

EDITORIAL/OPINION

The Spirit of Christmas

Last Friday night a commissioner, city and state official, judges, police officers and others joined to provide a Christmas dinner, program and gifts for 700 wives and children of inmates of Oregon State Prison.

The only stipulation made was that there be no publicity.

We would like to have published pictures of two women—one Black and one white, one a judge and the other a state official—in their Santa Clause suits. We would have liked to have published pictures of a college class cooking the turkeys. We would like to have printed pictures of the children's faces when they received their gifts. We also would have liked to publish the faces of those men who, although they can't be home with their loved ones for Christmas, coordinated and promoted this evening from their

prison cells.

This is the true spirit of Christmas.

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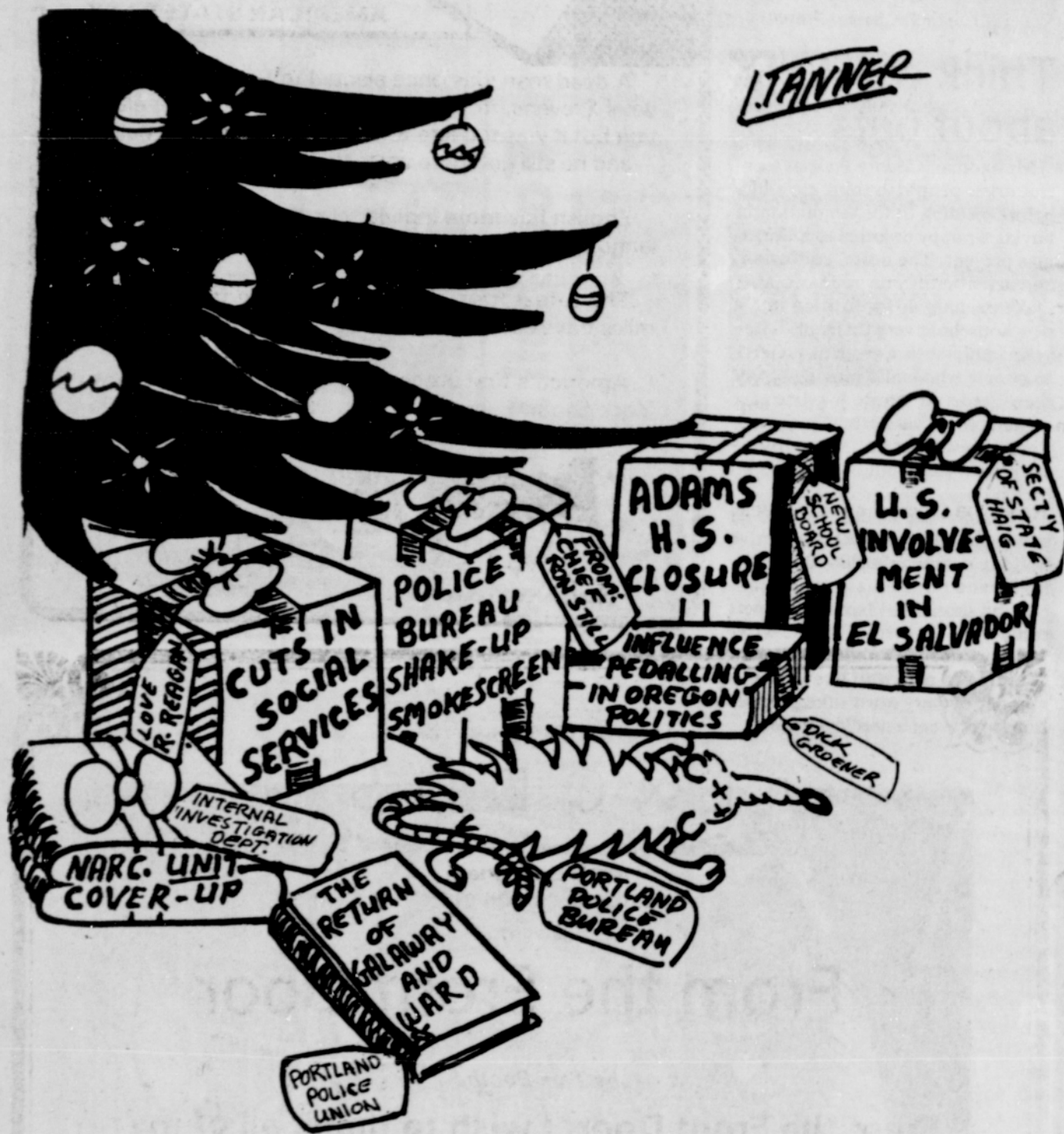
Recently a little girl, Adrienne Garrison, a student at Humboldt ECEC, was brave enough to save a seagull from older children who were throwing rocks at the injured bird.

Adrienne and her teacher took the bird to the Audubon Society to be nursed back to health.

