

John Jacob urges President Reagan to help free Boesak

John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League, urged President Reagan to make a personal appeal to South Africa to release Rev. Allan Boesak and other anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa.

He also asked Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill and Senate Majority Leader, Robert Dole, to lead Congress to pressure South Africa for release of the victims of the apartheid government.

In so doing Mr. Jacob recalled that July 23rd, Rev. Boesak came to the United States to address the Annual Conference of the National Urban League in Washington, D.C.

Speaking to those who, in view of his outspokenness, had expressed concern for his safety when he returned to South Africa, Rev. Boesak said:

"Do not be concerned for me. Because in my country much more is at stake than simply the life of one man. Be concerned for all those nameless little people who have no protection, whose names are not known, who will die tomorrow and no newspaper will even write one single word about them.

"If I die tomorrow, do not mourn me, and do not come to my funeral and sing freedom songs if while I am alive you were not willing to participate with us in the struggle for freedom and justice."

Mr. Jacob commented: "Rev. Boesak's calm realization that his life might be in jeopardy on his return to his country lends special urgency to our appeal to the President and others to bend every effort to secure his immediate release and the release of other South African victims."



PAT RENFRO

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Officer Renfro befriends juveniles

by Robert Lothian

Officer Pat Renfro likes kids. She raised three of her own and as a hand-picked member of the Police Bureau's new Juvenile Services Unit, she shines her sensitivity and understanding on young prostitutes, burglars and drug users.

Members of the unit, formed in April as part of Chief Harrington's and Mayor Clark's emphasis on juvenile crime, go out on the streets to counsel kids in trouble. Many street kids come from broken homes and were sexually abused, said Renfro. Often, she said, all they need is to be shown that someone cares for them, and occasional help with a meal, a shower, shelter, clean clothes, and referral to agencies that can help.

"They're afraid, they feel nobody cares or loves them. They just look tough — they're not," said Renfro.

So they can get close to the youngsters, the standard uniform for juvenile officers is blue jeans and tennis shoes, she said. "Kids just talk to us more freely than if we wear a blue suit

and badge," she added.

A big part of her job is social work — counseling and social service referral, said Renfro. "Here we have the time to talk to them, whether it takes four hours or four days. That's one of the reasons I came here — I wanted to spend quality time and quantity time with them."

But the kids also need to know where society sets limits on behavior, and some are dangerous and need to be in institutions, according to Renfro. That's where traditional law enforcement comes into the job, she said. "We are police officers before we're social workers. It's police work with a soft touch, you might say."

The new approach of the Juvenile Services Unit represents a "radical change" unpopular with bureau traditionalists, who see it as "a waste of time," said Renfro. But if young criminals are to be steered away from major adult crimes, she said, officers need to combine traditional law enforcement and social work.

Patricia Renfro, 41, was formerly married to University of Oregon football star Mel Renfro. They have three children, Cindy, 17, Tony, 20, and Melvin, 21. She has been with the Police Bureau for nine years and worked as an officer for four, with three years spent patrolling inner Northeast. There, she said, her biggest problem was juvenile burglary.

"I don't ever remember catching an adult burglar," she said. Teenagers turn to burglary because they can't get jobs and to support drug habits, she said. "If they had jobs and a place to earn money, they wouldn't be ripping off people they way they do. And the drugs that kids are into these days are just unbelievable — things I've never heard of before." Renfro finds many youngsters strung out on expensive cocaine and "crank" (a potent mixture of amphetamines). She said there is no easy answer as to why youngsters turn to drugs.

One of her saddest experiences as a juvenile officer, said Renfro, was finding a 12-year-old female prostitute in a motel. She and a fellow officer cried after hearing the young girl's story. The average age for prostitutes is 13 to 16. "When they're over 16, they're getting old," she said.

A big part of the unit's job as originally envisioned was to enforce truancy laws — kids stay out of trouble when they're in school. But legal questions raised by the school district have put truancy enforcement on hold, she said.

The unit continues to patrol the main juvenile crime areas — 82nd Avenue — where they find the highest number of runaways and "throw-away" kids (kids whose parents don't want them), "the camp" near Pioneer Post Office, Sandy Blvd., Interstate Ave., and Union Ave.

A police officer's job sometimes turns nasty. Renfro has been injured with sprains and scrapes in scuffles, and she was involved in a shooting incident which left emotional scars. Last December, she was patrolling near Irving Park when she was flagged down at a traffic accident. The drivers argued, and one, a man in his 70s, pulled a gun and began shooting. Renfro fired back, wounding the man, but not before he had mortally wounded the other driver.

The entire shooting incident lasted 20 seconds, said Renfro. She still remembers the picture of 30 bystanders surrounding the scene. "I had a very difficult time dealing with it — I needed help from the Bureau psychologist. When you're involved in a struggle, it's just hard to say how it's going to come out." In addition to her regular duties, Renfro serves on the Bureau's Traumatic Incident Committee, and is available around the clock to counsel officers involved in shootings, traffic accident and scuffles with suspects.

