

Blazers'
chances

Page 6



New sister
city

Page 3



Homeland
threatened

Page 2

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV, Number 25
April 17, 1985
25¢ Copy

Two Sections

Seattle Protest set

by Robert Lothian

The largest national protest in several years is coming up on Saturday, April 20th.

An alliance of labor, anti-apartheid, Central America and peace groups — the April 20th Coalition — is organizing the nationwide demonstration to protest President Reagan's policies.

On the West Coast, the April 20th Coalition is planning rallies and marches for Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Ten busses will be available to transport people from Portland to Seattle.

The coalition is calling for an end to apartheid and U.S. support of the South African regime, no intervention in Central America, a reversal of the arms race, more jobs, and cutting the military budget.

Speakers will address those and other issues and entertainment will include skits and music.

In Seattle, marchers will assemble at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 20th, near the Seattle Federal Building, Second and Marion, downtown, and then march to the Federal Courthouse, Fifth and Spring, for a rally.

Nita Bruggerman, Portland, April 20th coordinator and Northwest manager of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, said the protest will likely be the largest since the Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 19, 1981.

With 80 national supporters, April 20th has much broader backing than Solidarity Day, she said.

"I think the message that people are trying to send the government once again is that you are doing some wrong things, both domestically and internationally," she said.

Bruggerman mentioned the Oregon South Africa divestment bill, HB2001,

as one of the issues of concern for the local coalition.

The bill asks the state to withdraw investments of state funds in companies that do business in South Africa. State employee and other unions are not opposed to the bill, she said.

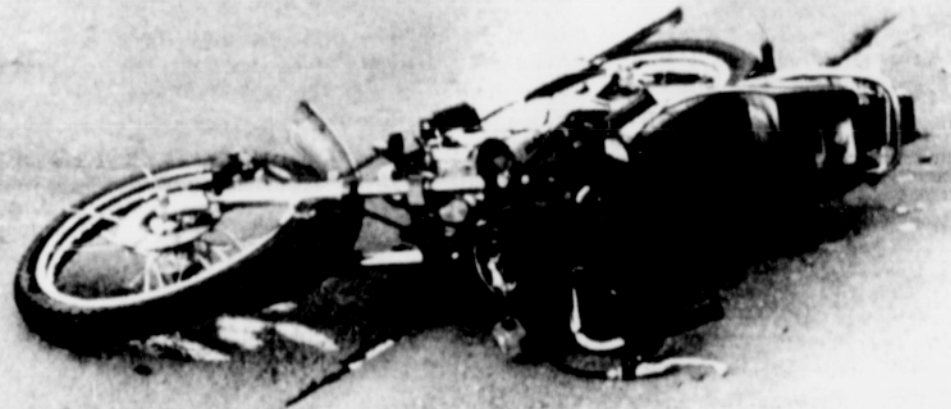
Twenty-five local sponsors of the April 20th demonstrations include the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, the Inland Boatman's Union Columbia River Council, the Rainbow coalition, the Oregon National Organization of Women, the Portland Freeze Coalition and the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee.

Busses leave for Seattle at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 20th, from the Lloyd Center parking lot at Northeast 17th and Multnomah, and return about 6 p.m. Round trip cost is \$15, and reservations are necessary. Call 231-0902.



Deborah Lynn Norquist, 32, was seriously injured Friday night when her motorcycle collided with an automobile at Northeast Cleveland Avenue and Failing

Street. Police are searching for the auto believed involved. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)



State may soften HUD cuts

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — When Congress debates a possible two-year freeze on all federal housing assistance programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Portland will not be caught off guard. City, County and State housing officials are gearing up to develop a state-wide policy that addresses the housing problem faced by low-income Oregonians.

Representatives Al Young and Mike Burton have proposed legislation that will create an Oregon Housing Trust Fund to respond to unmet housing need not being addressed in the private sector.

"These needs will become more severe as federal budget cuts carve away at housing development that supply basic shelter assistance to households," Young explained.

"I see it as a question of priorities and political will. The people with housing needs are represented in Salem by us, the legislators, not by the lobby. The extent to which we are able to meet these needs will depend primarily upon the results of serious soul searching by individual legislators," Burton added.

Columbia Villa, located in North Portland, is the largest public housing development in the city. Under the current federal proposal, a moratorium is proposed for Section 8 funds used for maintenance and modernization.

