



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

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An economic analysis

Nation makes war against Black women

by Dr. Manning Marable

Among the leading fighters in the struggle for Afro-American liberation have always been Black women. The tradition of militant activist Black women runs deeply throughout the entire Black experience -- from Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth in the nineteenth century to Ida Wells Barnett, Fannie Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, Barbara Sizemore, Willie Rae Reid in the twentieth century. This is no historical accident.

However, it is no secret that for many years sexism has been a problem within the Freedom

Movement. There have been too many instances of brothers who have underestimated the need to struggle against the special oppression of Black women. There have been too few instances where Black men have attempted to be as honest and critical in their relationships with sisters as they have endeavored to be with their white oppressors. Too many Black men have been silent partners in the war against Black women.

Black women who live alone or who are the sole parent figure within the families are often the victims of poverty and unemployment. Statistics from the March, 1980

report of the Bureau of the Census, reveal a pervasive pattern of exploitation.

There are 2,430,000 Black families or households where a husband is not present. 1,195,000 of these families are below the poverty level established by the federal government, a percentage (49.2) that is slightly higher than that of Hispanics (49 percent) and much higher than that of whites (30.1 percent). Black families are larger than white or Hispanic families. The mean size of the Black family with a female head was 3.64 persons; for those families below the poverty line, the mean figure was 3.93 per-

sons. This contrasts with white family means of 2.86 persons and 3.22 persons, respectively.

Black families headed by women without a male present also tend to be somewhat larger than those of white or Hispanic women. Here the statistics reveal what our experience with the cruel and harsh realities of poverty tells us -- that the more children Black families led by women have, the greater likelihood that the family will be poor. For example, the Census reported that there were 633,000 Black families headed solely by women that had three persons. Of this number, 293,000 or 46.2 percent were below

the poverty line. 244,000 Black families with women heads had five persons in the household. Of this group 152,000 or 62.5 percent were impoverished. For Black families with women household heads having seven or more persons in the home, a staggering 28.6 percent (134,000 families) were below the poverty line.

Poverty is often a product of poor schools and/or the lack of education. 333,000 Black female family heads have less than an eighth grade education. Of this group, 173,000 or 52.1 percent live below the poverty line. Of the 144,000 women with an educational

level of grade eight, 96,000 or 66.9 percent live below the poverty level.

Yet due to the duality of the burden of race and class, Black women who do excell in education are far more frequently without work than their white or Hispanic counterparts. 358,000 Black female householders have attended one year or more of college. Of this number, 96,000 or 26.7 percent are below the poverty line. This percentage exceeds that for Hispanics (19 percent) and for whites (10.7 percent).

Millions of Black and brown women were pressured into the (Please turn to Page 5 Col 1)

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La Rica Coxeff enjoys a spring day at Peninsula Park.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

City wins affirmative action appeal

The Oregon Court of Appeals has reversed the decision by Circuit Court Judge Clifford B. Olsen, who had declared the Portland Civil Service Board's "two-list" system unconstitutional. Rule 3740 allows the appointing authority of a City bureau that has been determined to have a work force, to request a list of minority applicants from which to hire.

The Portland Police Association sued, charging that the Civil Service Board did not have the authority to institute the new system, that it interferes with the bureau's ability to hire the most qualified applicants, that it denies equal protection for white applicants, that it would injure the Association and its mem-

bers, and that it would endanger police moral by selecting less qualified employees, and that it would create intergroup hostility, resentment, distrust and tension.

The Court of Appeals found that the new rule does not interfere with the Civil Service Board's role, since the board was established to insure that appointments to City jobs are made on the basis of fitness and merit. Fitness is to be determined by an open competition examination and all who pass the examination are qualified. The Civil Service Board refers qualified applicants to the City, but does not hire.

The "rule of three" provides that when a vacancy occurs the Civil Service Board sends a list of the

three individuals with the highest scores to the hiring authority. The hiring authority must hire one of the three, or submit in writing or explanation and request a new list.

The Court found that the new rule allows that another list be submitted. "The City charter requires the Board to certify upon request by the appointing authority the three highest scoring applicants for the relevant vacant civil service position. Rule 3740 does not interfere with this requirement in any way. It simply allows the Board, upon proper showing, to certify a second list of eligible applicants in addition to the required one. There is nothing in the City which permits the Board from certifying another

list...Rule 3740 simply informs Portland's departments, bureaus, and offices of the way the Board proposes to deal with one basis for requesting a new or additional list of potential employees."

Under Rule 3740, the hiring authority who so requests would receive the regular list of the top three applicants and an additional (Please turn to Page 10 Col 5)

African Liberation Day will be observed May 23rd with a march beginning at King Neighborhood Facility at 12:30 P.M. A program will follow at Irving Park, including speakers, music, dancers, poets, food and displays. Everyone welcomed.

