

# Former Portland student jailed in So. Africa

by Bill Bigelow  
(Reprinted from *The Oregonian*)  
When Kate Philip, an exchange student from South Africa, left Portland's Jefferson High School in 1979 she was asked in the school yearbook what her plans were.

"Go back home," she replied, "finish my degrees at the University of Cape Town and after that, I don't know."

Last week Philip, 23, was arrested under South Africa's sweeping Internal Security laws. She is president of the white National Union of South Africa Students.

Her arrest came as no surprise to her former teachers at Jefferson and the Kurtz family, 6146 N. Kerby St.,

with whom Philip lived for five months.

Polly Kurtz, Kate Philip's American "mother," remembers Philip as a "warm, kind and caring individual" who was "alarmed and anxious that South Africa's racist government not get its way." Philip once confided to Mrs. Kurtz, "If I'm true to my convictions I'll spend some time in prison."

Jefferson High School art and photography teacher, Henry Sjoblom, remembers her as "extremely intense, very bright. She wanted to come to Jefferson because she was tired of living in white ghettos."

Did Philip's arrest surprise him?

"I'd been expecting to read about it any day. She's a fighter."

"But an odd thing," he continued. "She was quite enamored with her country. She didn't hate it; she just wanted to change the social system."

Philip comes from a long tradition of "rebels," according to Sjoblom. Her father, David Philip, is an independent publisher in South Africa. He has published numerous books critical of South Africa's apartheid system, including several by Alan Paton, author of *Cry, The Beloved Country*.

Ms. Philip was in the U.S. as an exchange student with the American Field Service program. She was first placed in Lake Oswego's Lakeridge High School. "It reminded her too much of her whites-only schooling in South Africa," Sjoblom commented. "But she had to fight to get into Jefferson. The AFS folks didn't want her to move."

At Jefferson, Philip joined the yearbook staff and became involved in the TV, music and dance programs. "She was a joiner," Sjoblom said, "very outgoing, other kids loved her. She was quite popular."

When Philip returned to South Africa she didn't hesitate in expressing her defiance to white rule. She wrote to the Kurtz family that, "When we came off the plane, Theo (a close Black friend) and I were holding hands. As we climbed down the ramp the Blacks at the bottom who saw us started, and pointed with exclamations. The whites in the luggage vehicles all leaned out and watched us all the way in."

"It's not illegal. It's just not done."

"Theo's back in Port Elizabeth and I'm back in Cape Town. But we definitely got the message we were home."

At the University of Cape Town, Philip involved herself in student anti-apartheid activities. She joined the National Union of South African Students and quickly was elected to its National Council.

In her campaign materials she spoke bitterly of those students not trying to change the system. "Fence sitting is not just a cop-out, it is an acceptance of the status quo. If we as privileged students are to play any role in fundamental social change, it is necessary to take a stand now."

Philip's arrest comes in the wake of an extremely successful general strike launched in South Africa's Transvaal area. Two thirds of the country's industry is located there. The strike was called by student organizations but "co-directed," in the words of a participant, by South

Africa's increasingly strong Black unions.

The strike is significant because it reflects a heightened level of unity in South Africa between Black workers, students and community organizations. The government's detention of Philip and close to 1,000 others this year indicates how fearful the apartheid leaders are of these developing alliances.

Philip has been charged with no crime. Instead the government has detained her under the country's Internal Security laws. Accused of violating no laws, Philip has no right to a trial or legal assistance. Her imprisonment may be extended indefinitely provided the Minister of Justice continues to certify her a threat to state security.

Avel Gordly, Southern Africa program director for the American Friends Service Committee in Portland, said, "Things look bad for Kate. Without pressure on the government her family may not even be told where she is."

According to Gordly, torture is frequently used against detainees. As of last year 57 people are known to have died while in detention.

"She knew she was taking a risk," remarked Jefferson High Social Studies teacher Joel Daniels. "Students kept asking her, 'Why are you going to go back?' And she would just say, 'It's my home. I want to work for justice.'"

