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Linda Williams, former Oregonian reporter for City Hall, discusses her reporting experiences in the Rose City. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Williams discusses City politics

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. — Portland's only daily newspaper, *The Oregonian*, is about to lose one of its best reporters. The Black community will miss a voice it had come to trust. That voice was the writing of City Hall reporter, Linda Williams.

Williams' news tenure at the state's largest newspaper gave the paper insight into issues it never knew existed. In 1981 her series on police brutality caused her to become the focus of verbal abuse by the Police Union's publication, *The Rap Sheet*.

The Rap Sheet told her if she ever needed help, not to call the police. "My grandmother used to tell me there was a certain futility in paying too much attention to idiots. No one argues with a fool but a fool," Williams said in an interview at City

Hall. However, Williams had to take this attack somewhat seriously. "It identified me as a target for anyone out there who wanted to attack me. They [the Police Union] did not understand, nor did they have any respect for, a person trying to do a professional job. They took everything personally and reduced every issue to the simplest, idiotic base of 'You don't like me.'"

Williams sought and received a personal clarification from the Police Chief, Ron Still, who told her those opinions did not reflect the Bureau's.

"What we were writing about at that time raised questions about the police department in general. These were legitimate questions in the minds of the public. We would have been derelict in our duties if we had not written about this. There was the whole scandal involving police

officers planting drugs on people, lying to obtain search warrants, as well as the historically bad relationship with the Black community. It was interesting because there were four reporters assigned to the story and only Alan Ota, a Japanese-American, and I were targeted for that abuse."

Williams believes there was a lot more to the criticism she received from the Police Union. "Some people who historically did not like *The Oregonian*, for their own reasons, attacked me. They thought I was a more vulnerable symbol than a white male."

As an Afro-American woman, Williams felt her presence has made a difference at *The Oregonian*. "The paper is more sensitized. People are really careful about using certain cartoons, and they are careful to note how the story will be perceived. I also hope there will be (Please turn to page 4 column 1)

Grenada: P.M. Bishop killed

Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada, was killed Wednesday. Reports from Grenada state that Bishop was freed from house arrest by followers, went to army headquarters and was in the act of obtaining weapons for supporters when he and several others, including two soldiers, were killed in shooting that ensued.

On Saturday, the Grenadan Army took temporary control of the tiny island nation from its popular leader, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Major Liam Omo Cornwall, who is Grenada's Ambassador to Cuba, issued a statement over Radio Free Grenada Sunday, stating that Bishop was removed because he refused to share power with the Central Committee of the party in power—the New Jewel Movement. Cornwall said, "No one man can be above the rule. No man can be above the majority. As much as we love and respect Comrade Bishop, we will definitely not tolerate this development in our country."

He added that Bishop is under investigation to determine if he had

spread a rumor that there is a power struggle in the Government. Bishop reportedly is being held under house arrest. The Army, Cornwall said, is an integral part of the government and "will tolerate absolutely no manipulation whatsoever of counter-revolutions, no matter in what guise, shape or form."

Army Commander, General Hudson Austin, said the Central Committee had given Bishop an ultimatum to share power or resign. He said the Central Committee had decided Bishop should work among the masses while Deputy Prime Minister Coard guided and organized the "political work of the party." The problem, he said, "is that Comrade Bishop has disgraced the party and the revolution by trying to bypass the New Jewel Movement's collective leadership and spreading a rumor that Deputy Prime Minister Coard had plotted to kill him."

Coard, who is expected to be named Prime Minister by the party, resigned in response to Bishop's charge.

Bishop, 39, led the 1979 coup which took power from U.S.-supported Sir Eric Gairy, who was

elected Prime Minister when Great Britain declared the island independent. Bishop, a lawyer, was educated in Great Britain and returned to Grenada in 1970. He was elected to Parliament in 1976.