The City's Urban Homestead program, which acquires federal mortgage foreclosure houses, rehabilitates them and transfers the homes to low-income families, is also in jeopardy due to the targeted elimination of funds.

Other housing units across the city face financial eviction because of a ten percent cut in the Community Development Grant. This grant is used to stimulate private sector investment in activities with public benefit. Connie Easter, Public Affairs Coordinator for the Housing Authority of Portland, said cuts in the block grant will shake an already shaken construction industry.

"Also, there is a move afoot to return housing to private industry. Tenants will purchase their own homes for a quarter of its value, but they won't have any money to maintain them. And the best housing will be sold first, leaving those most in need of work to those unable to afford maintenance," she added.

Bill Hunter, Director of the Housing Authority, said the cuts will destroy improvements made in public housing in Portland during the last 15 years. "Because of the retrenchment of the federal government, all the improvements made in the Villa will be eliminated. It may go back where it was: Riddled with crime and vandalism."

The Oregon Housing Trust Fund is designed to prevent the years of gains to be wiped away with a budget cut. The fund will provide an annually renewable and predictable amount of revenue for low and moderate income housing assistance. It will operate as a trust fund, generating earnings from the investment of its resources, lending capital at no or low interest rates and providing a high degree of efficiency in both the operation of the fund and the use of its resources.

"Trends in housing and mortgage interest rate costs have made it increasingly difficult for many Oregonians to provide themselves with adequate shelter," noted Young. "Oregon's economic problems, along with federal actions to reduce the deficit, are hitting lower income Oregonians particularly hard. For that reason, it is imperative that discussion of these problems occur and that potential solutions are outlined," Young said, concluding that the Oregon Trust Fund could be a part of that solution.

'Fronts' abuse exaggerated

Tougher minority contracts law sought

Charging that penalties for fraudulent schemes to get Federal contracts and subcontracts under programs designed to aid minority business development are inadequate, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th, MD) has introduced a bill to broaden the coverage of existing law and to stiffen criminal fines for such offenses.

Generally, the minority person's share of ownership must be at least 51 percent in order for a business to qualify for federally-funded contracts and subcontracts as a minority firm.

Mitchell noted that violations involving misrepresentation of white-owned firms as minority-owned (commonly known as "fronts"), controlled and operated are frequently cited by opponents of affirmative action as cause to rescind laws to aid involvement of non-white firms in publicly-funded projects.

Mitchell said the problem of fronts has been "blown out of proportion" by critics of affirmative action, but his bill increasing fines for violation from \$10,000 to \$50,000 while maintaining a prison term of five years "would deter offenses of this kind that bring disrepute and scandal to otherwise legitimate remedies to past and ongoing discrimination in Federal contracting and subcontracting programs."

In addition to increasing fines, Mitchell's bill, H.R. 1961, would also extend the coverage of existing law to Federal subcontracts and other contracts let by State and local governments with grant funds made available under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982.

Under present law, a misrepresentation must be made directly to the Federal Government in order to in-

volve a criminal sanction. In the subcontracting area "fronts" deal directly with prime contractors so, technically, there is no misrepresentation to the United States.

Similarly, under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, misrepresentations generally are made either to the prime or to the State government.

Mitchell's bill would make all such misrepresentations illegal regardless of whether they are made directly to the Federal Government or some other party.

"Those who abuse these programs — both the minority and majority perpetrators of such schemes — deserve punishments to suit their felonious crimes," Mitchell said.

"I am asking the U.S. Congress to change the existing law (a provision of the Small Business Act) to realistically reflect the criminality of this offense against the United States Government, U.S. taxpayers and eligible, legitimate disadvantaged businesses that lose out in competition with the fronts," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said critics of affirmative action and set-aside programs exaggerate in their characterizations of how widespread the practice of fronting actually is. "Rather than correcting such abuses, these opponents would have the Congress renege on its promise of equal access to economic opportunity as mandated by the Constitution and provided for in the Small Business Act," Mitchell added.



Children from the Tri-Counties respond to the question from AMA Headstart Director Ron Herndon. "How many of you have heard of Michael Jackson?" The children and adults were on hand to celebrate the 20th birthday of the Headstart program. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)



Herb Cawthorne, director for the Office of Special Services at PSU and Portland School Board member, has been selected president and chief executive of the Portland Urban League. A field of over one-hundred was narrowed to three finalists: Leonard Venton, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Lawrence Lakey, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Cawthorne. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)