

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## After hours . . .

At the magic hour of 2:30 a.m. the bars close and those who want to have another drink gather at the neighborhood Afterhours Clubs. There they are joined by those who get off work late and want to stop for a drink and relaxation, and those who just are not ready to go home.

It is perfectly legal to sell liquor before 2:30 a.m. but suddenly, as the clock strikes, it becomes illegal. As prohibition did not stop those who wanted to drink, neither does the closing hour stop those who do not want to follow the ordained schedule.

The antique closing law sets up a situation where other-wise law abiding citizens find themselves breaking the law. It also produces a situation where the operator of the Afterhours has little control over the activities of his customers. How can he eject a minor or a dealer when that person can then go to the authorities? For this reason many Afterhours become hangouts for minors, prostitutes and dealers. Once the owner breaks the law he is in a very tenuous position in attempting to enforce rules.

The customer who just wants a few hours recreation and is willing to break relatively innocuous closing law places himself in a situation where he must ignore other more serious activities. Respected community residents who otherwise would be in the

forefront of the efforts to improve community conditions find themselves compromised.

The police do not bother the Afterhours because they are attended by respected citizens and appear to be condoned by the community. They are -- and should be -- a low priority. But the police are well aware of the clientele better than the average customer. And they therefore hold a club over the heads of many of those who should speak the lowliest about the inequities and the injustices in this city.

What is the answer? When a law no longer has a legitimate use and no longer protects the community, it should be repealed.

Repeal of this law would allow the legal operation of clubs to serve the needs of late night customers, would remove the threat of discovery, and would allow proper police protection. It would alleviate the abuse by unwanted customers. It would remove the atmosphere that is destructive to community self-respect.

(A word for Ron Sykes -- The hostility and anger that has been directed at Sykes because of his series on Afterhours should have been directed at the paper. If anyone wants to present another side of the Afterhours picture, their interest is welcomed.)

## Our next war

Is the US trying to start a war? Carrying out war games within the waters claimed by Libya was designed to do just that. Earlier there were confirmed reports that Libya is a prime target of the CIA. Now, with the clear knowledge that entering what Libya considers to be its own territory could bring confrontation, the US did just that.

The call of the US government for all Americans to leave Libya is a second step of the plan, designed to interfere with the operation of the nation's oil industry and bring about economic destabilization.

War games are carefully designed to intimidate -- there is plenty of room around the US to carry out these maneuvers.

Last May the US planned a massive practice

invasion of Guantanamo, but cancelled its plans following Cuban promises to interfere. This Spring maneuvers were held in the Caribbean and off the coast of Central America to intimidate Nicaragua and the liberation movements of Central America. Others were held in the Indian Ocean and in Egypt -- to threaten the Arabs.

Three weeks ago a similar maneuver was carried out east of Cuba. When two Cuban planes went up to look around, over international waters, they were chased by US planes. Because shooting down two Cuban planes might well lead to war, the Cubans retreated.

The Libyians did not -- they shot back.

It seems the US wants to start a war -- with anyone.

## The war at home

The next great push by the Reagan Administration is expected to be an all out attack on Civil Rights. Already the administration has attempted to halt renewal of the Voting Rights Act.