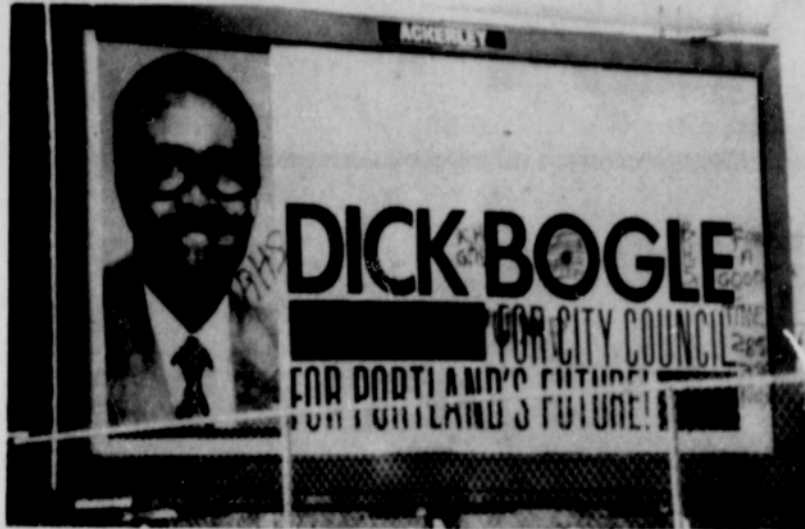
Those people wanting to protest the detentions of Kate Philip and others in South Africa are urged to write:

Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, Union Buildings, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

Secretary of State George Shultz, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Send copies of your letters to: Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF), 2249 E. Burnside Ave., Portland, OR 97214.

And Detainees' Parents Support Committee, P.O. Box 39431, Bramley, Transvaal, Republic of South Africa, 2018.



One of several billboards around town displaying the work of vandals. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

## Billboards vandalized

Campaign billboards for city council candidates Dick Bogle and Kay Toran were defaced recently.

The two billboards, on North Lombard in the St. Johns area, appear to have been specifically targeted by the vandals. They are located several miles apart and no other billboards were found defaced nearby.

Beards and mustaches were painted on the billboards, along with profanity. "Benson Tech," "BHS," and "RHS," were also prominent, raising speculation that the defacement was done by high school students.

David Williams, vice-principal at Benson High School, said that if a student at Benson were found to have participated in the vandalism,

an apology to Bogle and Toran would be in order as well as some community service. Vice-principal at Roosevelt High, Tom Christian, said the issue might be referred to the student council.

A spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union said that an Oregon law (ORS 166.155) makes it a class A misdemeanor to attack another person's property for reasons of "race, color, religion or national origin." Whether a billboard paid for by a candidate can be considered their property is open to interpretation, he said.

The Portland Police bureau's North Precinct said that no complaints had been filed regarding the billboards, and there were no suspects.

Both Bogle and Toran declined to comment.

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## Black prisoners hold annual justice forum

Uhuru Sa Sa welcome the community to the Second Annual Black Prisoners Forum. This probably concerns you since 51% of Black males are arrested in urban cities at least once a lifetime. Friday, November 30, 1984, the Black Prisoners Forum will take place at the King School Cafeteria.

The issue is racial disparities in America's Justice System. To address these issues we have put together a number of interested parties. Robert Watson; Corrections Administrator, J. C. Kenney; Superintendent of the Oregon State Penitentiary, Ron Herndon; Co-chairman of the Black United Front Halimm Rashan, and Margaret Carter. Leading the question panel will be Ms. Lanita Duke along with other media members.

There will be presentations made by inmates from the Oregon State Penitentiary. Come out November 30, 1984, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., located at 4815 N.E. 7th, Portland. This concerns you.

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1/2 cup lemon juice	

Combine milk, lemon rind and juice in large bowl. Fold in whipped topping, blending well. Spoon into crust and chill 2 to 3 hours. Garnish with additional whipped topping and lemon slices, if desired.