

### Newsflash:

The Bank of Boston, New England's largest bank, announced this week that it will stop making loans to private firms and banks in South Africa out of opposition to apartheid. It stopped making loans to the government itself or any of its agencies in 1978. Six other U.S. banks prohibit loans to the private sector in South Africa and three others refuse loans to the South African government, according to the Investor Responsibility Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

—Christian Science Monitor

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(L-r) Jelanda Curry, 7 years, Tyrone James, 8 years, and Aminah Chambers, 6 years, all first graders at King School, warm up before joining the rest of the jump rope group that performed at King School (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## South African activist urges US divestment

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Destroying all myths and apologies generated by those opposing divestment in South Africa, Neo Mnumzana, Chief Representative of the African National Congress to the United Nations, said divestment will not hurt South African Blacks.

"This is like saying to a man at the bottom of a hole not to fall. We have nothing to lose from America's pullout of apartheid," he said.

Mnumzana was in Portland to lend support to House Bill 2001 which will prohibit new investment of public funds in South Africa. Oregon currently has 1.26 billion invested in South Africa. John Blank, who joined Mnumzana in a press conference supporting divestment, said, "Passage of HB2001 would not only be a real blow against South African racism but would send a strong signal to home-grown racists that Oregon will oppose racism in deeds, not just words. Divested funds are no riskier investments than funds invested in South Africa. Hence, HB2001, besides being morally right, makes good financial sense."

Mnumzana added if American companies divested, other companies from other countries would not take their place. "For companies to coordinate a withdrawal from South Africa would be the easiest thing for them to do."

He called the violence in South Africa a national liberation struggle

instead of a civil war. "It's a struggle against an oppressive system but, as Bishop Tutu predicts, it could lead to Blacks against whites," he noted.

Mnumzana called for economic isolation against apartheid: "Boycott anything and everything from South Africa." He added that the Sullivan principals employed by American multi-nationals have no effect on apartheid. "We are talking about 66,000 people out of a workforce of 9 million. The Sullivan principals advocate certain Affirmative Action standards where one's quality of life is

est per capita prison population in the world and the highest per capita execution rate."

Mayor Bud Clark has issued a proclamation calling the weeks between March 21 and April 6 "South African Weeks." All citizens of Portland should study the issue and determine their personal position.

During the successful South African protest to remove the honorary consulate from Portland, many local ministers refused to get involved because the South African government would not grant them visas. "They



Above, Neo Mnumzana meets with State Representatives (l-r) Mary Alice Ford, Ray French, Cedric Hayden and Bob Shiprack, all members of House Human Resources Committee, who have not yet thrown their support behind HB2001. Observing the discussion are Debra Cook, Eugene, and Anthony Sparrow, Portland. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

determined by race."

Mnumzana said, "Black unemployment is 50 percent and 85 percent of those employed earn wages far below the international poverty level. And South Africa has the high-

need to decide whether it's more important to participate in the Free South Africa movement, or continue to attract importance to their ability to visit a modern slave plantation," Mnumzana concluded.



Neo Mnumzana, ANC representative to the U.N. (2nd from left), speaks at a press conference at King Neighborhood Facility. Seated with him are (l-r) John Blank, Oregon Rainbow Organizing Committee, Rev. John Jackson, co-chair Black United Front, Portland, and Avel Gordley, Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAM). During his brief stay in Oregon, Mnumzana used most of the time to educate Ore-

gonians about South Africa. He warned that at the rate white South Africans are pulling their wealth out of South Africa, when white rule collapses, American businesses will be the big losers. Mnumzana spoke to the Black United Front, community members at Allen Temple Church, and had interviews on KBOO. He also attended a lunch gathering at the Capital and had interviews at the Statesman Journal in Salem.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Turkish leader wants more US aid

by Robert Lothian

Turkey occupies a key position in U.S. cold war strategy. It is close to Russia, many U.S. missiles are planted there, and it is the third largest recipient of U.S. military and economic aid.

The Reagan administration has proposed \$939 million in aid for Turkey for fiscal '86, but the Turkish government wants more. Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, will be in Washington, D.C., April 2 - 5, to plea for additional aid.

Amnesty International, the human rights group, says that if Turkey is to be considered for aid, however, it must engage in a dialogue about its human rights record and promise some reforms.

Amnesty is focusing on Turkey in its international campaign to end torture. "The Turkish government has permitted widespread and systematic torture of its citizens throughout the 1980s," says the Amnesty Bulletin of June, 1984.

Turkey is similar to many Third World countries receiving U.S. aid: a right-leaning authoritarian regime rules a very poor country with a

smoldering leftist rebellion.

Supposedly in order to fight the rebellion, the government made a number of martial law decrees. Prisoners can be detained incommunicado for up to 45 days, during which time they are often tortured, according to Amnesty. All trade union activity is banned. In addition, suspects can be jailed for up to two years for propagating "erroneous, unfounded or exaggerated information in a manner intended to create alarm or excitement among the public."

