

Happy Thanksgiving

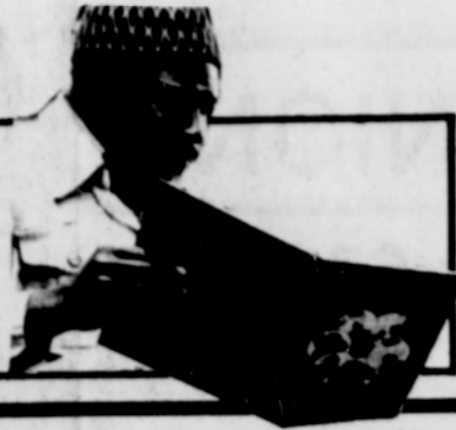
Indian fishing under attack



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Vanessa Williams, Miss American, signs an autograph for Taji Shamsud-din, 7, at Fred Meyer Interstate store this week. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Woodburn Chicanos organize

WOODBURN, OR.—Concerned members and supporters of Woodburn's Mexican community met November 15th to form a new organization: La Comunidad Unida para Justicia (The Community United for Justice).

La Comunidad Unida para Justicia has been formed in response to the widespread concerns in Woodburn's Mexican community about Woodburn Police Department practices. These concerns were most recently and vocally demonstrated at Sunday's community meeting, called by the State Commission on Hispanic Affairs, attended by over 120 community residents. The organization will adopt a long-range plan of action aimed at addressing civil rights violations. It has informed the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, that its representatives are prepared to meet with Woodburn City officials to present its proposals.

Selected as co-chairs for La Comunidad were Cipriano Ferrel, Jesus Lopez Jr., and Margarita Garcia.

Members of La Comunidad observed the entire proceedings at the Marion County Courthouse of the inquest into the killing of Jose Inez Munoz-Medina by a Woodburn police officer. The manner in which the inquest was conducted raised more questions about Munoz' death than it answered.

La Comunidad feels that certain aspects of the inquest were handled in an insensitive manner:

- Manuel De La Cruz and Alberto Mendez, inquest witnesses, were brought into the courtroom, in the jury's presence, dressed in jail clothes and handcuffs.

- De La Cruz and Mendez were, in effect, excluded from the proceedings—the only witnesses treated in that fashion. They were the only witnesses who could not observe the proceedings and hear the testimony of other witnesses.

- There was insufficient questioning of prospective jurors concerning possible racial prejudices.

- The Assistant District Attorney's question to witness Mendez as to whether he "looked bad" in a jail photo taken hours after the shoot-

ing had a prejudicial effect, especially since no similar photo was taken of any other party to the shooting.

The following points, in the view of La Comunidad, raise questions left unanswered by the inquest.

- There was no follow-up questioning regarding Oregon State Patrol expert testimony that Sgt. Boutwell's gun had less than standard pressure on the trigger. Boutwell was never asked whether his gun was cocked at the moment it discharged.

- There was no testimony as to possible fingerprints or lack of fingerprints on Boutwell's gun and flashlights.

- De La Cruz was never asked how many patrol cars he saw and when.

- Six of the witnesses that were present at Abbey's Pizza told similar versions as to the officer's actions upon arrival at the Woodburn Motel. The one individual, also present at Abbey's, who had related a different version of events, was not adequately questioned.

La Comunidad Unida para Justicia can be reached at 982-0243.

Federal, State prosecutors target traditional Indian fisher people

As families sit down together this week to remember the first Thanksgiving Day on which, according to legend, the Indian people and the Pilgrims ate together in peace, Northwest Indians are facing the full force of the U.S. government in its attempt to restrict their fishing rights.

Traditional Indian fisher people, who live along the Columbia and its tributaries and practice the traditional religion and life style, are being systematically persecuted by the federal government and the states of Oregon and Washington.

Last year, over 75 people were arrested and indicted by multiple jurisdictions. In some cases entire families were arrested. Harsh and violent raids were made against fishing villages, with firearms and threats of physical abuse. Homes were wrecked; personal property, cars,

fishing gear, legal documents and other items were taken.

David So Happy, sentenced to five years in prison and five years probation for fishing, said recently, "I am a traditional Indian. I have been exercising my rights to fish even though I had to go to jail three or four times. I have been indicted, jailed, chained for fishing, but I still continue to live the way Elders taught me.

"We must have salmon for our way of life, for ceremonies in the longhouse, for name giving, memorials, fish food; we must have the salmon. That is the way I have been taught. . . .

"I continue to resist. I've chased wardens. They wouldn't issue any citations but only take my fish, game, nets. I documented all this hoping to get help to regain what I've lost. Sometimes 'law enforce-

ment' comes at night in riot gear, to take my nets. They come in airplanes and boats to take from my home and hold me there. They beat up my boy and took him to jail. They charged him with assault and resisting arrest, and sentenced him to ten years in jail and ten years probation.

