

## Help run Multnomah County

Would you like to help run Multnomah County? You can: all it requires is some of your time and a willingness to become involved in the work of one of the boards and commissions that offer advice and guidance to the County's elected officials and bureaucrats.

Some of these groups have vacancies right now. Multnomah County Executive Dennis Buchanan is inviting you and other citizens to apply for the openings, which he describes as the "opportunity to help shape your government."

The County Executive makes the appointments, which are then confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners. There's no pay for the work, but there is a lot of satisfaction.

These boards and commissions

need new members:

- Parks Commission, two vacancies
- Merit System Civil Service Council, one vacancy
- Juvenile Services Commission, three vacancies
- Community Health Council, four vacancies
- Multnomah Council on Chemical Dependency, three vacancies

Law requires that some of these positions be filled by people representing specific geographic areas or interest groups.

For more information, or to get an application form, contact Sherri Holman in the County Executive's office, 1120 S.W. 5th Avenue, Room 1500, Portland, Oregon 97204, or call 248-3308.

## South African focus of week of special programming on KOAP

In response to the ongoing crisis in South Africa, Oregon Public Broadcasting will present a week of special programming exposing the reality and exploring the issues of that troubled land the week of September 30-October 4.

*South Africa Report*, a two-hour primer designed to present viewers with a comprehensive look at aspects of the current crisis will be presented Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 8:00 p.m., followed at 11:00 p.m. by a documentary exploration of the theatrical hit, *Woza Albert*. A new documentary by Nadine Gordimer and Hugo Cassirer, *Allen Boesak: Choosing for Justice*, will air Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 9:30 p.m.

And throughout the week, the *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour* will feature a major nightly focus segment on South Africa. Several regularly scheduled public television programs including *Capital Journal* and *Tony Brown's Journal* will also devote themselves to South African issues.

"Many Americans are not that familiar with Botha, Mandela, Boesak and other key figures in South Africa; nor do they have a full understanding of what's really at stake for the U.S.," said Barry O. Chase, Vice President for News and Public Affairs for Public Broadcasting Service. "These programs can help provide context for the daily headlines."

## U.S. Ambassador presents A Dialog on South Africa

It was quite a dialog. Lawrence Williamson, U.S. Ambassador to Gabon, offered Portland "A Dialog on South Africa" Tuesday night, Sept. 17. His talk, sponsored by the World Affairs Council, was disrupted twice by protesters who waved banners and screamed "Lies!" and "State Dept. propaganda!"

One protester took the floor for ten minutes, haranguing the ambassador and his audience about the "world proletarian revolution" that would soon catch up with them. He had to be wrestled from the room.

Williamson, a career foreign service officer, spoke in place of U.S. South Africa ambassador Herman Nickel, who had been recalled to South Africa. Williamson reiterated the Reagan administration strategy of encouraging moderate leaders who could rule a post-apartheid South Africa.

The U.S. does not support apartheid, he said, but it also can't support revolutionaries with guns and other support. The Soviet Union is willing to offer such support, he said, which is how it builds allies in the Third World.

"I would not recommend for a moment that we get involved in that kind of operation," he said. "We aren't smart enough to pick the right guy."

Williamson said the process that is bringing down apartheid is "inexorable," and largely outside the control of the U.S.

He repeated several times that the U.S. sides with the moderates and centrists, but unfortunately, he said, they are often the first to be attacked and imprisoned by repressive regimes.

Williamson said one issue is not debatable: "Apartheid must go, period. It must go, no ifs, ands or buts." The discussion that remains is how best to encourage moderate, peaceful change that includes all segments of South African society—

Blacks, brown, mixed, and white—in sharing power. However, he said, "I think it would be futile for us to talk about Black majority rule."

Williamson said the white Afrikaner minority has a siege mentality—"us against the rest of the world." They have an almost suicidal tendency to do things that seem to bring the rest of society down with them, he said. "The white security forces are not about to become disaffected with apartheid and join the Black revolution. That's the reality in South Africa."

At the same time, though, he said, there is no question that "the old mold of apartheid is being broken, shattered before our very eyes."

With the strongest economy and security force in the southern part of Africa, South Africa could bring down the entire south half of the continent with it, including friends of the U.S., said Williamson. A "Lebanonization" could occur where "the various fraternal factions tear the hearts out of each other."

"In our view the fall of South Africa and that part of the continent make the situation in Ethiopia look like a teddy bear's picnic. I'm talking about violence and death."

