

State executions on the increase since 1983

by Robert Lothian

The Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. Since then, 38 states, including Oregon, have approved laws which allow capital punishment.

In addition, polls show that a large majority of Americans approve of the death penalty.

No one has been executed yet under Oregon's new law, approved by voters in November. It allows for death by lethal injection. The appeals process can take several years, but a "death wing" at one of Oregon's prisons is reportedly being built in anticipation.

In other parts of the country, death row prisoners are being executed at a rapidly accelerating rate.

Between September, 1984, and February, 1985, 15 persons were executed in the U.S., an average of about one every ten days.

Before September, 1984, only seven executions occurred in the seven years since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty.

The rapid increase in the rate of executions has been helped by the Supreme Court: in 1983 it ruled that appeals courts can take short cuts to reject prisoner efforts to postpone executions.

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist has denounced what he calls "endlessly drawn out legal proceedings" that he feels work to the benefit of criminals and make a mockery of the justice system.

Streamlining of court procedures has been welcomed by law enforcement officials who argue that the death penalty deters major crimes.

After the execution of a man con-

victed of killing a Jacksonville, Florida, police officer earlier this year, a group of officers from the Jacksonville Police Dept. cheered as the executed man's body left the prison in a hearse.

An associated press survey at the end of January showed that 85 percent of Americans approve of the death penalty. But half of those surveyed also believe that the death penalty is not always applied fairly from state to state.

The possibility of unfairness so concerned the Supreme Court in 1972 that it threw out the death penalty. The 1972 ruling said that state death sentences were unconstitutional be-

cause they were sometimes applied capriciously.

Death penalty opponents argue that new laws approved by the Court have not remedied the situation. They also report studies showing that the death penalty does not deter crime.

One of the abolitionist groups, Amnesty International, is working to end the death penalty from all countries in the world.

By the end of 1983, 26 nations had abolished the death penalty for all offenses and another 18 for all but exceptional offenses, according to Amnesty's 1984 year-end report.

During 1983, 1,699 people were known to have been executed in 39

nations, and many more executions went unreported, said the report.

At the end of 1983, according to Amnesty, 1,289 prisoners in the U.S. were under sentence of death, the highest figure ever recorded. The number now exceeds 1,500.

In Portland, local Amnesty coordinator Susan Emmons said that activists working to abolish the death penalty in Oregon were rethinking their strategy in light of Oregon's new law and polls which show overwhelming support for the death penalty.

She reported, however, that a group of doctors has voted to refuse to give the lethal injections should it's members be asked to do so.

A.M. PRINTING CO.

1463 N.E. Killingsworth

Phone: 283-2487

FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS



Office & Business
Letterheads • Business Cards
Bulletins • Price Lists • Charts
Newsletters • Forms • Flyers
Envelopes • ADS PLACED

These Feature Grocery Items Are Just An Example Of What You Will Find In Your "Safeway Shopping Guide"

Look in Your "THIS WEEK" Newspaper Today For Even More Selection And Value For Your Dollar At Safeway



**Rib Half
Pork Loin**
\$1.29
Lb. Fully Processed

**Tender Fresh
Asparagus**
Serve With Cheese Sauce
Save Up To 61¢ Lb., No Limit
98¢
Lb. Mustard Greens Each Bunch 39¢

**Revlon Flex
Shampoo**
Or Conditioner, 15-Oz.
Bottle, Your Choice
\$1.69
Each Save Up To 50¢ No Limit

**Flav-R-Pac
Orange Juice**
12-Ounce Can, Frozen
Case of 36, \$31.49
88¢
Ea. Save Up To 77¢ No Limit



Ad Prices Good 4/10 Thru 4/16/85 At Safeways In Lloyd Center, St. Johns, At 5920 N.E. Union & 6400 N. Interstate. Sales Limited To Retail Quantities. No Sales To Dealers.

Scholarships available

Applications are now being accepted for two independent living scholarships to be awarded under the auspices of the Portland Community College Foundation.

Two awards of \$1,000 each will be made to physically disabled students interested in continuing professional and academic studies at four year colleges and universities, according to Sherry Robinson, director of Handicapped Student Services at PCC.

Persons applying for the scholarships must be full-time students at PCC and have been in attendance at the college as full-time students for at least one year. Applicants must have verifiable physical disabilities which limit one or more of life's major activities. In addition, applicants must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better during attendance at PCC.

The scholarships are made possible through the contributions of Tim Gilmer, a former PCC faculty member. Application deadline is April 19 and final selection will be made by May 10, 1985. For information, contact Robinson at 244-6111, ext. 139.

South Africa

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

"It's a very dangerous thing to interfere with the domestic life of another country. I think we are playing with fire."

If the legislature approves the bill, "does that mean we ban trade with England because of the Irish situation?" he asked.

But Groff, who supports the bill, said divestment is long overdue. "Our companies supply the technology that helps maintain that system," he said. "We're involved, we're involved in supporting the status quo, and I would like to see that changed."

Groff said both divesting and engaging South Africa on a variety of levels to end apartheid would send a positive signal to Afro-Americans. "We've had a problem with racism, with oppression of people of color. For that reason I think the situation in South Africa is uniquely important to us," he said.



JACKSON'S
OWL RADIO,
TV & RECORD CO.

Northwest's Largest
Gospel Record & Tape Selections
Authorized Zenith
Color C.V. Sales and Service
SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1952
WEBB T. JACKSON, SR. Owner
GARY A. JACKSON, Certified Technician
& Service Manager

4823 N. Vancouver
Portland, OR 97217
Office: 287-2042