Mayor Bud Clark appoints committee

Portland Mayor J. E. "Bud" Clark has appointed a committee to propose solutions to problems related to public drunkenness in Portland's Downtown area.

The committee, made up of representatives of area merchants, social service and alcoholism treatment providers, residents, and government agencies, has accepted a four-part task. According to Chairman Stephen P. Newton, President of De Paul Center, Inc., the group intends to make its recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council by November 1. "We've already identified 42 problems, from varying perspectives," Newton said. "They include alcohol licensing issues, lack of coordination between everyone serving the downtown areas, lack of dollars, offensive behaviors of inebriated persons, lack of clear community norms and sanctions, lack of public restrooms, public safety and merchants' rights."

"It is essential," Newton stated, "that the recommendations we propose address these issues from many points of view: those of the individuals who have the disease, merchants, treatment agencies, and the public at large. I believe that this will be the first time that all the representative groups have worked together on finding solutions to these serious problems."

In addition to Newton, committee members include merchants: Creag Hayes, owner of Ciclo Bicycle Shop and Chair of the Old Town-Skidmore Merchants Association; Jim Atwood, owner of J. A. Atwood; Sharo Neilson, Saturday Market; Mary Maletis, Maletis Grocery; Marilyn Jackson, owner of Cisco and Panchos restaurant and Chair of the Burnside Area Merchants Association; and Jeffrey R. Prottas, owner of J. K. Reed Imports, Social Service and Treatment; Don Clark, Executive Director of the Burnside Consortium; Richard Harris, Manager of the Hooper Detox Center; Steve Slater, Alcohol Safety Action Program; Jeanne DeMaster, Executive Director of the Burnside Consortium; Jeanne Rivers, Hooper Detox Center; Gary Smith, Acting Director of Social Services and Manager of

the Alcohol and Drug Programs Office, Multnomah County; Michael Stoops, Chair of the Burnside Community Council. Government: Sam Galbreath, Portland Development Commission; Tim Gallagher, Bureau of Community Development; Kathy Bogan, Bureau of Human Resources; Al Bianconi, OLCC; Officer Brad Conklin, Portland Police Bureau; Chuck Duffy, Office of the Mayor.

The tasks of the committee are: 1) Identify the issues and problems surrounding public intoxication and alcoholism; 2) Identify the scope of existing and needed alcoholism treatment services; 3) Identify needed and existing interim solutions, public policies, legislative issues, and planning concerns.

Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteers can share management responsibilities for the statewide information and referral line of the Oregon Council on Alcoholism. Duties include answering phones, scheduling volunteer shifts and youth outreach. This volunteer work requires 48 hours a month and a three month commitment is requested.

Volunteers for the King Neighborhood Facility in NE Portland assist in supervising and training men and women who are mentally retarded. This volunteer work requires 15 hours a month between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., weekdays.

The Volunteer Bureau, a United Way agency, matches prospective volunteers with the needs of approximately 200 local agencies and programs. To find the right volunteer job, call The Volunteer Bureau at 222-1355.

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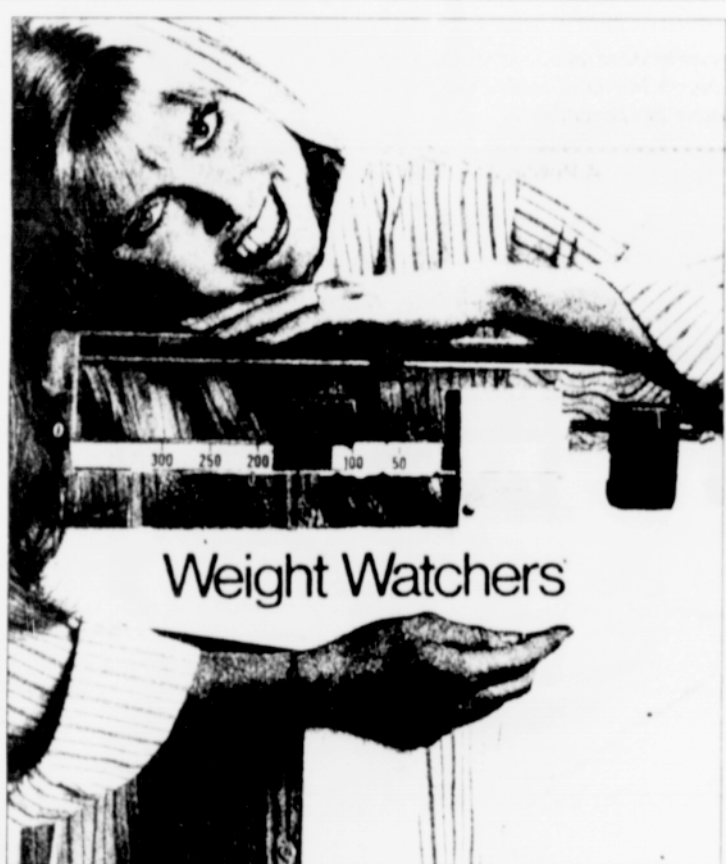
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