

# P.C.C. incubator business robbed

by Bob Lothian

Executive Custom Tailoring International, a new business less than three months old and part of the business incubator program at PCC Cascade, was cleaned out of its merchandise Friday night, December 21st.

The robbery was a rude Christmas present for owner Willie Banks. He said a recent shipment of 35 men's suits valued at about \$14,000 was taken by the robbers, who also made off with an electric typewriter and bank deposit slips. The robbers appeared to have entered through a window in Banks' office at the Cascade Business Center at 573 N. Killingsworth.

"Oh boy, what a way to start a business," said Banks. "I'm trying to promote jobs, and this is just a real setback. I'm just disgusted, that's all."

Banks said the stolen items were covered by insurance, and while the robbery was a setback, he was ready to bounce back.

"We're going on with the business," said Banks, who intends to go ahead with plans for a shop downtown at the Galleria and for a training program for 20 unemployed men and women.

Executive Tailoring was accepted into the incubator program in November. PCC



**WILLIE BANKS**  
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

provides Banks with an office and work space for his four seamstresses and tailors and their equipment at low rent. Secretarial and janitorial help, accounting, payroll and computing services are provided

by PCC. The college, in conjunction with the Small Business Administration, provides a shelter for up to three years until the new businesses are on their feet and can move into the community.

Businesses accepted into the incubator program must be at least 50 percent minority or female owned and at least half owned by neighborhood residents. Owners work under a three year plan with a consulting group of CPAs, attorneys and marketing people, and they agree to hire and train unemployed or underemployed workers and to try and locate their business in the low income community.

One of the six incubating businesses at the center, Magnum Protective Services, owned by Karl Johns, was the recipient of the first minority business loan from the Portland Development Commission.

Banks' four employees work at custom fitting of clothes for men, women and children. "We'll actually come to your business and custom tailor your suit," he said. "We deal in high quality merchandise, affordable to anyone within a reasonable price range." Also, Banks added, "I plan to train some of the best tailors in the city."

Banks, 37, is a civil engineer in road design for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Portland. In his spare time, he volunteers as a social worker on his own and with the N.W. Pilot Project helping senior citizens. As part of his volunteer work he started a clothes closet for seniors and disadvantaged people, gaining the expertise that led him to start his tailoring business. Although not a tailor himself, he employs several S.E. Asians who are excellent tailors, he said.

"I like to see people dress nice and look good," said Banks. "It's very important in the job market to look your best." Expressing concern for the unemployed and disadvantaged, Banks said he plans to contact such people "and help them in any way to prepare for future jobs."

Banks does not shirk work. "I'm a man that takes on responsibility," he said. "My dad trained me to take on responsibility and do a good job, and that's what I plan to do with this business." While the robbery is a momentary setback, Banks said that by the end of three years he hopes to have 20 employees, a shop downtown and connections with Hong Kong clothing manufacturers.

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## Examining the laws of apartheid .....

It's a "crime" for a black couple from two separate areas, or "homelands," in South Africa to marry. "Imagine, it's like prohibiting a Marylander from wedding a Georgian," says Dr. Nana Seshibe, a Black South African expatriate.

It's also illegal for a Black to supervise a white in South Africa. Ironically, this collides with the Sullivan Principles, which encourage U.S. companies in South Africa to advance Blacks into management positions, she indicates.

And it's sure detention for a Black South African caught in "white" South Africa without a pass.

These are everyday realities Blacks face under the racially segregated system of apartheid, according to Seshibe (pronounced Sea-she-be), a professor in the Howard University African Studies and Research Program.

Many Americans are aware of apartheid only in a general sense. But the laws of the land that Blacks must abide by, or suffer stark consequences, paint a more complete picture, she emphasizes.

Since Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, was named the 1984 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, sensitivity and awareness of the implications of apartheid have heightened.

His continuing denouncement of apartheid as evil and immoral, likening it to Nazism and Communism, has echoed around the globe.

But South Africa's commitment to apartheid — or separation of the races — holds deep roots, formulated into policies that exclude participation by 23 million Black South Africans in the affairs of a government dominated by the 4.7 million white minority.

Indeed, South Africa is a nation ruled by law — laws that sustain apartheid despite mounting worldwide criticism pointing to human rights violations.

Since the inception of apartheid in 1948, more than 350 laws or acts targeted solely toward Blacks have been passed, says Seshibe.

These are laws made by the white minority government without input from Blacks, who are denied the right to vote or hold office.

"Nobody interprets, or counsels Blacks on the laws," stresses Seshibe. "They only learn about the laws after they are applied to them."

A key instrument to control the movement of Blacks in South Africa is the "pass laws," initiated in the 1950s. Every Black in "white" South Africa must be able to produce a "pass book" to authorities on demand or face a host of penalties, including imprisonment.

