



## March Against Racist Violence:

The 5th annual march against racism will be held Saturday, April 6. The march begins at noon at Alberta Park on N.E. 19th and Killingsworth and a rally will follow at King Park. Speakers are Rev. John Jackson, Ron Herndon and special guest Lorenzo Carlisle, AFSC Bay Area Free South Africa movement union organizer. For information, call 281-5963.

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Shaina Pomerantz from Sacramento, California, was in Portland visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Maxey, during spring break. One of the goats on display at Lloyd Center gets a friendly rub.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## China weathers changes

by Robert Lothian

Immense changes are happening in the world's most populous country, according to a China expert speaking in Portland recently.

After 4,000 years of civilization, said Robert Oxnam, president of the Asia Society and founder of the National China Council, China is looking toward the west.

China needs western technology to keep up its rapid pace of development, said Oxnam.

But western businessmen licking their chops at the prospect of a huge new market are wrong if they think China is becoming capitalist, he said.

"Those who think China is on the verge of conversion to the new religion of capitalism will be disappointed, I'm afraid," said Oxnam. "Nothing of the sort is happening."

Since Mao's death, according to Oxnam, China reformed its economy. Some reforms encourage a form of

low level capitalism, but within restrictions. The basic economic structures — factories, utilities, and vast amounts of land — remain under state ownership, he said.

The huge farm communes have become town governments, said Oxnam. Families have taken over decision making about what to grow and how to sell it, he said.

Something similar is happening in factories, said Oxnam. Manager now make production decisions based on market conditions, he said, and factory committees decide on the very best way to reinvest profits. Profits always revert to the state, however, said Oxnam.

Reform has brought improvement in living conditions. The feeling among many Chinese, he said, is wanting "to cash in on 30 years of revolution" after tremendous austerity.

Most Chinese like the new eco-

nomie policies, which means that a revolt against the Chinese form of communism is unlikely, said Oxnam. "I think it is going to continue because it is really working," he said.

One reason the changes are successful is because they recognize primary Chinese institutions like the family, according to Oxnam.

"The family remains throughout decades of revolutionary change, the fundamental unit of Chinese society." By recognizing the family economic unit, planners are only recognizing a fact of life, he said.

The Chinese revolution has also had to contend with the Chinese inward-looking view of China as the center of the world. Thousands of years of rule by an elite Mandarin class, passive obedience to those higher on the social scale, and Confucianism, he said.

China's complex blend of old and new confronts the peasantry with strange new experiences and choices.

Acceptance of western technology means that Chinese are "skipping the radio and going straight to color TV, skipping the vacuum tube and going straight to the silicon chip," he said.

Women have formal equality but inequality continues, he said. In meetings he attended in China, said Oxnam, when someone had to go get more tea it was usually a woman even if she outranked men present.

There have been cases of female babies being killed again, as they were in times of famine, he said. If Chinese peasants can have only one child, "their attitude is that it had better be a boy," he said.

Oxnam said that Americans can expect to see more Chinese students coming to the States to learn western technology. He said that Chinese officials admitted to him that even though 30 to 40 percent of the students won't return to China, it's a risk they have to take.



During a sale at the Nike outlet store in Union Square, lines of people waited outside for a chance to get in and take advantage of some of the store's very low prices. The sale is expected to go on until April 20. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Freebasing:

# Chasing the genie

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — A new group of substance abusers is entrenched and growing in Portland. It's called "freebasing."

Freebasing is the smoking of cocaine, a fad ushered in by freebase kits and the increasing availability of cocaine due to reduced prices. Freebasing, highlighted by Comedian Richard Pryor's 1980 accident, is slowly consuming users drawn to the freebase pipe by the illusion of an ultimate high. But reality fades as their jobs, income and families go up in smoke.

Through a process of dissolving an insolvent in street cocaine that removes adulterates and impurities, purified cocaine crystals are smoked in a common water pipe.

Within seconds the user experiences a superhigh. "It's like rush," described one former baser. "A mental ecstasy, where I felt confident and in control. All my problems didn't vanish. They just were not important."

Marrie Dawn Markegard, a psychiatric nurse for Comprehensive Options for Drug Abusers, Inc. (CODA), added, "When clients describe their relationship with cocaine, it's like being in love. Nothing else tops it."

