

Shadow project

Page 4



Community Unity Day

Page 12



Making youth sports fun for kids

Page 8

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XV, Number 41
August 14, 1985
25¢ Copy

Two Sections



Kaman Anderson of POSAF burns a facsimile of a pass book, that must be carried by all Blacks in South Africa, during a protest march at Columbia Coin Co. in downtown Portland. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

POSAF demonstration at Columbia Coin

by Nathaniel Scott

POSAF (Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom) has renewed its efforts to bring pressure on the sale of the Krugerrand gold coin in Portland.

Wednesday, August 7, nearly 50 concerned citizens demonstrated at Columbia Coin, 514 S.W. 6th Ave. The demonstrators chanted slogans, carried posters, passed out leaflets and as a grand finale, one of South Africa's black passbooks was burned symbolically in place of the Krugerrand.

Before the demonstration began, six POSAF protesters confronted Columbia Coin vice president John Locke in hopes of getting him to stop the sale of the Krugerrand.

Bill Bigelow, the group's spokesperson said to Locke, "We would like to formally request that you stop selling the Krugerrand."

Locke replied that he would only stop selling the Krugerrand if all other items being imported from South Africa were banned, too. "No is my answer," he said.

Thus the stage was set and the demonstrators began their protest.

Signs reading "Ban South African Krugerrand," "Take a stand, ban the Krugerrand" and "Don't bloody your hands with Krugerrands" were waved high while such chants as "One, two, three, four, the Krugerrand has got to go," filled the air.

The demonstrators were protesting what they labeled "The Krugerrand Connection."

The *Krugerrand Connection* is a flyer handed out by the group which states in part, "Since October, over 500 Black people have died because of the apartheid system. The international community must unite to pressure the South African government to end, not reform, the apartheid system. The United States must join Canada, Japan, Sweden and France in imposing strong sanctions."

The flyer urged those in support of

Library offerings

Multnomah Country Library will be sponsoring the following summer events:

Albina, 3605 NE 15th (Phone 287-7147) — Thursday, August 22, 2:30 p.m., Films for school-age children: "Lambert the Sheepish Lion"; "Roller Skate Fever"; "African Girl — Malobi."

North Portland, 512 N. Killingsworth (phone 284-5622) — Wednesday, August 21, 2:30 p.m., Monstrously good movies: "Little Toot"; "Ferdinand the Bull"; "Strega Nonna"; "Rapunzel."

Gordley sees Africa first hand

by Nathaniel Scott

She went seeking knowledge. She wanted to gain firsthand information about South Africa's political philosophy towards its neighbors; most notable: Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique. As a representative of American Friends Services Division in Portland, she visited those three countries bordering South Africa as well as South Africa itself. She returned to Portland with a wealth of knowledge and some emotional scars too. Her sense of comprehension was almost devastated by the amount of senseless — physical and emotional — destruction she witnessed. And at Lesotho, South Africa, she was "indignantly" treated by the government the Reagan administration considers its partner in "constructive engagement." Avel Gordley is her name. She needs to be singled out for her courage and for the devotion she has shown in championing the cause for Black freedom.

Gordley said upon entering South Africa, she, and the other five members of her traveling group, were detained at the border. They were stopped at check points and patrol stations, too. Each time it was at the barrel end of a gun. And in most instances the wielder of the weapon was a Black South African.

"Based on the four stops, I have no doubts about the seriousness (of the Blacks) by the way they approached their work," Gordley said. "[However] one thing puzzles me. One of the [Black] police did ask me if I knew Mohammed Ali."

Gordley's trip to South Africa was a brief one; she has no fundamentals to base an opinion on. But it was evident from the onset that the group was being watched by the South African police and "no effort was made to contact our contacts," she said.

However in the neighboring countries the story differs somewhat. Gordley and her traveling companions were able to mingle with people and ask questions freely. "Many of the people we talked to denounced U.S. foreign policy towards South Africa," she said. "It is said the United States is on the wrong side of history."

Gordley also spoke to a group of



AVEL GORDLEY
(Photo: Kris Altucher)

young people, 18 to 25-years-old, who had recently fled South Africa, she said. They talked about how their lives were committed to the liberation of South Africa. She added they were aware of the divesture movement in America and encouraged us to keep up the movement.

A slogan used by the youth, "We don't determine our enemy by the color of the skin buy by their deeds," seems to underline their understanding and knowledge of deception with their ranks.

From Gordley's point of view, the African National Congress (ANC) seem to be the leader of the liberation movement. However she added, "There are any number of organizations that enjoy popular support; they are all unified and working towards the same goal."

In Zimbabwe Gordley found that the cities were "very developed" but in the countryside there were problems.

The two high points of Gordley's trip were meeting with the Minister of Information in Zimbabwe and interviewing the young refugees in Lesotho, South Africa.

Gordley is in the process of putting together a slide show of the photos she took. In the meantime, she has resumed her active role with Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom and feels the Sullivan Principles need to be dropped from all resolutions dealing with South Africa.

Rev. Jones visits from S Africa

by Nathaniel Scott

"A lot of people are interested in my country for a number of reasons," said Rev. Colin Jones, a South African minister who will be visiting Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock, until the end of August.

