

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Put S. Africa on trial

The refusal of District Court Judge Charles Guinasso to grant jury trials to defendants participating in the protest against a South African Honorary Consulate is equivalent to practicing apartheid with American laws.

The District Attorney's tactic of re-classifying the charge of trespassing to attempted trespassing sidesteps the right of Americans to a jury trial as guaranteed in our Bill of Rights.

The very existence of a South African Consulate in Portland is criminal. He is an ambassador of inhumanity whose sole interest is to promote the business interest of a country that would have made Adolf Hitler proud.

The Judge and District Attorney are trying to defuse a national civil rights movement that has already exploded. Since Thanksgiving Eve '84, 487 civic, political and religious leaders have trespassed and protested the continuing presence of South Africans in the United States.

In Portland, the guilt or innocence of the "Free South Africa" defendants should not be decided by one person. Portlanders should learn the statistics of slavery that affect the lives of the majority population.

We need to put South Africa on trial. The burden is on Mayor Bud Clark to put the matter in perspective by declaring Van Pelt's presence

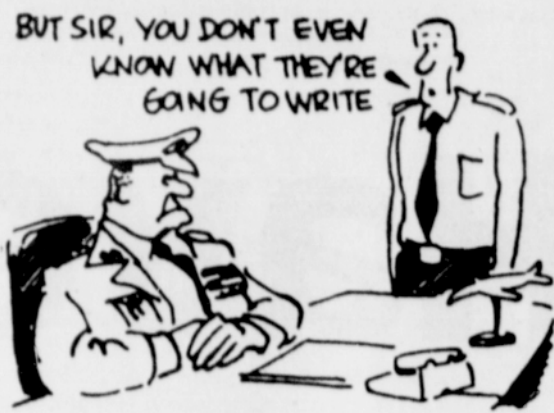
to be a violation of local laws. Clark should follow the example of Seattle's Mayor Royer, who asked South Africa to close their consulate in the Emerald City.

Any promotion of South African interests is a promotion of Nazism. Morally, the greatest sin is to remain silent when a crime is committed. Van Pelt's business activities are a crime and he should honor the request visitors have made — resign.

Justice is not for the convenience of the Judge or the District Attorney. Their job descriptions call for them to protect and serve the citizens and not to censor, dilute or repress.

We urge you to call the District Attorney, demanding a jury trial for the "Free South Africa" defendants. Freedom for the majority Blacks is only hours away. These minute examples of tolerating oppression are against the laws of humanity. Keeping the consulate open makes all of us accessories to a crime.

Locally and nationally, a tidal wave of concern is drowning out the excuses for keeping consulates operational. The "Free South Africa" defendants are demanding an end to the destruction of a people and the rape of the land. Join the winning side. Demand a jury trial for the defendants and the resignation of South African Consulate Van Pelt.



POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

Oregon's role in apartheid

by Marcus Cheatham

The extent of Oregon's economic relations with South Africa, and this state's stubborn refusal to recognize and deal with this problem are shocking. Compared with many other states Oregon appears backward. Our powerful business lobby, including the Treasurer's office and the Honorary South African consul Calvin Van Pelt, squash efforts at cutting links with the world's most racist society. Oregon is even a source for "military aid" to apartheid.

Many Oregon banks provide South Africa with loans needed to import the oil and technology essential for survival. Banks like the Bank of Boston and Rainier Bank have made such loans. One of the worst offenders is SeaFirst, a division of Bank of America. It has loaned nearly 300 million dollars to South Africa and it owns controlling interest in South West Africa Bank in the heart of Namibia's pillaged diamond fields. First Interstate Bank is a problem, too. Although it has not made loans, it is partly owned by Bank of America, one of South Africa's best friends.

It is estimated that the U.S. is South Africa's leading supplier of goods and services, so it is no surprise that a number of Oregon businesses invest there. Teledyne owns 18 percent of Occidental Petroleum whose South African subsidiaries include fertilizer and machinery companies. Hewlett Packard has 270 employees in South Africa and provides the regime with over 38 million dollars in high technology components with clear military applications. Oregon's Cascade Corporation also has a plant in South Africa which makes forklift attachments.

These investments are attractive to our businesses because money is saved by paying rock bottom wages. Employers dream of paying wages between 100 and 300 dollars a month in this country. In South Africa it is a reality.

Many Oregonians and the Oregon State government own stock in companies that operate in South Africa for the same reason. Owners of stock in North West Bancorp should be aware that it owns part of Norwest Corporation with 2.5 million dollars in loans to South Africa. Widely held Western Bank is owned by First Interstate Bancorp, mentioned earlier. The worst offender is our own state government. It invests 20 to 25 percent of our state pension fund, PERS, in companies that operate in South Africa. If you are a state employee that means your pension fund is used to support apartheid. The State Board of Higher Education also invests its endowment funds in companies in South Africa.

Forty to fifty Oregon manufacturers and traders get in on the act. Dozens of Oregon jewelers import and sell the krugerrand, a South African gold coin made so attractively inexpensive because African miners are paid only 200 dollars a month and work in unsafe conditions. Oregon's D. D. Moore is a leading importer of South African precious stones. And here is where we come to Oregon's "military aid." According to *International Exporters 1984* the Lawrence George Company on Southwest 1st has been selling holsters, scabbards, and rifle slings to South Africa, and Michael's of Oregon Company on Northwest Glisan has exported gun components to the apartheid state. They are led by Precision Castparts, however, part of whose 20 million dollars in international sales of aircraft parts has gone to South Africa under Ronald Reagan's constructive engagement policy.

