

For the children of Atlanta  
and for all children who are  
hungry, suffer and live in  
fear.

# Ten percent of children born in 1979 are dead

Ten percent of the 122 million children born in 1979 are now dead, according to the World Report on children published by the Latin American regional office of UNESCO. Most of these children come from families in abject poverty.

Thirty percent of the children

born in 1979 will be dead before age five; only ten percent will ever see a health worker or be vaccinated against disease; and half will remain illiterate.

According to projections made on current economic trends and political policies, the number of people in abject poverty will in-

crease by the year 2000. The world's economic inequality will be even greater 20 years from now. Those living in the poorer areas of Southeast Asia and Africa will be worse off.

UNICEF pointed out that the growing number of children between ages 6 and 11 makes it nearly

impossible for developing countries to provide education even to the fourth grade. Yet literacy is a necessary investment since persons with even four years of education are far more productive than those who are illiterate.

The amount of money UNICEF estimates to be necessary to do away

with the worse effects of abject poverty between now and the year 2000 is approximately \$12 to \$20 billion annually. Changes in distribution are also necessary since only half of the current aid is going to the poorest countries.

As the report points out, this equals what the world's nations

spend every three weeks on armaments.

In its general conclusion UNICEF expresses its desire to work with all governments to prove that the present trends can be changed, to foster progress in the poorest countries, and to eradicate the worse effects of mass poverty by 2000.

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## Black journalists explore issues

By Gregory L. Gudger

"With Blacks facing bleak economic prospects under the austere policies proposed by the Reagan Administration, Black journalists must play a pivotal role in helping Black America maintain its equilibrium and keep its hopes alive," said Bob Reid, President of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in the opening session of the NABJ Region X Conference held in Seattle, Washington, March 6-7, 1981.

Reid implored Black newspaper to keep Black issues in the forefront of the nation's consciousness and on the front pages of the nation's news outlet. "We must be incisive, probing and analytical," the second-year NABJ President said, adding "...We must be advocates for our rights, for our cause and for our people."

Citing parallels between the status of Black America in the early 60s and today, the 34-year-old senior producer for KNXT-TV in Los Angeles said that in both periods, there were "...not many protections for Black people...not many programs, and not many hopes for Blacks," including those seeking careers in journalism.

Under "Reaganomics" diminishing federal support for, and active dismantling of, equal education mandates and strategies, equal employment policies and programs, fair housing policies and programs, reflects a retrogression to the period when they didn't exist.

"For example, the things which made it possible to get jobs...helped (us) move up in jobs is under assault...and may disappear under 'Reaganomics,'" Reid continued.

In conjunction with the impending deregulation of the Federal Communications Commission - a disincentive to media for "seeking out and reporting responsibly" on Black issues -- Reid said the diminishing priority of EEO inhibits the growth of the Black journalist community, which has been a stagnant 6% of the nation's total news force. The percent of the editors is even smaller, said Reid, noting, "Where we need the most participation is where we are making the least progress."

"Without the ability to hire and fire, we are at the mercy of others," he said.

The role of Black professional organizations like the 5-year-old NABJ is crucial in providing a forum for Black newspaper to discuss the issues and promote excellence in coverage of issues, emphasized.

In addition to the opening session's topic, the Region X Conference featured presentations on the demise of affirmative action, and the nation's tightening economy by Spruill White of the Seattle Urban League; a historical view of Black upward mobility in the newsroom by William Hilliard, Assistant Managing Editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, and a spirited dialogue with veteran actor Yaphet Koto on the plight of Blacks and

