



We see the world
through Black eyes

Bad scheduling

The "Welfare, Wages or What?" Conference held in Portland last weekend was a dynamic and important event -- addressing the issues of employment and income security. This conference was sponsored by a broad spectrum of the community -- business, labor, social agencies, political groups -- and the speakers presented divergent views.

Audience participation indicated a deep concern and interest in the subject of employment -- which has become the most crucial problem to the nation, not only for the unemployed and marginally employed, but for the business community. Only citizens with money to spend can provide the buying power for growth of business and industry and the taxes needed to support mandatory governmental services.

It was a well planned and well attended function.

The significance of the conference raises the question of why the State Democratic Party held its Grass Roots Convention in Salem at the same time as the "Welfare, Wages or What?" Conference was progressing in Portland.

It would have been far better for the party regulars and the Democratic office holders had participated in the Portland conference and availed themselves of the ideas and knowledge put forth by such notables as Michael Harrington, Congressman James Corman, Dr. Frances Fox Piven and others.

We can only hope that next time someone checks the calendar and makes sure that two events so important to the citizens of Oregon are not held at the same time at widely distant places.

No money again

Once again Multnomah County has stripped the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission budget, shorting the requested 1977-1978 budget by \$3,211. It is expected that this cut will bring a cut in the City of Portland's share also.

Last year, 1976-1977, Multnomah County contributed only \$25,000 to the agencies operating budget, with the city picking up part of the deficit.

It is true that there have been criticism of MHRC in the past -- but a new director and a new commission chairman have added a new direction. With a staff of two, plus a secretary, it is hard to imagine how anyone could have expected great results. Now, the MHRC is to be slighted again.

MHRC budget

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our mandate. This we can do if you would raise your contribution from \$42,730 to \$45,971 -- a mere difference of \$3,241."

Reverend Edsel Goldson, who was among the citizens who spoke on behalf of MHRC, said MHRC addresses one of his concerns, Police/Community Relations and rather than only react to crisis, is attempting to improve communication. "The relationship it is trying to build is crucial."

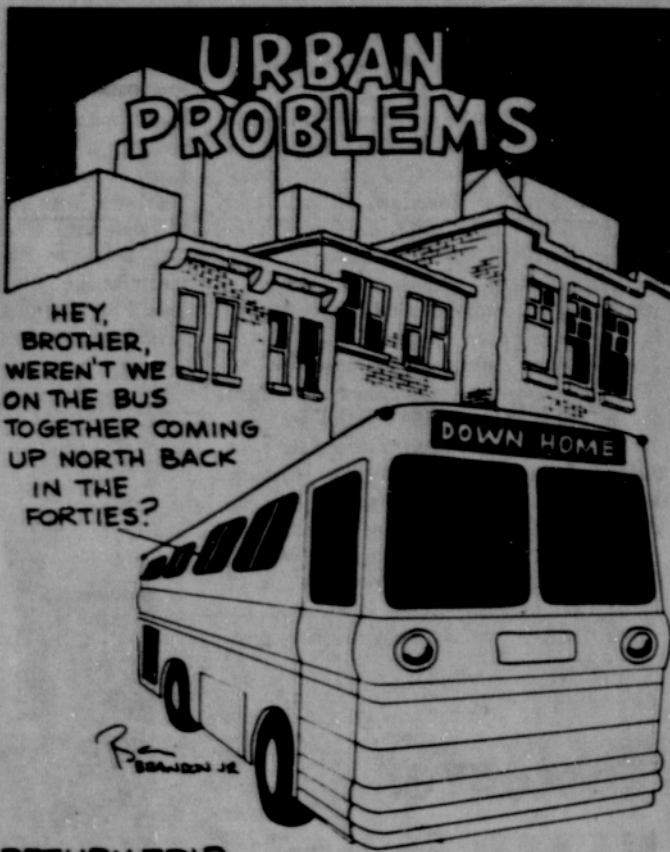
A recording of the Alpha Circle "White Power Hot Line" was played to the Commission to demonstrate the recent rapid growth in this type of hate group. Reverend Rozell Gilmore, speaking for the Albina Ministerial Alliance, said it is important that MHRC have as much visibility and strength as possible since there is a strong undercurrent of racism.

Mr. Houston, representative of the

Black Justice Committee, accused the County of having an ineffective affirmative action program, saying the refusal to adequately fund MHRC indicated a decline in the interest of the county. Commission Chairman Don Clark replied that the county has not done enough in affirmative action, but the personnel department is trying to reorganize. He said that for the last year, emphasis was on balancing the budget, but personnel will be a top priority this year.

