



Happy New Year

Reagan's recession

Page 4



Blazers backslide

Page 9



Indian artists

Page 7

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Darryl Millner, head of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University and Jim Stuart, chaplain at Lewis and Clark College, inform the secretary at Martin Sales International Corp. of their readiness to wait in the office until Calvin Van Pelt.

honorary consul to South Africa, returns. They were escorted from the office by Portland Police officers and cited for trespassing. See related story below.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Detroiters picket General Motors

by Bill Collins

DETROIT — The Free South Africa Movement gained momentum as it hit Detroit this week with an infusion of anti-apartheid activity, expressing contempt for white-minority rule in South Africa and opposition to the Reagan policy of "constructive engagement."

In Detroit this national campaign is most visibly reflected by the *Midwest Coalition Against Apartheid*, which is sponsoring a week-long call to action. This effort includes teach-ins on African liberation movements, strategy discussions with community leaders, ministers and politicians, fundraisers and demonstrations.

Formation of the Midwest Coalition was inspired by the September uprisings in South Africa, according to spokesman Abayomi Azikiwe. These uprisings signaled a new wave of Black resistance to minority rule. A regional anti-apartheid conference held during November by the Midwest Anti-apartheid Coalition was supported by a Detroit City Council resolution. According to

Axikiwe, the conference contributed to the development of a regional anti-apartheid strategy to pressure the U.S. government to change its South African policies.

Also participating in the Free South Africa campaign is the Detroit support committee of TransAfrica.

TransAfrica is the Washington-based public policy organization which is credited for initiating the national campaign this past fall. Engaged in lobbying efforts and public awareness activity, TransAfrica strives to influence U.S. foreign policy in African and Caribbean nations with African-American concerns.

The Detroit TransAfrican support committee has worked in cooperation with the Midwest Anti-Apartheid Coalition, rallying such diverse organizations as Detroit locals of the NAACP, the AFL-CIO, Republic of New Africa, U.S. Peace Council, National Organization of Women, and many others.

On Friday, December 14, a spirited demonstration was held at the downtown offices at General Motors Cor-

poration. GM, together with other U.S. companies, have \$2.3 billion invested in South Africa.

Demonstration leaders included two Michigan state legislators — Sen. Jackie Vaughn III and rep. Nelson Sanders — along with Rev. Robert Smith of Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church. After waiting one hour, they were refused an audience with GM officials with whom they attempted to discuss the role GM investments play in supporting the racist apartheid system.

One of the 70 demonstrators, unemployed social worker A. T. Clavon, had this to say: "GM pays people two dollars and some cents per hour in South Africa. . . . where they (South African government) murder people. . . to do the same kind of work they do in factories here in Detroit. Apartheid is corporate slavery."

All of Detroit's anti-apartheid forces are being called out for a demonstration on December 20 to culminate this week-long call to action. Detroiters Rosa Parks, whose refusal

Please turn to Page 2, Column 3)

Looking back at 1984

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — One of the most significant events in 1984 was the presidential campaign of Jesse Lewis Jackson and the political basis that empowered him — the Rainbow Coalition.

On July 17, 1984 Jackson stood at the podium in San Francisco, California, during the Democratic National Convention and challenged democracy with jobs, peace and justice. During the campaign trail, Jackson interjected a humane approach to diplomacy by freeing Lt. Robert Goodman after he was shot down in Syria. In Cuba he secured the release of 19 American prisoners.

This section of Jackson's political sermon to America typifies the Jackson legacy:

"Democracy guarantees opportunity, it does not guarantee success. Democracy guarantees the right to participate, it does not give a license to either a majority or a minority to dominate. The victory for the Rainbow Coalition in the platform debates today was not whether we won or lost the vote, but that we raised the right issues. We could afford to lose the vote. Issues are negotiable. We could not afford to avoid raising the right questions. Our self-respect and our moral integrity were at stake. Our heads are perhaps bloody, but unbowed. Our back is straight and our vision is clear. And when we think, in this journey from slavery to championship, that we have gone from the planks of the boardwalk in Atlantic City in 1964 to fighting to help write the planks in the Democratic Party platform in San Francisco in 1984, there is a deep and abiding sense of joy in our souls in spite of the tears in our eyes. Though there are missing planks, there is a solid foundation upon which we can build."

Because of a mood that Jackson set when he said he would choose a woman as his running mate, the Democratic ticket saw its first one — Geraldine Ferraro. This ticket did not appeal to the voters as 33 percent of the registered voters, who voted, rejected the Democratic Ticket during

the 1984 Presidential election.

On the home front the departure of City Commissioner Charles Jordan to head the Parks department in Austin, Texas, deflated and inflated political careers. A City Council race that started with 19 contenders ended with two. County Commissioner Gladys McCoy said she would "Hit the ground running" if elected. County charter said she had to resign her County seat to run. The voters pulled the ground from under her by selecting Herb Cawthorne and Dick Bogle. Bogle, a former police officer and television newsman, was the final choice. And Gretchen Kafoury replaced McCoy as County Commissioner in District 2.