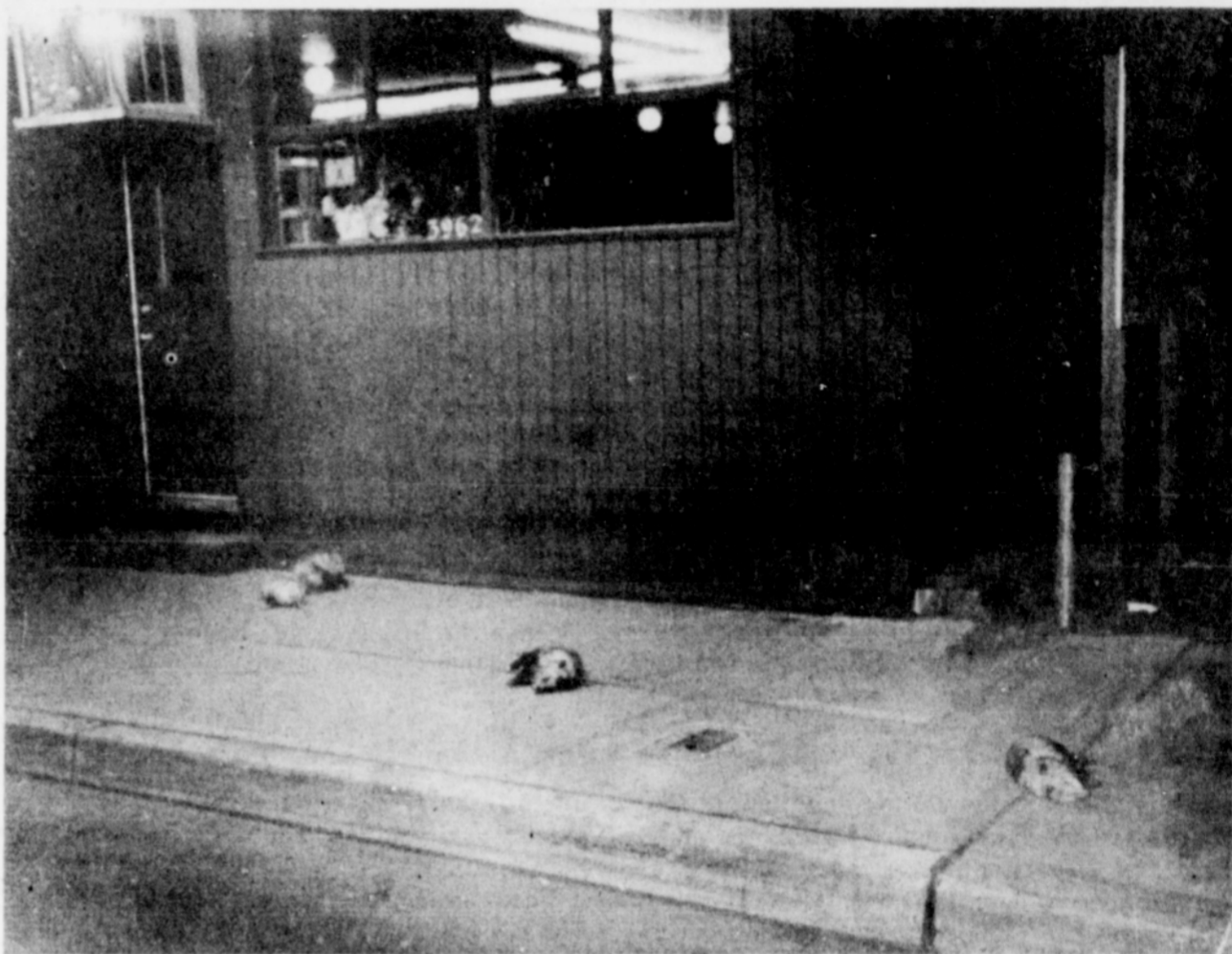
other minorities in Hollywood not getting enough leading roles, but usually ending up "just happening to be there."

In an effort to provide incentives for both aspiring and working journalist, the NABJ will initiate a new scholarship program and award for outstanding coverage of Black issues. The NABJ also will continue its "Journalist of The Year Award," for overall contributions.

The \$1,000 scholarship award will be given annually to a student, at least one year into a collegiate journalism program, for writing a competitively superior piece, of 1,000 words or less, on a Black journalist. Nominations must be submitted by the students' advisor or dean. Announcements regarding the program are forthcoming.

The NABJ awards for working journalists will be given in five categories: TV, TV camera work, radio, print and print photo work. Entries may be either individual pieces or a series on a related subject. Entries for the 1981 awards, accompanied by a \$20 entry fee, must be received by the appropriate NABJ judges by June 15. Only work that originally appeared between May 15, 1980 and May 15, 1981, inclusive, is eligible for this year's awards.

More information on the NABJ awards can be obtained by writing Ben Johnson, Detroit Free Press, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan 48231 (and this newspaper.)



Dead possums - not a prank by high school students; but harassment by Portland's men in Blue.

## From coons to 'possums

Last Thursday night at approximately 10:00 p.m., five Portland Police Bureau cars, containing ten Portland police officers, converged on a small Black owned restaurant on Northeast Union Avenue.

"It just happened that my son was in the backyard and some five police cars drove up and backed into the wall in a row, facing outward. He wondered what they were up to - if they were going to make a raid - so he stayed in the dark and watched," George Powe, owner of Burger Barn told the *Observer*.

Four dead possums were removed from the trunks of three cars and seven officers took them to the sidewalk and placed them in front of the restaurant, he said. Three of the officers remained in their cars.

This is only the last episode in a long chain of harassment by a group of police officers who work the four to twelve PM shift, he said.

Powe recounts that in 1970 a police officer pulled an illegal raid on a business he owned at the time, charging him with illegal gambling. The case was subsequently thrown out of court and the officer warned not to harass him.

