

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Accountability will change police attitudes

Recently the Portland Police Bureau announced it will offer a "mandatory" eight-hour cross-cultural communications course for City police. This program was developed by the Cross-Cultural Communications Committee appointed by Chief Penny Harrington after police killed Lloyd D. Stevenson, a Black man, on April 31 under confusing circumstances.

We agree that officers on the Bureau should have cultural awareness training, but we doubt that the eight-hour course will have any changing effect on the attitudes of many officers in the Department. Nor will the course prevent future killings, harassment, and brutality of innocent Black Portlanders by those officers on the Bureau who engage in such criminal activities.

The reason for this pessimistic view is based on the words of the police themselves when the *Oregonian* surveyed 220 officers in July of 1985. The survey asked two questions which were related to police and minority relations. The first question was "Do you think the Department should offer training to increase the racial sensitivity of officers?" The second question was "How well-prepared do you think the typical Portland Police Bureau is for dealing with individuals of different races and cultures?" Of the officers surveyed, 81 percent said they were either well-

prepared or very well-prepared in dealing with individuals of different races and cultures.

In other words, many officers in the Department are unwilling to recognize that problems exist between them and minority citizens of Portland, despite the constant occurrence of charges of police brutality and police racism by members of the community which includes the killings of two innocent Blacks, Lloyd D. Stevenson and Alberta Tate.

With such an arrogant attitude by large numbers of police officers regarding the treatment of citizens, "accountability" must be used as a tool in changing the attitude of the officers. By accountability, we mean those officers who are involved in criminal activities and acts of racism are made accountable for their misconduct by means of prosecution or dismissal from the Bureau. Then, and only then, will those officers who are guilty of criminal or unprofessional behavior possibly change their "superiority attitude." However, in order for this to occur, the District Attorney's office and police administrators must show a willingness to prosecute and discipline officers involved in such acts. By doing so, the chance of incidents such as the T-shirt episode, the killings of Lloyd D. Stevenson and Alberta Tate, and the opossum incident are less likely to occur.

POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

South African Action Alert

In light of recent events surrounding South Africa, now is a very critical time for us to act together and take a stand against apartheid. The South African government's declaration of a State of Emergency under which increasing number of people are being arrested, detained and tortured makes this a time for united protest.

POSAF is an umbrella group for several anti-apartheid and peace groups in the Portland area. We are committed to supporting the struggle within Southern Africa for self-determination of peoples of color and an end to the apartheid system. Our efforts are aimed at educating Oregonians about the conditions in Southern Africa, oppression of the Black majority population, links between racism in the U.S. and in South Africa and the economic responsibilities of the U.S. and to activating Americans to work in solidarity with

movements for liberation in that part of the world. POSAF recognizes that there is a link between the struggle of Blacks in Southern Africa and the struggle of blacks in the U.S. for self-determination. Participation in POSAF is open to anyone who shares our commitment to these goals.

POSAF has organized protests forcing the resignation last winter of Calvin Van Pelt, South Africa's honorary consul in Portland, and has supported divestment legislation. It recently temporarily prevented the unloading of South African cargo at the Port of Vancouver, and is currently conducting weekly actions in front of Columbia Coin, a prominent seller of the Kruggerand (South Africa's one-ounce gold coin).

On October 11th and 12th, locally coordinated protest actions against South Africa's apartheid regime will take place in cities and on campuses across the country. These national

protest days were initiated by the American Committee on Africa and student anti-apartheid groups from 17 campuses. Because of the dramatic events in South Africa of the last two months, these national protest days have the potential to be very broad and very large.

In Portland, POSAF is initiating a mass demonstration on Saturday, October 12th at 42 noon. It will begin at Terry Schunk Plaza, S.W. Madison and 3rd and march through downtown Portland, returning to Schunk Plaza for a rally. The march is scheduled at a time when campus groups, community organizations, labor unions, peace and women's groups can participate.

We urge you to participate and to encourage you to become a supporter of this important demonstration of concern for the people of South Africa.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

Letters

To the Editor:

October 1 is World Vegetarian Day

This coming Tuesday has been designated by the International Vegetarian Union as World Vegetarian Day. The entire month of October has been proclaimed to be Reverence for Life Month.

