



West Coast Blackie at his home under the bridge.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Under the bridge

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The river is their living room, the stars their roof and the ground serves as their carpet as those who fall through the safety net reappear as Portland's invisible population — the homeless.

They have responded to the finite summer shelter by living where they can and some are literally living underneath the bridge.

Beneath the I-5 Freeway ramp, between the Morrison and Steel bridges, a little-known community exists. Shaded away from view and nestled between the railroad tracks and the river bank, a barking dog greets intruders while a child plays hopscotch in the dirt. Her mother cooks over an open flame while her father reads the paper.

"The faces of the homeless have changed," said Michael Stoops, director of the Burnside Community Council.

"Although the image of Willie the Wino, Freddy the Freeloader and the Bag Lady is still with us, the average homeless person is 30 years old, 15 percent are women, 25 percent are racial minorities, one out of four are chronically mentally ill and we are seeing more and more families every day."

For eight years, Stoops has advocated and educated the city about a group of people and a set of circumstances many would like to ignore. The council provides a variety of basic human services such as dental, medical, food and winter shelter to Portland's homeless.

Racism workshop this weekend

Portland Black United Front co-chair Ron Herndon and Prof. Duane Campbell (California State, Sacramento) will open a weekend workshop on "Facing Racism," speaking at Portland State, Smith Center, Room 296, Friday, May 17, at 8 p.m. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Democratic Socialists of America, Portland chapter, and the Associated Students of PSU (ASPSU).

The workshop will teach participants about minority organizations, and identify barriers between different racial groups working against racism.

"We are the safety net when people are ineligible for other programs," Stoops explained. "They wind up on skid row and we are starting to see too many come through."

Recent city budget limitations eliminated funding for summer shelter.

"Everyone seems to be concerned about the homeless in the winter, but the summer is just as dangerous and threatening," Stoops noted. "Young people and those new to Burnside are starting to live underneath the bridge."

Tony, a 25-year-old Black male, said he has lived under the bridge for four years. "I'm homeless because I don't want to go home. I'm not from Portland. I came here with a job, lost it and everything else."

Jim, a 31-year-old white male, said once employers find out you live on Burnside they won't hire you. So, we're right back where we started — nowhere.

As the traffic overhead drowns out their verbal frustration, Tony said they keep warm in the winter with lots and lots of sleeping bags. I protect myself with a billy club or hatchet. I've got to watch out for people trying to rip me off."

As he showed me his corner under the bridge, I wondered what there was to take. Blankets covered the dirt while cardboard cutouts serve as walls. Besides a collection of broken chairs and an assortment of clothes, there was nothing else except the roar of the traffic above and the sounds of a train beside him.

The city is the backdrop and a reminder of a city and society going one way while the homeless stand still.

Herndon will focus on black issues. Campbell will speak to Latino issues, based on his experience in the United Farmworkers, and currently in the Sacramento Immigration Committee and La Semilla Cultural Center. He is co-chair of the DSA Anti-Racism Commission.

The workshop continues May 18 with a game, Bafa-Bafa, designed to increase sensitivity in interracial communication, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dr. Campbell will present a discussion on "Anti-Racism and Democratic Socialism." Both events are also at Smith Center, Room 296.



From left, Robert Ames, Pres. First Interstate Bank; Bud Clark, Portland Mayor, and Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, kick off Cans for Kids drive. Funds from cans collected will support drug and alcohol abuse programs in the schools.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Victim's rights sought

Saying, "Crime victims will not rest until they are assured fairness in the criminal justice system," Bob Kouns, President of Crime Victims United, addressed a rally on the Capitol steps in Salem recently which launched a drive aimed at placing a new victims' rights initiative on the November, 1986 ballot.

Kouns was joined by State Representative Randy Miller and Marlene Young, a national victims' rights leader as chief sponsors of the initiative which must be signed by some 75,000 voters by July 6, 1986 in order to go before the electorate.

Kouns told the rally the initiative would establish equivalent Miranda Rights for victims and require the Parole Board to allow victims to attend its hearings.

The Miranda Rights for victims would require a defense attorney to tell a victim who the attorney represents, that the victim does not have to talk to the attorney and that if the victim wishes to talk may request that a district attorney be present.

The initiative would also: —Require that the victim's schedule be considered in the setting of trial and motion dates.

—Prohibit exclusion of the victim from the courtroom as often occurs at the defense attorney's request.

—When "constitutionally permis-

sible," require joint trials of multiple defendants in a single case so that a victim is not subject to excruciating multiple trials.

—Give prosecuting attorneys in criminal felony cases the same number of opportunities to challenge the suitability of jurors as defense attorneys have.

—Give prosecutors equal rights with defense attorneys in admitting evidence of a witnesses' prior convictions.

—Allow separate sentences for each crime and each victim. For example a drunken driver who kills four people could be sentenced for four crimes whereas now he can only be sentenced for one.

Supporters of the initiative anticipate that legal issues in setting the proper ballot title will take several months to resolve. Kouns said he hopes petitions will be on the street gathering signatures by July or August.

For further information contact Bob Kouns or Norman Frink at 245-4920.

