

EDITORIAL/OPINION

United States in isolation

The statements of U.S. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs demonstrates clearly the position of the U.S. in world affairs. Discussing South Africa's invasion of Angola, he indicated that the United States will not choose between Blacks and whites.

No mention of right and wrong—that South Africa had sent its troops into Angola and had killed Angolan citizens. What is the inference? ... that American citizens should associate Black with wrong and white with right no matter what the circumstances?

The United States vetoed the United Nations Security Council's resolution that would have condemned South Africa and required immediate withdrawal of its troops from Angola. The U.S. showed its true colors and voted to allow South African aggression.

The United States' insistence on the support of racism and aggression is isolating the nation from all its allies. On the UN resolution our traditional allies—France and Britain—abandoned the U.S. position with France voting for the resolution and Britain abstaining. In another

clearly related issue, our neighbors Mexico and Canada, along with most of the world, recognize the legitimacy of the liberation struggle in El Salvador. Mexico and France this week recognized the Farabundi Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) as a political entity that must be involved in any negotiation with that country.

To defend its position on any world issue the U.S. resorts to its usual defense—"communism." As the South Africans reported, it was left to the U.S. to bring up the issue of East-West struggle. Although for many years the U.S. was able to cloud the real issues of racism and colonialism behind the charge "communism" the nations of the world are beginning to recognize the subterfuge. The U.S. is being left out there all by itself—with South Africa—as the defender of racism and oppression.

The South African vote was an opportunity for the United States to put itself clearly on the side of integrity and human rights but it chose economic self-interest instead.

Free speech

In the land of free speech, the Oregon State Fair Board has succumbed to temptation and denied the Communist Party its rights.

The Communist Party-USA has rented a booth at the State Fair for several years—along with numerous political and special interest groups that take advantage of this opportunity to reach thousands of citizens with their literature and information.

When the group was threatened by picketers in "black face" and army fatigues who promised larger demonstrations, what did the Fair officials do? Protect the booth and its occupants from the invaders? No, they moved the booth.

The clear statement that the police powers of the state are meant to protect all of the citizens needs to be made right now. To do less is to encourage those who would harass and abuse citizens because of their race, color, language, religion or political belief.

For service, not money

The Portland City Council is contemplating nice raises for itself—an issue that has caused much community concern.

A period when the City faces cutbacks in all areas is hardly the appropriate time to consider raises for our public servants.

We are concerned about the continuing professionalization of our elected officials. Elective government has become a profession—with

Worth the money

A little known but important local project is seeking temporary funding from the City Council. The Senior Job Center, currently receiving a small CETA grant for its staff and overhead, will request \$40,000 operating capital for six months.

The project finds employment—full-time, permanent employment—for workers 50 years and older. These people, with many productive years left, are often precluded from employment by discrimination and preference for younger workers.

A second role of the project is to refer part-time "handyman" or professional jobs to older workers. The advantage is two-fold: providing needed income to older workers and providing services to persons who need temporary assistance such as minor home repairs.

This is a "self-help" project that deserves special funding from the City to help it through the transition period to self-sufficiency.

many individuals spending their entire lives in one position or another. We are rapidly losing the idea of "citizen representatives" who sacrifice a few years to serve the community but not to make a living at it.

We do not think our elected representatives should attempt to compare their salaries to those of private business. The opportunity to serve should be the major portion of the salary.

America's wartime budget

by Manning Marable

The federal budget's gross allocations for defense stands as a monumental insult to the intelligence of any clear-thinking person in the world. The Reagan Administration, in tandem with the cultural primitives, conservatives and hawks in Congress, have tipped the political scales toward irrationalism, interventionism and domestic chaos. Millions of poor Americans will be denied food stamps, decent medical care, or a chance to be trained for a job because of the destruction of federal social programs. Reagan's tight monetary policies, which have been implemented in the United Kingdom, will eventually turn our city streets into the bloody battlegrounds of London and Liverpool.

In its July 27, 1981 issue, *Time* magazine blared the doomsday trumpets in the cause of preparedness. "If it came to a fight, the military pessimists contend, the U.S. couldn't lick a stamp. That is not so," *Time* admitted. "But America's armed forces have planes that cannot fly for lack of spare parts and warships that are being kept in port by a shortage of sailors to crew them. U.S. Army units in Europe would run out of ammunition after only two weeks of conventional war."