It is no coincidence that October 2nd is the birthday of one of the best known vegetarians, Mohandas K. Gandhi. To Gandhi (the same man who began to fight South African separatist policies in 1893), as expressed in his book *The Moral Basis of Vegetarianism*, the reverence for animals is essential in any humanitarian or spiritual movement.

Our society has become increasingly aware of the detriments of a high meat diet, and from a health standpoint many people are choosing to restrict their meat intake. *Diet for a Small Planet* led many people to recognize how energy intensive meat production is, and how high meat consumption ultimately leads to world hunger.

While vegetarianism is a personal choice and therefore falls on each individual's shoulders and value system, I hope that we can take the time to participate in a meatless day this Tuesday. I have included a sample vegetarian diet for those interested.

Breakfast
Granola in apple juice
Fruit, raisins optional

Lunch
Salad (spinach, dark lettuce, mushrooms, sunflower seeds and other vegetables of choice; oil/vinegar garlic dressing)
Soup (tomato, lentil, split pea, etc.)

Dinner
Stir fry vegetables over rice or millet (veggies might include mushrooms, zucchini, carrots, celery, tomatoes, tofu; fried in olive oil and garlic)

Ovo-lacto vegetarians (egg and milk) might use some rennetless cheese over the veggies and might include bread/sandwiches in the meals. Dairy-less bread is available in health food stores.

Next week I will write on another diet practice of Gandhi, Christ and others: the art of Fasting. When done properly a fast can be safe and helpful.

P.S. My apologies in not presenting the home birth article by the local mid-wife. It will still appear at a later date.

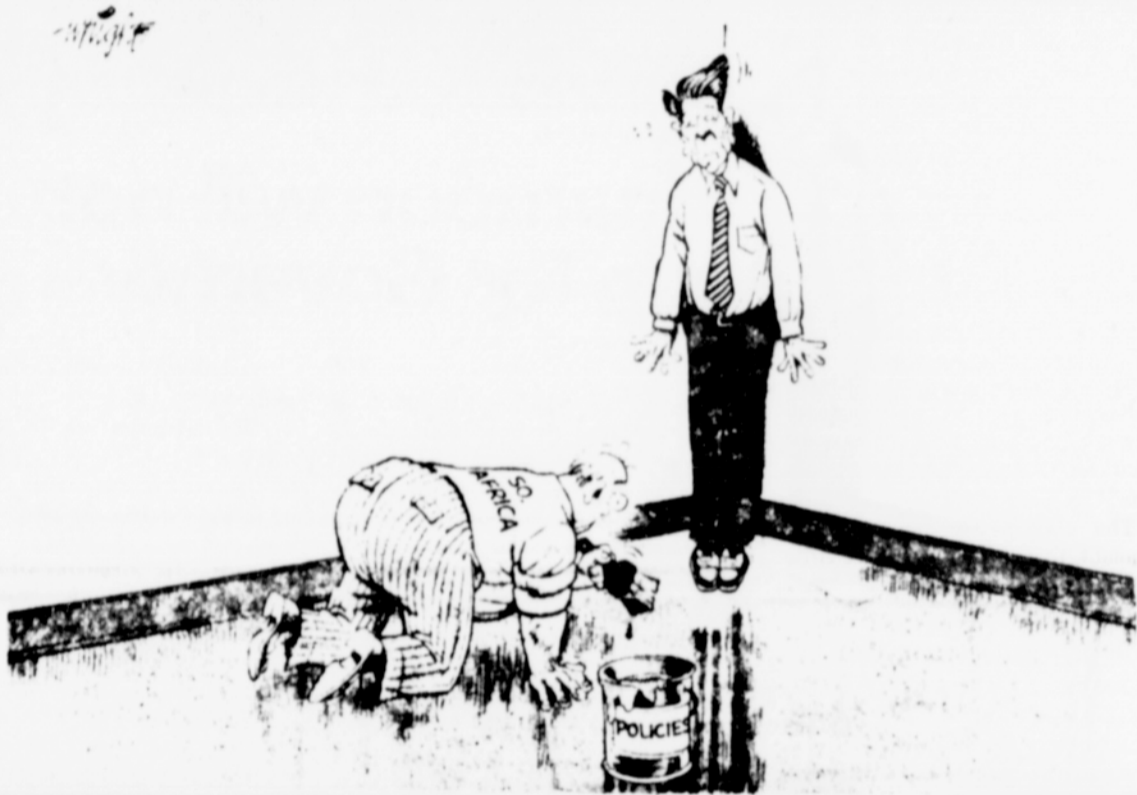
I would like to level a complaint at Nathaniel Scott, for the way he took one of my comments out of context in the September 18, *Observer* article on the media coverage of minorities panel.

