

EDITORIAL/OPINION

If you don't like cops . . .

"-- And Linda, dear, if you don't like cops, next time you need help why don't you try calling Alan Ota." These are the words of Jeff Barker, editor of "The Rap Sheet", printed on the first page of the August issue. "The Rap Sheet" is the official publication of the Portland Police Association and the Oregon Council of Police Associations.

In the midst of a tirade against the *Oregonian's* recent series on alleged police abuses -- especially those directed at the Black community -- Barker selected Linda Williams, reporter for the *Oregonian*, for his special ire. He appears to threaten Ms. Williams that she, as a citizen and tax payer, will be refused protection of the Portland Police Bureau.

In fact, the entire issue of "The Rap Sheet" seems directed at Blacks. Although the top story is a plug by Chief Ron Still for better public relations, the front page also carries a reprint of an old *Oregon Journal* article containing Police Association president Stan Peters' charges that Blacks are committing a disproportionate share of crimes and his rebut of "Black United Front lies".

The issue also contains letters from City Attorney Chris Thomas regarding *Oregonian* reporter Alan Ota. The editor remarks, "Ota has earned the reputation of being a real jerk in his dealings with the Detective Division over the past years."

Thomas reveals that he has asked all attorneys and law clerks in his office not to provide Ota with information until he apologizes to several officers named in his article, "Officers choose not to respond". In the article, Ota said that the officers had refused comment on citizen charges against them.

Even more disappointing were the remarks

of Dick Bogle, former police officer and now a KATU newsman. Bogle said about the *Oregonian* articles, "It makes me want to puke and you can quote me. I almost literally threw up when I read those things. It was very poor timing when the department was trying to right itself and reestablish credibility." What is the right time to expose the abuses of citizens by their public employees? We realize that Bogle is loyal to his old friend, Chief Still, and that he probably is sincere in his efforts to aid the Bureau, but are these the words of a newsman?

It appears that "The Rap Sheet" has embarked on an all out crusade against it critics of the Police Bureau, many of which are black. Or is this attack on Blacks just a way of paving the way for the return of Officers fired over the "Possum Incident" -- destroy the credibility of the victim to excuse the attack?

While Chief Still is asking the public to give him time to make constructive changes and is making an effort to communicate with Black citizens, the union seems to have gone into an attack position. There remains a lot of question about who runs the Police Bureau -- the Chief or the union president. Will the union support constructive change? This issue of the Rap sheet" indicates otherwise.

"The Rap Sheet" does the Bureau and the union members a disservice. The police officers need to learn to function properly in a multi-racial city; they do not need the same old rhetoric. We suggest that the staff of "The Rap Sheet" be the first candidates for training in human relations. We also believe the demeaning and racist remarks about Ms. Williams require a formal apology from the Police Association.

For money and power

While announcing its new immigration policy, the US government is preparing to return several thousand people to El Salvador to face certain death. Citizens of El Salvador are in the country illegally, fleeing the prosecution and brutality of their own government. These people do not fit into the U.S. immigration plan.

US immigration policy serves two purposes - economic and political. Since the elimination of slavery, immigration has been used to provide cheap labor. The Irish, Eastern Europeans, the Chinese and many others have been used. During and after the second World War the Bracero program brought millions of Mexicans farm workers. All were exploited while they contributed to the nation's wealth.

A second use for immigration is foreign policy - a method of embarrassing nations that are currently in disfavor. The twenty years of inticement of Cubans to leave their country illegally and the recent immigration welcomed "with open arms and open heart" are merely efforts to discredit the Cuban government. At the same time, Haitians attempting to flee brutality and starvation were turned away. The US refuses to accept refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala, who are fleeing brutal dictatorships that murder thousands of their own people each year, because the US supports their government.

The Reagan Administration's friendly gesture toward Mexico will serve these two purposes well. The importation of 600,000 workers annually will insure cheap labor and break the backs of the unions while providing a temporary escape value for Mexico's unem-

ployment problem. Politically it is designed to mend fences with Mexico. The Mexican government has created some concern - it has called Cuba its "best friend" and insured support against US intrusion, and it supports the liberation movements in Central America. But more important...Mexico has oil.

The new immigration policy while attempting to curry the friendship of Mexico, bears an evil omen for refugees from other parts of the Americas. A recently leaked document talks about keeping undocumented refugees in detention camps, resettling Haitians in other countries, returning "Cuban misfits" to Cuba, discouraging other countries (Mexico) from being a conduit through which refugees can travel to the US and turning back boatloads of Haitians on the high seas.

The Administration has taken the first step toward deporting several thousand Salvadoreans who have appealed for refugee status. The State Department has sent letters to 1200 Salvadorean people notifying them that they have failed to meet refugee requirements. Although the State Department maintains that those individuals who can prove that they will be persecuted if they return home can be given refugee status, the National Lawyers Guild reports that so far, all of their clients have been refused.

One example is Ricardo Ernanides, a trade union organizer, who says he was shot three times in El Salvador. When his cousin, who had been mistaken for him; was murdered, a note was left on his chest saying that Ernanides would be next. His request for asylum in the United States has been denied.



My best friend

By Fungai Kumbula
Reporting from Inglewood, CA

Cries of "Foul" have of late been directed at the Reagan administration from both the African continent as well as our other constituents in this country. What has prompted this outcry, among other things of course, is the increasing coziness between Washington and Pretoria, South Africa.

