



Racist memorabilia



Page 5

Prostitution problem



Page 4

POSAF demonstration



Page 5

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Darelle "Dino" Butler (left), Gary Butler (not shown), and Robert Van Pelt (center) went on trial for murder Tuesday in Portland. The three cousins are accused of killing an alleged Indian graverobber. Defense attorneys attempted to have the murder charges dropped on the trial's opening day, over a dispute

about a witness the state had not made known to the defense until two weeks before the trial. Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Donald Londer refused the motion to dismiss. Attorneys for both sides plan to call at least 160 witnesses in the trial that could last four to six weeks. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Gary receives appointment

by Nathaniel Scott

Governor Vic Atiyeh appointed Bobbi L. Gary, a resident of Portland for the past 43 years, and six other members to the Long-Term Care Advising Committee. Gary was nominated to a four-year position by speaker of the house Vera Katz.

Confirmed on Aug. 14, the committee will serve as monitor for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The committee was established by Senate Bill 292. The bill was sponsored by Senator Bill McCoy and 13 other senators. State Representative Margaret Carter also supported the bill.

The committee will oversee the quality of services provided by Oregon's 205 nursing homes.

Gary said, "I feel great about the appointment. I advocate for senior citizens and I feel our job is to listen to people in nursing homes and make recommendations."

The committee's specific responsi-



BOBBI GARY  
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

bility is to assist in planning; and act as liaison between the community and various health planning agencies, Gary said. At the committee's first meeting, Gary, who has been active in community affairs since moving to Portland in 1942, was elected committee chairperson.

In addition, Gary serves as president of Portland Gray Panthers; president of the Portland Older Women League; chairperson of the Black Women Health Project; and sits on the Urban League's and the NAACP's board of directors.

"I've always been a community person," Gary said. "I've been around a long time and I've been doing for 42 years."

Gary said she has a lot of interest. For instance, she is interested in apartheid and what goes on in the Black community. "It's not enough for us to want change; we have to put forth effort," she said, adding, "so many of us don't."

## Fair Butler Trial wanted

by Robert Lothian

"What I want to see happen here is a fair trial," said John Trudell, poet, former chairman of the American Indian Movement, and close friend of Dino and Gary Butler.

September 3rd, after four and one-half years of legal wrangling and venue hearings, the Butlers and Robert Van Pelt went on trial in Multnomah County Circuit Court. They are accused of the 1981 murder of a Toledo, Oregon, man who allegedly was a robber of Indian graves.

The issues involved in the trial trace back to a struggle for treaty rights and against desecration of Indian graves in the Siletz area, not far from Toledo. Also involved, according to Trudell, is the Butlers' Indian activism stemming from the Wounded Knee occupation of 1973.

After Wounded Knee, said Trudell, the FBI enforced a state-of-seige on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Dino Butler helped set up a spiritual camp on the reservation, and was accused of killing FBI agents during a shootout.

Butler spent considerable time in jail, then was acquitted by an all-white jury in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "In Cedar

Rapids, you have a jury saying, "We understand the need for Indian people to defend themselves against federal agents," said Trudell. Butler and Van Pelt supporters hope for a similar jury in Portland.

But the FBI didn't forget, Trudell said. "The FBI's position after the trial was that they were going to get Dino, they were going to kill him."

In and out of jail, helping in Indian struggles when he could, Dino Butler returned now and then to his family home in the Siletz area. He involved himself in a struggle there to regain ancestral land, for hunting and fishing rights, and against desecration of Indian graves. Putting a stop to grave robbing is one of the main Indian struggles across the country, according to Trudell.

Then Donald Pier, described in the media as an "amateur archaeologist," was murdered in January, 1981. Trudell said the Butlers and Van Pelt were accused of the murder on shaky evidence as part of a program of harassment in the continuing fallout from Wounded Knee.

"A crime like this could conveniently fit the purposes of the state," said

Trudell. "Taxpayers' money is being used to settle a vendetta against movement Indians."

"We'll watch to see what kind of evidence is 'found,'" he said. Trudell described a prosecution using hypnosis on witnesses who change their stories, and a grand jury "terrorizing" the Indian community around Siletz in its search for witnesses and information.

