



Black mental "patients" used as slave labor in South Africa

## Racial bedlam in South Africa

(Cont. from page 1 col. 3)

asylums because the state lacked funds for new state hospitals.

"These allegations that we are acting improperly to save money, or that millions of rands (South African monetary unit, about equal to the dollar) are being made out of madness... well, that's nonsense," Gilliland said.

"We've got nothing to hide," he added. The censorship bill was approved two weeks after the interview, with Gilliland's support.

### Onus on accused

The law is nearly identical to the 1959 Prisons Act, which made it a crime in South Africa to publish photos or "false information" of prisons or prisoners. In each case, the onus is on the accused to prove that "reasonable steps" were taken to verify the information. One mistake can lead to conviction and a one-year jail sentence.

Since passage of the Prisons Act, South African papers and magazines have published little about prison conditions.

But major newspapers have spoken out strongly against the new censorship bill.

According to an editorial in the **Rand Daily Mail**, "Sealing off mental institutions - because that is what it means - merely shows that there is something to hide."

The Cape Times joined the criticism: "The new bill appears to be another move to clothe the doings of officialdom in secrecy... Where will it stop?"

The scandal was sparked by reports in the **Johannesburg Sunday Times** that shareholders in Smith Mitchell were reaping huge profits from the shabby institutions. The article likened the private asylums to "A South African version of the Dickensian workhouse, an uncomfortable reminder of the bad days in Bedlam..."

It quoted a retired mental health commissioner who described the hospitals as "human warehouses rendering only custodial care."

The scandal peaked in January with the publication of photographs of patients

and interviews with hospital staff members in the monthly journal **Peace and Freedom**, published by the Church of Scientology...

The journal reported that the government pays Smith Mitchell a fee of 2.50 rands per patient a day for whites and one rand for Blacks - about half the cost of maintaining patients in state-owned institutions.

The Health Ministry promised in a recent report to Parliament to undertake new construction of state-owned institutions. But Health Minister Dr. Schalk van der Merwe conceded it will take up to 15 years to "clear the backlog." Meanwhile, Smith Mitchell plans to erect two more private hospitals for another 2,400 African patients.

Under the new law, South Africans won't learn much more about the mental health crisis.

## Neil Kelly earns award

A Portland home remodeling firm has received high national honors for kitchen and bathroom remodeling design and construction in competition sponsored by the American Institute of Kitchen Dealers.

The Neil Kelly Company, 735 N. Alberta Street, won a third place for a bathroom remodeled at the Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harrington residence.

Staff remodeling consultant Martha Kerr was the award winning designer. The award was her second consecutive AIKD recognition.

The company also received three honorable mention citations - one for a kitchen and two for bathrooms.

The annual competition is sponsored to recognize achievement in the remodeling industry. Criteria include effective utilization of space, equipment, appliances and fixtures and decorator design.

There were more than 1,100 entries submitted from across the country.

## Patton hosts program

Le Roy Patton, advisory specialist in Area II of the Portland Public Schools, will be the new host of "People Perspective", the interview program with Portland area Black citizens, aired on KBPS every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

On July 2, Patton will interview Mrs. Osley Gates and Mrs. Zack Phillips, representatives of the Afro-American Heritage Quilt Committee. Mrs. Gates and Mrs. Phillips discuss the Afro-American Heritage Exhibit on display at the Oregon Historical Society from the 1st of July through September 30th.

## Masons hold annual meet



M.W.G.M. TOM VICKERS

Thomas R. Vickers, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon and Its Jurisdiction, has called the Grand Lodge into its Sixteenth Annual Communication on Monday, June 28th at 9:00 a.m. at The Town Hall, 3425 N. Montana Avenue.

Also meeting is the Fifteenth Annual Communication of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, Order of Eastern Star.

Events to which the public is invited are: The Annual Promenade, Town Hall Ball Room, June 26th from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Services, Bethel A.M.E. Church, 5828 N.E. 8th Avenue, Sunday, June 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Annual Banquet, Town Hall, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. Senator George Fleming from the State of Washington is guest speaker.

## The Rockefeller connection

In a television interview last week the South African Minister of Health, Schalk Van der Merwe, accused the Church of Scientology in South Africa of being the motivating force behind the international expose and vehemently denied the existence of the camps. Van Der Merwe publicly extended an invitation to the World Health Organization and the International Red Cross to investigate psychiatric facilities in South Africa. It now appears that the investigation will not be permitted after all. "I think this invitation was absolutely necessary," stated Van Der Merwe. "It was necessary for the image of psychiatric services in South Africa and in particular for the image of the Department of Health, because we have been accused of keeping labor camps for Black patients - Black psychiatric patients in South Africa - and this is absolutely false. I therefore invite the Director General and the World Health Organization, Dr. Mahler, to personally and with any other person that he may decide on to accompany him, or as an alternative, the International Red Cross Organization, to come and personally investigate the conditions of psychiatric treatment in South Africa."

Officials of the Church have charged that Van Der Merwe's invitations were intended solely for the press and public. They say that no invitations were re-

ceived by WHO or the Red Cross. "We phoned the office of the President of the International Red Cross in Geneva eleven days after Mr. Van Der Merwe made known his invitations," Portland Church spokesman, Steve Tiger, explained. "The Secretary to the President, Madame Cellerier, told us that no such invitation has been received. We then telexed the International Headquarters of WHO, also in Geneva, and in a telexed reply were told that Dr. Mahler as well had received no invitation."

The existence of the privately owned "mental" camps first came to light on August 9, 1970, when a Church of Scientology researcher stopped at the Rand West Sanatorium to ask directions to get to Johannesburg. He discovered that he had stumbled upon one of a network of mental institutions owned by Smith Mitchell and Company.

Among the dominating figures of the company is David Tabatznik, a multimillionaire of Polish origin. Tabatznik is president of the Board of Protea, a public international corporation. He also governs the Smith Mitchell network. According to the article published in **Dagens Nyheter** the biggest share holder in Protea is the Standard Bank of South Africa, which is largely controlled by the Rockefeller owned Chase Manhattan Bank in New York.

## Meet Tri-Met's Driver-of-the-Month.

Charles Czarnicki is an experienced man behind the wheel. He was a private chauffeur before he started driving buses. And his 10-year Safe Driving Award proves he's a professional.



Chuck has been on #56 Beaverton/Aloha/Progress for several years and has observed a great increase in ridership with the development of Washington Square. His concern for his passengers is evidenced by his comment, "I try to please them all." It's no surprise Chuck is our Driver-of-the-Month.

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