

Breakers
open

Page 7

Israel and
South Africa

Page 4

Youth
City Council

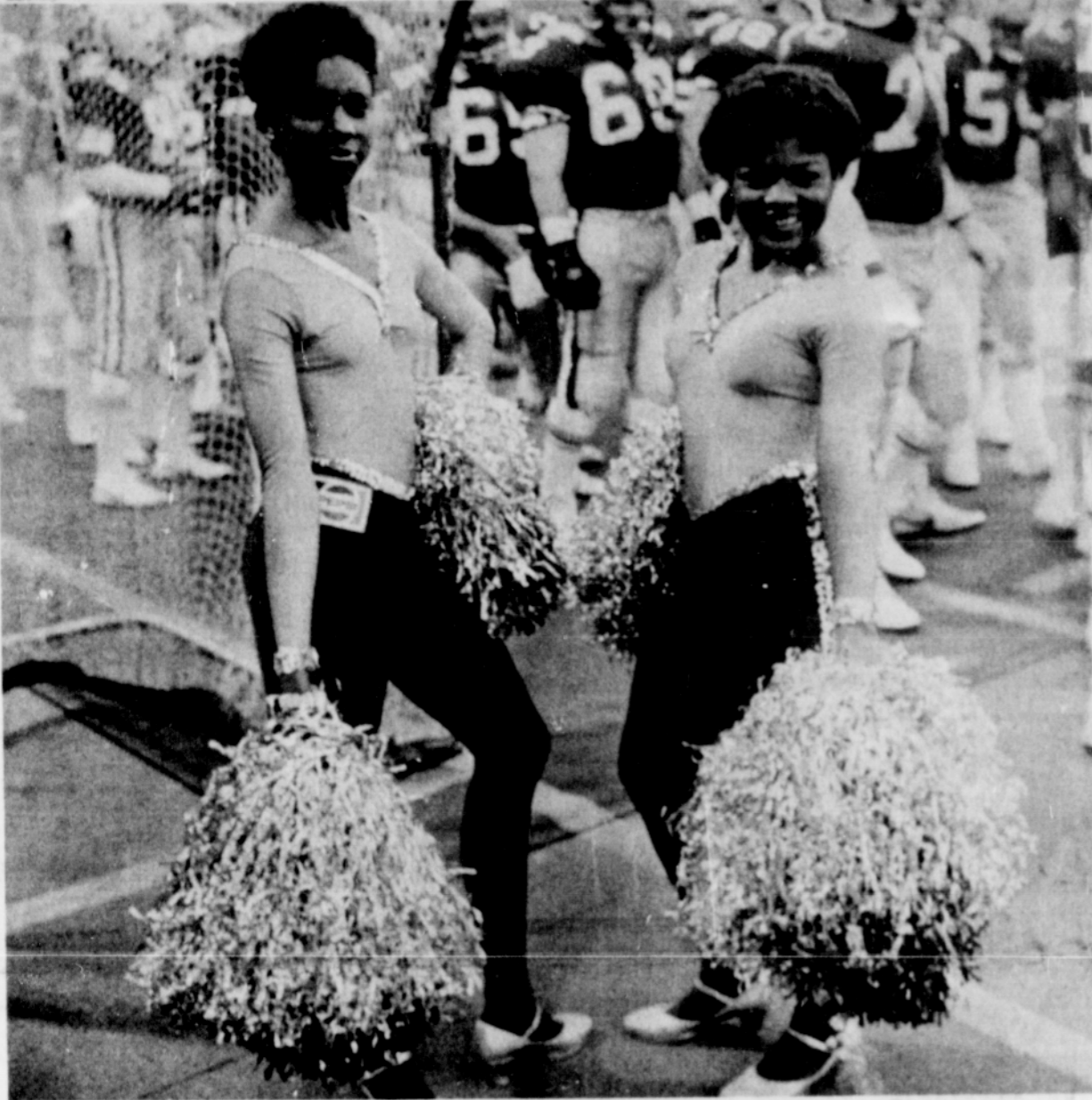
Page 3



PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV, Number 19
March 6, 1985
25c Copy

