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Over 300 Portlanders braved the wind and rain Saturday, April 7th, to join the 5th annual March Against Racism. At the rally that followed at King Park, the crowd was addressed by Trevor Fowler,

from the African National Congress, and Ronnie Herndon from the Portland chapter of the Black United Front.

(Photo: Kamau Anderson)

Blacks excluded constitutionally

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Last week, Portlanders were told the new constitution of the racist regime in South Africa and the non-aggression pact South Africa forced Mozambique to sign are just new methods to the madness of apartheid.

Rev. Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and Trevor Fowler, Secretary of the Southern California Chapter of the outlawed African National Congress, disseminated this information as part of the national observance of South African week.

On Thursday, April 5th, at Commissioner Charles Jordan's luncheon forum, Boesak said, "The new constitution does not change

old repression. The new constitution entrenches racism and gives it a constitutional framework."

The new constitution praised by the Reagan Administration provides for three separate parliaments for white, coloreds and Indians. The majority population, Blacks, are excluded.

For the 22 million Blacks it is repression as usual. Blacks are forced to live on 13 percent of the land called bantustans. During the last 35 years, the South African government has used the policy of forced resettlement to put Blacks into the bantustans.

The day-to-day movements of Blacks are regimented by "influx control" which regulates who may enter white South African and under what conditions. Millions of Africans are migrant workers. They

are forced by this system to live their married life as if they were single. They see their families once a year.

The rigid system of labor control requires Blacks to carry passbooks at all times. These passbooks specify where they can legally live and work.

Boesak said the hope the people have is centered on the United Democratic Front, an organization comprised of 600 student, union and reform organizations. In August, the UDF will boycott the elections. "We will show the world that the people are not represented by the 3 or 4 Blacks who participate in the elections."

He also condemned the non-aggression pact South Africa signed with Mozambique. "That peace

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Guatemala:

Human rights violations persist

by Catherine Siegner

Most of what we hear about Central America comes to us through news reports or from politicians visiting the war-torn area. It isn't often that we get a glimpse of one of our southern neighbors through the eyes of a cultural anthropologist.

Dr. Benjamin D. Paul, emeritus professor at Stanford University in California, visited Portland last week as a guest of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, the Oregon Committee for the Humanities and Portland State University. He gave his experiences and observations from more than 40 years of studying a rural village in Guatemala.

Guatemala is sandwiched between Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize. It is unique in that the majority of its population are descendants of the Mayan Indians who achieved a complex culture hundreds of years before the Spanish came and conquered. They speak Maya, not Spanish.

Dr. Paul said he first came to the rural Indian village in 1941 and has "gone back many times since." He said at first the residents were quite curious about him and crowded around, asking questions about why

he was among them.

"They could understand about cultural anthropology once I explained it to them, but couldn't comprehend why I decided to go there until I explained that my professor had told me to," Paul said. "That someone told you to do something and then you do it is very easy for them to understand."

Paul said in the many years he has tracked developments in the village, little has changed. The Indians' struggle for sufficient land to feed their families is paramount, he said.

"Competition for land is very great. There is an enormously skewed distribution of land. You need about 17 acres to feed a family, if it's favorable land, and the vast majority have only half of that."

Paul explained that a handful of wealthy families own most of the productive land, holding it in vast estates. "One quarter of the people are absolutely landless and are forced to work as migrant laborers for \$1 to \$2 per day picking cotton and coffee that's exported," he said.

Because of their desperate situation, Paul said there have been attempts by the Indians to change their lot. Even peaceful attempts have been ruthlessly repressed,

however, by a succession of right-wing military governments.

"There have been a few land reform efforts, but governments have been overthrown because of this," he said, adding that when former President Efraim Rios-Montt "made noises that he was thinking about land reform, he was overthrown" by the military. There has been "A lot of rhetoric" (about land reform) but no action, Paul said.

Paul said the U.S. government has had a hand in events in Guatemala for many years. "From 1944 to 1954, there actually was a democratic series of two presidents, but the CIA helped march them out in 1954," he recalled.

"They hatched a plot in Honduras to put in an army rightist president. Since then, the government has been either rightist or ultra-rightist."

Paul said half a million Guatemalan Indians are in exile in Mexico or the United States due to massacres carried out by the government in their homeland. "Mexico is swamped. They have the same problem with Guatemalans as we do

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CAMPAIGN '84:

Judicial portraits

Editors note: Each week between now and the Oregon Primary, May 15th, the Portland Observer will examine the candidates and issues of concern to Portland voters. This week: a review of three candidates for judiciary positions. Next week: the District 18 Legislative race.