This kind act was another example of the Christmas spirit of love.

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At a time when the Christmas spirit appears to be lost—when commercialization overshadows the religious tradition and war and violence are erupting around the world—it is refreshing to remember those whose acts reflect peace, love and kindness.



A Christmas Prayer

by Dr. Manning Marable

I believe in Black humankind—every man, woman and child of African descent that dwells on this earth. I stand in awe of our beauty and genius, our gift of song, our sciences and culture. Neither slavery nor capitalist oppression could destroy that special heritage, that challenge of Blackness, which shall one day rise up with the oppressed of other lands and inherit this turbulent world.

I believe in Work—that collective act of creativity which moves mountains and builds cities. I believe that unemployment is a crime, and that all men and women should be provided the chance to learn productive skills, to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and to control the means of production that create all wealth.

I believe in Equality—that all human beings of all races and cultures were made alike in the possibility of development. I believe that the Black struggle in this nation cannot accept "equal opportunity" within an inherently unequal economic and political system. The demand for equality, defined as the principle of human fairness, must mean the construction of a sensible, democratic, economic alternative for U.S. society, which socializes

the accumulation of capital and places the interests of people before profits.

I believe in Justice—that every citizen should have equal access to counsel, and be treated fairly in courts of law. I believe that the American legal system has all too often favored the affluent and powerful and systematically punished the Black, Brown and poor.

I believe in the Prince of Peace. Wars of imperialism and aggression, waged by this nation and others, are nothing less than Murder. I believe that nuclear weapons must be outlawed in our generation, to permit the survival of the next generation.

I believe in certain Inalienable Rights beyond "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." I believe in the right not to go hungry in a land of agricultural abundance; the right to decent housing; the right to free, public medical care for all; the right to an adequate income in one's old age.

I believe in Education—that the greatest force of protest against the evils of racism and economic exploitation is knowledge. Every Black parent must spend as much time teaching his or her child as that child receives at school. Education must become a tool for liberating our

minds, bodies and communities.

I believe in Sacrifice. We cannot all be wealthy. In an ideally democratic society, no one should have an income or an accumulation of wealth that he or she does not personally need, nor acquire the economic power to disrupt the lives and aspirations of others. We must give a portion of our personal income back to our Black communities to build economic and social institutions.

I believe in Freedom. In this society, freedom has meant the freedom of corporations to raise prices, the freedom of the wealthy to evade taxes, the freedom of the unemployed to dwell on the precipice of starvation and desperation. I believe in the freedom to build a new society devoid of the darkness of blind bigotry; the freedom to work, play and live in neighborhoods without fear of police repression; the freedom to worship; the freedom to confront our own weaknesses with the courage of our Black elders; the freedom to resolve the political and social problems of today and set forth, in the light of our heritage, to a new land of peace and productivity, racial equality and economic democracy. Only when these tasks are accomplished shall we be free at last.



Dick Bogle

It behooves each and every news reporter to listen. That means listen to just about anyone who approaches with an idea for a story or an opinion on a story already published or broadcast.

Fortunately, I took the time to listen to a young man who approached me earlier this week at the scene of a murder. It wasn't the murder he wanted to talk about, it was my recent series on television and in the *Observer* on street prostitution. He asked what alternatives young women have who are presently hooking on Northeast Union and North Interstate. I mumbled something about minimum wage jobs at fast food outlets and possible help for such young women from community churches.

He told me he heard that Seattle, Washington, has a program that really provides assistance to prostitutes who want to change their life style.

I returned to the office, called the Seattle vice squad and was referred by them to the office of Jennifer James, a faculty member of the University of Washington. Ms. James has the reputation for being perhaps the Northwest's leading expert on prostitution.

I talked with a Debra Boyer, who is a research analyst in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University. She and

Ms. James work together in a program called judicial advocates.

That began as an offshoot of Coyote, an acronym for Cast Off Your Tired Old Ethics. Coyote is headed nationally by Margo St. James, a former Madame.

However, this Seattle group is not interested in the legalization of prostitution. Far from it. They are a counseling-referral service for women involved in prostitution.

They formed a task force on prostitution which developed a two-pronged attack on the problem. First a public education program with the theme, "Don't let children play hooker." This took the form of seminars presented in the community complete with posters and brochures. It was financed through a grant from the Humanities Commission.

Secondly, a street outreach program came about with outreach workers working the streets to meet kids who are runaways and offer alternatives to adult exploiters. They also help the youngsters monitor their health until the time the kids make a decision to change their lives.

The outreach program is run through a runaway shelter home which provides a safe place for kids with problems.

Boyer and James have determined that the most significant factor in influencing someone's entrance into

prostitution is a negative sexual experience which affects their self-concept and conditions to view themselves in terms of their sexual worth.

