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City pays in possum incident suit

An out-of-court settlement has been reached in the "possum" suit against the City of Portland, to be approved by the City Council Thursday.

The suit was filed by George and Geraldine Powe, operators of the Bugar Barn on Union Avenue. The settlement is reported to be approximately \$65,000 to \$75,000. Named as dependents in the federal suit were ten officers involved in depositing dead possums on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant while on uniform and on duty. The possums were killed by the officers, then brought to the scene.

Two officers, Craig C. Ward and James E. Galloway, who admitted

responsibility, were terminated by then Police Commissioner Charles Jordan following wide-spread community protests. Following their dismissal, the Police Union gave Jordan a vote of "no confidence" and took the matter to binding arbitration. The arbitrator ordered that the officers be reinstated.

The suit asked for \$1 million in general damages and \$2.8 million in punitive damages, but Powe has expressed his wish that another outcome of his suit would be the installation of a police review process that would provide justice for citizens who believe they have been harassed or abused by police. The suit had called for an

injunction to prohibit the City from continuing any policy or practice of racial discrimination or harassment. The settlement does not include this injunction but Powe has indicated that he feels the new audit committee will alleviate some of those concerns.

Aftermath of the possum incident, which brought much disrepute to the Bureau (together with a series of revelations about police involvement in drug sales and falsification of evidence), was extensive. Commissioner Jordan was removed from his post as Police Commissioner by Mayor Francis Ivancie, who now heads the Bureau. Upon the retirement of Chief Bruce

Baker, the Mayor named Ron Still to that position.

Prior to the possum incident Jordan had responded to allegations of police abuse by appointing a citizen task force—the "Storrs Committee"—to look at the internal investigation process by which complaints against police officers are investigated. The committee reported lack of equity in the process and among their recommendations was a citizen police audit committee.

Mayor Ivancie and Chief Still opposed the committee, but Jordan pushed it through the City Council. The police union took the matter—through the referendum process—to a vote of the people.

The measure was passed by the voters and the committee is in process of organization.

Called one of the most blatantly racist actions in the history of the state, the possum incident comes full circle with the payment to the Powes. This, in part, compensates for the embarrassment, pain and loss of business caused by these police officers.



Mahji Hall of Seattle recently visited the Talking Drum Book store to promote paper dolls made in her likeness. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Strike opposes concessions

by James Ridgeway
Pacific News Service

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—While the November elections may not have demonstrated any across-the-board disaffection with President Reagan's economic policies, a revolt has suddenly materialized from an unexpected quarter: organized labor.

The labor rebellion, only just starting, not only promises real resistance to Reaganomics, but also is a sharp challenge to union leaders who have sided with corporations in insisting that their members accept concessions or risk losing their jobs altogether.

The focus of resistance is the Canadian Chrysler strike. Shortly after the election, 10,000 Canadian Chrysler workers refused to accept further concessions and struck. The company immediately threatened to lay off American workers and warned that if the strike continued it might close down altogether. Fear of the loss of jobs spread through Detroit and at first brought an angry reaction to the Canadian strike. Then, as the Canadians stuck fast and the issue was aired in U.S. Chrysler plants, the anger turned to grudging admiration.

As the Chrysler strike developed, United Mine Workers members were going to the polls to elect a new

president. They dumped incumbent Sam Church, who had infuriated his membership with concessions, and elected the reform-minded Rich Trumka.

These events took place against a little noticed pattern of strikes against concessions in Illinois, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where workers, often in isolated circumstances, decided to fight rather than give in. Then, in mid-November, the steel workers turned down a new contract containing concessions.

In Detroit, nearly 1,000 rank-and-file members from a variety of unions recently turned out for a (Please turn to page 13, column 1)

Minorities gain in mid-level jobs

A recent affirmative action report for the State of Oregon reports that although state employment declined by nearly 2,000 during fiscal year 1981-82, the State "has been able to maintain the proportional representation of its minorities."

Minority representation in the State workforce continues to be 5.8 percent. Minorities make up 7.9 percent of the state's population and 4.1 percent of the labor force (persons employed, plus those registered for employment with the employment service).

The percentage of black employees has dropped slightly, from 1.7 percent to 1.6 percent, through loss of 21 jobs. Hispanic employment remained at the same percentage, 1.5 percent, although 27 jobs were lost. Asians and American Indians gained by 0.1 percent each. Employment of women has dropped from 50.3 percent to 49.8 percent.

There has been an increase of minorities in the middle management level (22-24) with salary ranges of \$1,592 to \$2,285 per month. Cur-

rently there are 119 minority workers at this level, including 30 black workers and 22 Hispanics.

There are 84 minority employees in the 25-31 + range, with salaries of \$1,832 to \$3,218 and above, per month. Of these 21 are black and 17 are Hispanic.

Minorities continue to be hired most often in professional (5.4 percent), protective services (5.9 percent), paraprofessional (9.2 percent), service maintenance (8.1 percent) and office/clerical (5.2 percent). Minorities are still underutilized in the technician, skilled craft and official/administrative classifications.

