

# METROPOLITAN



and that blacks of every economic class and political persuasion are becoming more militant.

Almost daily throughout 1982, there were a fresh series of racial atrocities in virtually every corner of the country, as reported in the Atlanta-based publication, *Racially-Motivated Random Violence*. On December 19, 1982, and January 16, 1982, the offices of a black newspaper, the *Jackson Advocate* (Mississippi) were firebombed and shotgunned, and staff members were threatened. On May 3, 1982, Chester Reems, a black man in Durham, North Carolina, was attacked by a racist for "walking with a white woman." The white man drove his automobile into Reems, throwing him more than 80 feet. Reems was pronounced dead on arrival at (Durham's) hospital, having suffered a broken neck and multiple fractures. On May 26, 1982, one young black man was killed and another seriously wounded by a gun-wielding white man in Franklinton, North Carolina. Black families in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood experienced assaults, racial slurs, and had their homes vandalized during July and August, 1982.

...ion show to be sponsored on December 5th. Richard Brown) family escaped with one injuries. The most publicized "lynching" occurred in Brooklyn, New York, on June 22. A gang of young whites stopped an automobile containing three black men. Two of the men were cut and punched, but managed to escape. The third black man, William Turks, was brutally beaten to death.

The violence against blacks can be explained only through the prism of history. Immediately following the Compromise of 1877, and the end of the First Reconstruction, Afro-American people experienced a wave of murderous race hatred and violence. With the demise of the Second Reconstruction, many whites have returned to the bloody American tradition of the *auto-da-fe*, mob violence, and criminal behavior towards peoples of color. What we now are witnessing is "the spirit of the mob"; a desire to inflict punishment at random; to terrorize small children and their families; to kick people ever back to the worst and most

## Energy aid available

The State of Oregon begins Wednesday accepting applications from low-income families needing assistance with winter heating bills. In Northeast Portland, application can be made with the Urban League of Portland.

This winter an estimated \$23 million in federal funds will be available state-wide. Of the \$16 million is reserved for energy assistance, \$2 million will be preserved for possible transfer to other block grants and \$3 million will be set aside for weatherization.

To be eligible for energy assistance a household's gross income must be at or below 125 percent of the poverty level established by the federal government. For example, a household of one would be eligible

if income were \$5,850 or less, a household of two if \$9,700 or less.

The amount of the payment depends on the size of the family, the area of residence, and the type of fuel used. Payments (one-time-only) range from \$105 to \$225. Renters, whether they pay for heat directly or in their rent payments, can be eligible.

Persons who use more than 20 percent of their annual income for heat can be eligible for up to \$250 in emergency assistance.

The funds are distributed through local agencies. The Urban League program can be contacted at 249-5808 and appointments are necessary. For other areas call 1-378-4729 or 1-800-452-7813 for information.

## Sales tax opposed

State Rep. Wally Priestley, (D-Portland), announced today he has begun to organize to fight passage of the sales tax. "Someone needs to answer the repeated false claims of the business lobby.

"The business lobby has been conducting a covert campaign to soften up Oregonians to a sales tax since last Spring.

"The business lobby would have us believe a sales tax is necessary to provide property tax relief, maintain public services and schools, and balance the state budget. This is not true.

"A sales tax is unfair to the working people of our state. Our state budget can be balanced at present service and transfer payment levels by continuing our present level of taxes, providing property relief with a 'Homestead Exemption'—and instituting a small increase with a graduated corporate excise tax.

Corporations must bear their share of the tax load. Save for a loss of interest earnings on ac-

celerated payment of withholding taxes (\$2 million), they are not pulling their share of the state tax load. This is the face of massive federal tax reductions.

"I will be sorely disappointed, indeed angered if public employee organizations of the cities, counties or school districts support an unnecessary sales tax.

"The sales tax is unfair to the working families of Oregon. They should not be betrayed by government employees joining the corporations to pass a sales tax. Particularly after all of us have just defeated Ballot Measure No. 3 so as to protect public services and schools which saved jobs of public employees and teachers.

"Balancing the budget might seem difficult right now—because several tax bills passed during the last two sessions to balance the budget were 'temporary.' Now they are up for question. We all know once a tax is passed, it's near impossible to get rid of it. A sales tax is a case in point."

## Prostitution topic

**NO BAD WOMEN, JUST BAD LAWS:** Two events on the politics of prostitution in Portland, featuring Rachel West of the U.S. Prostitutes Collective (San Francisco branch). On Friday, December 3, at 4:00 p.m., there will be a talk and reception in the Vollum Lounge, Reed College. On Saturday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m., a workshop on prostitutes organizing will take place in room 298, Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University.

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