

EDITORIAL/OPINION

What kind of example is this?

Twenty-one young men, most of them from Peninsula Park and many of them Black, were invited to wrestle in an international meet in Vancouver, B.C., prior to the World Junior Championships. The young people made the community proud - not only sweeping the meet - but acting like gentlemen.

They had an opportunity few students have - to represent their state and country, to travel to another nation, to meet young people from all over the world.

This opportunity was tarnished by the behavior of one individual - a grown man - who brought insult on all of us by his behavior. If Dale Thomas, coach of the Oregon State University wrestling team, wants to hob-nob with the South Africans - let him. But we highly question the ethics and integrity of a university administration that will allow this behavior in one of their employees. We further

question the integrity of a university administration that considered assisting this project by requesting an NCAA waiver for those students who were to go to South Africa with Thomas.

The university should be advising its students about the reasons why nearly all of the nations of the world refuse to participate in athletic events with South Africa. It should attempt to educate these students about the shame their action would bring on their school and their country. They should also be made aware that this trip would end their amateur careers.

Realizing that the supposed goal of sport is character building, the university should closely examine the performance of its wrestling coach. Is this the education we want to give our children; is this the image we want to project?

Citizen Review Boards do work

The Citizen Task Force on Police Internal Affairs submitted to Commissioner Charles Jordan and Mayor Frank Ivancie adds nothing new but underscores the problems reported by citizens for several years.

The report was as to be expected -- a general summary of the complaints and suggestions that been made over the years by the community and by Jordan. It offered suggestions for minor changes, but not for a significant increase in control over the police force by citizens.

Among the conclusions are: that the citizen complaint investigation process favors the police both in substance and in demeanor of the investigating officer; that many citizens are unaware of the Internal Affairs Division and its processes and others have no confidence in it and do not use it; that the practice of postponing investigations when a law suit is pending favors the police bureau.

There is a lack of public information; the bureau does not inform the public of the process or the results; the AID investigations are findings are not used in evaluation of individual officers or in determining need for training programs. There is no adhered-to-written policy for AID investigations.

The Task Force recommended better communication between AID and the complainant, with more information shared, and added communication with the public. Information should be forwarded to the Chief for use in promotions and in training.

The most significant recommendations were that all cases be investigated immediately and that a Citizens Advisory Group be appointed to advise the Chief and Commissioner concerning the effectiveness and fairness of AID. The committee could review cases when asked by the bureau but would not recommend discipline, and it could function as a conciliating body for citizen complaints. The investigative process would remain entirely with the bureau and citizens would not be involved.

The Task Force rejected the idea of a

citizen review board - saying they are not effective. We must question that conclusion since information on several successful programs was available to the Task Force.

One example is Chicago, which has had a review board since 1974. The Office of Professional Standards is operated by three administrators - all attorneys - and a staff of civilian investigators. Investigations of complaints are done by the office and the determination submitted to the Commission on Human Relations, the District Attorney and the officer's supervisor. When the recommendations of those parties are received, the case is closed, sent back for more information, or referred with recommendations for discipline. Final authority for discipline in all but termination rests with the chief. To consider termination there is a Police Board made up of six civilian community and civic leaders headed by an attorney.

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners oversees policies and procedures of the Police Bureau. The Office of Chief Investigator, created by the board, investigates complaints. Reports of the OCI go to the Board's Citizen Complaint Subcommittee. If improper conduct is indicated, the Chief of Police must report to the Board on the OCI's recommendations and the discipline taken. Either the officer or the complainant can appeal to the Board of Police Commissioners, who are civilians appointed by the Mayor.

The current chairman of the Detroit Board credits it with the 39 per cent decrease in fatal shootings by police from 1974 to 1978, and the 57 per cent decrease in the first six months of 1979.

These are only two examples, but they demonstrate that citizens can successfully review, investigate and recommend disciplinary action for police officers.

We have faith that our city government could create an even more successful citizen review board and that involvement of citizens in police bureau would help bring about the desired changes.



Malawi: Erosion accerelates

By Fungai Kumbula
Reporting from Los Angeles, CA.

The Minister of Education and Culture made a trip to neighboring Zambia, a routine enough trip but one which was bound to alter his life and fate almost irreversibly. As Ministers are wont to do, Aleke Banda, the Minister in question, and no relative of despot Kamuzu, held a press conference. One of the journalist asked a routine enough question: "When Banda (Kamuzu) goes, who do you think will take over the leadership of Malawi?" It had been widely speculated that Aleke, as one of Kamuzu's closest confidantes and a fast-rising star on the Malawian political scene, was a natural, and so he responded accordingly. "Why, me of course."