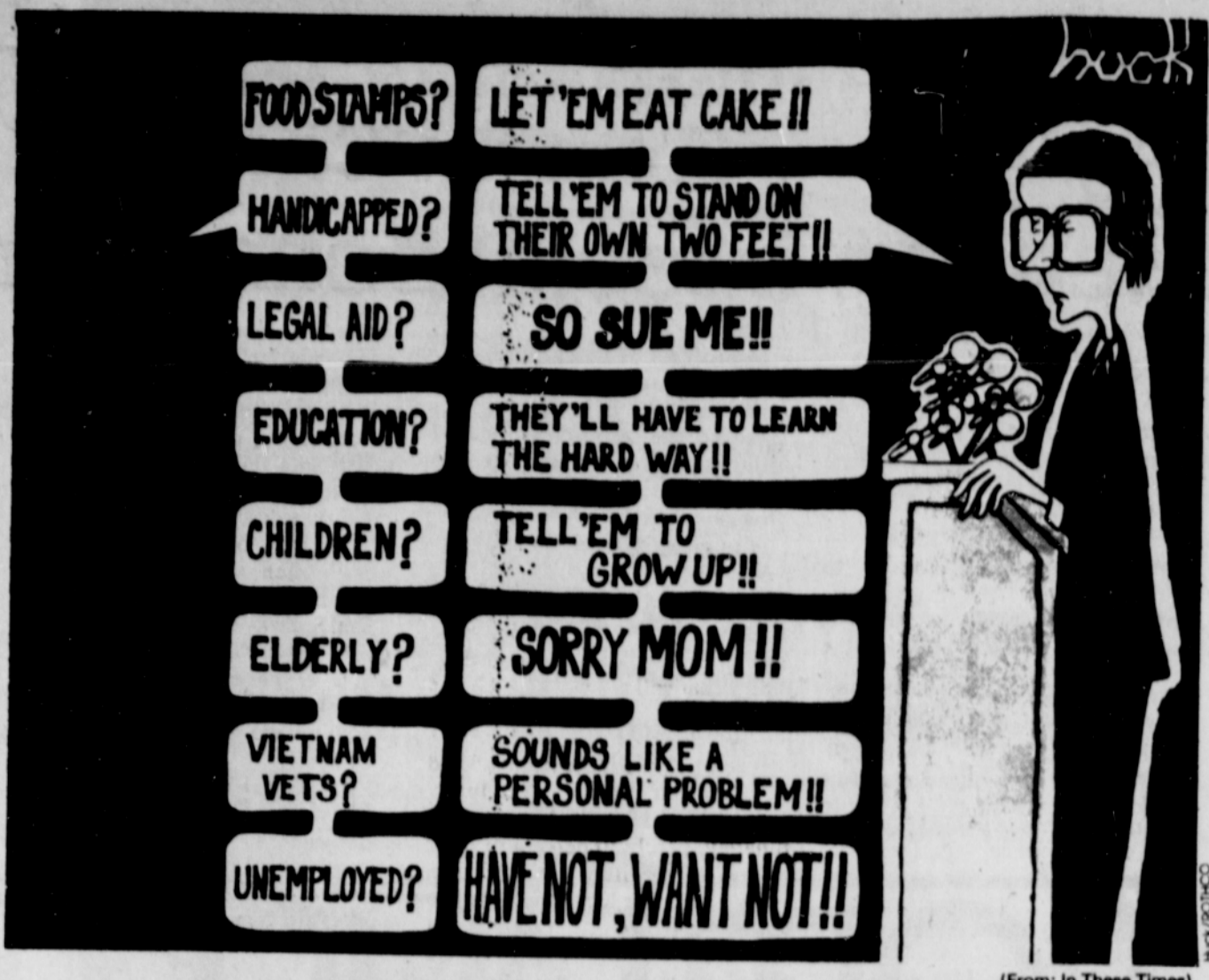
There has been a slowdown in civil rights enforcement. During the first six months of the Reagan Administration there have been only five cases filed by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department compared to 17 filed in the first six months of the Carter Administration.

The administration has committed itself to reduce the Federal Contract Compliance provisions, which protect minority business and workers, and has announced its opposition to affirmative action.

This, together with the attack on work safety protection and wage laws, leaves Black and minority workers in serious jeopardy. In its effort to promote a "pro-business, regulation-free environment" the administration plans to either postpone or eliminate many of the regulations that protect workers from health hazards. Safety regulations that are considered to hurt profits will be eliminated.

The administration also has launched an attack on the Davis-Bacon Act which requires companies building federal construction projects to pay prevailing wages.

As jobs get harder to find and workers become desperate, this lack of regulation will place employees in unsafe work conditions and minimal wages in order to maintain a job.



(From: In These Times)

## Helping the rich, hurting the poor

by Cleo Franklin

The Reagan budget package was passed by the Democratic-controlled House on June 16, 1981. The 1 1/2-inch-thick bill was full of penciled-in additions and crossed-out deletions, and even included the name and office telephone number of a woman staffer at the Congressional budget office. After the package was passed, it was then sent back to the House Budget Committee to be cleaned up. The package consists of \$35 billion in budget cuts (in the fiscal year starting Oct., 1981), and \$130.6 billion in cuts over the next three fiscal years. The cuts include reductions in unemployment insurance, Social Security benefits, food stamps, health care, school lunches, etc.

On August 13, 1981, President Reagan signed into law two of the most far reaching domestic economic measures since the New Deal. The president signed one bill authorizing the sharpest cutback in domestic spending in 50 years. Reagan's plan will kill or reduce more than 200 domestic programs, and the other bill provides the largest tax cut in this century.

Tax cuts for individuals and businesses amount to \$37.7 billion in 1982, and \$280.3 billion over the next three years. In terms of individual tax cuts, a 5 percent cut effective Oct. 1, 1981, a 10 percent reduction on July 1, 1982, and

another 10 percent on July 1, 1983. There will also be a two-step lowering of the "marriage tax penalty" for the household with two earners. The marriage tax penalty requires a couple to pay more taxes on a joint return than they would pay if they both filed single returns.