So, they teach the youngsters to recognize a potential sexual exploitive situation, what their rights are, develop assertiveness skills and what to do if exploited.

This teaching is done in schools at the Junior High level. The two women have also developed a similar program for first and second graders but that has yet to be implemented. They have no doubts that it will since it has the backing of school district officials.

All of the above points out Seattle is far far ahead of Portland in looking at real solutions for diminishing street prostitution using means other than the threat of jail. Ms. Boyer did tell me she had been in Portland at the request of Multnomah County Commissioner Gordon Shadboune and his task force on prostitution. So the Commissioner and his group know about Judicial Advocates and how it has worked in Seattle.

It's my hope that our community can muster the resources necessary to mount a multi-faceted attack on prostitution with some viable alternatives for those caught up in it and those potential hookers who find themselves drifting toward criminality.

War in the Middle East ?

(Continued from page 1 column 2)

government risk international political repercussions by annexing the area?

Several explanations can be put forward. One is that the Israeli government, at the direction of Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, are only doing the bidding of the U.S. government, as spelled out in the U.S.-Israeli Accord on Military Strategic Cooperation approved by a close vote and over strenuous objections, in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) Dec. 2.

This agreement stipulates that Israel will put its armed forces at the disposal of U.S. war ventures against states in the Middle Eastern and North African region, or directly against the Soviet Union. It reads in part:

"The U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation is designed against the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union and Soviet-controlled forces from outside the region."

Perhaps this agreement had given the Begin government the green light to continue offensives, such as the Golan Heights annexation, as well as bombing raids against Lebanon and the attack on the Tammuz nuclear research reactor near Baghdad, Iraq, last June.

Universally condemned as a breach of international law, the Israeli government's action against Iraq was attacked by the French government, former UN secretary-general Waldheim, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and even Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore). Begin declared, "We are not afraid of any reactions in the world."

Why is Begin unafraid? Perhaps he knows the massive flow of aid and arms from the U.S. government will continue despite worldwide criticism of his government's belligerent posture in the region. That is one theory.

Another is that Begin is acting in direct opposition to U.S. government wishes and actually alienating his American supporters. His motivations for this position are unclear, but the balance of power within the Knesset, and Begin's own tenuous position as government leader may provide clues.

Lengthy debate over the U.S.-Israeli strategic accord included the introduction of no-confidence motions against the Begin-Sharon government by opposition groups. Should Begin face a confidence vote, he may stand the test better by appearing to defy the will of the U.S. government through independent actions apparently made with-

out U.S. approval.

He has made recent allusions to Israel being "a banana republic" to U.S. interests and otherwise irritated U.S. leaders with increasingly strident remarks.

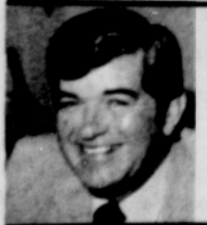
Although factions within the Israeli government no doubt resent that country's reliance on the U.S. both economically and politically, other government officials worry that Begin will alienate U.S. leaders and therefore lose financial support.

At the same time, moves are afoot to repudiate the U.S.-Israeli accord just passed, which was attacked by nearly the entire Israeli press and much of the Israeli public.

(The accord was canceled Dec. 21 by Begin—Ed. note.)

Prime Minister Begin is indeed in an unenviable position. Regardless of what happens next, he only stands to lose. If he defies U.S. government wishes, through the Golan Heights annexation or other offensive acts, he will lose essential financial support. If he is doing the bidding, express or covert, of U.S. leaders, he risks further ostracism in the Middle East and perhaps repudiation by the Knesset and members of the fragile coalition that enables his position as leader.

Either way, peace in the Middle East is made that much more elusive.



Christmas Message

by Police Chief Ron Still

Our traditional year-end holidays provide a time and a setting for reflection and anticipation.

We reflect upon feasts, family, friends, good times, little children with shining eyes, laughter, tears and the rapidly passing years.

We remember holidays when we had to work, and were separated from our families when we should all have been together.

We remember those who apparently have no family except the one seated on the next bar stool.

We remember the closeness of people at Christmas and wish that it could last all year.

We are thankful for the Police Bureau and the City who compensate us for our services with reasonable salaries and benefits. We know that our positions as law enforcement officers in Portland provide security for our families while we work and during retirement. We feel a growing concern for those less fortunate during these difficult economic times.

We realize that we were blessed to have been born in a free society. We also are cognizant that we live and work in a city, Portland, which is known throughout the world as a clean, well-governed and concerned

city. We will remember this year because of the hurt caused by a few of our police family members. But, we will be thankful that we have gained strength from their mistakes. We forgive their mistakes, control our emotions, and resolve that such mistakes shall never happen again.

Therefore, it is with optimism and confidence that I extend my sincere best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to the active and retired members of the Portland Police Bureau, their families, and to the community.



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