Since the 1979 Revolution the nation has opened free public schools for the first time, built new hospitals, attempted to diversify its agrarian economy, developed mass organizations to enable the people to be involved in local and national decisions. It has developed trade ties with Cuba, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and other socialist nations as well as with France and Western Europe. The nation is in the process of developing a new constitution and electoral process.

Grenada also has been under diplomatic and economic attack from the U.S. and fears an invasion similar to that being waged on Nicaragua by the U.S. The break between the U.S. and Grenada closely followed the 1979 Revolution. When Grenada requested aid in developing its airport and tourist facilities, the U.S. offered \$5,000, but only if (Please turn to page 4 column 4)

Dellums blasts missiles

by Conn Hallinan

OAKLAND, CA.—Drawing his audience back to that chilling morning in 1962 when the U.S. and Soviet Union came within minutes of a nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis, U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums (D-Oakland) last weekend delivered a powerful call to halt the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe.

"Our lives hang in the balance," the dynamic Congressperson told hundreds of people who packed the Hyatt Regency here Oct. 8.

Billed "New leadership for the '80s," the dinner also featured Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, and drew an audience representing community organizations, churches, labor, senior and peace groups, virtually the entire spectrum of activist progressive and left organizations in this city. Indeed, the crowd bore a remarkable resemblance to what has come to be called the "rainbow coalition."

Dellums delivered a detailed indictment of plans by the Reagan Administration to deploy Pershing II and Cruise missiles starting Dec. 15 of this year, warning diners that only an "escalation of activity" can get the world through "this frightening and dangerous moment."

"Maybe it's time to go to jail," Dellums said in a call for stepping up civil disobedience. "Maybe it ought to be 800,000, maybe eight million."

Bringing to bear all of the expertise he has developed from his position on the House Armed Forces Committee, Dellums gave the crowd a scary nuts and bolts view of exactly what deployment of the missiles

will mean. He pointed out that over the past 10 years there have been 107 separate incidents in which computer and radar errors have resulted in nuclear alerts.

In those previous accidents, "we had 15 to 20 minutes to check them out," Dellums said, but pointed out the new missiles can strike major Soviet targets within "six minutes of launch."

Warning that the possibility of accidental nuclear war will become a "reality," Dellums urged the audience to become deeply involved in the Oct. 22 demonstrations to halt deployment of the missiles, and to join in support of the "hot autumn" demonstrations in Europe.

"We have to assert our right to live," Dellums warned. "It is time to escalate the controversy, time to intensify our activity."

Given who the two major speakers were, coupled with the impressive array of U.S. representatives, state, and local political figures, a major draw for the evening was the subject of the 1984 election and the possible candidacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Dellums, who just returned from a European tour with the Operation PUSH director, has endorsed Jackson's candidacy, although Jackson himself has yet to declare himself in the race for the Presidency.

"Jesse Jackson has a winning set of politics, not just a personality," Dellums told the crowd, and argued persuasively for candidates representing "every major oppressed group in the U.S."

Dellums pointed out the key role Jackson's candidacy could play in the registration of Black voters, and what impact that could have on the