Oregonians have not stood by while their brothers and sisters made money

off racism. The city of Eugene has urged jewelers to stop selling the krugerrand. The Multnomah County Council has called on the state to cut its ties to South Africa. Numerous churches and unions have taken investments out of companies in South Africa. But these are non-binding resolutions. When it comes to real action Oregon drags its feet. In each of the last three sessions of the state legislature bills were defeated which would have taken Oregon's pension fund out of South Africa. Divestment, as it is called, is a safe and powerful way of saying no to racism which has worked well in a number of other states. Like other universities across the country, Oregon college students and the State Board of Higher Education voted to take their endowment funds out of South Africa, but the Attorney General and circuit court have ruled that they can't do it. They say it's not "prudent."

If this makes you mad, there is plenty you can do. Take your money out of banks that loan to South Africa. Don't buy from companies that invest in or trade with South Africa. Talk to your co-workers and church members to find out if your pension fund or church invests in companies that do business with South Africa. It's easy. Most of the information for this article came from *The Unified List of U.S. Companies in South Africa and Namibia* published by the Pacific Northwest Research Center in Eugene. As more and more Oregonians find out just how much this state supports apartheid pressure to cut the links grows.

Marcus Cheatham is a member of Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF), a local multi-racial citizens actions group that supports Black majority rule in Southern Africa and an end to U.S. support for apartheid. For more information call 230-9427.

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown

The Supreme Court recently handed down a decision broadening the power of school officials to search students' lockers. The Street Beat team asked, "Do you think this is fair?"



Cheryl Maddox
Hospital Worker

"No, it's not fair to the student. How would they like someone searching their office?"



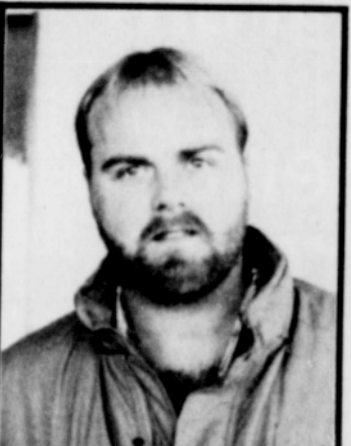
David DePass
Warehouseman

"No, everyone should have the right to privacy, no matter where they are at."



Stephanie Volkman
Homemaker

"I would feel two ways about it. I would hate to see it spread to other situations, but as a former teacher I know these tactics are needed."



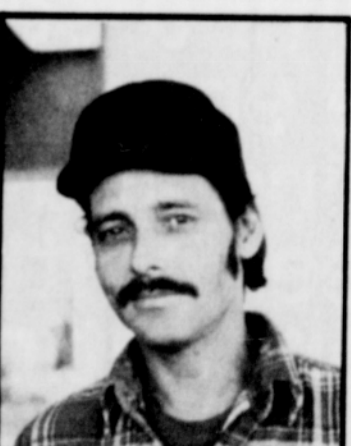
Bill Trautham
Student

"They should have probable cause along with certain guidelines."



Joel Zalin
Registered Nurse

"I think it is a necessary evil. It's important to keep our schools safe for kids and teachers."



Jimmy Hendon
Painter

"No, I think they should respect people's property."

Cawthorne campaigners reunion

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

and energetic volunteer crew could have overtaken Bogle. "We needed another six weeks and we could have cleared that gap," she said.

The campaigners felt that Bogle sat back on his name and de-emphasized the issues while Cawthorne ran a grassroots, issue-oriented campaign. This left Cawthorne open, they said, to Bogle's seizing on Cawthorne's stands on the emotionally charged issues of prostitution, the nuclear free zone and Nicaragua sister city, as a way to scare votes in Bogle's direction.

One thing Bogle didn't have was a crew of 600 volunteers who put in unaccountable hours canvassing, phoning, sending out mailings, blitzing door to door and putting up lawn signs. The volunteers professionally took on the responsibilities of a campaign that

wasn't run by a high-powered public relations firm and a battery of computers, said volunteer coordinator Pam L. Smith. "Our computer was a 'PLS modem'," said Cawthorne, referring to Smith's pivotal role in day to day campaign coordination.

"In one two-day period toward the end of the campaign, there were probably almost 300 people doing things," said Smith. "We had 141 phone lines that were donated from several businesses and over 100 people out canvassing (in the rain), "which is the hardest thing to do in a political campaign," said Wooley. Altogether, over 40 precincts were canvassed and 35 were phoned, using specially coded computer print-outs. The canvassing was so efficient that some canvassers were surprised to pass other canvassers working their way through neighborhoods on opposite-running cross streets.

All this volunteer activity took place in spite of the burnout factor of having already won the primary campaign, followed by the presidential election and the holidays. "People came out because it was something they believed in," said Virginia Harris, "administrative assistant" in charge of scheduling for the campaign.

"I think one exciting thing about the composition of the campaign was that it was really multi-racial," said Stein. "It was a great experience for people to come together in that way." "The night we won the primary," said Wooley, "if you came to the election headquarters, what you had there was a diverse cross-section of races, ages, occupations. . . . it was a diversity that I don't think any other candidate could say they had. It really reflected what the candidate represents."

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