

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vol. 6 No. 20 Portland, Oregon Thursday, April 1, 1976 10¢ per copy



Madame Gres' harem inspired at-home ensemble in multi-striped taffeta, with plunging neckline and pantaloons that flow into a full back cape will be shown at the Ebony Fashion Show. (See page 5.)

City budget cuts jobs

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt's 1975-1976 budget will slice 221 city positions in a money saving effort. These include 160 that were on federally funded programs.

Ken Jones, city budget officer, estimated that fewer than 100 persons would have to be laid off because some vacancies will occur due to national attrition. Some departments have ceased hiring in anticipation of the lay-offs.

No firm decision has been made as to which positions will be eliminated but the Mayor expects a degree of confusion due to employees with seniority "bumping" those in other departments.

Goldschmidt was unable to estimate the effect of the cuts on employment of minorities and women and expressed some concern, but said minority employment was not a factor in the budget cuts.

Albina stops state appointment

The appointment of Dexter Henderson was blocked by action of the Albina Human Resources Center Board after learning of the appointment through the news media.

The board and employees of the Center were dismayed and angered to learn that Dexter Henderson, former Accounting Administrator of the Center had been assigned as its Assistant Administrator. Henderson was demoted from his position as Administrator of the Corvallis Human Resources Center after being accused of using staff inappropriately and attending classes at Oregon State University on state time.

Richard Davis, director of the Oregon Department of Human Resources said of Henderson's reassignment to Albina, "It is my feeling that because of his familiarity with the center, the increased supervision he will receive and the reduction in supervisory responsibility, he will be able to contribute to the department and the people we serve."

Sources in Corvallis told the *Observer* that Henderson:

The dismay over the appointment was increased in light of Davis' recent statements supporting giving more authority to the center directors. The Albina board testified before the Interim Committee

on Human Resources last week, urging that center directors be given a line of authority that will allow them to effectively coordinate the services of the various agencies operating in the center.

Davis has proposed legislation abolishing the various divisions within the Human Resources - Welfare, Children's Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, etc. - to enable a better delivery of services.

A.L. Henderson, speaking on behalf of the board said:

"The Board questions Mr. Henderson's sensitivity to the clients of the Albina Center when he has already demonstrated his insensitivity to the needs of those clients served by the Corvallis Center."

"Dexter Henderson has previously served as Assistant Manager and the Acting Manager of the Albina Human Resources Center. He was unable to develop the social legitimacy required by this community and thus created hostility and, in fact, generated a negative response that is still remembered."

"The position of Assistant Manager demands competence and support. It is not a rehabilitative nor a training position. In the absence of the Manager, the Assistant Manager would be responsible for the Center. Leadership is required in this position, and that quality was not

exhibited by Mr. Henderson in his position with the Corvallis Center. This position should be not filled by a person who needs help, but rather by someone who can help."

Davis had recently visited the center and met with the board, expressing his philosophy of greater community control.

Sources in Corvallis told the *Observer* that Henderson had not been able to relate to the people using the Corvallis Human Resources Center and that he had not gained the respect and support of the Corvallis community.

Henderson, a former career army man, was assistant director of the Albina Center under Leon Harris, who was the center's original director. There has been some concern because Henderson assisted with the investigation of allegations of misuse of state funds made against Harris. Harris was cleared of the charges, but later resigned his position. Henderson served as acting director until Ms. Hazel G. Hays was selected as director, then resumed his position as assistant. He later transferred to Manager of the Albina Welfare Office.

Henderson has been assigned to the special programs division of the state Department of Human Resources in Salem.

Jury acquits Larry Baker on robbery charge

Larry Baker, a parolee from Oregon State Penitentiary who is enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program at Portland State University, was found not guilty of robbery after approximately an hour's deliberation by an all-white jury. Baker has received public attention in recent months as an example of a "rehabilitated ex-felon". He charges that his indictment in the robbery case was a direct result of his charging the Oregon State Correction Division and the Multnomah County Division of Justice Services with racial discrimination in refusing him employment.

As a practicum student from PSU, Baker was assigned to the Multnomah County Division of Justice Services as a counsellor for probation and parole. In addition to counselling 26 persons, he was assigned several of his supervisor's cases when his supervisor was out of town. One of these was David Nelson, who was in Clackamas County jail on a rape, sodomy

and burglary charge and on whom there was also a probation hold for Multnomah County. Baker was approached by Nelson's wife, Kathy Nelson, to assist in getting her husband out of jail. Judge Olsen of Multnomah County advised Baker that if he found Nelson to be reliable and if he were to be released on bail, Baker could have the probation hold released.