Time editors were troubled by two specters—the fiasco of the Carter Administration's response to the hostage crisis, and the ever-present threat of an all-powerful Soviet menace. "The humiliating failure of the Blue Light rescue mission burned an impression of military incompetence deep into the American mind," *Time* charged. But the real international boogymen was not the Ayatollah, but the masters of the Kremlin. "The Soviets have built up their military forces far be-

yond anything that would be needed to protect themselves from outside attack." Nowhere in *Time* magazine's "analysis" was the fact that Soviet leader Brezhnev has offered to negotiate a reduction in arms, and that Reagan, Haig, and Company have refused to talk!

A graphic way of looking at the insanity of the U.S. military budget has been done by Seymour Melman, professor of industrial engineering at Columbia University and author of *The Permanent War Economy*. In a recent article, Melman charts the costs of the arms race vs. the costs of revitalizing and repairing the nation's social and economic institutions. The cost of two B-1 bombers, \$400 million, equals the cost of rebuilding Cleveland's water supply system. The program, \$34 billion, could modernize America's machine-tool stock. The cost overrun of the Navy's Aegis-cruiser program, \$8.4 billion, could pay for all the research and development needed to make automobiles that could run 80-to-100 miles per gallon of gasoline. The cruise missile program, at \$11 billion, would equal the cost of bringing the annual rate of investment in public works back up to the 1965 level. Cost overruns to 1981 on the Navy's Trident and the Air Force's F-16 programs, \$33 billion, could reconstruct or rebuild one fifth of all the bridges in the U.S. The cost overrun, to 1981, on the Army's heavy-tank program, \$13 billion, equals the shortfall of capital needed for maintaining water supplies of 150 U.S. cities until the year 2001. The cost overrun, to 1981, of the Army's UH-60A helicopter program, \$4.7 billion, could restore all the roads, bridges, subways, buses and aqueducts in New York City. The MX missile system, projected at \$34 billion, could be

spent on a ten-year energy-efficiency effort to save 25 to 50 percent of U.S. oil imports.

Melman states that the bloated military budget has drained American capital from critical socioeconomic needs into the war machine, a process that erodes U.S. capital formation for domestic needs while escalating international tension with the Soviet Union. "The concentration of capital on the military portends sharply diminished opportunity for a productive livelihood for most Americans," Melman writes. "Clearly, a choice must be made as to where these resources will be used."

Even *Time* magazine's editors had to admit that Reagan's demand for one trillion, five hundred billion dollars would take its toll on the American people. That amount "would be enough to pay off the entire national debt, with \$300 billion left over. It would finance a full year's output of goods and services for Japan. It comes to more than \$10,800 for every American who paid taxes on 1979 income."

Sizing up the growing mania for defense spending at the expense of Great Society/New Deal programs, one of my Cornell students offers a simple yet precise dictum to the current situation: "You cannot eat a tank." We cannot and should not elect politicians who would allow the great industrial centers of New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other cities to become employment wastelands, and who would deny food stamps to malnourished children, simply to stock up on out-of-date, overly expensive weapons. A new common sense on defense spending and the fraud of a wartime economy must inform the direction of Black and progressive politics in the 1980s.

'Rap Sheet' talks back

by Jeff Barker
(From *The Rap Sheet*)

Well, last month's Aurora Borealis caused some reaction.

As you might recall, I discussed the Oregonian's continuing assault on the Police Bureau. I even took some of their reporters to task. Most of the reaction I heard was favorable.

The *Portland Observer*, a black Portland newspaper, not only took exception to my column but with the entire issue.

The *Observer's* editorial writer apparently sees boogie men everywhere as he twists my concern over the Oregonian's slanted, biased reporting into "racist remarks." It appears that if the *Observer* has no real issue, they will call people names.

I'll stand by last month's article. The article was not anti-black nor was it racist. We are ready to provide police service to any human in need.

The line, "And Linda, dear, if you don't like cops, next time you need help why don't you try calling Alan Ota," was not a threat that Linda (or Alan or Julie Tripp) would be refused police service. It wasn't even original. It was just a rehash of the old bumper sticker, "If you don't like cops, next time you need help call a hippie."

To suggest that it was a threat, as the *Observer* did, is absurd. To suggest that the *Portland Police* would refuse service to any person because they criticized us is stupidity.

