



Grant vs.
Jefferson

Page 12



Black
businesses

Page 2

Democratic
double standards

Page 4

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Two Sections



Supporters of the sanctuary movement to shelter refugees from countries such as El Salvador and Guatemala gather in front of the federal building to

protest the recent Justice Department crackdown on harboring refugees.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Sanctuary movement fights back

by Robert Lothian

Over 100 people gathered Thursday, January 17, on the steps of the federal building downtown to protest the arrests of Central American refugees and church people involved in the U.S. sanctuary movement.

On January 14, the U.S. Department of Justice arrested 60 refugees and 17 ministers, priests and lay people on charges of harboring and transporting illegal aliens.

The Justice Department said it made the arrests to stop the sanctuary movement, a network of 200 churches and thousands of volunteers that protect Central American refugees denied asylum by Reagan Administration policies. The sanctuary movement has been a thorn in the side of the administration by exposing policies which define the refugees as fugitives from poverty and not U.S.-backed wars.

David Brady of the Portland Sanctuary Coalition compared the deportation of the refugees back to Guatemala and El Salvador, where they face possible death and torture, to the

violence fomented by U.S. support of repressive regimes.

"The U.S. is seeking military solutions to what are basically economic and social problems in Central America," said Brady. "It's a policy of violence, a policy the U.S. is continuing here at home."

"We have come together to stop this cycle of violence that the U.S. is perpetuating by deporting refugees back to Guatemala and El Salvador," said Brady. International law, the U.N. protocol on refugees and the Geneva Accords all say that Reagan's policies are wrong," said Brady, who compared those policies to Hitler's holocaust against the Jews.

Phil Park, pastor of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, read a passage from the book of Amos on "justice." The U.S. of the Statue of Liberty, welcoming the 'tired and huddled masses yearning to be free,' 'is no longer our country," said Park.

A Guatemalan woman then spoke about the situation that made her struggle to get to the U.S. "We al-

ways have been discriminated against," she said. "What they call economic problems are the wars and atrocities that we are fleeing." After her comments, the small woman, disguised with sunglasses and bandana, humbly thanked the sanctuary supporters "for the effort that you have made to be present here."

Rev. James Coleman, pastor of St. Andrew Catholic Church, invoked the memory and words of Salvadoran archbishop and friend of the poor, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated by death squads.

"The Christian who doesn't live with the commitment to solidarity with the poor does not deserve to be called Christian," said Coleman, reading from one of Romero's last sermons. "Everyone who takes away life, or damages life, torturing, mutilating, denounces God. The lord hears the cry of the poor. We shall overcome."

The gathering sang the civil rights song, "We Shall Overcome," in Spanish and English.

Metro fails affirmative action

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The Metropolitan Service District (Metro), a governmental agency who administers the Zoo, Solid Waste and the planning and coordination of regionwide transportation systems, is following questionable Affirmative Action (A.A.) compliance. Similar to the A.A. hypocrisy of the City of Portland, when bureau managers had an opportunity to hire a person of color in a job category denoted in their A.A. plan as needing improvement, Metro officials neglected to do so.

In the first six months of fiscal year 1984-85, Metro hired 20 full-time and three temporary employees. Two males of color were hired and one Black female was promoted in-house. The discrepancy lies with the A.A. goals Metro has designed, and say they support, but evidence reveals that they have failed to implement A.A. in a substantive manner. Of the 20 hires, nine were positions where Metro A.A. objectives were to increase their minority representation. But bureau managers failed to do so. This A.A. inactivity does nothing to mirror the workforce. Metro employs a total of 241 full and part-time employees. Out of that total only 14 are minority.

Dick Karnuth, Metro's A.A. officer, said he was surprised by this conclusion and conceded statistically that people of color were underutilized. "But everyone here is aware of our A.A. status. Everytime there is a recruitment I go through a check sheet and discuss a bureau's A.A. make-up. I don't feel that we cannot reach our goal."

Karnuth cautioned that with a small workforce losing one or two employees will change their A.A. parity. He defended Metro's bureau managers who failed to hire minorities, even in light of Metro's A.A. objectives. "They hired the most qualified people. Maybe they hired people who had more experience in that job category."

But hiring data in the first and second quarter of 1984-85 may suggest otherwise. For temporary security guards at the Zoo, there were 47 applicants including three minorities.

All were interviewed and 10 white females and four white males were hired. A position for Public Information Specialist received 23 applicants including three minorities. Six were interviewed including one minority. A white female was hired.

A program coordinator for Solid Waste was hired from 28 applicants including three minorities. Four were interviewed, including one minority. A white male was hired. All positions were underutilized when it came to people of color. When a person of color applied and attained an interview, Metro officials failed to fulfill their A.A. objectives.

Defensively, Rick Gustafson, Executive Officer of Metro, said he was

surprised to hear of their A.A. inactivity. But contradictorily, Gustafson said he monitored A.A. "closely." "I don't mind having more pressure put on us in terms of A.A. Our record shows improvement and our desires are sensitive to A.A. Our A.A. goals do not require every minority to be hired."

Would public pressure bring Metro up to parity? No! Metro has developed a poor record for being responsive to community concerns. Their unpopular Wildwood landfill site decision and the fight against an Oregon City garbage burner has led citizens in various counties to issue the battle cry of "Abolish Metro." Bill Brown from United Citizens in Actions said, "Metro has a record of ignoring citizens input."

Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, was the first to (Please turn to Page 6, Column 1)

South Africa: Oregon consul resigns

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Anti-apartheid organizations and individuals won a battle in the war against the racist regime of South Africa as Oregon's honorary consul for South Africa, Calvin VanPelt, resigned Friday, January 18.

Van Pelt's office was the target of bi-weekly picketing and criminal trespass arrests. Since December 12, more than 20 civic, religious and political leaders submitted to arrest as they refused to leave VanPelt's office at Martin Sales International located in Downtown Portland.

In a prepared statement VanPelt said, "While I respect the right of people to assemble and express themselves, these demonstrations have done more. They have disrupted the conduct of business at my place of work, interfered with the lives and affairs of other tenants in my office

building, and injured retail business in the vicinity. . . . I cannot continue to serve without inflicting further hardship on those who live and work around me."

Avel Gordly, spokesperson for the organizations that spearheaded the protest against the South African consul, said VanPelt's resignation was a courageous act. "We feel VanPelt has done an exceptional service to Portland and the State of Oregon. We believe that once Oregonians become aware of Oregon's ties to South Africa, there will be a demand for severance of those ties."

VanPelt said he believes substantial progress has been made in South Africa. But Gordly countered with, "the facts contradict his understanding."

"The majority cannot vote. Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond (Please turn to Page 2, Column 1)

Newly learned campaign skills are transferable to future elections

Part two
by Robert Lothian

Looking back on the campaign that gave well-known ex-TV personality Dick Bogle a run for his money, Herb Cawthorne's staff recreated some of the Cawthorne campaign's unique spirit at a recent reunion.

They remembered the fun, also the hard work, and for all involved, they said, the campaign was a learning opportunity.

"A lot of new people came with no political skills and came out with tons of experience," said Richard Brown, campaign photographer. Campaign manager Beverly Stein remembers the volunteers who would come up to her in the office saying "Thank you for the opportunity to learn something new."

The campaign also learned from volunteers whose ideas were gratefully accepted, added volunteer coordinator Pam Smith. "There were people who came in and set up systems, to make things work, and so we really learned from our volunteers," she said. "They had very valuable skills."

"And people would do things in the campaign that we didn't even know about," said Stein, mentioning the many "satellite activities."

"We didn't have a lot of dissention and a lot of heat in the office, that dealt with interpersonal stuff and people bickering back and forth," said Cawthorne, "so that means that when volunteers came in they came in for the first time, but they also had a good experience so that they walked away thinking it was something they should get involved in, and that was really important to us."

"There was no infighting, no back stabbing, no power playing. . . . none of those things that often go along with campaigning," said campaign scheduler Virginia Harris.

"And a number of people commented that it was a fun campaign to be involved in," said Smith.

"I've never been in a place where so much hugging and kissing went on," said Brown. "We'll have to get together once a month just for a fix," added Harris.

"I did take a little extraordinary abuse in terms of my jokes," said Cawthorne. "They had wonderful organizing skills and wonderful people skills," he said, referring to the campaign staff, "but their senses of humor really didn't match up to the subtleties of my own. It caused some friction but we dealt with that."



Rhys Scholes finds a quiet place to collect last minute election results at Cawthorne campaign headquarters on election night. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Most of the Cawthorne campaign spirit had to do with the candidate, "being warm and always there to welcome and greet and thank people," said Smith. "There could be 12 people in the office and Herb would go to each one of them and say, 'Thanks for helping me out.' He was just a real good person to work with, and I think they believed in what he was saying."

"It was a fun campaign because of the people involved and the way it was run and the way folks got along, but people didn't come because it was a fun campaign," said Harris. "People came because they had something they really believed in. . . . canvassing in forty degrees and pouring rain, that's not fun. The day Herb went out on the bridge on the sound truck, it must have been 20."

The sound truck brought back some fond memories. Young volunteer Heidi Durrow, 15, a sophomore at Jefferson, remembered hauling forth from the banner pickup at the corner of Union and Broadway on election morning. "Stop watching TV right now; it's time to get out the vote," she had said to the morning commuters through the loudspeaker.

They also remembered being out all night the night before the election tying

balloons to Cawthorne lawn signs -- lawn sign coordinator Terry Anderson said he couldn't keep up with the demand for the attractive signs. "They disappeared faster than I could keep track of them," he said.

Over 1,750 lawn signs, mailings, postage, printing and all the day to day campaign expenses added up, but amazingly, Cawthorne ended the campaign free of debt. He emphasized that had he won, influence peddlers offering to underwrite his debts for returned favors would have been out of luck. "Borrowing nothing, we raised nearly \$75,000 for the campaign from more than 750 people," said Cawthorne. We spent money wisely. We ended dead even."

The campaigners agreed that they did everything they could, given the resources available and the almost unsurmountable obstacle of Bogle's name familiarity. "We did everything we could have done and we did it well," said Cawthorne.

"We bet on the fact that if we really pumped up the inner city we'd be able to overcome in the other areas," said Stein. "Even if it wasn't the right strategy, which we'll never know, it was the right strategy in terms of (Please turn to Page 2, Column 1)