The Reagan Administration contends that these tax cuts, which include a three-year 25 percent across-the-board reduction for individuals and significantly more generous depreciation writeoffs for business, will generate a massive infusion of investment capital, creating millions of new jobs. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland termed the tax cuts as "naked favoritism toward the rich." Other critics maintain that the cuts are too big and are likely to produce bigger budget deficits and fuel inflation.

Individual taxes will be cut 25 percent across-the-board over 33 months. Companies would be able to write off investment costs much faster, generally taking depreciation deductions of three, five, 10 or 15 years, depending on the type of equipment. Starting in 1985, the tax system would be indexed to prevent taxpayers from being pushed into higher tax brackets because of inflation.

Reagan says he will have to spend more time than planned in late 1981 on economic issues. Concern grows that interest rates won't fall much

anytime soon. Budget Director David Stockman will meet with Reagan this week to discuss further spending cuts.

It seems unrealistic that the Reagan Administration is considering additional budget cuts, particularly after \$35 billion in cuts already. But it's true, more cuts are being discussed. In a recent report prepared for Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the U.S. "must maintain adequate support for current programs" to aid those streaming out of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Vietnam's support for "orderly departure programs" was urged. What about the millions of unemployed and needy Americans at home? What is the Reagan Administration doing to take care of the needy at home first?

Certainly \$35 billion in domestic program cuts and a massive tax cut for the rich leave much room for questions of priority!

The time has come that surely the have-nots will have less unless more people are aware of the process. The time has come that more citizens become registered voters and educate themselves on the issues. It is clear to me that there is no system representative of your needs unless you are inputting to that system and the time for input must start today. It is also important that citizen input be long term and that consistency and follow-up are urgent.

## Letters to the Editor

### Open letter to the Mayor

Dear Mayor Ivancie:

It was with surprise and a great deal of sadness that our staff members read of the reinstatement of the police officers whose conduct was also a surprising and saddening experience for this community. Since their original dismissal there has been much discussion of relationships among individuals and social institutions as these effect Black citizens of Portland. Those of us white persons and groups who seek to work with them here in Albina, in efforts to make the city a more humane environment and a true community, have also been watching for signs of responsiveness from city leadership.

Frankly, we thought that at least

the officers involved would be counseled to seek work in a less sensitive occupation. With this new development we expect a variety of negative effects to which we'd like to call your attention:

- 1) Increased anger and hopelessness among Black citizens resulting in lessening enthusiasm for community participation.
- 2) Decreased trust, respect and cooperation toward all police officers, including those whose personal and professional stance deserve respect. This could make the officers' tasks more difficult and dangerous than would normally be true.
- 3) A secondary potential reduction in trust toward groups and agencies with a number of white staff (such

as our clinic) where over the years effort has been made to build open communication and mutually helpful relationships among a wide range of individuals and groups.

In summary, we are disappointed and angry that the officers have been reinstated and feel that whatever good result is gained for these two men is more than offset by the disillusionment already expressed by several Black citizens and the long range negative impact of this whole unnecessary and embarrassing affair.

Mary Lou Miller, Director  
Mary K. Anderson, RN  
Billie Huntwork, MSW  
Health Help Center, Inc.

## Governor signs

"Wrist slap" decried

The Oregon Legislature passed H.B. 2479, the racial/religious intimidation bill, requested by Governor Victor Atiyeh.

Oregon is to be proud in that again this State has taken a leadership role in addressing a problem that has the potential of weakening the social fabric of this State and society in general.

This bill is a step forward in terms of improved intergroup relations and the protection of the rights of minorities.

There will be a bill signing ceremony on Friday, August 21, 1981 at 3:15 p.m. in the Governor's Ceremonial office in the State Capitol.

Kay Dean Toran  
Director, Affirmative Action Office

## anytime soon. Budget Director

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We are ashamed that such a blatantly racist act could occur in Portland and doubly so that the city's power structure, aided by Mayor Ivancie and his hand-picked appointee, Police Chief Ron Still, would turn a blind eye. The Black community once again is left to smolder with resentment. Business goes on as usual and the two policemen, their conduct

decried as "offensive and stupid" by the arbitrator's report, are free to go back to work. Anyone who believes their act was not racist is either naive or ignorant of history. Just imagine the outcry if a Black person did something similar to a white-owned establishment. And imagine the demoralizing effect of last week's decision on well-meaning police officers who are trying to improve relations with the public. Racial discrimination must not be condoned in Portland, and the Citizens Party is dedicated to its demise. We stand in solidarity with the Black community.

Catherine Siegner  
Co-chair, Portland Citizens Party



Bruce Broussard  
Editor/Publisher

## Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year in Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

The Portland Observer was founded in October of 1970 by Alfred Lee Henderson.

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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