

CODA reconsiders Albina drug treatment program

By Donald Fuller

James Robbins, director of Comprehensive Options for Drug Abuse, Inc. (CODA), a non-profit agency seeking the approval of King Neighborhood Association of a special project to decentralize treatment of drug addicts in Portland, will meet with Ms. Anna Madden today.

The hastily arranged meeting was the result of the outrage expressed by the largely Black residents of King at the manner in which the community was presented with the special project. Robbins indicated that the heated exchanges resulting in a motion to disapprove the location of the drug treatment effort in the heart of the Black community put the project opening date in doubt and he

would not commit the agency to a date.

"The timing was all wrong for an arrogant approach by some downtown white boys," said one resident after the meeting. "How could they think that something like that would glide by after the boycott thing?"

The purpose of the meeting will

be to discuss a letter from Ms. Madden as chairperson of the King Neighborhood Association informing Robbins of the vote and of possible changes in the program that may make the program acceptable. This meeting will be open to association members, said Ms. Madden. "I frown on closed door meetings . . ." so no deals will be made.

A great deal appears to be at stake for the hard-pressed agency. Minority clients have dropped to "twelve to fifteen per cent participation . . ." according to Robbins and that means the loss of more National Institute on Drug Abuse funds and matching state funds under the Oregon Mental Health Division.

The project is not a residential care

facility, but the community objected to the lack of prior consultation, the dispensing of methadone (free) and the lack of sensitivity to the cultural and political climate developing new pride in Black residents. The staffing of the project and control over the project once approved were serious concerns not addressed in the presentation at the September 17th (Please turn to page 5 col. 1)

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Dewey Taylor: Happy to be alive

Dewey Taylor will open at the Jazz Quarry on October 5th with Sky Trio.

"I'm not doing much but playing a little music, doing some fishing and trying to cling to life," Taylor said. Three trips a week to the kidney dialysis machine take much of his time but Taylor still finds time for his friends.

A series of heart attacks, kidney trouble, strokes and other ailments have not kept Dewey Taylor down but they have slowed him a bit. A man of many trades, he was the first advertising manager for the *Observer*, sold for

Coast Janitorial and worked for the Portland Public Schools.

Taylor began playing the harmonica at the age of eleven and his music has led him all over the world. He played with the Red Skelton Show, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Andy Krk, Dick Stabile, and others. He travelled the world playing for USO camp shows.

Although he found the rest of the world exciting, Portland is his home. "Portland has been good to me. I've raised a lovely family and enjoy my life here."

HEW investigation false alarm

Mrs. Oslly Gates brought some confusion to the Title VII advisory committee as she announced that a team from the Region X and Washington office of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare had visited the Portland District in response to her inquiry. In August she had advised HEW that newly passed School Board policies might effect the District's Title VII proposal.

Mrs. Gates received a letter from Allen T. Apodaca, Regional Commissioner of Education, stating the teams would be in Portland during the week of September 10th "to assess and verify the status of recent board actions and the effect on desegregation and quality of education for children attending the Portland Public Schools."

That visit did not occur, but Pete Suazo, the District's liaison in Washington D.C. did make a routine visit on September 13th. Suazo met with district officials regarding changes in finding procedures for next year's proposal. According to Clint Thomas, Director of Desegregation Program, he also offered assistance

in the district needs to change the current proposal.

Apodaca told the *Observer* that when he wrote to Mrs. Gates he had thought a team would be visiting the Portland District both to assess the results of policy changes and to offer technical assistance. However, the decision was made not to make the anticipated review at this time because it was too early to determine the results of the changes and because it was financially inappropriate to spend the money to bring people from Washington at the end of the budget year.

He decided to give the District time to determine the response to policy changes and to assess resulting problems. HEW will offer assistance in amending the 1979-1980 Title VII proposal if necessary.

Apodaca expressed concern that since the Title VII proposal calls for programs at specific schools, withdrawal of Black students could mean that those schools should not receive Title VII funds. He said he would be "very concerned" if he learned that schools with insufficient numbers of Black students received Title VII

funding, if disproportionate numbers of white students received assistance from the program, in that there was discrimination against Black students.

"The purpose of the program is to insure quality education for Black students. One concern is for quality. I would be personally very concerned if Black students do not receive a high proportion of the benefits." He explained that white students at receiving schools may be eligible for services if they are educationally disadvantaged.