Two Sections

USPS 909-885-885
© East Publishing Co., Inc. 1984

Denise Williams (left) and Cynthia Oliver (right), members of the Portland Breakers' rally squad, the Heart Breakers, just prior to the season's opening

game with Los Angeles. With the Heart Breakers, the crowd put together the first successful wave in Civic Stadium. (Photo: Dan Long)

Anti-fascists to aid Nicaragua

by Robert Lothian

Nearly fifty years ago, Frank Alexander and Bob Reed fought on the side of Spanish Loyalists against the dictator Franco and his forces.

Supported by Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, Franco invaded Spain with a colonial army after the country elected a democratic government.

Reed and Alexander, both from Seattle, see parallels between Spain and Nicaragua, and although they are both in their 70s, they retain their internationalist ideals and want to help. They, together with Abraham Lincoln Brigade members across the country, have organized an effort to send ambulances to Nicaragua to aid victims of contra attacks.

"Reagan is doing (in Nicaragua) exactly what Hitler and Mussolini did in Spain, and he's using the same excuses," said Alexander. "Hitler said, 'I am stopping Communism.' That's exactly what Reagan says."

Alexander and Reed are heading an effort in Seattle to raise \$25,000 by April 10th for a fully equipped medical vehicle. With the help of churches, Hispanic organizations, and Central America groups, they have raised about \$8,000 so far. ALB veterans on the East Coast are gathering donations for an additional two ambulances, they said.

Reed visited Nicaragua last summer with a Seattle-Managua sister city delegation. He said contra attacks against civilians there remind him of the massacres of civilians carried out by Franco forces in Spain. "It's on a smaller scale than Spain but it's the same bloody thing," he said.

If the Nicaragua fighting intensifies, Reed said he is sure that an international brigade will organize to fight on the side of the Sandinistas. The Nicaraguan government would have to call for such help but so far hasn't, he added.



BOB REED

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Alexander is the son of a slave and one of about 250 Black Americans who served in Spain. He was among the last of the internationalists to retreat, arriving in France on the day that Franco proclaimed victory. Said Alexander of his service in Spain: "It was the only time in my life that I didn't know I was a Black man."

One of the first Blacks to be admitted to the AFL-CIO, Alexander remained an active union member until his retirement.

Reed grew up in a family of Texas tenant farmers. He was educated by free-thinking radicals at Commonwealth College in Arkansas, later shut down by the government, and he was an organizer of the Southern

Tenant Farmers Union before leaving for Spain.

His ship was torpedoed off the Spanish coast and he was picked up naked by a fishing boat. By the end of his first day in battle, two-thirds of his platoon was missing. About one-third of the Brigade members died in Spain, he said. Alexander and Reed were both wounded.

Reed will appear in Portland at two showings of "The Good Fight," a movie about the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, on Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 p.m., Reed College Vollum Hall, and at 7:00 p.m. that night in Room 75, Lincoln Hall, PSU. A \$3 donation is requested for the ambulance fund.

Committee specifies academic problems

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—The majority of Black children in the Portland Public Schools are not being treated in an equitable manner nor are present teaching methods effective in instructing them. These conclusions were among those presented to the School Board February 28th, as the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee made its mid-year report.

Halim Rahsaan, DMAC's chairperson, defined the committee perspective as, "Wanting the content of education to be accurate, appropriate and relevant in reflecting contributions of African American, Native American, African, Asian and Hispanic cultures. We want the aims of education to be the complete development of a person and not merely preparation for the available low level, or even high level jobs, that may serve no purpose beyond individual enhancement," Rahsaan noted.

DMAC both criticized and commended the school district in its desegregation efforts.

Multiethnic curriculum

DMAC thanked School Superintendent Matthew Prophet for implementing training incorporating African American curriculum. But DMAC said they were not satisfied with the performance of project director, Darrel Millner. "Without the assistance of local consultant, Joyce Harris, the math and art essays would not have been distributed. . . . There have been contractual problems in the handling of contracts by the project director regarding payments to national and local consultants," Rahsaan said.