Clark explained that he had prepared the budget the Board of County Commissioners was considering and that he had no plans for any changes. He added that a vote of three commissioners will be necessary for a change to be made. Commissioners Clark, Dan Mosee and Dennis Buchanan were present at the hearing; Commissioners Alice Corbett and Mel Gordon were not.

The City Council is to hold its hearing on the MHRC budget today, Thursday.



RETURN TRIP

Children

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and other forms of "treatment"--usually without the due process guarantees, such as the right to a lawyer, given by the juvenile courts.

Once in homes for neglected children or other facilities, these youths diminish the services available to children who do not break the law. Thus the tragic paradox that for many youths, the only sure access to community services comes after running afoul of the police.

"Elliott Currie, who has taught criminology at Yale and the University of California-Berkeley and has published articles on crime in various scholarly journals, is now a Bay Area freelance writer covering criminal justice for the Pacific New Service. In 1969 he was assistant director of a task force of the government's National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.

From the Legislature

by Rep. Gretchen Kafoury

The House Democratic leadership two weeks ago presented other House Democrats for their consideration a list of recommended eliminations, cuts, and additions to the State's July 1977 to July 1979 budget. The Legislature is trying to deal with a nearly \$2 billion budget requested by the Governor. Different groups or individuals might recommend different approaches, but up to this time in Oregon legislative history, no House leadership -- either Democrat or Republican -- has ever published such recommendations. Oh, there used to be lists, but these were usually kept very secret. The House leadership has presented their printed recommendations not only to other House Democrats but also to the Governor and the President of the Senate. I think this is an historic step which has opened up the House legislative fiscal process as never before. For the first time, a majority party has asked each of their members to consider, react to, and work toward a consensus in dealing with this enormous budget.

DIOXIN BAN

The House Environment and Energy committee is hearing further testimony this week on a bill to prohibit the use and sale of pesticides containing dioxin chemicals.

The bill, HB 3230, sponsored by the committee at the request of Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS), requires the state Department of Agriculture to refuse registration and suspend any existing registration of pesticides containing the chemical tetra chlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD).

Currently, sprays containing dioxin chemicals are used to control underbrush along highways and on reforested land. Some suggest that there is sufficient evidence to show that the chemical is extremely toxic to humans and wildlife. Testimony is going to be intense in this Thursday morning hearing.

UTILITY CONSUMERS' ADVOCATE

Utility consumers will be assured of an advocate before public rate hearings and other public policy decision making matters if a bill now before the House Business and Consumer Affairs Committee,

chaired by Rep. Bill Grannell, (D-North Bend), is approved this week.

The bill, HB 3114, sponsored by Rep. Sandy Richards, (D-Portland), creates the Utility Consumers Advocate as a non-profit corporation. The corporation would represent the interests of utility consumers before legislative, administrative, and judicial bodies.

All utility consumers in the state may become members of the corporation upon a minimum contribution of \$3 per year. Each member will be entitled to cast one vote for the election of the board.

The measure calls for the Governor to appoint a board of five members until such time as the non-profit corporation has received \$5,000 in contributions from utility consumers. At that time, one person from each senatorial district will be elected to serve on the board for a period of three years.

QUESTIONS

If you need any information about House and Senate bills, you can determine their status by calling Legislative Information. The toll free number is: 1-800-452-0290.

Senator Mc Coy Reports

Some of us at one time or another have been subjected to a doctor's refusal to provide medical assistance because of our status as such. Senate Bill 786 would make it unlawful and possibly revoke or suspend a physician's license to practice medicine in Oregon; should the physician refuse an "eligible categorically needy" person of medical assistance on the basis of his or her status. Hospital and health care costs are increasing due to inflation, the quantity and quality of services. In 1975, the price for health care was \$58.00, in 1977, the price had increased to \$88.94, a thirty-one percent increase. Senate Bill 961 would require the Health Facilities Cost Review Commission (HRCRC) to carry out state-wide public hearings and formulate standards for determining reasonable rates. This bill would require health care facilities to establish cost containment programs and would control reasonable costs charged by public and private health care facilities to their patients. This bill would not include physicians in private practice nor certain religious institutions. Senate Bill 1027 would establish procedures to protect a person's health care history, diagnosis, condition, treatment and/or evaluation. The purpose of this bill is to establish protection for maintaining the completeness of confidential health care information. Relying on your physician's judgment to prescribe and administer "substances of a natural nature" and "nutritional therapy" may soon become known as a "freedom of choice" between the physician and patient. Senate Bill 961 would allow the physician, without penalty, to prescribe and administer such

care unless such substances and therapy were found to be harmful by the Health Division. Hospitals, health care facilities and pharmacies would, without penalty, administer and dispense the substances prescribed.