Divestment

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The House Human Resource Committee will send to the Oregon House a measure that will require the State Treasurer to gradually sell state investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

House Bill 2001 was supported by a number of progressives, liberals and a host of state legislators during public testimony April 3rd.

Due to scarce tactics employed by State Treasurer Bill Rutherford, who told the committee that divestment meant a multi-million dollar loss to the public trust fund — primarily the Public Employees Retirement system — the original bill was diluted.

Rep. Rick Kotulski issued a proposal calling for a divestment of funds from companies that fail to follow principals espoused by the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Called the Expanded Sullivan Principals, it states that companies should allow Black workers to live with their families, support their union and invest in education and training.

Rep. Margaret Carter, who introduced the bill, said the current wording, if passed, will require a withdrawal of 45 percent of Oregon funds invested in companies doing business in South Africa.

Register to vote

The Associated Students and staff of Portland Community College-Cascade, 705 N. Killingsworth, will be operating a voter registration table in the foyer of the Student Center Building until May 20. They invite members of the community to stop by and register to vote in the May 21 special election.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
284-7722

A Public Service of the Portland Observer

Dreamspan Saturday

Want a role in shaping Portland's future? Then come to Dreamspan, Saturday, May 18, on the Burnside Bridge.

Bring a friend, bring a grin and bring us your dreams to build a plan on. Join Mayor Bud Clark and the Portland City Council at Dreamspan, the kick-off event for Portland's Central City plan. Meet thousands of

your neighbors on the Burnside Bridge at 11 a.m. when a balloon arch will be raised to join both sides of the Wil-lamette River.

Later, hear the music of Crazy 8's and Johnny Limbo and the Lugnats at Waterfront Park. Help plan Portland at Dreamspan, Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Burnside Bridge.

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Scientists Invite Whistleblowers to Speak Out

The Church of Scientology, long known for its effective social reform activities and exposure of government agency abuses that violate the precious freedoms of American citizens, has also provided a forum for whistleblowers — those government employees with the courage to speak out about agency abuses and injustices which they have observed.

In 1975, for example, the Church's FREEDOM News Journal reported on the story of A. Ernest Fitzgerald, an Air Force employee whose career was destroyed by false and malicious reports about him by his superiors, after he exposed the \$2 billion cost overrun of a controversial military transport plane.

After reading about Fitzgerald in FREEDOM, former Grumman Aircraft employee Duane Yorke contacted the Church to tell his own story. Yorke had reported to Grumman, the manufacturer of the Navy's F-111 fighter plane, serious defects in the design of the new plane, and copies of his report had been forwarded to the Pentagon.

Shortly after he sent his report, Yorke found his career abruptly ended. He was hospitalized and held incommunicado, and "treated" with electro-convulsive shock therapy and insulin shock treatment.

As the Church reported, Yorke was later vindicated when Grumman Aircraft and the Navy scrapped this test model of the F-111 after confirming the defects that Yorke had originally pointed out.

The Church of Scientology has also released the stories of many Internal Revenue Service (IRS) whistleblowers.

Recently, the Church's FREEDOM News Journal advertised in several national newspapers, asking for current and former employees of the IRS to come forward with information about abuses or illegalities within the service.

One of the first responses was from a former IRS employee, who came forward with the story of her attempts to correct a duplicate assessment of a taxpayer's return. For her efforts, she was informed by one of her IRS superiors that "if the taxpayer is stupid enough to sign for it, you assess it." FREEDOM covered her story, and, as a result, many other IRS employees were encouraged to speak out.

The response to FREEDOM's advertisement was so tremendous that a national coalition of IRS whistleblowers has been formed, consist-

ing of not only current and former employees of the IRS but also open to all American citizens and groups who are concerned about violations of their constitutional rights by the IRS.

The Church of Scientology has also been contacted by whistleblowers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

In 1979, the Church reported information received from a former FBI agent who exposed the fact that it was common practice within the agency for agents to pocket the money intended for their informants. He also revealed that in order to make their quota of informants, many agents would simply make up names and report them as fact — and then pocket the money allocated for these fictitious informants.

Many whistleblowers who have told their stories to the Church and to the staff of FREEDOM have been greatly relieved to find that the Church is an organization that is concerned enough about honesty and integrity in government to listen to them and accurately report their stories to the American people.

The Church has found that there is an increasing number of current and former government employees who see a need for reform and who are willing to step forward and talk about their experiences.

It is vital that the American people be able to make their voices heard and do something effective to improve those parts of their own government which they observe are in need of reform.

The Church of Scientology's campaign to expose and reform government agency abuses has received tremendous support from individuals and groups throughout the country, who, like ourselves, know that we must take responsibility for protecting those freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Despite the predictable attempts by these government agencies to silence us, just as they have tried to silence their own employees who have tried to blow the whistle on them, the Church will continue to encourage American citizens to speak up about government agency abuses and crimes. The Church of Scientology will continue to set an example of persistence and courage to those who feel it is worthwhile to work toward an ideal civilization where honest men are free to prosper and live their lives without fear.

For further information, call Toll-Free 1-800-367-8788

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