

N.E. Crime Stats August 1984

Robbery: Boise 2, Concordia 7, Eliot 10, Humboldt 16, Irvington 3, King 12, Piedmont 5, Sabin 6, Vernon 3, Woodlawn 0.
Aggravated Assaults: Boise 6, Concordia 1, Eliot 8, Humboldt 14, Irvington 5, King 23, Piedmont 12, Sabin 3, Vernon 11, Woodlawn 2.
Home Burglaries: Boise 14, Concordia 15, Eliot 11, Humboldt 18, Irvington 24, King 26, Piedmont 18, Sabin 18, Vernon 13, Woodlawn 8.

Bigotry's History

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Improve Skills

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Overuse of Drugs

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Two Sections



Pam Smith, co-chair of voter registration for the Portland Rainbow Organizing Committee, briefs volunteers prior to going out to register voters Saturday. The volunteers registered over 200 new voters. While Smith was pleased with the effort she

said, "There are a lot of people that still need to be contacted." Volunteers are needed for a second voter drive on Saturday, Oct. 13th. For information, call 284-1715.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Campaign '84

Candidates seek Black vote

Editor's note:

Each week between now and Election Day, November 6th, the Portland Observer will keep you informed on the candidates and issues. This week we interviewed two of the candidates for Portland City Council.

Bill Deiz

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — When City Council candidate Bill Deiz went to file for City Council Position No. 4, Jewel Lansing, the City's Auditor, enforced a three-year residency requirement that prevented him from filing September 28. But Deiz filed suit in federal court last Friday challenging the constitutionality of the residency requirement and won.

U.S. District Court Judge Owen Panner awarded Deiz \$6,500 in attorney fees. "I was the wronged party. I sued the City because their illegal law deprived me of my right."



BILL DEIZ
(Photo: Kathryn H. Bogle)

"There is recognition that the law is very weak. It was designed to keep carpetbaggers out and Bill Deiz is no carpetbagger," he added.

Deiz said he first thought of running for a Council seat when Mike Lindberg approached him about running for his seat. At the time, Lindberg was considering running for Mayor. "Lindberg said he saw leadership qualities in me. It helps that I'm Black, because I bring a Black perspective to politics. But my standards and qualifications are what will get me the job," he said.

But will Deiz really bring a Black perspective to the Council? One common criticism of him is that he has never been on the front lines of any local issues.

"I have been there," Deiz explained. As a professional journalist I could not demonstrate but I've always been a fighter for civil rights."

Deiz cited his involvement with the Screen Actor's Guild where he worked hard during his eight years in Los Angeles to get Hollywood to hire and represent people of color fairly on the silver screen.

In Portland, Deiz worked as Commissioner Lindberg's assistant from 1981-84. He was a liaison to the personnel bureau during a time when the City ignored its Affirmative Action requirements. Deiz said the Council also ignored his pushes to employ women, minorities and the handicapped.

"This is a situation where the victim is blamed and not the people who perpetrated the defect. If there is anyone to blame, it's the City Council members who did not do the right thing."

On the campaign trail, Deiz said one of the issues he has embraced is mass transportation. He said the focus is currently backwards. "It ignores the central city. I would like the transportation focus on bringing central area residents to the suburbs where those high-tech jobs are located."

He also advocates a pre-employment training program sponsored by

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Herb Cawthorne

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The candidate whom a substantial segment of the Black community has endorsed is Herb Cawthorne. On August 29, in a letter to the editor Rev. John Jackson, Henry Scott, Vesia Loving, Ray Leary and Avel Mayfield were among the signatories who said, "Herb is best qualified to run and win the seat because of years of service to our community, experience and his intelligence."

Reflecting on those early endorsements, including that of the Oregon Rainbow Committee, Cawthorne said "The Black community is starting to understand that politics is a difficult business. If you want to make change, everybody has to help." In the first two days of his campaign Cawthorne said he raised \$4,000.

Cawthorne was one of the architects of the District 18 Leadership



HERB CAWTHORNE
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Forums where 200 residents gather to vote for one candidate to run as a Democratic representative. This led to

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Nuclear protestors jailed

by Robert Lothian

The weapons on the train they stopped in July could be "cruising around the Pacific" by now in the words of one White Train protester. Memory of the train, and the sobering thought of the destructive power of the nuclear weapons it is capable of carrying, returned last week as 30 protesters went on trial in Vancouver.

The 30 were arrested July 27 as they sat on Burlington Northern tracks in Vancouver, stopping the all-white train they said carried as many as 144 nuclear warheads to the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington.