In 1982, more than 200,000 people were arrested under the pass laws,

according to a report citing the Johannesburg Star newspaper.

Because most of the nation's economic activity is in the white areas, the pass laws play a significant role in labor control.

Millions of Africans are migrant workers who must leave their rural homelands for employment in the cities, having to travel long distances and living away from their families in barracks-like hostels.

Says Seshibe: "A father may work in a factory or mine in Johannesburg while the mother may work as a servant in Capetown, leaving the children



**BISHOP DESMOND TUTU**

behind with elders or left alone to take care of themselves. This is a method of destroying the whole family unit."

The educator also points out that Blacks are primarily relegated to menial jobs. "There is no place for an African decision-maker in any capacity (under apartheid)."

Under the Internal Security and Terrorism acts, almost any person can be detained without charge or trial, and held incommunicado indefinitely for posing a challenge to the regime. "Both are so loosely drafted that American courts would almost certainly rule similar statutes unreasonably vague," says the 1981 report of the Study Commission on U.S. Policy Toward Southern Africa, chaired by Franklin A. Thomas, president of the Ford Foundation.

And there is considerable evidence to show that political detainees are commonly tortured and abused during interrogation by security police in South Africa, according to a spokeswoman with Amnesty International, which monitors abuses of human rights globally.

### Looking back at 1984

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

photographs of her with another woman. Voters gave Oregon the death penalty, a Citizen Utility Board and four more years of the Reagan Administration.

Charles Leech became a victim of a motiveless shooting as he is shot by a white male on Union Avenue.

#### Hope

Bishop Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize and the Rainbow Coalition still glows in the form of the Oregon Rainbow Organizing committee.

Reared in Soweto (South-Western Townships), home of some 2 million Blacks near Johannesburg, Seshibe recalls being arrested and briefly jailed, along with her father, for corresponding with associates in another country.

After fleeing her native land, Seshibe completed her high-school education in Tanzania. Subsequently, she earned degrees at American schools, including a doctoral degree in education from the University of Massachusetts.

While control of the land is the foundation of the apartheid system,

In 1959 — 11 years after the descendants of early Dutch settlers launched apartheid — the Afrikaner government introduced the Self-Government Act that divided and forced the Africans into 10 separate "bantustan areas," or "homelands," fragmented by their 10 respective native tongues.

As a result of the act, some families were forced to separate and family members prohibited from visiting unless expressly permitted by the government, says Seshibe.

By driving each African-language group to separate rural homelands, communications among Africans have been minimized, adds the professor of African languages.

Africans are also barred from residing in any of the small or major cities, and are divided along linguistic lines in townships outside the urban centers. The "coloureds" and Indians are restricted to designated urban areas, too.

The Self-Government Act is intended to make the homelands independent nations within South Africa, stripping Africans of their citizenship, Seshibe emphasizes, pointing to Bishop Desmond Tutu's status as an example. The Nobel Peace Prize winner in a speech at Howard University in November noted: "I travel on a document that describes my nationality as 'undetermined at present'."

What will be the fate of South Africa's 23 million Blacks? "Whatever the South African government does to reinforce the status quo, Black forces inside the country will eventually alter it," says the 1981 report by the Study Commission on U.S. Policy Toward Southern Africa.

But a white South African quoted in a recent Parade magazine article noted: "You know, the real name of the game here is power. And economic power is the power in South Africa. This is why the whites here will fight to the bitter and bloody end to retain it."

Bishop Tutu believes that "the only way to avoid a bloodbath will be if the international community comes to our aid."

Seshibe points out, the Native Land Act of 1913 and the Native Trust and Land Act of 1936, both initiated under British rule, apportioned 13 percent of South Africa's land to the African majority while the white minority retained 87 percent, including much of the mineral-rich land.

### Detroit protests

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

to give up her seat in a Montgomery, Alabama, bus in 1955 helping to forge the civil rights movement, will be a featured speaker along with Congressman John Conyers.

Parks, 71, was arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington last week. She joined the scores of political and spiritual leaders who have been arrested in four weeks of anti-apartheid protests at the Embassy.

At a press conference after a reception held by TransAfrica's Detroit support committee on December 16, a panel consisting of Congressman John Conyers, Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and TransAfrica (D.C.) executive director Randall Robinson discussed strategies of the Free South Africa movement and the likelihood of it influencing U.S. policy toward apartheid. Robinson had this to say: "We're in 15 cities now. I see this spreading throughout the United States and Europe. I can virtually promise that in January, in D.C., you will see hundreds of arrests. We've limited the arrests in D.C. to three per day with great difficulty. Ronald Reagan has never denounced apartheid in the way that he did last week, and in strong terms. That is the first step toward the dismantlement of an unacceptable foreign policy."

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