The number of tete a tete's between the two, both overt and covert, has escalated dramatically in the last few months and Reagan's own obsession with "stopping communism" even at the expense of human rights considerations has just added fuel to an already volatile situation.

Lately attention has been diverted by the riots sprouting up all over England, at last count in 33 cities throughout England as well as Wales and Northern Ireland. Those riots are of particular interest to all of us here on the continent as well as to those agencies charged with "law enforcement" throughout the country. To us they are of interest because apart from the fact that it is our people once again "in the thick of things" so to speak, it is not inconceivable to see the whole scene repeated here across the Atlantic.

The issues, the anger, the frustration that brought those

residents of Brixton; Black, white and Asian (and in the 32 other cities) are the very same bread-and-butter issues that we have had to pick up the gun to liberate Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola: the list goes on. Your "law enforcement" agencies watched the British riots very closely to see how the "dignified" British would deal with them. They are fully aware that they too might very soon have to deal with a similar crisis.

The reluctance of the Reagan administration to deal with South Africa, therefore, is no surprise. Reagan has more in common with Britain's Margaret Thatcher who, like South Africa's Pieter Botha, refuses to see the connection between the riots and the ever widening gap between rich and poor; refuses to believe that the riots are a result of her economic policies that have thrown more people out of work than ever before. As in South Africa, because the majority of the victims of this economic mismanagement are Black, when they take to the streets, the police move in with a heavy hand (and boot!) as usual.

To expect the Reagan administration to heed the human rights cry as regards South Africa therefore, would be naive, myopic

and simplistic. The battle for South Africa will have to be carried on at different level and, reacting to this setback particularly, the ANC (African National Congress) the liberation movement fighting to liberate South Africa, has stepped up its attacks - carefully choosing economic targets. In the past three months at least a dozen power plants in South Africa were blown up plunging sections of Johannesburg and Pretoria into darkness and affecting hundreds of businesses. More than 600,000 were left without power for several hours. As was proved in Zimbabwe and every other place where it has been necessary to use force to bring about our deliverance, this unfortunately seems to be the one language they can never mistake.

Should the diplomatic battle be given a bad job though? The answer is no. The battle for South Africa's and Namibia's freedom must continue to be waged on as many different fronts as possible; it must continue to be multi-pronged attack as was the case with Zimbabwe. The enemies of Africa's liberation must be forced to negotiate. We, too, can play the "carrot-and-stick" game. We are on the move now and nothing but nothing can stop us.

Collective protest a necessity

By Luis Alvarez
Executive Director, Committee of Spanish Speaking People of Oregon

Federal cuts in social service programs are "mandated by the American people." This is the rationale we hear so often used by President Reagan to justify the actions of his administration. It seems to this writer that the idea of a mandate is nothing but hogwash; I do have to admit, however, that when the administration started cutting back programs such as those that allow migrant infants a decent meal, or those that give poor folks legal representation, we heard hardly a word from the people providing the services, and even less than that from people receiving the services. There was no uproar -- such as when the social security program was threatened; there was no show of indignation as was demonstrated by the "Moral Majority" when it was announced that a woman with

neutral views on abortion had been appointed to the Supreme Court.

It is commonly assumed that poor people are not able to articulate their concerns or demonstrate their feelings -- that they are not willing to organize a campaign which would show the injustices of the cuts -- or, more importantly, a campaign to demonstrate that people, both poor and not poor, can prevent this country from becoming one that has no heart.

I believe that the assumption which says that poor people are powerless is only an excuse for those who are unable to act on their own initiative. We must, as a united group, show the administration that the cuts are not in the best interest of our country, and that we are in profound disagreement with Reagan's policies. We must also be

candid with the people who are receiving the services and tell them that it will be too late to complain after we have all closed our doors -- that without their help, we will not be able to help anyone.

Now is the time for community-based organizations to work together in a real demonstration of unity -- a collective voice in protest of the Administration's policies and our country's indifference to their consequences. Meanwhile, we should learn how to use our alliances to prepare ourselves for the eventuality of massive cuts or decisions as to where cuts will be made. I am convinced that our communities in Oregon can meet the challenge we are presented with, and that we can work together to make this country a better place for all its people. The challenge is ours.

So long PO

By Caxton Muru Munne

I say so long to you in a personal feel
We haven't know each other
For the past birth's the future.

Time flows streams of water
Floating downstream we surf on
Tension of achi two U U.

Ups and downs slopes of Waves
hanging on by the natures pull
Nature's guard on we move.

People we are things we see
Life is but motional time
People we meet, things we do.

Sunshine changes seasonal rains
Light shines in comes the day
Dark falls in come the night.

People we love joys of life
Talking, laughing, happily smiling
Beautiful together, blossoms of nature.

Sweet smelling flowers of Rose
Images colours of universe
Beauty love rewards of nature.

Cute faces smooths of skins
Dark eyes flashes of teeth
Soft spoken hearts of love.

Bushes of hair nails of fingers
Loves of life each we live
Sweets of life seeds of tomorrow.

Dreams of love reflections of nature
Mirrors of happy traits of emotions
Wonders of nature truths of life.

Fall storms seas of high
Tributaries paths of straits
Passages courses of life.

Conferences deltas of love
Reunions bases of life
Longings hopes of future.

I say so long in a personal feel
I say so long in a natural self
I say so long in a belonging love.

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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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Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher



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