Word got back to despot Kamuzu and Aleke was immediately summoned back to Malawi where he was summarily fired from his cabinet post and put on trial. His crime: discussion succession to Kamuzu, self-proclaimed "Life President" of Malawi. With a judicial system that does not pretend to dispense justice equally (Kamuzu is above the law and can twist the law to suit whatever purpose he has in his senile mind), Aleke was found guilty of "inciting discontent, spreading rumours about the life President, disloyalty and being a dissenter and a sympathiser with Malawi's enemies." His sentence: Twenty years in the pen.

Gwamba Chakuamba was another close confidante of Kamuzu who recently found himself completely out of favour with the 84 year despot. He had been Malawi's

Minister of Youth and Culture as well as Ministe of the Southern Region. Additionally, he was a member of the ruling and only "legal" political party, the Malawi Congress Party's Central Committee, Chairman of its disciplinary committee and commander of Kamuzu's personal, paramilitary terror squad, the Young Pioneers Movement (20,000 strong). As such, he was probably the second most powerful man in the country and, naturally, a threat to the erratic autocratic Banda.

He was recently fired from all his posts and put on trial for among other things: "being in possession of illegal firearms, two copies of *The New African* and other prohibited publications!" His sentence: Two to twenty years in jail. These are only two example of the steadily accelerating pace of the decline of fundamental civil and human rights in Malawi; a country that has never known any real freedom. Banda has sat astride Malawi's politics since independence in July of 1964 and ruled with an iron hand.

He makes no pretense as to who's boss; he tells the government what to do and consults with no one and as he gets older and more senile, he gets more and more paranoid seeing a threat in anyone who elicit any degree of popularity.

Malawi is the only country in all of Africa that has diplomatic ties with the racist regime of South Africa. Consequently, the country has remained isolated from most African activities preferring instead to huddle and cavort with South

Africa and the Western countries. One never hears any criticism of Malawi because Banda is such a "good boy"; so good in fact that Malawi is worse off now than she was even before independence. A disproportionate proportion of her real estate still belongs to the British, the former colonialists and, of course, of the local owners, he has to have the largest share.

It is illegal for anyone in Malawi to refer to himself as president of anything: not even of a company or a baseball club! There is only one president in Malawi and that's Banda. Anyone caught using the title president for anything is immediately sentenced to a jail term for "imitating" the Life President! Among the charges filed against one other former government minister was the possession of a fly-wisk! Banda uses a fly-wisk as a symbol of authority. The offending minister was sentenced to five years in jail, and by the way, there is no parole system in Malawi.

In the seventeen years that Banda has run Malawi like his very own personal fiefdom, he has managed to kill off all political expression among Malawians. When he goes, which we hope will be soon, Malawians will have to learn once again what the functions of government were supposed to be. A Pieter in South Africa is bad enough but a Banda in Malawi gives Africa a very bad name. Just as our American cousins wonder about their own "Oreo's," we wonder too about the likes of despot Uncle Tom Kamuzu Banda.



Ivancie and Still claim neat policemen will get public respect.

Letters to the Editor

Trial by race

To the editor:
I'm writing this about an article in the Salem Statesman newspaper, "Trial by Race". This article was talking about how the legal system is unfair to minority races.

In a class at OSP, with Derrick Bell, Dean of the Law school at the University of Oregon, he and top legal people were talking about how racism affects the poor and Blacks. The class had mixed views on why Blacks are being excluded from juries. It is impossible for a Black man to get a fair trial with an all-white jury. One Black inmate

said that with more Blacks on the juries, it could cut down on being railroaded to prison. The white middle class are the ones who are brainwashed about crime. They feel if a Black is responsible for a crime he's guilty, with no doubt.

Oregon is a leading example of how racism is. Blacks are not really picked for juries. In this state Blacks aren't picked for Grand Jury duties. This is racism and it is a civil rights violation. Whites control the systems and Blacks don't say anything about stopping this practice.

America is responsible for having racism of all types. This country is not fair and this inequality won't stop with racism being taught in the home.

It is time for America to realize that the poor and minorities will never get fair treatment from this so-called legal system in America. Blacks will never have equal share in the system.

Marcus Jackson

Unemployment

(Continued from page 1 col. 3)
of Black and white men greatly increased since 1969. The proportion of employed Black men was 83 percent in 1969. However, in 1979, this proportion had declined by 11 percentage points to 72 percent, which is more than three times greater than the decline experienced by white men (from 86 to 82 percent).

Black men were particularly affected by the 1973-75 recession, when the proportion of Black men with work during the year declined from 78 to 72 percent, and this ratio has not yet returned to precession levels.

The article appeared in the June issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*, which can be purchased for \$2.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.



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The *Portland Observer* is a champion of justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social evils; a thorough analyst and critic of discriminatory practices and policies; a sentinel to warn of impending and existing racist trends and practices; and a defender against persecution and oppression.

The real problems of the minority population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in the context of their exploitation and manipulation by the colonial nations, including the United States, and their relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

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