According to Turkish government figures, over 20,000 political prisoners were being held in military prisons in June, 1984. Amnesty says that a majority of political prisoners, as well as many criminal suspects, suffer some kind of torture or ill-treatment, usually during the 45 day incommunicado detention.

A released prisoner described his treatment in prison as "absolutely ruthless and pitiless, inhumane." His torture included being beaten on the soles of his feet and electric shocks.

The Turkish government has admitted that some prisoners have died while being tortured.

The object of the tortures is to get prisoners to sign confessions fabricated by the authorities, according to Amnesty.

Political prisoners include college students and professors, union leaders, leaders of youth organizations, communists and socialists.

More than a third of the world's governments have used or permitted torture during the 1980s, according to Amnesty. A surprising number of those governments are supported by the U.S.

Amnesty is calling for legislation requiring the administration to explain why it is giving aid from U.S. taxpayers to gross human rights violators. The legislation would also require the administration to explain what it is doing to pressure violators to end torture and other abuses of human rights.

In addition, Amnesty is leading an international campaign to pressure Turkey to end the incommunicado detention and torture, to prohibit the use of confessions extracted under torture, and to establish independent commissions to investigate the abuses.

## Minority journalists give Portland media poor rating on coverage

by Robert Lothian

A panel of minority journalists described a sad record of minority coverage by Oregon's media Saturday.

The journalists, speaking at the regional conference of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, at Kah-Nee-Ta resort in Central Oregon, cited problems ranging from domination of the media by white male management to lack of initiative by reporters.

Their suggestions for improvement included scholarships and affirmative action to encourage minority journalists, breaking the white editorial domination, and more sensitivity and cross-cultural awareness on the part of white editors and reporters.

Lanita Duke, staff writer for the Portland Observer, went so far as to suggest a minority media boycott if things don't change.

"If Jesse Jackson was to walk on

water, the media would report that he couldn't swim," said Duke, who is also a radio-television broadcaster and owner of Grassroot News Northwest.

She gave the Portland media a rating of three for minority coverage and a minus one for equal employment.

"The news media in Portland is white male controlled and news comes from that perspective," Duke said. Women editors, in her experience, replaced an "old boy network" with an "old girl network."

"For Blacks, we must either sing, dance or play sports to get media attention," she said. "For Native Americans, it's salmon fishing or cultural events, and for Hispanics, it's either immigration or the language barrier."

The panelists agreed that such me-

dia coverage of minorities tends toward stereotyping. Jobs, hobbies and other activities which make whites newsworthy should also make minorities newsworthy, but those aspects of minority life are largely ignored by the media, they said. Duke criticized *The Oregonian* for charging former city commissioner Charles Jordan with reverse discrimination when he suggested that it might be appropriate for a person of color to take his place. "Other white professionals are given a send-off with praise while commissioner Jordan was criticized," she said.

*The Oregonian* also lost it, she said, when it printed a review of an exhibit by the Members Gallery, a group of Black artists, on the day the exhibit closed.

One bright spot in *The Oregonian*, however, is the Portland section,

which features minorities fairly consistently, said Duke.

She cited former *Oregonian* reporter Linda Williams as a model for minority journalists. Rather than be cowed by the white establishment, said Duke, Williams persisted. Her series on police corruption led to reforms and possibly to the appointment of Penny Harrington as the first woman police chief in a major city, she said. Williams now works for the Wall Street Journal in Atlanta.

Sidney Miller, managing editor of the *Coyote News*, the paper for the Warm Springs reservation, also criticized *The Oregonian*. An *Oregonian* correspondent reporting on a conference of Native American journalists at Kah-Nee-Ta the week before had garbled the story so badly that it was unintelligible, he said. "I wouldn't have understood the story if I hadn't

been at the conference," said Miller.

He said it was just one example of the misreporting which causes his readers to ignore the major media. His paper, on the other hand, which is close to the small community it serves, must be accountable. "We have to do a good, complete job," he said.

Asian-Americans haven't been as assimilated into society's mainstream as the myth would have it, and they are underreported by the media, said KGW-TV reporter Cathy Kiyomura.

She played a moving video tape of a visit she and her aunt had made to the remains of the relocation camp in Idaho where her aunt spent World War II.

"I feel a responsibility to act as a watchdog and a pathfinder... it is an affirmative action to cover minorities," she said.

Linda Monroe, science editor for

*The Oregonian*, helped organize a group of journalists in Tucson for fair media treatment of minorities.

Hispanics don't have the organizations that might make them more visible and they tend to blend into the population, said Monroe. She suggested that interviewing Hispanic and other minority leaders for their reactions to national stories would help.

"Until you mainstream minorities into the paper you really aren't serving your readers," she said. With an overriding commitment to minority coverage, Monroe said, journalists can help the community change by changing the way the community is reflected in the media.

*The Oregonian* has a staff of about 300, with three minority editors and 13 minority reporters, according to Monroe.