of Raymond John Oliver. Boots was the alleged accomplice of Eric Anthony Proctor in the murder of the clerk, which occurred during a robbery. Proctor was convicted of aggravated murder last October after a three-week trial.

In other area news, Eugene ranked in the bottom 20 of America's metropolitan centers in economic growth in a survey in the April issue of Inc. magazine.

In the magazine's survey, Eugene ranked 137th out of 154 cities surveyed. The survey ranked U.S. cities according to job generation, rate of significant new business start-ups and the percentage of young companies enjoying high growth rates.

In another study, Dun & Bradstreet ranked Lane County as one of 15 U.S. counties with the largest population decreases since the 1980 census. According to the annual report, Lane County's population in 1986 was 257,903, down from 275,226 in 1980. This is the second year in a row Lane County has ranked in the bottom 15 counties in the country.

Africa

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represent what we call in South Africa non-racialism, which is a similar concept to multi-racism in the U.S."

"What we are saying is it is no good for us to be working toward the long-term goal of an integrated society where black and white people live together in peace and as equals. That is not good enough. We need to put that non-racialism into practice now because it is a means as well as an end."

The ECC has no illusions that it is leading the struggle or that it is playing any kind of key and critical role, he said.

"The struggle is being led by black South Africans, by the African masses. The ECC, by involving white people in political activities, is saying, 'Our struggle is not simply a struggle between black and white people, it is a struggle between people who love and are prepared to work for freedom as well as people who are prepared to maintain a democratic society,'" Nathan said.

In South Africa 80 percent of the population is black; however, these people have no access to political representation or any real access to economic power and wealth.

The small white population has 80 percent of the wealth. The black South Africans are denied citizenship even though they were born in the country and are forced to live in homelands which are drought stricken and barren, Nathan said.

"In that kind of society it is inevitable that the majority of people will fight back using both violent and non-violent means," he said.

Throughout South Africa's history there have been many non-violent protests in regard to health, education and housing; however, these have been met by the government with jail, banning orders and ammunition.

As a result of increased black resistance, a state of emergency was declared last June. "Black resistance has reached a point that many parts of our country

are ungovernable by the white central government," Nathan said.

"In order to meet this most serious threat to minority rule, the government has stepped up its repression to an unprecedented level and has given its soldiers and policemen extensive powers to detain any person for any length of time for any reason without having to give a reason."

As a result of the military occupation there have been instances of unprovoked violence by the military on township residents, he said.

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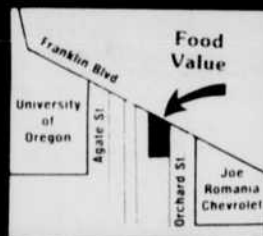
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