What I actually said was that there are stupid, incompetent white journalists who manage to stay employed in media. At the same time the "lack of qualified candidates" persists as an excuse in an industry that has actually lost ground (compared to the early to mid seventies) in the realm of minority hiring.

I would prefer that everyone writing or reporting for news organizations have at least some serious multi-cultural education as well as training in journalism, but an obvious double standard exists. Mr. Scott's reporting to some degree belies my argument.

I might add that at no time did I say or suggest that my presence or my comments had anything to do with my job. What Mr. Scott did was to quote me out of context in a manner suggesting that I was indulging in thoughtless derision of an entire group of people. I suggest that either Mr. Scott or his editor sacrificed information for sensationalism.

Arthur S. Alexander



EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Message to Senate: "hold fast to sanctions"

by Joseph E. Lowery

President Reagan's proposals are too little, too late. They ignore the gravity of the crisis in South Africa and insult the intent of Congress to send a definite message of hope to the oppressed and of repudiation to the oppressors.

Mr. Reagan's proposals are vague, indefinite and represent an attempt to take the sting out of Congressional action.

I urge the Senate to pass the legislation before it. We need sanctions written into law, since executive orders by the President could be rescinded as abruptly as they were issued.

The Reagan proposals want to study the banning of the Kruggerand, the Act bans the coin which pours millions of dollars into the Botha government annually. Reagan speaks of some vague increases in scholarship aid while the Act specifies \$24 million.

Mr. Reagan would send a muted whisper of maybe, while what's needed is a strong proclamation of NO to apartheid.

It is indeed ironic that the President declares an intent to enforce fair employment practices in American companies operating in South Africa while his administration is engaged in the most vicious assault on affirmative action in this country in our history.

We will conduct prayer vigils at Federal offices across the nation urging the Senate to pass the anti-apartheid act and override a presidential veto if necessary.

Joseph E. Lowery is President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Meese should resign!

by John E. Jacob

Attorney General Edwin Meese should resign. If his resignation is not forthcoming, Congress should take the lead in asking for his resignation.

As the nation's chief law enforcement officer, Mr. Meese has made it very clear that he is incapable of rendering his duties as they relate to affirmative action. And his Dickinson College speech, comparing supporters of affirmative action to apologists for slavery, demonstrates he lacks the sensitivity and the capacity to make the moral and legal distinctions required by his office.

Mr. Meese misleads the public by labeling affirmative action goals as quotas, even though affirmative action has been supported—even mandated—by the federal courts and implemented by the business community. He persists in thinking that affirmative action is compensation for past discrimination when it is one effective remedy for present economic disadvantage, racial isolation, and secondary social status.

His departure from office would help restore the Administration's shattered credibility in racial and law enforcement issues.

John E. Jacob is the President of the National Urban League.



"If you were a Salvadoran civilian, you'd be dead!!!!" was the message conveyed as demonstrators dropped white paper bombs from the Burnside Bridge last Saturday afternoon in support of the National Campaign to Stop the Bombing in El Salvador.

Local organizers of the March, which proceeded from the Burnside Bridge to Arquake in the South Park Blocks, included the Portland Central American Solidarity Committee and the Portland chapter of the National Pledge of Resistance.

The purpose of the march and mock bombing was to draw attention to the \$483 million and helicopter gunships being sent to El Salvador by the U.S. for use by the government in its bombing raids on the rebels which have killed many civilians. Napalm, fragmentation bombs, and white phosphorus rockets are all being used.

The protest demands include: stop the bombing in El Salvador, renew the dialog between the government of El Salvador and the FMLN-FDR leadership, and stop U.S. aid to the government of El Salvador.

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