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## Lee Brown speaks out

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Sounding more like a historian than a criminal justice expert, Houston's Police Chief Lee Brown challenged the Portland Urban League to utilize the strategy of "the book, the buck and the ballot," along with coalition politics at the League's annual dinner and 40th anniversary on May 16.

With their new chief executive officer — Herb Cawthorne — approved by the National Urban League Board, the Portland league umbrellas a variety of programs to assist Portland's Afro-American and low-income communities.

Keynote speaker Chief Brown established the Criminal Justice program at Portland State University in 1968, served as sheriff and director of public safety for Multnomah County, and from 1978-82 Brown was Public Safety Commissioner in Atlanta, Georgia.

Brown proved to be a student of history as he compared the current

political, social and economic climate to those years after the Civil War.

"We are going through our second reconstruction. This one follows on the heels of the New Deal and the retrenchment from social programs," Brown stated.

"Thirty years after Brown vs. Board of Education, there are more students enrolled in racially isolated schools and the Black high school drop-out rate exceeds the Black graduation rate," he noted.

Summarizing the last 30 years, Brown identified the 50s and the 60s as a struggle for basic civil rights. He called the 70s a time to defend those rights and the 80s as a time for parity.

"In 1985, it's a struggle for survival," he noted.

Brown advised the group to take the profitability out of crime "by refusing to purchase stolen goods." He added, "An increase in the unemployment rate creates a corresponding increase in the crime rate." The ties between economics and crime

were among the themes shared by Brown.

In an interview Brown did not criticize Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode or the police department for dropping a bomb on the revolutionary group MOVE that destroyed an entire neighborhood.

However, Brown stated, "I don't think that would have happened in my city. We have other ways to get at a problem than dropping a bomb."

Brown said the law and order climate the country is currently experiencing, "will not deal with the problems caused by crime, poverty and unemployment."

Brown was Public Safety Commissioner during the hideous Atlanta Child Murders. Brown said he knows Wayne Williams committed 23 of those murders because they all had evidence connected to Williams. "The CBS docu-drama was unfactual and mixed reality with fiction. Bernard Goetz is another person that belongs in jail," Brown added.



Lee Brown, Houston's Police Chief, addresses Portland Urban League's 40th anniversary dinner. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)



Iran-Iraqi students demonstrate against the fighting in their homelands. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Politics, military bedevil Ethiopia

by Robert Lothian

Ethiopia was once a potential breadbasket for East Africa and the Middle East, "but now is not a breadbasket, but a basket case," according to a former Ethiopian Supreme Court Justice.

Hapte Selassie was the keynote speaker at a conference on food and African development at PSU May 17.

The one day conference, sponsored by the PSU Association of African Students and the Black Studies Department, brought together students, faculty and the public with government representatives from Ghana, Gabon and Nigeria.

Several papers on African development were presented, and panels discussed South Africa and African women in development.

According to Selassie, who is now a professor at Georgetown University and Howard University in Washington, D.C., most African countries were self-sufficient and net exporters of food until about 1940.

That changed with the rise of military-bureaucratic states whose ruling elites are unable to deal with fundamental social problems, he said.

Selassie "cried negative media images of Africa. "In TV reports, Africa has been portrayed as a problem continent," and Africans as "helpless people," he said. "I know

Africa has many problems but certainly it isn't a problem continent." "Economics is not Africa's problem. The fundamental problem I have maintained is a political one."

Using Ethiopia as an example, Selassie said he is an outspoken critic of the Ethiopian government, which he described as an everwidening gap between an expanding military-police bureaucracy "taking a great deal of resources" and "an increasingly alienated society."

Ironically, in a country that is supposed to be socialist, "people who are not essentially productive have ended up ruling those who produce."

A socialist development model that forgets Africa's small producers is imposed as an alien doctrine of social organization, he said. "The small farmer should be any African government's first item on the agenda of development." Ethiopia's government has been criticized for neglecting small farmers in favor of flashy urban development projects.

Selassie's personal history reflects the changes that came with Ethiopia's release from colonialism. He was born an Italian citizen when Ethiopia was an Italian colony, while his brother was born "a British protected person," he said. "When I went to England one fine morning to study I found out I was an Ethiopian."

A friend who was also a leader in Ethiopia's government after the 1974 revolution invited him to "come back and help" in the new government. "I don't regret it although I nearly lost my life," he said.

An Eritrean, Selassie said he supports independence for the northern province that has been waging a 25-year war of secession. "What the Eritreans are asking for has been denied and a military solution imposed upon them." The military solution has failed and Selassie called for a referendum — "Let the Eritrean people decide," he said.

### Dismissal asked

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democratic National Chairman Paul G. Kirk, Jr., called for the resignation or immediate dismissal of Marianne Mele Hall, chair of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal.

Hall, recently appointed by President Reagan to the \$70,000 per year post, is the co-author of "Foundations of Sand," a book which states that American Blacks "insist on preserving their jungle freedoms, their women, their avoidance of personal responsibility and the abhorrence of the work ethic."

## Marchers seek Iraq-Iran peace

by Robert Lothian

"Solh" means peace in Persian, the language of Iran.

A group of Iranians, others from the Middle East and their supporters demonstrated for solh between Iran and Iraq last week as they marched through downtown Portland.

Wearing masks and carrying signs in Persian, about 30 demonstrators formed a half circle in the park facing City Hall. They chanted "peace, peace, peace in the Middle East" and "stop the killing now."

A local engineer in exile from Iran, who identified himself as Bahman, said the Khomeini regime in Iran is massing sophisticated weaponry for a new offensive in the war that has taken a half million lives.

"Everything's in place for another massacre," he said. Bahman, who represented the Committee in Solidarity With the People of Iran, said 15-year-old boys are being sent to the front as "cannon fodder" in human waves sent against the Iraqi lines.

An Iranian offensive in early March resulted in over 27,000 deaths in one week, and attacks against civilian

targets from both sides mean the war is taking an appalling turn, he said.

In both Iran and Iraq, he continued, the war is responsible for human rights violations and political detention, torture and murder of war resisters. "Right now, you either go to the front or you go to jail," he said.

Bahman described the Khomeini regime as worse than that of the Shah. "Women are nothing but slaves for men. . . Khomeini is making a mockery of Islam."

Ominously, the war could become an excuse for direct U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf, he said.

"All of the people in the Persian Gulf are against this war. The only people benefiting from it are the death merchants — the arms manufacturers."

Spokeswoman Kerry Gregory said the international Committee in Solidarity With the People of Iran formed to inform the public about the tragic turnaround in Iran since the 1978 revolution that deposed the Shah.

The war means that the promise of "independence, freedom and justice" that was the slogan of the revolution has been destroyed, said

Gregory. "All of the reforms that were started have been eliminated. The regime has been using the war as a means to divert attention away from people's needs," she said.

Iran continues to have an illiteracy rate of 70 percent, according to Gregory.

The Committee in Solidarity With the People of Iran and other groups supporting peace are working for a United Nations negotiated settlement of the Iran-Iraq war, she said.

### College offers workshop

The fourth annual "Writer to Writer" summer workshop for talented writers in grades 9-12 will be held at Lewis and Clark College June 17-28. Offered cooperatively by the Continuing Education programs of Portland State University and Lewis and Clark College, the workshop features some of Oregon's top professional writers who help students improve their skills and increase their understanding of the press, the literary profession and the realm of publishing.