The state's story was that Baker had received money from a friend of Nelson, Morgan Hall, which was to go for bail and that he had not paid the bail nor returned the money.

According to Baker, the incident first came to the attention of the authorities because he reported a possible bribe to the Clackamas County District Attorney's office and since the bribe was to take place in Multnomah County they reported it to Multnomah County authorities. Following the incident, Baker filed an affidavit with the county, telling his

version of the story. This affidavit was accepted by the state Civil Rights Division for investigation and on January 28th the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare were apprised of the complaint. On January 8th Baker was indicted for robbery and on January 28th he was arrested. He was told by police officers that they were unable to find him between January 8th and 28th, although he was working at the county Court House, attending school and living at his usual address.

Baker told the court that during the time he was attempting to arrange bail for Nelson and to make a judgement

about releasing the probation hold, Morgan Hall called and asked him to pick up and cash some checks for him. Hall was going out of town until Saturday evening when he would pick up the cash and post the bail. He called his credit union from Chehalis to have the checks made to Baker.

Baker said on Saturday morning Hall picked up the money, but in the meantime hints had been made about a bribe to Nelson's victim. Baker decided to go along with the bribe in order to obtain evidence and had another probation officer, Tamara Mitchell present as a witness. He also had informed Clackamas County authorities. The bribe did not occur as contact could not be made with the victim.

After writing up his report for the file, Baker transferred the case back to the original counsellor and Nelson stayed in jail. Multnomah County detectives appear for Nelson and to make a judgement

Black youth framed?

Youngest death row con fights for life

by Jon Stewart

NEW ORLEANS (PNS) - A major scandal involving America's youngest death row convict, seventeen year old Gary Tyler, has erupted here in New Orleans.

Tyler's lawyer has obtained affidavits from two of the state's three key witnesses against the Black youth charging that they were coerced by local police and government prosecutors into giving false testimony.

As a result, Tyler's May 5th execution date has been suspended pending a hearing in District Court April 21st, in which Tyler's lawyer will argue for a new trial.

Tyler was convicted by an all-white jury in the shooting death of a thirteen year old white youth, Timothy Weber, during a racial melee in Destrehan, Louisiana - forty miles north of New Orleans - on October 7, 1974.

The shooting incident occurred during an anti-busing demonstration, when a crowd of white students and parents surrounded a school bus containing sixty to seventy Black students. A shot rang out and Weber, standing among the white demonstrators, fell dead.

Local police immediately searched the school bus and all Black students, but produced no weapon. Tyler, who had been aboard the bus, was arrested during the search for obstructing justice when he allegedly argued with an officer. That night the charge was changed to first degree murder.

Police had produced a .45 automatic after impounding the bus and obtained a signed statement from a witness, fifteen year old Natalie Blanks, stating she had been sitting near Tyler on the bus and saw him lean out a window and fire the weapon.

Blanks stuck to her statement before a

grand jury and throughout the trial. Two other prosecution witnesses who had been aboard the bus also testified they had seen the alleged murder weapon passed around the bus and handled by Tyler.

The .45 automatic was never conclusively identified as the murder weapon, however, because the bullet that killed young Weber was never recovered. Nor were Tyler's fingerprints found on the weapon. Police said he had been wearing gloves.

By a strange coincidence, the weapon was reported stolen from the nearby Kenner police firing range after it was discovered on the bus.

Tyler was convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Louisiana State Prison at Angola. He has been on death row there since December 15, 1975.

WITNESS RECANTS

On March 9th Tyler's new attorney,

Jack Peebles of New Orleans, filed motions for a new trial. He also released a 31-page affidavit in which Blanks, the key state witness, declared that her prior statement and trial testimony were false and had been prepared for her by police and prosecutors.

In the affidavit, Blanks states that Louisiana Assistant Attorney General L.J. Hymel and St. Charles Parish Assistant D.A. Norman Pitre threatened to charge her with accessory to murder and perjury if she recanted her testimony.

According to the affidavit, Blanks said the prosecutors "asked me, 'How old is your baby?' and 'Do you want to be in jail? Don't you want to see your baby? Don't you want to be here to raise your baby?'"

Blanks states that on the night of the shooting she was brought to police headquarters and strip-searched by police-women. She contends that while she was

naked two St. Charles Parish male deputies grabbed her and shouted, "You know Gary shot him."