Approximately a year ago the same officer made a habit of going into the Burger Barn restaurant, asking customers for I.D., throwing open the restroom door to look in, etc. "One night he came in, went over to a customer and demanded I.D., threw open the restroom door, then came back and started to go behind the counter. I stopped him and asked what he was doing. He said he was looking for cups - that he heard I was selling liquor and was going to smell the cups. I told him to get out. He turned and said, 'I do what I want to do.'"

Powe saw Commissioner Jordan a few days later and told him about the harassment. "Jordan said he would come by the place and he did. He came and had dinner, and when I explained what had been happening he said it would stop."

The officer did not reappear for several months, but about four months ago he walked in, looked around, and shoved open the john door. Powe asked what he was looking for, and as he was leaving

he turned and said, "I'm going to get you yet."

Since then there has been continuous harassment by the afternoon shift. According to Powe they come in several times a night, ask customers for I.D., and look around.

A customer was handcuffed by this officer, and taken out, charged with driving with a suspended license. The customer claimed he had permission to drive during the day and that he was not driving that day.

Another time a woman was using the phone and an officer came in, took her purse and dumped its contents on a table. Then he discovered she was not who he thought she was and apologized.

A white customer said he was followed as he left the restaurant and was stopped several blocks away. The officers asked him where he had been, and when he said they knew because they had followed him, he was advised to stay away from the restaurant. He was given a ticket because he didn't have an insurance card in his car, but it was thrown out of court.

Another customer told Powe he was stopped for a driving violation. He sells small bottles of liquor and claims that he was told by the police officer who stopped him that if he would say they belonged to Powe, he would let him go. He refused.

Powe considers the possum incident just part of the same problem. "They didn't think anyone would know," he explained. "They thought I would just pick them up and throw them away."

However, Powe called KATU. When the TV crew arrived, the public gathered. There were people standing on both sides of the street, cars driving by and cars double parked. "But no police came. For over an hour no police came near. Usually they are up and down the street, but none came by. Then after midnight, a patrol car drove by but did not stop."

"Usually they are in and out several times between 4 and 10, but no police have been in since that night," he said. Powe added that the harassment has been only from the 4-10 shift, the one worked by the

officer believed perpetuated the series of incidents. "The officers on the shift beginning at midnight drop in usually once every night or so, but they are polite and friendly. They have an entirely different attitude."

On Saturday following the possum incident, Powe met Commissioner Jordan and advised him that he had witnesses, names of the officers involved and pictures. "That night on the news, they said two officers had just admitted they were involved." The Police Bureau reports that two officers said they had run over the possums in an alley, had put them in their car, and then called other police officers and asked them to come to the Burger Barn where they placed the possums near the restaurant.

Powe challenges the story, saying that the animals were brought in three cars and ten officers were involved.

Commissioner Jordan informed the *Observer* that the Police Bureau is investigating the possum incident and when their recommendations (Please turn to Page 6 Col 1)



Harmless creature killed by on duty police officers to place in restaurant doorway.

## School election draws lines

By John Blank

If the issues in the coming school board election have yet to emerge clearly, the sides stand out more sharply than usual in elections. On one side, we have the downtown

business establishment, represented by Beeman and Gisvold; and the other, we have candidates - incumbents Sarah Newhall and Herb Cawthorne, and legislator Rick Bauman - who represent a trend of independence from and even op-

position to the big business which dominate Oregon's political life.

While corporate figures on the school board over the past decade - men like Robert Ridgley and Jonathan Newman, lawyers from whose law firms represent such clients as PGE, PP&L, Exxon, Safeway, Fred Meyer, U.S. Bancorp, Equitable Savings & Loan, Tektronix, Standard Insurance and many others - may legitimately profess individual concern over many different issues in education, and may disagree on any number of them, yet the business community as a whole has three, more general, interest in the school board which it needs spokesmen to look out for.

## Analysis

First of all, the board is an important political base for business interest. It is a place where political careerists can prove their worth to the establishment, get experience in public affairs, and gain corporate backing for careers in other areas of City, County and State government.

Secondly, it must not be overlooked that the school system is a powerful propaganda apparatus, and that the business community has a strong interest in slanting that propaganda in its favor. This is not the place to detail the pro-business bias in standard curricula. Suffice it so say that the dark side of business, its violently, hostile attitude towards the working people of this country, towards our national minorities and towards the peoples of other lands, is generally hidden. Nor is this the place to discuss the destructively negative self-image promulgated of (Please turn to Page 9 Col 3)



No it's not an illusion...it's true! This home on Broadway Drive received an extra lawn sign - smack dab in front of the one they had accepted from Newhall volunteers. Complaints have been received that Beeman signs are springing up in the northeast community without permission of residents, and mysteriously usually appear next to a Cawthorne or Newhall sign. Ma. Beeman is opposing Sarah Newhall for a seat on the Portland School Board.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)