Roosevelt Robinson

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Roosevelt Robinson is in the crowded race for Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge, Department 5. Facing four other opponents, Robinson vows, "To bring more of a common sense approach to some of the legal problems that we have in the system."

Since 1978, Robinson has been employed as a Deputy District Attorney. As a prosecutor, he said his background will only have positive effects once he is on the bench.



ROOSEVELT ROBINSON

"The criteria in a criminal case is not whether a judge feels an individual has committed a crime. The burden of proof is on the State to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. My experience gives me insight to know if the State's evidence rises beyond a reasonable doubt or if it's a subjective belief."

The public is more likely to see Robinson at a youth career day than at a rally for justice. "I approach change from a legal point of view in the courtroom setting. Both kinds of protest are equally appropriate and successful," he explained.

In examining the disproportionate number of Afro-American males on the wrong side of the criminal justice system, Robinson advocates all institutions—educational, political, family, economic and various social institutions—work toward a common accord.

"Until all these institutions start working together to alleviate the problem, no one institution can do the job by itself."

Robinson said the judicial system could make its mark on the problem by taking a more visible role in the community. "We should adopt a mentor approach to get first time offenders interested in other things. Also, teach them social skills such as good manners, how to meet people and deal with stress."

him? "My background will bring

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Aaron J. Brown

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Judge Aaron Brown, Jr., faces one opponent for his seat as District Court Judge, Department 8. He is not fazed and is actively running a campaign.

"I have 14 years of experience as a judge. I've done a good job," he added.

Judge Brown adds a rational voice to landlord/tenant cases. "In some cases, people simply do something else with their money. They have different priorities. But, I do believe most people will pay their rent if they are able to."

Judge Brown, like his other Afro-American judicial counterparts, comes from a working class background. "Working those jobs, where you get your hands dirty for so many years, gives me an insight into what is happening to people. It



AARON J. BROWN

helps me decide who is being truthful or if they are shucking around. I can see through most people. I combine educational and living experience to make judgements that are fair and right."

But Judge Brown is well aware of the axiom, "You can't please everyone." "Two people come to

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Mercedes Deiz

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — On Friday, April 6th, Judge Mercedes F. Deiz was celebrating a "no campaign" luncheon with her reelection committee. Her position, as Circuit Court Judge, Department 18, is not being challenged this election year.

Since 1972, Judge Deiz has presided over interpersonal litigation such as divorce and child support; also, over the tragedy of child abuse.

"I have the legal knowledge to be a judge, but much more, I have the sensitivity to people and their needs," Deiz said, responding to the question, "Why should Portlanders vote for you?"

"I believe in impartiality, but I keep my ears in tune to new answers in people's voices. I don't get uptight if a person seems to be con-



MERCEDES DEIZ

temptuous because of his attitude in the courtroom. I would be uptight if I was in the courtroom and did not understand why I was brought there. I hope people will say, 'She is a good judge because she is a caring person.'"

The people may say it, but Judge Deiz is not without critics among

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Jackson takes Philly

by Chuck Goodmacher

Jesse Jackson and Walter Mondale both rolled their way to victory in the Pennsylvania primary Tuesday, as Jackson won the popular vote in heavily Black Philadelphia (and took 17 percent statewide) and Mondale took 45 percent of the vote statewide. Gary Hart, with his 31 percent of the statewide vote, appeared to suffer a major political defeat. Hart seems viable to expand his early base of support amongst voters who are college-educated and who earn \$50,000 a year or more.

Mondale won more than half the union vote and nearly half of the Catholic vote in heavily union and Catholic Pennsylvania. He also won nearly half the vote of people who cited unemployment as their number one issue concern.

Jackson's victory in Philadelphia came despite Mayor Wilson Goode's endorsement of Walter Mondale.

All candidates endorsed by Goode did win, however.

Voter turnout by Blacks throughout the state was exceptionally high. Said Jackson, "Not only are we winning in Philadelphia ... politics in Pittsburgh will never be the same."

Once again, the complicated delegate selection process heavily favored the front-runner. Of the 149 delegates at stake in Pennsylvania, Mondale is credited with 109, Hart with 20 and Jackson with 10.

May 5th is the next primary day. One hundred and sixty-nine delegates will be at stake in Texas and 57 in Louisiana.

Jackson's campaign received a major boost here in Oregon last Thursday, April 5th, when a straw ballot of Multnomah County Democratic precinct people put Jackson in second place behind Mondale. Jackson received 51 votes, Mondale 68 and Hart 39.