The purpose of Title VII, he said, is to insure that Black students sent to majority white schools for desegregation purposes receive quality education and that the education offered in receiving schools does not decline because of the addition of Black students.

The Title VII program in Portland provides compensatory education for students in 36 receiving schools, with a ratio of three white resident students to one Black transfer student receiving aid. The project also includes parent involvement and curriculum development/teacher training components.

otherwise acting in an undocile manner.

At Matteawan, the women were forcibly dosed with such powerful neuroleptic drugs as Thorazine and Prolixin, along with a literally stunning array of sedatives, hypnotics, and anti-depressants. They were never told the types of drugs they were being given; and no physical, neurological or psychiatric examinations were conducted by the staff psychiatrists to determine whether the drugs were producing allergic reactions or other side effects—even though the women frequently complained of highly disorienting side effects. (Such drugging is not uncommon in "control units" of American prisons dealing with "uncooperative" inmates who have also never been determined to be mentally

Civil Rights erasing backlog

The Civil Rights Division of the Oregon Labor Bureau has had a tarnished image for many years as the result of its inability to investigate and dispose of civil rights complaints within a reasonable length of time. In the eight months since Labor Commissioner Mary Roberts took office, 1,207 cases have been closed, the backlog substantially cleared. The number of cases in process has been reduced more than 32 per cent.

New Director of the Civil Rights Division, Gary Gomez reports that the department is using a two pronged approach, providing immediate investigation of new complaints as well as clearing up old cases. Gomez has instituted a "Fact Finding" procedure whereby the complainants and respondent are asked to attend a fact finding conference with a compliance officer. At this meeting an agreement can be reached and, if appropriate, a predetermination settlement made. Gomez explained that some cases that are really a result of poor communication can be settled at this stage. In others, where discrimination does exist and the employee is aware that there is substantial evidence, the employer has an opportunity to settle prior to a lengthy investigation.

When a complaint is filed, action begins within a few days. The fact finding conference usually occurs

within about two weeks and if that fails the case is assigned immediately for investigation.

Gomez expects to speed the process even more by building a stronger intake process. By assigning the best staff to intake he hopes not only to eliminate cases over which the Division has no jurisdiction but to refine the complaints to make investigation more efficient.

Ninety-nine new complaints were filed in August, bringing the year's total to 678. Complaints have increased during the past three months which Gomez credits to word getting out the complaints are being investigated in a timely manner. Many persons were previously discouraged from filing complaints by the fact that it might be two years before an investigation began. Timetables will be set to insure that every complaint moves through the investigation and cancellation process.

Of the 99 complaints filed in August, 96 were in employment and three in housing. Complaints on sex discrimination in employment were 38, complaints on race and color 23. Thirteen of the employment complaints were on workers' compensation.

One of the housing complaints was on racial discrimination; two were on discrimination against persons with mental handicap.

Employment complaints also lead the complaints filed during the final eight months of the year, with 643 complaints. Of those 221 were based on sex and 136 on race. There were 21 housing complaints, 15 on race. Thirteen complaints were filed charging discrimination in public accommodation, ten of these based on race. One complaint of racial discrimination was filed against vocational schools.

Of those cases filed before 1977, 14 remain in investigation and 16 are either in conciliation or pending referral for hearings. A Management Review Group is going over all pre-1977 cases to determine which can be completed. By the end of August, he expects only ten of these cases to remain in the Department.

Of the old cases, 175 are at the Attorney General's office to be prepared for hearings and 23 were complaints against the state that have been referred to private attorneys.

Gomez, who has held his current position for four months, came to the Civil Rights Division from the State Welfare Division, where he was manager of the office serving Clackamas and Washington Counties. He at one time headed the Albina office of the Welfare Department and prior to that worked in private industry.

Black Studies celebrates ten years

by Stephanie L. Michael

The Black Studies Department at Portland State University will be celebrating its tenth anniversary next week. The department plans to hold a banquet on Friday, September 28th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Westminister Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock Street. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lee P. Brown, former Commissioner of Public Safety for the city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Black Studies Department Head, Bill Little says the department was first implemented as an experimental program in 1969 at Portland State. Since that time, Little says five major areas of emphasis are offered in the department. Some of the areas include Black Urban Affairs, Black Civilization and Culture, and Black Social Development. Presently the department staff is composed of five full time professors and 12 part time faculty members.

Little says, "Most of our faculty members have Ph.D's. For the most part we are all overworked and underpaid. We do more than we ought to be doing because we are committed. We are black and feel we have a responsibility to meet. I feel you have to put

in more if you don't want to be second rate. Our department is not second rate." Little says the anniversary banquet is being held to celebrate the achievement of the department, university and Black community.