That night, she says, the same two deputies gave her a prepared statement identifying Tyler as the murderer and told her to sign it.

Attorney Peebles says that before Blanks testified in the trial she met in the judge's chambers with her attorney, Sylvia Taylor, Judge Ruche Marino, and the assistant D.A. and assistant attorney general.

Taylor informed the judge and prosecutors that in view of her client's psychiatric instability she would advise her to take the Fifth Amendment if questioned on the statement implicating Tyler. The prosecutors then agreed to grant Blanks "oral immunity" from accessory or perjury in return for her testimony.

Peebles claims the jury was never told of the immunity, nor of Blanks' "exten-

sive psychiatric background." If either had been known her reliability as a witness could have been damaged.

Assistant Attorney General Hymel and Assistant D.A. Pitre have declined to comment on any aspect of the case.

OTHER WITNESSES

On March 24th Peebles filed additional motions to obtain tape recordings of police interviews with the two other witnesses who claimed during the trial they had seen Tyler handling a gun while on the bus.

One of those witnesses, Loretta London Thomas, has since signed an affidavit stating that she, too, was coerced to give false testimony.

Thomas states that she was questioned on three separate occasions the day of the shooting. The third time, she states, a sheriff's deputy told her he was "going to send her to jail for 99 days" if she didn't (Please turn to p. 4 col. 3)

Port considers new drydock

Although the maritime industry supplies approximately ten percent of the jobs in the Portland metropolitan area, a great majority of Portland's residents are hardly aware of the busy port. Even Blacks, many of whom came to Portland during the war to work in the shipyards, do not realize that ship building and ship repair is still a major industry.

On a natural supply route from the East, the Columbia River, and at the early railroad terminal, Portland developed as a port city. It is still dependent on the shipping industry, most of which is exporting. In recent years the Columbia has been dredged to accommodate large ships, providing easy access.

The Port of Portland, which maintains the only publicly owned shipyard on the coast, got into the ship-repair business in 1900 when it established a ship-repair yard in St. Johns. Following World War II, the Port purchased the Kaiser yards at Swan Island.

Although the shipyard is owned by the Port, the facilities are leased to private contractors. Eleven companies use the yards, the largest being Northwest Marine Iron Works, Incorporated and Dillingham Marine and Manufacturing.

The marine industry creates 17,602 jobs, with a payroll exceeding \$151 million, and nearly 20,000 related jobs in import and export activities. Approximately ten percent of the jobs in the

tri-county area are related to the maritime industry. Additionally, the maritime payroll creates an estimated 17,000 jobs in other goods and services.

Over 700 companies supply parts, goods in services for the shipyards.

An estimated 75 percent of all costs in ship building and ship repair go to labor. These are a variety of types of jobs, including steel and welding. Pay is fifty percent above the regional average.

The Port of Portland is considering asking the people of Portland to build a new drydock on Swan Island, that would service the large oil tankers that will soon take oil from Alaska to California.

No port on the West Coast is currently prepared to serve these large ships and Portland could gain the business if it had proper facilities. Currently, the oil companies plan to take the ships to Japan to repair, but federal law requires that they use an American port if one is available.

Although the nation is in a depression, work at the shipyards continue at a high level. Bill Gilmore, assistant general manager and production manager at Northwest Marine Iron Works, Incorporated, said his company is turning away work. "The berths that were built during World War II for five ships, only hold three of the larger ships in use now.

We turn away jobs because there is no space for them."

The largest drydock in operation is only 661 feet long, 114 feet wide, has a 27 ton lifting capacity, capable of lifting ships up to 50,000 dead weight tons. The oil tankers that will carry Alaska oil will be 70,000 to 190,000 ton vessels.

The Port of Portland's shipyards are a money-making operation. Over \$13.6 million gross revenue was derived to the Port during 1968 through 1974. Profit is used to maintain the Ports docks and terminals, which like all other ports, lose money but bring in business.

To keep up with changes in the industry, the Portland shipyards must be brought up to date. Built for World War II vessels, the drydocks are not large enough for the new, larger ships. Building a drydock large enough for the new oil tankers, and additional repairs berths, is expected to generate a cost flow of over \$10 million a year, and an additional 1,000 jobs.

The Port has two choices, it can build the large drydock now and add the tanker repair to already growing ship repair and building businesses, or it can wait and build additional smaller facilities later. The facilities cannot be left as they are without losing jobs and revenue. Already much business is being turned away because of lack of berthing space and inadequate facilities.



An architect's view of proposed new drydock at Swan Island.