

OBSERVATIONS

from the Sidelines
By Kathryn Hall Bogle



County Chairman Don Clark, Governor Vic Atiyeh, and Commissioner Gladys McCoy.



Prince Washington, Hillsboro, State Conference Facilitation in Support Systems discussion, with Josephine Pague of Pendleton and Juanita Coleman of Herminston.



Members of the Conference Committee on Minorities included: Ruth Haefner and Ruth Currie (seated), Norma Ariz, Maude Young, Diane Lopatin, and Victoria Wallace.



Honored at conference luncheon is Bobbi Gary, shown with Robert Zeigin, State Conference Coordinator.

The old and the young joined together at the Oregon State Conference on Aging held in a three-day session last week at the Hilton Hotel. The Conference, which drew 450 delegates of all ages from around the state, brought considerations for the elderly of this state one step closer to sharing their deepest concerns with those of other elderly citizens from all over the nation.

These concerns will be aired at the White House Conference on Aging to be held in Washington, D.C., from November 30 to December 5, 1981. National policies and practices toward the elderly will undoubtedly be affected by resolutions made at the national conference level.

Among the numerous topics discussed in small groups were Family, Social Services and other support systems; Housing, Transportation and Physical Environment; Older Americans as a Growing Natural Resource; Social and Health aspects of Long Term

Care; and Special Issues Facing Minorities.

An observer noted many Black Americans in attendance at the State Conference, and among them, many young persons interested, and, in some instances, working with the elderly of the general public.

Bobbi Gary of the Portland-Multnomah County agency on Aging, who was also a member of the Oregon State Planning Commission was honored at the Tuesday Conference luncheon for her help and cooperation in planning the smooth-running conference.

A summation of resolutions that took 41 pages to present to the assembled state delegates must be honed down to 10 pages to meet national regulations before being presented by Oregon at the final White House Conference.

Governor Vic Atiyeh, Congressman Ron Wyden, Mayor Frank Ivancic and Multnomah County Commissioner Donald Clark were

among speakers at various sessions of the conference. Their messages each carried encouragement for elders, to remodel laws and public attitudes toward better recognition of the talents and the needs of this growing segment of the nation's population.

The rustle of Spring is a harbinger of things to come and the rustle of silken fabrics tells us that the Ebony Fashion Fair is on its way here - to Portland.

The traveling show of fashions, owned by the Johnson Publishing Company, has kept pace with the times and has grown in popularity with its unique presentation of a million-dollar wardrobe worn by models chosen for their elegant and provocative style.

This year's show, called "The Free Spirit," will be an event of April 24 and will be seen at the Civic Auditorium. The Portland Chapter of the Links, Inc., will again be hostess for the charity affair. So

save up your money for "The Free Spirit" and enjoy yourself.

Al Goldsby, metal sculpturist, has opened his own spring show of sculpture and prints, this time at the Gazebo, an interesting luncheon spot with a spectacular view from a city mountain top at Mountain Park near Lake Oswego.

It would make for a pleasant day to see all that beauty together on any day from now to April 26. Al and his sculpture will be available from noon to twilight.

Edna Baskett is offering to deliver tickets you buy to the "Easter Monday Bash," a music and dancing affair staged for the benefit of St. Phillip the Deacon Parish. It is to be at the Bourbon Street Restaurant on the Monday after Easter - April 20. Your ticket will be your donation. Call Baskett at 284-2867 or 288-7211 - Ext 55. She wants to hear from everybody.

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West # 40404

A minority advisory committee to the Justice Department has charged that the United States justice system is used to control minorities and suppress their opposition to white racism.

"America stands as a distinctive example of ethnic, religious and linguistic pluralism, but it is also a classic example of the heavyhanded use of state and private power to control minorities and suppress their continuing opposition to the hegemony of white racist ideology, the committee report said.

The 305-page federally financed report was prepared by the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice, a 15-member panel set up to provide advice to the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

The report, prepared after four years of research and 33 public hearings notes that its conclusion are those of the council and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Justice Department.

Writer's comment: It is questionable whether the previously mentioned report will have any effect on the justice administered to minorities, but it is important that such information be passed on to the people being affected by color conscious justice.

The plan implemented against minorities by the criminal justice system is an effective mechanism for

repression. Its effectiveness is found in the increasing number of Black, Chicano and Indian inmates. While effectively suppressing opposition to white racism, the criminal justice system has lulled the masses into apathy and passivity through news, television and radio communiques.

Commercials on crime controls are as common place as the popular Pepsi commercials. Further indoctrination is completed through program selection care of C.B.S., N.B.C., and A.B.C. The villain is always dressed in black and Blacks, Chicanos and Indians are always cast as thieves, drunkards and junkies. White women are raped by dark warthy characters recently released from prison or who have crawled out of the ghetto under the cover of darkness. The stereotyping of minorities through negative image projection is a subliminal seduction of human minds.

The concept of untrustworthiness among minorities is propagated through popular television series such as: Hill Street Blues and The Streets of San Francisco, while positive images of law enforcement is projected through movies like Chips, Magnum Force and The Enforcer. By selling these images to the public the criminal justice system's program is enhanced -- "Everyone in the country is aware that Blacks, Chicanos and Indians don't do anything but steal, rape, shoot dope

and drink cheap wine -- I saw it on television, it must be partially true or they won't put it on television or in the newspapers."

Consequently, the public becomes unwitting pawns in the game of racism by giving silent consent to the misuse of authority. The recent opossom posse in Portland is a prime example of the security most law enforcement agencies glory in while dealing with minorities. The police in this case actually believed that nothing would come of their actions because they had gotten away with murder in the past - what is a opossom or two between friends and enemies.

Another classic example of the duality of the United States criminal justice system is the sentencing of three Black youths in Dade County, Florida for the riot deaths of three white youths. A Black teenager was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences, while two Black youths convicted in the case were given 45 years each.

The sentencing judge said he hoped the tough sentence would serve as a crime deterrent. But what about the four white policemen who murdered Authur McDuffie - is there no deterrent needed for the death of a Blackman?"

The collective action taken by the Black community is commendable in the opossom incident, but it is not enough! The outrage and anger



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