Rev. Jones is an Episcopal Priest in the Angelian Church and a Chaplain at the University of The Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. In addition, Rev. Jones is an advisor to the Bishop in Cape Town and a cannon in the church at Cape Town.

Since arriving in this country, Rev. Jones has been critically outspoken about the government of South Africa. Such acts, according to the South African regime, are acts of treason and carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Rev. Jones is well aware of that fact and said in a poem: "Don't point us till tomorrow when the weight is too much to bear . . . for today is the hour of our freedom."

"I am just a simple Black South African. Don't speak to me or to my people about waiting to tomorrow," he added, while addressing a meeting of Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom.

Rev. Jones preaches what he calls "a theology that helps them [South Africans] shake off the shackles."

He knows that each ounce of pressure adds to the burden the South African government must bare if it is to continue its ideology of white supremacy.

He defines the government of South Africa's role of apartheid in this manner: "Apartheid is a particular form of racial discrimination which works hand in hand with exploitation."

The ways of exploitation are many in South Africa, he said. "All legislation affect Black people: where they live and where they work. The reason is to supply South Africa with cheap labor."

Rev. Jones said he is not a politi-

cian, nor is he an economist. But he does know economics play a big part in South Africa's apartheid system of government.

"What happens in South Africa affects Americans," he said. "I shall never again be able to keep a straight face when I hear people sing that song: 'the land of the free and the home of the brave'."

Rev. Jones mentioned that the Reagan Administration is not prepared to pay the cost for freedom and equal rights in South Africa. The administration would rather hide behind the shameful slogan of "constructive engagement."

"I am beginning to wonder," he said, "to what extent the American people have the courage to carry through the moral dictates of their conscious."

He added, "Our people [Black South Africans] are dying to earn the peace and comfort of America. South Africa is but one of the many countries in this world which is supporting American policies. We are tired of America dictating to us."

Rev. Jones said the similarity between South Africa and America is so great that "I sometimes feel just as sick here as I do at home."

"Some [South African] Blacks are on the bandwagon of oppression," he said. "The uprising [boycotts, strikes and things of that nature] is the strength of my people. We cannot confront the might [of arms] but we can withhold our sweat."

Rev. Jones believes that divesture is one of, if not the answer to, resolving the apartheid problem in South Africa.

Rev. Jones insisted that when you talk about a new South Africa you are actually talking about a new America, too. "Because when we are free as we shall be free, American corporations [in South Africa] will pack up," he said. "That is a promise I make for my people."

Rev. Jones concluded by saying, "We [Black South Africans] are not about trading privileges for rights."

Citizen's group to address police training

The training of the Portland Police Bureau's Officers is the issue that requires the attention of the Bureau and the community.

N.E. Portland residents concerned about certain patterns in police responses that seemed too often to result in regrettable and unfortunate consequences lead members of the N.E. Coalition of Neighborhoods to form a committee to discuss the issue. The outcome of their discussion convinced them that one of the key elements toward improving the relationship between the police and the community had to do with the kind of in-service training that is provided for law enforcement professionals. The Committee has secured the cooperation of the Police Bureau in the development of short- and long-term cross-cultural training.

"The people have a right to feel that police officers are there primarily to protect them. They should not have to feel afraid of or alienated from uniformed officers any more than uniformed officers should have to feel alienated from the community," said Nick Barnett, Chairperson of the committee. "Our committee is convinced that the community relations problems involved can be, and must be, bridged," he said. There is

an urgent need to increase the levels of mutual understanding and acceptance, reduce tensions, and strengthen respect for each other's human dignity.

Having identified itself as the Community Advisory Committee on Cross-Cultural Police Training, the Committee composed itself of representatives from Portland's various community and ethnically oriented organizations. It was strongly held that the resulting diversity of perspective was vital to the task at hand.

The organizations that responded include neighborhood associations, community organizations, a church affiliated group, human relations and social service agencies, and representative from the Portland Police Department.

The Committee, which has been meeting since June, defined its purpose as contributing to the safety and effectiveness of police work among Portland multi-ethnic communities by increasing awareness and more expert inter-cultural understanding.

The Committee's stated goals are as follows:

a. Form a committee that is broadly representative of the various minority groups in the Portland area and

work with representatives from the Portland Police Bureau.

b. To address the cross-cultural communication training needs of the Police Bureau and the Portland Community.

c. To formulate recommendations that will improve the Police Bureau's Fall 1985 training cycle.

d. To develop a plan for long-range training enhancement, including a review and assessment of past and current training programs from a cross-cultural perspective.

In summary, the aim of this Committee is to make constructive improvements in the relationship between the Portland Police and the Portland ethnic/minority populations by increasing mutual understanding, respect and cooperation.

The committee conducts its meeting every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. The meetings are open to the public. Much progress has been made including data gathering, discussion, analysis, and brain storming. At this point, the Committee is moving towards the framework and criteria for the cross-cultural training for Fall, 1985.



CHARLES CITY, VA — Students at Charles City County High School are repairing and restoring homes of older residents as part of the Future Farmers of America Building Our American Communities Program, sponsored by R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. Working closely with teachers and community leaders, the FFA members are learning new skills while helping others.

(Photo: Daily Press-Times Herald, Newport News, VA)