DMAC recommended a full time project director to coordinate the baseline essays (lesson plans) through the curriculum department. Also, it said the project director should have the support of the community with a background in classroom teaching at the elementary or secondary level.

Special Education

DMAC analyzed the total special education population and found a "real bias present."

"Native American and African American students are extremely over-represented by nearly twice as much as Caucasian and Hispanic," Rahsaan said. "The percent of African Americans enrolled has decreased, but the percent enrolled in special education has increased."

DMAC said they believed the disproportion stems from the lack of consistency in procedures for placement of students in special education.

Discipline

DMAC commended the district for retaining the services of Dr. Junius Williams, a nationally recognized authority in the area of discipline. But the committee added, "African American students are more than twice as likely to be suspended or expelled," Rahsaan stated.

Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, expanded on the discipline disproportion: "Five years ago when we started this campaign to address inequalities in the school system, the major areas of discipline abuse occurred in schools outside the Black community. The situation has



Halim Rashean, chair person of the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee addresses the School Board. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

been reversed. The major areas of abuse occur in the Early Childhood Education Centers (ECECs)."

Herndon added, "Blacks make up 60 percent of the ECEC population, but comprise 90 percent of all suspensions. Vernon has a Black population of 62 percent, yet 85 percent of all suspensions are Black students. Irvington has a Black student population of 50 percent but 90 percent of all suspensions were Black students."

DMAC called for a consistent discipline policy. Herndon said there was a need to evaluate the in-house suspension program and keep records of those students referred to time-out rooms.

Academic achievement

Prior to DMAC's presentation, Superintendent Prophet issued a progress report. "Forty-one percent of our Black students in grades 3 - 7 are reading above the national level. This is up from 31 percent three years ago. In mathematics, 31 percent are

above the national level compared to 23 percent three years ago."

Herndon questioned these results. "If it took three years to go from 31 percent to 41 percent in reading, it will take 18 years for Black children to read at the national level." Herndon added, "At the rate the district is teaching math, it will take 24 years to get 87 percent of Black students at national level."

Herndon also expressed concern for the number of children of color receiving modified diplomas. "Total minority students are 26 percent, yet they are given 66 percent of all modified diplomas."

He recommended the district expand its Desegregation Coordinating Committee to include business representatives, community residents, effective teachers and principals.

"We need a collective resolution to these problems. If we do not come up with some way to positively address this problem society will pay for it one way or another," he concluded.

Philippines increases freedom

by Robert Lothian

Filipinos refer to government opposition leaders who are "salvaged" — sent to their salvation in heaven. It's a semi-religious, half-joking way of saying they were assassinated, says Peter Bacho, professor of Filipino history at the University of Washington, who spoke in Portland recently.

Ironically, many Filipinos escaped oppression in their country by being salvaged. That is, until the assassination of democratic opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport in 1983.

At that time, said Bacho, the national reconciliation promised by Aquino's visit seemed dashed to the ground. "For many Filipinos then, growing polarization and civil war seemed the grisly components of a future without hope."

But surprisingly, said Bacho, while the assassination added to ranks of a growing leftist insurgency, it has also brought unprecedented reform. "One surprising result is that democracy, if not quite healthy, is not yet dead," he said.

There is now more freedom of the press, said Bacho, a Filipino-American who visited the Philippines recently. The supreme court has been making decisions unpopular with authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos, he continued, and last May, the country's National Assembly was revitalized by elections which saw 60 seats change hands.

"The real story was the people turning out in the face of bayonets, and voting to show their displeasure" with the government, he said.

The National Assembly, once dormant, can now serve as a forum for issues and candidates that will challenge Marcos in the 1987 elections.

Marcos' health is at issue, and if he should die," said Bacho, the Philippine military might take over the country and wipe away recent reforms. The military, a key component of Marcos' authoritarian rule, has been shaken up recently. Many top leaders were demoted after having been implicated in the Aquino assassination.

Two huge U.S. bases and U.S. aid (Please turn to Page 9, Column 1)