

Courts, police deny minorities equal justice

Minorities suffer unequal justice at every level of the nation's criminal justice system including the police, courts, and corrections, according to a four-year study by the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice.

The study said, "Minorities are not only more likely to be suspected of crime than whites, they are also more likely to be arrested, less likely to secure bail, and more likely to become police statistics. Further, af-

ter being arrested, minorities are more likely to be indicted than whites, and are less likely to have cases dismissed. If tried, minorities are more likely to be imprisoned and more likely to serve full terms without parole."

According to the Council, the basic causes for this are political and economic exploitation and racism which have kept minorities "segregated, powerless and at a marginal level of existence."

The main causes of crime itself, the Council said, are socio-economic inequities.

"Crime in minority communities results from institutional failures, the impact of inequality and racism. Crime also has increased because many within the law enforcement system violate the law and exercise their responsibility in violation of law and common decency. The public, including minorities, has become cynical and distrustful of

law enforcement personnel."

The Council warned that the conditions that are in part responsible for high urban crime rates will not soon disappear. Because of the high rate of unemployment among urban youth, those most likely to become involved in crime, as many as one-third of minority youth "will remain in a condition of hopelessness and despair."

The report made several recommendations for improving the

criminal justice system's response to minority concerns including:

- A major effort should be made to placing more minorities in decision making roles in the criminal justice system in order to begin to alleviate institutional racism.

- The federal government should commit itself to providing full employment, better housing, and equal access to social, economic and

political institutions.

- More research should be done on the causes of crime in minority communities.

- Support for community-based corrections programs should be increased.

- Financial support for minority students in criminal justice careers should be increased.

- Support for community crime prevention activities should be increased.

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FLIPPING OUT: Young tumbler, Demetris Garnet Taylor, seeks thrill by vaulting from the top of play equipment at King Community Park. This dangerous sport is evidence of the need for directed recreation for neighborhood youngsters with

abundant talent and energy. Demetris landed on his feet this time, but next time he could be a candidate for a body cast or worse.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

The Union Avenue hassles

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

According to Joe Reese, owner of the Seaport (The Chicken House) Restaurant and Lounge located at 3909 N.E. Union Avenue, it is very difficult to operate an establishment in a negative social environment.

In a recent conversation, Reese was open about his feelings as a businessman, the hardships that come with the business, and how Black people should utilize Black businesses more. When questioned about some of the problems he has on the "Avenue," Reese answered frankly.

"One problem is that customers in the community come into my place complaining about how the drunks hanging out in front of Johnny and Lennies store harass them for money," said Reese. "They knock on your car windows and curse you out if you don't give them anything. I've lost a few customers behind it. I want to be known for my good chicken, not for the wine heads that hang around here."

"I'm complaining because people are holding me responsible for something I have no control over. Hold me responsible for the space I control, not what I have no control over." Reese then reminds the writer about how he was shot at twice by a wino with a rifle. He had chased the wino away for urinating against his restaurant.

What about the Portland Police Department, are they offering any assistance?

"A wino can drink out there on the corner all day if he wants," said Reese. "If the police catch him, he usually pours out the drink or if he is real drunk, the police will take

him for a half hour ride and make him walk back. But all that does is make the wino that much slicker -- they post guards on each corner and take turns drinking and watching out for the man (police). It's hard to stop them.

"For example, they hide wine in the mailbox by wrapping string around the bottle and drop it in the box when the police is coming. Once the police is gone away, they pull it back up and laugh. When the street improvement people were out there, the wino use to hide it in the cones to avoid police. Winos are too slick for the police," said Reese.

What other problems do you have?

"I have a Tri-Met bus stop in front of my place that has also caused me some headaches. All it does is congregate the drunks who use it more than the riders," Reese explained. "Everyday, I go out and clean up all the trash around the bus shelter. It's mostly wine bottles. I wash the windows almost six times a week."

Reese says he often wonders why the Tri-Met people put the stop in front of his place because it is the only one in between Mason and Fremont on Union.

"It should be a Shaver," he said. "We don't get any trade from the bus, just the hassle with the winos, the clean-up, and people wanting change for the bus."

How has the Union Avenue Improvement Program enhanced your business?

"It hasn't helped much," said Reese. "They spent \$12.5 million to plant trees and put in road dividers. Sometimes you have to go four blocks out of your way to make a

turn. I honestly think that it's used to deter crime. By this being a high crime area, they finally figured out how to curb mobility.