Community offers policing proposals

Saturday, May 23rd, the culmination of several weeks of public forums on police/community relations, sponsored by the *Portland Observer*, will come to fruition with the presentation to police authorities and the public of a series of recommendations and proposals for improved policing of the North/Northeast area.

Among the public officials who have participated in the forums are Deputy Chief Smith, North Precinct Captain McCabe, Internal Affairs Director Aichele, Community Affairs Director Captain Daily and several police officers from the Police Bureau; Stan Peters, Portland Police Association; District Attorney Mike Shrank and Deputy DA Barry Scheldahl; Bob Lamb,

US Department of Justice; Mike Baily, Public Defenders' Office.

Some of the concerns that have been discussed are: Lack of citizen input in policy making and in the complaint process; dissatisfaction with the complaint process; brutality, harassment, abusive language and excessive force by police officers; lack of response to citizen concerns; excessive patrols of certain areas; excessive force when responding to crowd situations i.e., parks; new crowd control ordinances that restrict citizen's rights; lack of enforcement against prostitution; lack of Blacks on the force; and need for improved training.

The forums grew out of public response to the "possum incident,"

which was seen as a serious racist act against the Black community. This act, perpetrated by police officers, has escalated into a situation where possums have been thrown at the Multnomah County Courthouse, the home of an interracial couple, and the NAACP office.

Although the possum incident is considered to be a symbol of police attitude toward the Black community, the forums have again brought forth discussion of many long-standing serious complaints regarding police operations in the community.

The forums, which have enabled face-to-face contact between police officials and community members, have demonstrated that there is a

lack of communication - that police administrators are not aware of the deep concerns of Black citizens - that community expectations and police expectations are not the same.

By providing an opportunity for police administrators and officers to express their own ideas and concerns, has demonstrated a lack of knowledge and sensitivity that further points to the need for a better selection process and comprehensive training.

The Forum Saturday will continue the opportunity for the police bureau policy makers, the District Attorney, and the community to discuss the material objective of opening communication channels.

Trouble brewing

Grassroot News, N.W. - "We are in very deep trouble, my brothers and sisters," the Congresswoman from New York began her vivid presentation on contemporary life for Blacks and poor Americans. Shirley A. Chisholm was the keynote speaker for the Women of Excellence Salute sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. "Never since the days of reconstruction have Black people been in so much trouble because prior to 1981. Whenever we felt threatened, we were able to build alliances, but this time out there's no one there because of the changing mood of this country," she continued.

Shirley Chisholm was elected in 1968, to the House of Representatives. She remains the only woman in the House to have sought the presidency. "Anyone who does not advance, recedes. Are we as a ethnic group or minority or even as a society, advancing toward a super highway of justice, or are we receding like the red light of the last departing railroad car, from the commitments and achievements that we've been able to make during the past 30 years? Is each of us bright-eyed and ready to end the injustices, or have we become complacent and submissive? Are we becoming more attune to the prevailing attitudes of

apathy, alienation and injustices? How can we be afflicted with this negative attitude when life is not tolerable for so many of our brothers and sisters?"

Her campaign slogan, "Unbought and unbossed," was never more evident as in her address. "We used to believe in a quotation that said 'what is tomorrow that it cannot come today.' My friends say did tomorrow come today or is today yesterday? We are marching on a conservative quicksand that we didn't recognize was slowly beginning to engulf us. Does freedom mean to stand on street corners all across the nation or to become lonely tokens in corporations and universities, or live in rat-infested houses? As the poor struggle through recessions, impatient dogooders in line with mindless budget balancers, are ready to snatch away the social programs. They're calling out, times up. Sacrifice is o.k., when national abundance makes sacrifice meaningless. Now that the new politics of scarcity is upon us, the backs are turning all over this country, and no longer are people standing up to be counted. People seem to be saying, 'the poor, the Blacks and Browns have had their two or three decades.'" (Please turn to Page 12 Col 1)

Vancouver youth threatened

By Nyewusi Askari

While many residents of Washington State celebrate the first anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, the City of Vancouver, Washington faces a possible eruption of another kind.

Sheriff deputies are investigating a case involving a 10-year-old Black child who allegedly was threatened with death, by two white, Army National Guardsmen, last Sunday.

According to the report, the young child was playing in his front yard Sunday, when the two men, dressed in Army fatigues, drove by and one of them yelled an obscene racial slur at him. About 90 minutes later, the car drove by again.

This time, racial slurs were yelled again, only this time one of the men shouted, "You're going to die," shaking his finger at the 10-year old.

Because of the murders of Black youth in Atlanta, the child's father decided to notify authorities.

The car pulled into a driveway around the corner from the home of the child. Deputies contacted a man at the house and were told that the men were on their way home from a National Guard meeting.

The Army National Guard was contacted, and the names of the two men were obtained. When contacted by the *Observer*, the Vancouver Police Department said it was not at liberty, at this time, to release any further information and that the case is still under investigation.



REPRESENTATIVE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

(Photo: Richard Brown)