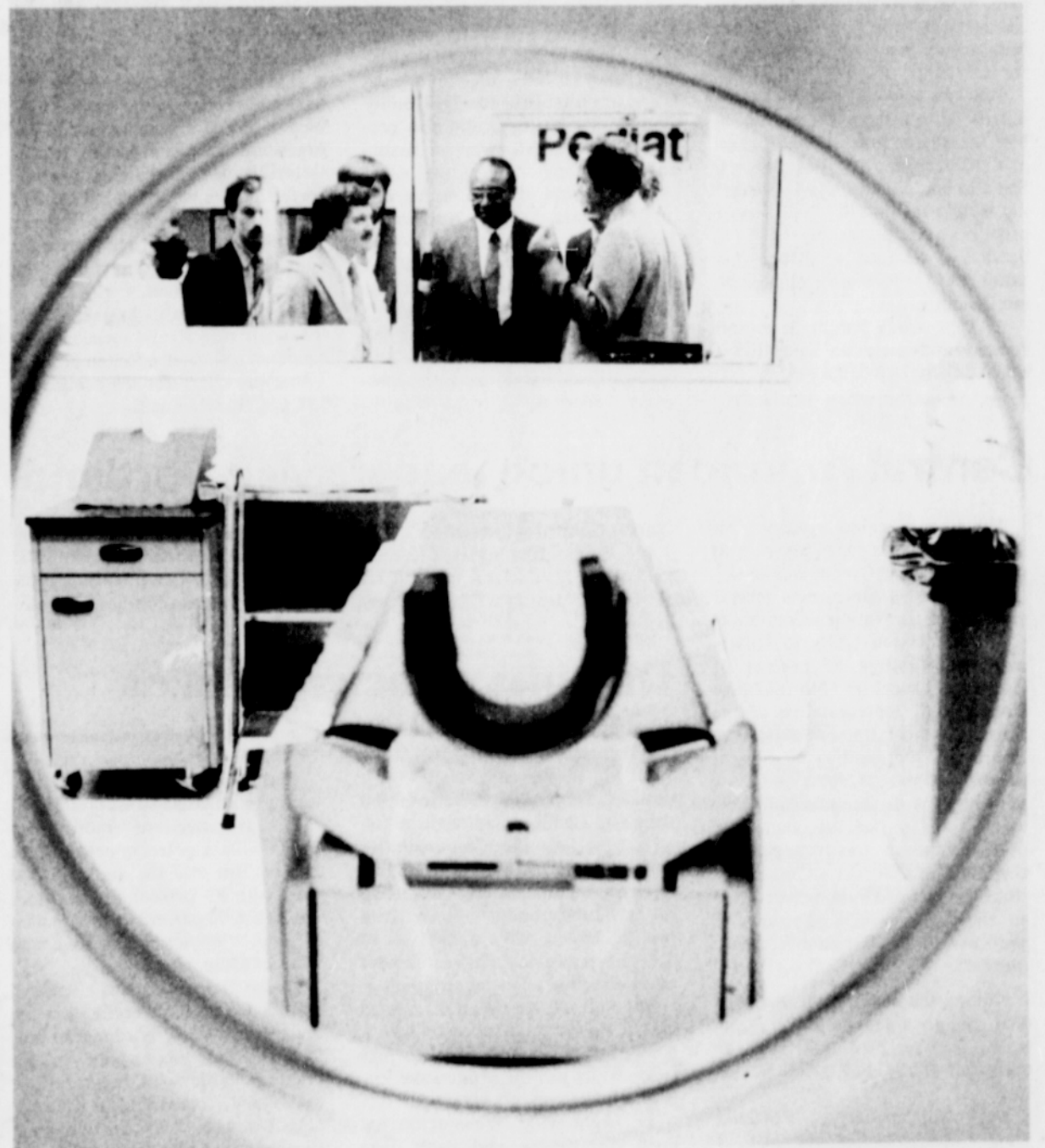


REP. RON DELLUMS

1984 race. "In the 1976 race Blacks elected the President," Dellums said. "In 1980 Black people stayed home and dumped a President. We don't have to buy someone in Middle America. We can elect a progressive voice in 1984."

The U.S. representative was strongly upbeat in his view of the impending showdown with Reagan next fall, and then expressed confidence the Republican President could be defeated. "If we go out and look up all the people he has hurt, there is no way he can be elected," he told the diners. "They got the money, we got the votes. I'm not afraid of Ronald Reagan," he said.

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Through the cat scan: The camera, peering through Kaiser's new cat scan, picks up visitors with Alvin W. Washington, Vice President and Regional Associate Manager (center), and Henry

Mead Kaiser, grandson of Henry J. Kaiser (right) during rededication ceremony.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)