"If the police is chasing you on Union, they have more of an opportunity to trap you because you can't make a lot of turns. And if you're been chased up a street that crosses Union Avenue, you'll never know if it is a through street or a road divider. This was suppose to be a state highway project, but the city had more to do with it than they did. I could think of more positive ways to use that much money. But to answer your question, it's done nothing for my business."

Reese pauses for a moment, as if another thought had flashed through his mind. "What would really help my business is for Blacks in the area to start buying from me instead of going to Church's or the Colonel. They would much rather go there than to come to me. The quality of my chicken ranks up there with theirs. We should start supporting each other." Reese specializes in southern fried-crispy chicken.

Reese also owns an oil company and a construction/remodeling firm that is located across the street from the "Chicken House." Again, he wishes for more community support.

"People in N.E. buy oil outside of the area all the time," said Reese. "But when a crisis like the ice storm hits, those companies don't have time for N.E. customers. Then they call on me -- how come they wait until then? They put me in a bind because I have a limited surplus and three regular trucks -- if they would call on me more often, I'd be ready (Please turn to page 7 col. 3)

Black exodus/ white flight

A disturbing pattern of resegregation is developing within many of the nation's suburbs after a decade of rapid Black suburbanization, according to Rutgers University Professor Thomas A. Clark, an urban planner and geographer.

Clark is the author of "Blacks in Suburbs: A National Perspective", part of a three-year study of the movement of Blacks from the cities to the suburbs.

According to Clark, Black migration to the suburbs has spawned residential patterns that resemble the housing discrimination that occurred in the central cities.

Even though the Black families moving to suburbia are predominantly middle class, many have, on a nationwide scale, been steered to the older and poorer sections of

suburban communities in the older ring of suburbia that surrounds the central cities. Clark's study found, for example, that 42 per cent of all suburban Black families reside in housing built before 1950.

Hence, new Black suburbanites share neighborhoods with poorer Blacks. The white middle class tends to reside apart from its Black counterpart in the kind of neighborhoods that fit the description of the ideal suburb - one-family housing, tree-lined streets and expansive lawns.

The racial home-buying pattern in many of these older suburban areas is predominantly white to Black, or Black to Black. From 1967 to 1971, for example, 65 per cent of the housing sold in certain of these areas was sold to Blacks. Twenty-two per cent of the houses passed

hands from whites to Blacks, and 43 per cent of the houses were purchased by Blacks from Blacks.

Between 1960 and 1977, the number of suburban Blacks increased by 1.9 million (71.8 per cent), while the proportion of all Blacks who resided in the suburbs increased by a mere 4.2 per cent during the same period. Clark began his study by asking, "Why in the mid-1970s have the suburbs remained predominantly white?"

The following trends and patterns were found:

Patterns of Black migration differ from region to region. The Northeast had the lowest increase in Black suburban growth, while in the West the Black suburban population increased by 61.2 per cent.

While Blacks have moved to suburbia, the median income of white suburban families exceeded the Black suburban by 44 per cent.

The Black middle class is replacing poor Black suburbanites, who are moving back to the central cities. For every 2.2 Black persons moving to the suburbs, one will move out.

Despite the increased income level of Blacks race continues to be a major factor in determining access to the suburban housing market.

Clark also predicted a new era of white flight. "I think the 1980 census will indicate that middle and upper income whites are leapfrogging father out into the suburban and exurban realm and they are creating new suburban localities in which they can again control the instruments of exclusion.



Street dividers and wine bottles vie for attention of would-be customers of Union Avenue businesses.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Hilliard joins Pulitzer panel

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

For the third time William Hilliard, assistant managing editor of the *Oregonian*, has been selected to serve as one of the jurors for the Pulitzer Prizes in journalism.

The Pulitzer Prize jury for 1981 is made up of 55 journalists from around the nation who will evaluate work published in 1980 for awards in each of 12 categories. The Pulitzer Prize board receives the recommendations of the jury and passes its final selections to Columbia University.

Hilliard is one of two Northwest journalists to be selected for the honor of serving on this panel.



WILLIAM HILLIARD

Republican Party seeks administrative candidates

Thomas Kennedy is receiving applications from persons who are interested in appointments to government positions by the new administration. These include second level administrative positions in the national level, and area and regional administrative positions - none of which come under civil service.

Kennedy was asked by the State Republican Party and Oregon's national committeeperson to recruit interested Blacks. "I am asking individuals to submit their resumes am in the process of collecting them now," Kennedy told the *Observer*.

The resumes will be submitted to

the state party for screening prior to their going to the administration. "Political appointments are not limited to Republicans," Kennedy explained. "People of both parties are welcome to apply." Kennedy welcomes phone calls to his Portland home, or applicants can call the Republican Party at 246-8221.