In District 18, Margaret Carter became the first Afro-American woman to serve in the legislature with an electoral landslide over the incumbent Ed Leek, challenger Harold Williams and republican contender Chad Debnam. This is a far cry from the first election in District 18 where eight Black candidates split the vote up and Ed Leek walked away with the seat. The community rebounded with the District 18 leadership forum which allowed community residents to vote for a candidate they want to back in the election. Luther Strong, Harold Williams and Margaret Carter were the candidates and Carter won.

The economy

The employment situation improved slightly and is starting to erode. Union Avenue has seen some aggressive investment in the form of Union Square. But other parts of Union are underdeveloped or lying dormant.

American State Bank lost \$1.3 billion in deposit as the Treasury Department re-read the law and withdrew the deposits of BPA. The Black United Front reached an accord with the Portland Bottling Company and called off the boycott of 7-Up.

Affirmative Action

1984 was not a good year for Affirmative Action. The Metropolitan Human Relation Commission re-

vealed that when the City of Portland had an opportunity to hire a person of color or a woman it neglected to do so. The Portland Observer looked into the city's hirings and documented historical discriminatory practices by the City's Fire Bureau.

Nationally, the Supreme Court legitimized the illegitimate notion of reverse discrimination by placing seniority over Affirmative Action.

Education

Children of color were testing one-to-three grades behind their white classmates in the Portland Public Schools. Black children represented disproportions in special education, suspensions and those receiving modified diplomas. The former principal of King School, Samuel Cameron, was hit with complaints that he was insensitive. Cameron was replaced. And teachers in the Jefferson cluster received training in Afro-American history.

Communications

Marlene McClinton joined KATU as a co-anchor. Gil Scott-Heron performed at Portland State University and Marvin Gaye was shot by his father. Black Community Television (Channel 23) won the ACE award, the cable industry's Oscar, while Rogers Cablesystem defaults on their community commitment due to cost overruns and fewer subscribers.

Afro-American Programmers at Community Radio, KBOO, took destiny into their own hands by removing themselves from the process of programming changes. With community support as their intro, Black programmers received a year-long freeze in their programming and a discussion of self-determination.

Miscellaneous

The City Club proposed a zone for prostitution and Police Chief Still resigns. Vanessa Williams, the first Black Miss America, resigns after the publication of nude, sexually explicit

Please turn to Page 2, Column 2)

Oregon Democrats join South African protests

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—A trio of Democratic contemporaries added their voices to those demanding the resignation of South Africa consulate Calvin Van Pelt.

State Representatives elect Margaret Carter (District 18), Mike Burton (District 17) and Dick Celsi, chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, were the third group to be arrested for trespassing since Portland Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF) started this form of civil disobedience.

Carter approached the desk at the office of Martin Sales International Corporation, Friday, December 21, where Van Pelt represents the interest of South Africa. "We want Van Pelt to resign his position," demanded Carter. When the secretary of Martin Sales threatened to have the police arrest the trio for trespassing, Carter replied, "We have to do what we have to do."

Carter, Burton and Celsi were given criminal citation for trespassing. "It was an exciting moment, but at

one point when they said, 'You are under arrest,' I had a sinking feeling. Overall, the police treated us quite professionally," Carter added.

Celsi said, "I've been concerned about apartheid for a long time. I'm concerned about the lack of activity by the local and federal government. I'm critical of Democrats who duck this issue. Not all Democrats life by the platform but I do whatever I can to promote it."

The 1984 platform of the Democratic Party reads, "... we will reverse the Reagan Administration's failed policy of constructive engagement and strongly and unequivocally oppose the apartheid regime in South Africa. A Democratic Administration will exert maximum pressure on South Africa to hasten the establishment of a democratic unitary political system in South Africa. . . . impose a ban on all new loans by U.S. business interest. . . . reimpose export control ban the sale or transfer of sophisticated computers and nuclear technology. . . . and withdraw land-



Margaret Carter, Representative from District 18, speaks to picketers outside the office of Portland's honorary consul to South Africa. Dick Celsi, chair of the

Oregon State Democratic Party and Mike Burton, Representative from District 17, were arrested along with Carter in Friday's demonstration.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ing rights to South African aircraft."

"Our individual act may not do any good but collectively we can bring pressure to bear on South Africa. The only way we will be free is if people in South Africa are free," Burton explained.

Avel Gordley, director of American Friends' Southern African project, said people are now aware that there is a Southern African consulate in Portland. "They are starting to ask why. We will continue to protest until Van Pelt resigns."

Gordley said "Burton and Carter acted courageously. "During Carter's campaign she said she would be in the forefront of the anti-apartheid movement. She is keeping her campaign promise. But where are the other Black leaders and ministers? Where are our State Senator and County Commissioner?" she asked.

Van Pelt's office is located at the Dayton Building on S.W. First and Yamhill. Demonstrations and civil disobedience will continue every Wednesday and Friday at noon.