

Anne Frank's diary remains relevant

by Robert Lothian

There is probably no more poignant account of life during the Nazi terror than the *Diary of Anne Frank*. The young Jewish girl and her family hid from the Nazis for two years in Amsterdam, but they were eventually discovered and Anne and most of her family died in concentration camps.

Anne Frank left behind her famous diary, and she has become a symbol of the holocaust and efforts to make sure it never happens again.

An exhibit of two collections from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, "Anne Frank and her Diary," and "Fascism, Racism and Anti-Semitism: Recent Developments," is now on display at the U.S. Bank Plaza, S.W. Fifth and Oak, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, during February. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Anne Frank's diary is so appealing because she was a "perfectly ordinary girl" writing about ordinary things, said Baucó van der Wal, director of the Anne Frank House. "If you life in Chippewa Falls or Tokyo, Anne Frank is somebody you could understand," said van der Wal, who was in Portland to open the exhibit.

Neo-Nazis say that the diary is a fake and that stories of the horrors of the death camps are communist propaganda, according to the Dutch human rights expert. "Although they are small, they are violent," and even more violent than left-wing terrorists, he said.

Unemployed young people who have no idea of "the cruelty... the horror" of the Nazis are attracted to the growing neo-Nazi movements in Europe, said van der Val. They want to blame their economic hardships on somebody, often immigrants and "Black people from the colonies." The neo-Nazis share the belief in basic racial inequalities with their Nazi forebearers, he said.

Even though they are responsible for an alarming number of anti-Semitic and racially-motivated bombings and attacks, the general public apparently perceives the neo-Nazis as only a "few weirdos walking around wearing swastikas" and not a threat, he continued.

"In Europe it is no longer front page news when a hand grenade is thrown into a group of Jewish children on their way to camp. Now it is page three."

"It is important to uncover them, to make clear what they really stand for," said van der Wal, referring to the neo-Nazis. European countries have laws which make stirring up racial hatred a punishable offense, and the U.S. needs

such laws, in his opinion. "This is not a matter of freedom of speech," he said.

Dr. Sylvia Frankel, director of the Oregon Holocaust Center in Portland, said that the exhibit is "all booked up" with scheduled visits by Portland school children. "It's important to teach these kids so they'll be ready for it," she said about the racism and anti-Semitism fomented by neo-Nazis.

In addition to the Anne Frank and neo-Nazi exhibits, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam has sponsored exhibits on apartheid and discrimination against European immigrants. It also exerts pressure on governments that violate human rights.



Black History Month, Feb. '85

Irvington School

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

three-year period, it has been spent on computer literacy, bringing in people from O.M.S.I. and trips to the Oregon Symphony. It might be better spent on development of inter-personnel and inter-cultural relationships," said Miller.

Ayers said although complaints about Chadwick centered around his dealings with Black mothers, his actions were not racist. "He does not intend to treat them as they perceive. It's his leadership style — a style we are going to have to discuss," he noted.

Ayers also said Chadwick's style might have caused a physical altercation on the school's playground February 13, as students witnessed a confrontation between Chadwick and two female adults who came to pick up a child.

"It was a misunderstanding," Chadwick said the night of the 13th. "Permission came from the parents, but we did not receive it. One woman kicked me in the groin. I apologized to the parent and explained our procedure for having a student picked up. It was a regrettable incident," he said.

Patty Coxeff, who first brought the situation at Irvington to the public (*Portland Observer*, January 30), said Chadwick has retaliated against her by barring her from the school.

"I saw this little boy run off the school ground and he did not come back for 15 minutes. I asked another child whom I knew what the child's name was. Chadwick turned it around and said I was asking children for their phone numbers," she said. Coxeff said her child will remain home with an ample supply of homework. "If I'm not able to go on the school ground, my child will not go either."

Chadwick called the public exposure initiated by Afro-American Mothers Against Institutional Racism "inflammatory."

Mathis said he plans to conclude his assessment of these complaints sometime in March.

PSU opens doors

Hundreds of Oregon high school juniors and seniors who are Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Asian are expected to attend Portland State University's special "on-campus field trip" scheduled for Wednesday, February 27.

The event, which includes lunch and entertainment at no cost, will feature a wide variety of speakers and activities to provide encouragement for these students to pursue their higher education goals.

For further information, contact PSU's Affirmative Action Office at 229-4417.

Fight illiteracy

Thousands of adults in our neighborhood are struggling to get by in this "information age" without the ability to read.

The North/Northeast Portland Literacy Project provides free tutoring in reading skills, and we are trying to expand their program.

A community information meeting will be held Thursday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Irvington School Auditorium, 1320 N.E. Brazeo Street.

For more information, call 283-2541, extension 351.



How many Black Americans are you familiar with in the history of our country?

Chances are, not that many because you won't find them in most history books. But Black History Month gives us a chance to become aware of the contributions many Black Americans have made in science, medicine, industry, agriculture, literature and more.

Join us in the observation of Black History Month and broaden your knowledge of how we, collectively, as a people have made this country what it is today.

Written, Designed & Produced by Derrick L. Dansby