"This banquet is something the black community should be proud of and I feel it is a sign of achievement. The department has reached a high level of excellence nationally as well as internationally. Our sense of pride and growth is a significant example of what's happening in the community. This event is not something we plan to hold on an annual basis. It's something special.

"Our department and faculty have made major contributions. The department is known as one of the major catalysts in helping to create other black studies programs around the country. Both students, faculty members and administrators have worked hard to develop the program of study. We are the only section in the northwestern part of the country that is recognized as a department. The rest of the existing black studies sections at regional schools and universities are only programs," said Little.

Right now it takes 51 hours to



DR. BILL LITTLE

receive a degree from the department. But Professor Little says some requirements will be changed in the future to what is more desirable and needed to relate with Black studies courses. A proposal is being submitted (Please turn to page 9 column 3)

Should the United Nations look into America's prisons?

by Nat Hentoff

(PNS)—There is currently no more unfashionable preoccupation than the rights of prisoners. Insofar as the citizenry thinks of prisons at all, they want more of them—the more punitive the better.

The notion that one of the purposes of these fastnesses is rehabilitation is no longer held even by most liberals. E. Donald Shapiro, dean of the New York Law School, recently spoke for a clear consensus of the populace when he proposed, for the 1980s, not only an increase in prisons but a desire that they should not be "any better than the slum housing in which society places the poor, the unfortunate elderly or dependent children."

In this ambience, it is rather dif-

icult to focus public attention on what it is actually like to be in most prisons. Yet two recent cases of not all that extraordinary abuse of prisoners' most fundamental rights may help concentrate the mind on the most invisible of this nation's discards.

Seven women in New York State was awarded \$45,000 in damages on July 12, 1979, in a settlement that the ACLU's National Prison Project has described as "the first of its kind in the country." Three years before, the women had been involuntarily transferred—without a judicial commitment hearing—from the Bedford Hills prison to Matteawan, an institution for the criminally insane. The reason was that they were "difficult" to control, incessantly asserting that they knew their rights and

otherwise acting in an undocile manner.

At Matteawan, the women were forcibly dosed with such powerful neuroleptic drugs as Thorazine and Prolixin, along with a literally stunning array of sedatives, hypnotics, and anti-depressants. They were never told the types of drugs they were being given; and no physical, neurological or psychiatric examinations were conducted by the staff psychiatrists to determine whether the drugs were producing allergic reactions or other side effects—even though the women frequently complained of highly disorienting side effects. (Such drugging is not uncommon in "control units" of American prisons dealing with "uncooperative" inmates who have also never been determined to be mentally

ill.)

In addition to the continuous drugging, the seven women were compelled to participate in a behavior modification program, one of the more trendy control devices in many prisons around the country. This one was called STEADY (Steps Toward Eventual Acceptance of a Disciplined You). The women were forced into STEADY, one of their lawyers later said, because "Prison officials wanted to go beyond sedating these women. They wanted to break them."

Ostensibly, the program would enable the women to "earn" their way out of segregation (they were in their cells 23 hours a day) and back into the general population at Bedford Hills. They were to receive plus marks for "cooperative" behavior

and minus grades for conduct unbecoming an inmate.

The problem was that there were never any clear, comprehensive guidelines as to how they were expected to behave, and so, as court papers point out, "they did not know from one day to the next what conduct would result in earning a reward or punishment."

Furthermore, whenever it looked as if STEADY was not working, the women were administered even larger quantities of drugs. Finally, they were rescued from Matteawan by a federal judge who ruled that their Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process and equal protection under the laws had been violated by their transfer to a mental institution without a judicial hearing.

The women then sued for damages

for their time of unabated horror at Matteawan, and the state of New York, rather than go to trial, agreed to a settlement. Not that anyone—from the State Commissioner of Correctional Services on down to the staff psychiatrists on the ward—has admitted any wrongdoing. Even in those few suits that prisoners win, the defendants almost invariably take the Nuremberg defense ("It wasn't my responsibility.")

Meanwhile, in Virginia, another prisoner, Henry Tucker, after "acting out" in acute disappointment at the denial of his parole in 1976, was injected with Prolixin, a formidable anti-psychotic drug. At the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond, no one gave Tucker any neurological, psychiatric or physical examination (Please turn to page 8 column 1)