It seemed at times as if a ghostly apparition of the White Train stood on the tracks near the courthouse, waiting for a decision, as the trial progressed through the week.

In the end, the protesters were convicted of obstructing a train, a misdemeanor. Judge Eugene Harris imposed sentences ranging from 2 to 10 days in jail on eight defendants. Nine others went to jail for four days each after refusing to pay the \$100 fine imposed on each of those convicted; 12 received fines but no sentence and one got off with no fine or jail sentence.

Each received two years probation, but many said they will continue their protests.

The six-person jury deliberated for eight hours after the five-day trial. Some jury members admitted later that they searched for ways to find the protesters not guilty, but that they felt compelled to follow instructions from Judge Harris which said they must convict if they found that the protesters stopped the train.

The protesters didn't dispute that they stopped the train, and several told the jury they would do it again when they get the chance. They based their defense on international law and the Nuremberg principles which obligate citizens to disobey when their nation participates in illegal wars or crimes against humanity.

For the protesters, the issues were nuclear war and acts of conscience to stop it. For judge and jury, "The issue was whether they sat on the tracks," in the words of one jury member.

There were emotional outbursts from both judge and protesters. One of the protesters refused to stand when the judge entered the courtroom, precipitating a scene which ended with 12 protesters being cited for contempt by Harris and sentenced to two days in jail.

When other protesters and members of the audience began singing, judge threatened "to start gagging people." He often pounded his desk and made threats in response to defendants who rose in protest of his

decisions. In one such incident, after he repeatedly ruled out statements about international law by the defense, and then allowed a statement by the prosecution about nuclear proliferation in Russia, the defendants rose en masse to protest.

"This trial is a circus," said a friend of one of the protesters. It reminded others of the Chicago Seven trial in 1969 when Judge Julius Hoffman had Bobby Seale bound and gagged.

One of those cited for contempt,

looked forward to a time when "more and more people choose to put themselves between the instruments of violence and the victims of violence."

"In my heart I know I'm right," said another protester. "Look into your conscience when you decide our fate," he told the jury.

Besides the argument about international law having precedence over local law, the defense wrangled with the judge over the issue of whether the train was legally operated. The defense contended that federal regula-



White Train protestors relax during lunch break in their trial.
(Photo: Kris Altucher)

Laura Powell from Portland, said it was refreshing to talk to prisoners in the Clark County jail after listening to the judge. "Quite frankly, I have as much contempt for him as he has for me," she said. But later, in her closing statement, Powell said she looked forward to a time when the judge would join in the protests.

Other defendants quoted from the Bible and recited prayers in emotional closing statements that had members of the audience and even, it appeared, some jury members in tears. John Schiebert, pastor of Lincoln Street Methodist Church in Portland, said he acted in accordance with a "moral imperative" which made his action right, if not legal. He said he

tions stipulate that a train carrying nuclear weapons had to have warning placards and couldn't go over 35 m.p.h. According to testimony, the White Train had no placards and had travelled up to 55 m.p.h. But the judge ruled in his jury instructions that "lawfully" meant "with the permission of and under the authority of the railroad company," killing the defense argument.

The convictions and jail sentences are the first to result from a series of local anti-nuclear protests in the past year. When the White Train came through Portland on Union Pacific tracks last winter, Union Pacific dropped all charges against protesters.

Exiled South Africans begin American tour

Exiled Black South Africans, concerned clergy and southern Africa specialists begin a 26-city southeastern tour of the United States Friday October 5th, to alert citizens to oppression under the white-ruled government of South Africa, dangers of the U.S. "constructive engagement" foreign policy there, and the need for corporate withdrawal from the Republic.

The 14-person multi-racial delegation will visit campuses, churches and community meetings in nine states from North Carolina to Florida and west to Louisiana and Arkansas. Other states to be visited during the 9-day tour include Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

"Many Americans have virtually no knowledge of what is happening in the Republic of South Africa, and what it is doing to destabilize countries on its borders," declared Jerry Herman, tour coordinator, of the American Friends Service Com-

mittee. He heads the Southern Africa program of the Quaker organization from its Philadelphia headquarters.

"The U.S. foreign policy of 'constructive engagement' with South Africa does hardly a thing to change that government's devastating programs and laws against South African Blacks, Coloreds and Indians, who make up 84 percent of the population."

Herman said another focus will be current disturbances in South Africa, because of its new constitution and because of increased rents. The constitution gives limited votes to Coloreds and Indians, but continues to deny the vote to Blacks — 72% of the population.

"We are using films, slides and other educational resources to help bring the facts of true conditions in South Africa to people throughout the southeastern and south central United States," Herman added.

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