Brent Burton, acting director of Oregon Poison Control and Drug Information Center, said the characteristic physical and mental effects of freebasing are similar to injecting cocaine intravenously.

"The drug achieves a peak level in the bloodstream very rapidly. Cocaine passes into the brain tissue and causes stimulation of the brain, producing euphoria effects," Burton said.

This intense cocaine intoxication is extremely short-lived. In 15 minutes or less, the euphoria is replaced by anxiety, depression, irritability and a severe compulsion for another "hit." In the vernacular of the drug culture a freebaser is "sprung" when this compulsion takes over. Until he or she can shake off this craving, obtaining cocaine to freebase becomes life's only goal.

"I don't know of any other drug where the compulsion is so great. Using it one more time is too many and a million times is never enough," Markegard added.

This compulsion caused her to question whether cocaine is exclusively mentally addictive. "I cannot say physical addiction does not occur. People who are freebasing are getting cocaine in its purest form. Basers cannot put the pipe down. If they take one hit, they're gone."

It's unbelievably powerful and in control," Markegard noted.

Once sprung (a state of compulsion), basers will continue freebasing (smoking) cocaine until their supply or money is exhausted. They will go on "binges" where hundreds of dollars and grams of cocaine go up in smoke. Basers call this stage "chasing the genie."

"If you have no direction in your life and are experimenting with freebase, it will take control," reminisced another former user.

"Basers get into a cycle that perpetuates use. They can't stop using because if they do they bottom out," Markegard explained, "and that depression is ten times as bad as their original depression, which caused them to get high in the first place."

At this point in their abuse, basers become psychotic with paranoid delusions and hallucinations. "In between binges, I would keep my guns cocked and ready in my room. I was constantly at the window, ready to go

off at a minute's notice," said a former user.

"There's an inability to distinguish reality from non-reality. Thus, they, (freebasers) see shadows, hear voices and feel cocaine bugs. I've seen two women with skin ulcers on top of other skin ulcers because they picked at their arms at what they thought were bugs," Markegard added.

To feed their craving for freebase, basers are creating an underground crime wave to finance their compulsion. Sergeant Edward May of the Police Bureau's Drug and Vice Division, said, "There are a significant number of people committing crimes (burglary, fraud and theft) for cocaine. Also, people are distributing cocaine to buy stolen property."

May added that Portland has a viable market for cocaine. "I've seen freebasing cross all socio-economic groups."

Next week: The baser and the base houses.



A freebaser prepares street cocaine for smoking in his waterpipe. (Photo: Jimmie Rush)

## Experts debate covert CIA actions

by Robert Lothian

Nasty covert actions are necessary to save democracy, according to Jack Stephenson, a former CIA official from St. Helens, Oregon.

But what the CIA is doing in Nicaragua and a host of other countries around the world is a form of "state-sponsored terrorism" said P.S.U. political science professor Gordon Schloming.

Stephenson and Schloming squared off at a World Affairs Council-sponsored debate on the ethics of U.S. secret involvement in toppling governments, rigging elections and other undercover operations.

Schloming cited a number of cases where, in his opinion, CIA activities went astray.

Covert operations in what was once the Congo in the 1960s contrib-

uted to the defeat of a national liberation struggle there and the assassination of African nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba, said Schloming.

Zaire was established in the Congo's place. Now Mobutu, Zaire's authoritarian president, is "starving half the country's people," according to Schloming.

In Angola, he said, 100,000 lives have been lost in the struggle by CIA-backed rightists to defeat the Angolan revolution.

Guatemala, Iran and Chile have had popularly-elected governments toppled as a result of CIA covert actions, said Schloming. Mexico, Indonesia, Pakistan, The Philippines and Australia have also been victimized by the CIA, he said.

In some cases, said Schloming,

"the same result took place as if we had not done a thing."

In Viet Nam, for example, he said, the national liberation movement led by Ho Chi Minh won anyway after nearly 20 years of covert actions and all-out war, billions of dollars wasted and over a million lives lost.

"You cannot create a genuine nationalism as an outside power," he said. "Ho Chi Minh was destined to rule."

Schloming said that on several occasions the CIA misled the American public in the interest of national security. He cited two false stories planted in the press by the CIA: the one about Libyan hit squads headed toward the U.S. and another about massacres in Angola carried out by (Please turn to Page 11, Column 1)