"For fishing I was sentenced to five years in jail and five years probation, and my nephew 20 years in jail and 20 years probation. In our defense case they would not allow use of our treaty. We were found guilty under the Lacey Act, that says you cannot sell fish across state lines. They bought the fish just so we could go to jail.

"We are religious people. The Elders come and trade for what we use. If we are asked to give first to longhouses, we give with no profit. (Please turn to page 2 column 4)

Greyhound strike:

Drivers resist pay cuts

by Robert Lothian

"Take Greyhound, and leave the driving to us," has traditionally meant that passengers on America's largest bus line could travel with confidence, knowing that experienced drivers would deliver them safely to their destination.

But not any more—not since the strike and replacement of Greyhound's experienced drivers and baggage handlers with strikebreakers by a management intent on union busting, says Ed Mattingly, vice-president of the Amalgamated Transit Workers, Local 1055.

Greyhound was shut down for two weeks, but resumed limited service with replacement employees as thousands of union picketers demonstrated, threw eggs and attempted to keep busses from rolling in cities across the U.S.

"The public, in our opinion, is being used by Mr. Teets [Greyhound Chairman John W. Teets] to prove to us that he can operate that service, and the unfortunate thing is, the service is offered by non-professionals," said Mattingly.

Replacement drivers are being sent out on icy roads after a two-week crash course, he said, while their union counterparts had 8 to 16 weeks of training and first went on the road in spring and summer, when road conditions are best.

"It actually takes five years to become a professional, skilled driver," said Mattingly, who has driv-

en heavy equipment for 40 years, 23 as a Greyhound driver. "And that's why I say Mr. Teets has complete disregard for the public."

Mattingly said an accident in Fresno, involving a bus driven by a strikebreaking trainee and a car which refused to yield, might have been avoided had a skilled professional been driving the bus.

"There's been many accidents avoided simply because we know what to look for and how to react to it. As far as the public is concerned, not the company, but the professional, skilled drivers have given Greyhound the professional record that they lay claim to. We are responsible for that, not these strikebreakers."

Mattingly said the union membership held firm against management's ultimatum that they go back to work or lose their jobs, with only six out of nearly 600 crossing the picket line.

The strike resulted from union rejection of management's contract offer of 23.5 percent wage and benefit cuts. Greyhound says it needs the cuts to stay competitive with other bus companies and deregulated airlines. The union, said Mattingly, is willing to offer some concessions, but he thinks management's real aim is to break the union, not negotiate a contract.

"The company's ultimatum was take it or leave it, that's it," said Mattingly. "We believe that they actually wanted us to go on strike as their first step in a union busting ef-

fort. The company could spend millions to break the union and regain it in a couple of months if they got what they want."

"We're in a fight for our very existence as a union. The end result of this fight will be the determining factor in the survival of the rest of the ATU membership that is employed by other bus lines. If Greyhound is successful in its efforts to break the union," he added, "then other national conglomerates will be encouraged to do the same thing."

The union requests that the public refrain from patronizing Greyhound, said Mattingly. In addition, he said, other unions, aware of what the strike outcome could mean to them, have offered money and help manning the picket lines, and a nationally advertised passenger boycott endorsed by the AFL-CIO leadership is in the offing. "It will come to that if the strike continues," he said.

Mattingly is concerned about the safety of passengers should strike-related violence spill out onto the highways.

"This union does not condone violence, particularly violence which might involve injury to public, paying passengers. But it should be realized that, even if we don't advocate or condone violence, the anger and frustration and sometimes the actions of the membership cannot be controlled simply because three union officers cannot be with all 600 members at one time watching every move they make."

Musician undaunted by illness

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—In the summer of 1975 Morell McCree was a young man living from a life plan that he designed. He has just received his Second Class F.C.C. license and was in Canada playing bass with a band called The Best of Friends.

Fate dealt McCree a different hand when, on stage in Canada, he had his first attack of multiple sclerosis—the great crippler of young adults.

"The attack paralyzed me instantly. I recovered and here it is eight years later I'm back at school." McCree is a first year political science major at Portland State University.

In between classes McCree said, "In the beginning people didn't understand what had happened to me. Now, they understand because they realize that it could happen to them. They have adjusted and so have I."

Dr. John Hammerstad, McCree's physician, explained the debilitating process of M.S. on the body: "M.S. is a disease destroying the functions of the central nervous system. The nerve coverings are destroyed and dissolved. The nerves are left bare which is why they don't function properly. This produces symptoms like abnormalities in sensations and weaknesses in the arms and legs." Dr. Hammerstad called McCree's attack "severe."

McCree recalled one of the experiences he has faced since his handicap. "Once before I got in a wheelchair this man saw me walking and thought I was drunk. He told me to leave but when he saw my wheelchair he started apologizing. I thought that was funny."

His movements may be restricted by the wheelchair but his mind is afire with ideas and solutions to

(Please turn to page 8 column 3)



In spite of illness, Morell McCree retains his involvement and interest. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)