The *Observer* also stated, "There

remains a lot of questions about who runs the Police Bureau—the Chief or the union president." Another absurdity. The Chief runs the Bureau; Stan Peters runs the union; it's as simple as that.

After the *Rap Sheet* came out, Ota and Williams called the Chief's Office to ask about the article. See, it's their own ignorance as to who runs what. If you have a union question, you don't call the Chief.

The *Observer* decries what it terms the union's "attack position" towards the Bureau's critics. It is the Association that sticks up for the working officers while politicians hide.

We don't condemn all critics. We have had some problems; we have (and you notice it was "we" not the Oregonian or the *Observer* that ferreted out the wrong-doers) corrected them.

We will continue to identify and correct problems in the future but we, the Association, will not lay down and take unwarranted abuse when we are unfairly attacked. If we don't stand up for the working women and men of the Bureau, nobody will.

Besides some other drivel, the editorial concluded with: "We also believe the demeaning and racist remarks about Ms. Williams require a formal apology from the Police Association."

There were no racist remarks directed toward Linda Williams. As far as "demeaning" goes, it is her poorly-written, biased attacks on the Police Bureau that are demeaning.

In closing, I'll note that the editorial said, "We also believe..." because it is obvious no real thought was given by the editorial writer.

Moving right along, I think it is time we had a Civilian Review Board! Don't throw up yet; keep reading.

How many times have you been doing a good job and some jerk says, "I'm going to report you to Internal Affairs." And what do you do about it? Nothing, what can you do?

See, now here's where my Civilian Review Board comes into play. You report errant citizens to the CRB. You will then be able to file the same silly and frivolous complaints the citizens file on you.

I can see it now. "When I gave Mr. Johnson his traffic citations, he didn't smile. In fact, he had a surly look on his face!"

Johnson would then be advised of his rights, his statement taken and then he would have to wait a month or two while the CRB would make up its mind. The citizen, his wife and family could all worry about the decision that would come down.

Just how the CRB would go about punishing the civilian is a part of my plan I haven't worked out yet. Maybe guilty civilians could be forced to read the police manual cover to cover.

(The *Rap Sheet* is the official organ of the Portland Police Association and the Oregon Council of Police Associations.)



Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher

Portland Observer

The *Portland Observer* (USPS 959-660) 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.

283-2486

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York

1st Place
Community Service
ONPA 1973

1st Place
Best Ad Result
ONPA 1973

5th Place
Best Editorial
ONPA 1973

Honorable Mention
Herrick Editorial Award
NNA 1973

2nd Place
Best Editorial
3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1975

3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1978

3rd Place
In depth coverage
ONPA 1979



Open Letter to Chief Still

Dear Chief Still:

I was thankful after having the pleasure of speaking with you personally, but those thoughts are sinking after the continuously bad conduct of officers from North Precinct. When Archie Franklin's license was taken by Officer Waddell on Aug. 22nd, and not returned at the exact same time the check proved Mr. Franklin had no warrants, something else was intended like a lost driving identification. It does not create any better forms of communication with the public, when you have open letters printed in the papers, that eliminate explaining improper conduct of your officers. You spoke about discipline and inspections to prevent any type of wrong-doing under your leader-

ship. Apparently Captain McCabe, who is in charge of North Precinct, is not listening or does not care about what you are supposedly trying to do. Mayor Ivancie has also gone into silence when it does not relate with his personal salary.

Do we as citizens, just hear promises that are meaningless, when it comes down to action in rectifying misconduct? We are told to give you a chance, and the situation regarding police officers' improper deeds will change. How long do citizens have to wait? Thus far, in relationship to any questions of significance asked, no concrete answers have been given by you or Mayor Ivancie. Does that mean no improvement shall take place? The public heard nothing but promises after the removal of Commissioner Charles Jordan, as the head of the Portland

Police Bureau, from you and Mayor Ivancie. The citizens in the North Precinct know what those promises mean—nothing. The Black Community realizes we are now going into a form of political, and institutional, cover-up. What's your opinion?

Charles Flake
Portland, Oregon

Correction

Gerry Abrams is spokesperson, not chairman, of the Jefferson High School Parent Advisory Council, Title I. Ms. Abrams was improperly identified in our August 27th issue regarding her statements to the Portland School Board.