However, there has been a drop in the officials/administration category of from 98 to 73 minorities and in the professional classification from 327 to 304. Both categories have also declined in percentage. The only gains in percentage of minorities employed were in protective services, skilled crafts and service maintenance.

Each year three state agencies are

analyzed by the state Affirmative Action Office. This year those agencies were Mental Health, Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and the University of Oregon.

Mental Health has increased its percentage of employees during the year except in administration. OLCC has made slow progress in hiring minorities and women, but women are concentrated in the 00-18 salary ranges and men in 19-31+. The U. of O's female participation had decreased and blacks are underutilized in salary ranges 14-31+.

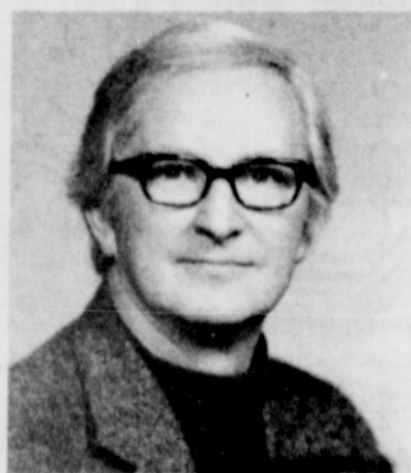
Credit for the fact that there has not been a drop in minority employment during a period of loss of employees due to budget cuts is given to managers who exercised careful planning in staff reduction; establishment of qualification criteria that preclude displacement of highly qualified persons; and networking to identify vacancies in state agencies for which laid-off employees could apply.



REP. ED LEEK



SENATOR BILL MCCOY



REP. WALLY PRIESTLEY

The Observer invites the public to participate in a community forum—"The Legislature and You" on December 4th, 10:00 a.m., at the Rustler Restau-

rant (Grand Avenue across from Sears). Discuss the issues that will be before the 1983 Legislative Session and how the public can affect legislation.

New weapons trends usher in an era of super-violence

by Michael Klare
Pacific News Service

President Reagan's latest gesture to superpower arms control is especially welcome as we approach the end of a year in which international violence reached near-epidemic proportions. But as the conflicts of the past year aptly demonstrate, mere management of some aspects of the U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms competition only thaws the tip of an iceberg that is expanding rapidly in every other direction.

Not only did we witness the outbreak of two major international conflicts in 1982—in the Falklands and in Lebanon—but also the escalation of existing conflicts in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia and El Salvador.

These conflicts are noteworthy

not only for their intensity, but also for the premier appearance of many untried weapons, such as the "Exocet" anti-ship missile used in the Falklands and the radar-jamming devices used in Lebanon. When combined with other recent trends, these events suggest the world may be headed into an era in which international disputes will increasingly be settled by wars of super-violent intensity.

Analysis

Compounding the new will to combat among nations is the fact that the world is witnessing an unprecedented revolution in military

technology encompassing both nuclear and conventional weapons. At the cutting edge of this revolution are new guidance technologies that can direct a weapon towards its intended target with extremely high accuracy.

To appreciate the scope of this revolution, consider the following:

•U.S. scientists are now developing a third generation of nuclear munitions that will offer a discrete choice of blast, heat and radiation effects. According to Pentagon officials, weapons researchers have made considerable progress in development of the new weapons, of which the enhanced radiation warhead, or "neutron bomb," is the first example.

The aim of all this, of course, is to make nuclear weapons appear more controlled in their effects and thus

more "useable" as everyday battlefield weapons. "Collateral damage has always been the stumbling block" to nuclear weapons use, a top Pentagon official explained recently.

•Not only are nuclear weapons becoming more useable, they're also becoming more available. According to a recent U.S. intelligence report, as many as 31 nations will possess or be able to produce nuclear munitions by the year 2000, including such Third World danger zones as Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, Argentina and Brazil.

•While nuclear weapons are being made smaller and more like conventional weapons in their radius of effect, conventional weapons are being made larger and more like nuclear weapons in their indiscrimin-

ate capacity for destruction. Partly as a result of public opposition to nuclear weapons, laboratories in the United States and Western Europe are developing new conventional munitions that can be substituted for tactical nuclear weapons in attacks on significant targets. These armaments combine the accuracy of "smart bombs" with the spread-out effects of "cluster bombs" and the damage potential of "concussion bombs" to produce a new order of munitions best described as "near-nuclear weapons."

•Because of competition between the major arms suppliers and the new-found wealth of many Third World resource producers, most barriers to the export of high-tech conventional weapons have long since been eradicated. As a result, many aspiring Third World powers

are equipped with the same aircraft, missiles and tanks as the front-line states in NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Once these countries become proficient in the use of these weapons, they will be able to conduct military operations at the same level of intensity that we would expect in a major war in Europe.

Add these developments up, and it is hard to escape concluding that future wars—however and wherever they start—will be fought at unprecedented levels of violence and destructiveness, with an attendant risk of nuclear escalation. In a preview of such conflicts, the Department of Defense noted in its "guidance" document for Fiscal 1984 that "Combat against Soviet [and] Soviet-equipped forces will be of higher intensity and longer duration, and (Please turn to page 4 column 1)