Alcohol abuse is one of the leading factors for traffic deaths today. The policy on temperance is to encourage the people of Oregon to limit their content of distilled spirits or use and consume a lighter beverage. Senate Bill 77 would restate the policy of the Liquor Control Act to place greater emphasis on policy of temperance so as to prevent repetition of abuses associated with saloons or resorts where alcoholic beverages are consumed, to eliminate bootlegging and promote temperance in the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages, and to protect the general well being of the people of this state. Senate Joint Resolution 45, amends Oregon's Constitution with the approval of the people's vote at the next state-wide primary election, to require the state to issue liquor licenses for service by the drink only to those facilities in agreement to promoting temperance. This bill would provide adequate protection for the original intent and purpose of the Oregon Liquor Control Act and would promote temperance through encouraging the use and consumption of lighter alcoholic beverages. Senate Bill 49, would authorize the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to issue special dispenser's license when a person, organization or association intends to sell alcoholic beverages for a specific event by the individual glass or drink for consumption on licensee's

premises. No person, organization or association may operate under either "A" or "B" class license for more than two consecutive days nor for more than six events or occasions in one calendar year. The fee for either license would be \$25.00 per license day. (Day will be the hours of operation appointed by the OLCC rule applying to that license.) For those person's, organizations, and associations operating with either a Class "A" or "B" dispenser license, Senate Bill 795 would authorize the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to provide a discount of 15 percent of retail price on each purchase of three or more cases of distilled spirits. Class "A" dispensers license may be issued to railroad corporations and commercial establishments where food is cooked and served. Class "B" dispensers license may be issued to private clubs, fraternal organizations and veteran's organizations. Class "A" and "B" will permit the licensee to purchase, from the commission only. Senate Bill 1013 would prohibit the manufacture or sale of contraceptives (appliance, drugs or medicinal preparations) at wholesale price in this state without a license issued by the State Board of Pharmacy. This bill would require the manufacturer, the date of manufacture and the distributor by firm name and address to be identified on the appliance and container in which the goods are to be sold.

Anyone interested in any of the above mentioned bills should write to:

Senator William McCoy
S209 State Office Building
Salem, Oregon 97310
Or call toll-free: 1-800-452-0290

Teer

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there while understanding the power of loving oneself.

On April 22, 23 and 24, Barbara Ann Teer and the liberators of the National Black Theatre will be the center of force of "Message from Our Roots," a three day conference based on the 2nd World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture held in Lagos, Nigeria, January 10 through February 15, 1977.

The body of the conference will begin Friday at 7:00 p.m. and will continue on Saturday with workshops beginning at 9:00 a.m. These events will be free to the public and will be located at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue.

Sunday, there will be a special reception at Jewella's Family Restaurant and Lounge, 2125 N. Vancouver Avenue from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The \$3.00 donation for the reception will be used to help offset the cost of the conference.

The conference will include a presentation by Barbara Ann Teer and the liberators of the National Black Theatre, plus films on Nigeria, African Artifacts, and a multi-media presentation. The reception will feature an African fashion show, slides from FESTAC '77 and a door prize from Africa.

Barbara Ann Teer is a unique Black woman full of sensitivity and surrounded by spiritual power. After years of education, theatrical experience on and off Broadway, and mounting frustrations, Barbara Ann broke away from the traditional world and turned her energies inward. From this search for meaning as her life was born the "Temple of Liberation." - The National Black Theatre.

Barbara's search for knowledge encompassed many traditions and spiritual initiations. From African rituals, Yoga tradition, Erhard Seminar Training, Haitian Vodou, and Black American revivals, Barbara's vision grew. Her creative force centered within her and allowed her to transmit and communicate with the world with an open, honest and sincere expression of the Black life style.

According to conference organizers, OB Hill and Joe McHenry, other black humanists from the Pacific Northwest will also take part in the workshop activities. The program is sponsored by Basic Career Development, Inc. and is funded in part by a grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities.

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

Klan Kilgore says the passengers on his line, #12-Beaumont/Foster, are "my kind of people." Soon Klan will be driving #34-River Road, and he's looking forward to that line too.

Off the job Klan devotes his time to his three sons and enjoys hunting, fishing, baseball and cooking.

Klan has a number of impressive service records: two Silver Stars and a Presidential Citation from his military service in World War II. And, with Tri-Met, a fourteen year safe driving record. That's why Klan is Tri-Met's April Driver of the Month.

Better service for more people.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
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