Ultimately the trial is about survival and quality of life for Oregon Indians, Trudell said. "There are forms of racial and economic apartheid that exist in this country and this state, and that's the issue. It's called law and order but it's still war..."

Helping develop community support for their "prisoners of war" is a loosely-knit group of Native American activists called The Society of People Struggling to Be Free. Some are veterans of earlier struggles who saw their friend die. "To some degree, we are some of the survivors, and they are hunting us," said Trudell.

"It's a family, in a way," said Trudell, who lost his own family in an arson-caused fire in 1979. "We're in no conspiracy. We just want to live and pursue what is left of our ideals."



Emergency Medical technician John Ingdahl comforts Eicca E. Lucas, 5, after he was run down by a hit-and-run driver in the parking lot of Runyon's 88¢ Store Saturday afternoon. Arrested and charged with

felony hit-and-run and reckless driving was Fredrick Devine Stambaugh. Emergency personnel at Emmanuel Hospital indicated Lucas would be treated and released. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Tri-Met: On strike Monday



Soon to be scarce. Tri-Met goes on strike Monday. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Robert Lothian

Leaders of Local 757 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers union announced Tuesday that Portland's first transit strike is scheduled to begin at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9th.

Local 757 leaders called for a strike after contract talks broke down Tues-

day, when Tri-Met made good on its intention to override union objections and implement its final contract offer.

Throughout the months of bargaining, union negotiators have said they would recommend a strike if Tri-Met took such action. The union left six

days for the city to prepare for the strike.

Tri-Met's final offer, largely unchanged from its original offer, which union members voted down in July, is aimed at saving \$3.7 million in labor costs with a 5 percent wage reduction and elimination of work rules.

Union chief negotiator Mel Schoppert said the union made a last-ditch compromise offer that apparently wasn't good enough for Tri-Met, which remains committed to cost-cutting moves aimed at drivers and mechanics.

Schoppert said the union was not willing to give up 35 - 40 work rules won in 75 years of bargaining. He charged Tri-Met with being more interested in breaking the union than in cost-saving.

Tri-Met general manager James Cowen said it would be at least three weeks before the transit agency could put buses on the streets with non-union employees. The company plans service on nine major lines around

the city, using replacement drivers. The special LIFT service for the elderly and disabled will continue uninterrupted, he said.

In a letter to employees, Cowen charged the union leadership with trying to make an example out of Portland so as to improve the union's bargaining position in other cities.

Asked if the strike might last 10 weeks or longer, Schoppert said, "If it does, there won't be much of a Tri-Met left."

Meanwhile, Mayor Bud Clark said he would be willing to meet with both sides to try and work out an agreement that could avert a strike. Gov. Vic Atiyeh said he wouldn't get involved unless invited by both sides.

The strike will idle 1,400 union drivers and mechanics, and force the city's 70,000 transit riders, including many school children, to seek other means of transportation. City councilwoman Margaret Strachan urged those who normally take the bus to car-pool or ride their bicycles.

## Payroll deductions fund National Black United Front

Dana A. Alston, the President of the National Black United Front (NBUF), has officially announced the organization's 1985 campaign to secure Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) dollars from government employees.

This is the fifth year that NBUF has participated in the CFC's massive drive, which raises over 200 million dollars annually. Previously, minority charitable organizations were barred as ineligible; until NBUF won their historic suit against the government. Now the CFC has become a significant source of funding for the 15 year old organization.

"Payroll deductions is the most effective and efficient way to raise

money and people tend to give more through payroll deductions than out of pocket, because of the ease. It is less of an economic strain," said Alston.

During the last two years, the government has been phasing out listing charitable organization's names in the pledge brochures. In most cases, contributors can no longer check off a name, they must now fill-in a blank line.

"A write-in campaign and charity does not make you go very far, very fast," explained Alston. "Visibility and accessibility are the key questions for us. For example, it has been proven that you cannot elect candidates with a write-in campaign, nor can you raise significant dollars."

### — ATTENTION —

The Commission on Black Affairs will hold its September meeting on September 11, 1985 in Room 354 Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon. The public is invited to attend.