Passion must not be allowed to cloud the issue, he said. "I think we have to be very controlled and precise about what we do." But the U.S. should do something. "I think it would be irresponsible to leave it alone," said Williamson. He suggested that the U.S. should make itself available for negotiations between the sides, that the "engine of South Africa's economy" should be allowed to run, meaning U.S. investment should be kept there because it has a positive effect, and that we should encourage the independence of Namibia and help South Africa's neighbors. "We have to go in and get our hands dirty," he said, to guide the process of change in a peaceful and constructive direction.

## Oregon jail overcrowding project

The Oregon Jail Overcrowding Project (OJOP) has been notified that the National Institute of Corrections has approved a second year of funding for the project.

OJOP has been active since September of 1984 in addressing the problem of jail crowding in Oregon. During the 1985 Regular Session of the Legislative Assembly, the project was active in dealing with legislation that affects jail crowding.

During the next 12 months, the project will focus on policies and practices relating to pretrial detention, post-conviction detention and the funding and operation of jails.

OJOP's policy group, the committee responsible for developing

solutions to jail crowding, consists of key Oregon officials and experts in criminal justice.

The jail overcrowding project was brought to Oregon at the request of the Association of Oregon Counties, responding to a crisis in Oregon jails. Funded by the National Institute of Corrections of the U.S. Department of Justice and Edna McConnell-Clark Foundation through the Center for Effective Public Policy, it is a part of a parallel effort being conducted in five states. Two states are focusing on jail crowding; three are concentrating on prison crowding. The policy group functions independently of other organizations and agencies.

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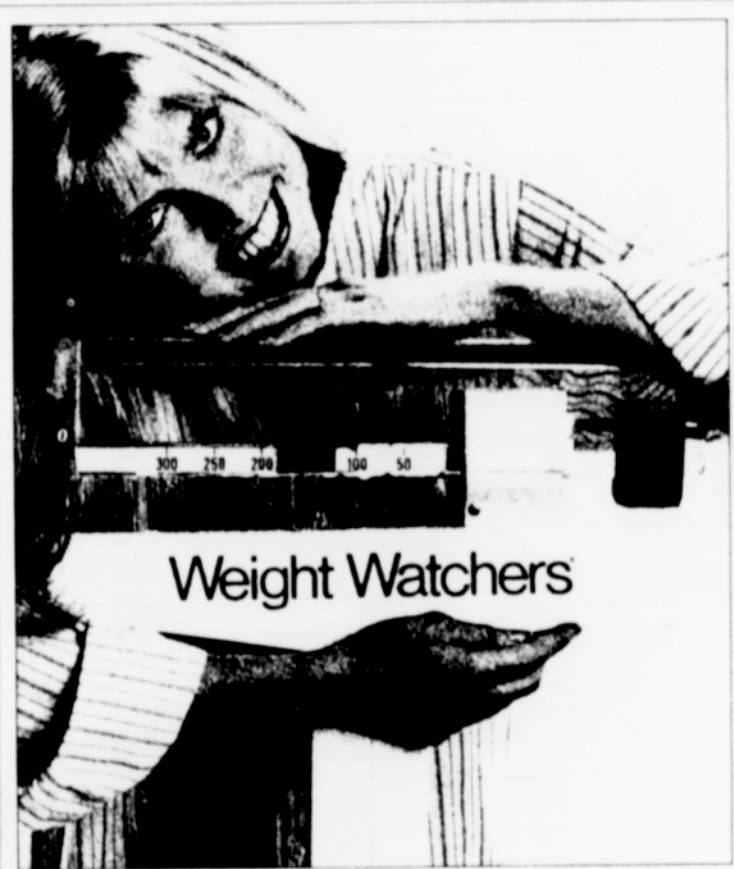
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## United Food Workers calls for Coors boycott along with Armour

The Coors Boycott Committee has joined with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union to jointly protest, demonstrate and boycott the products of the Adolph Coors Brewery and the Processed Meats produced by Armour, a division of ConAgra.

This is an important alliance because U.F.C.W. members work in retail outlets that handle the boycotted products of both companies.

Shortly before Christmas 1983, the Greyhound Corp. sold the Armour Foods Co. to ConAgra, closed 13 of Armour plants covered by a master contract with the U.F.C.W. and terminated its workers, most of whom were U.F.C.W. members. Within a matter of days, ConAgra, a huge agribusiness conglomerate, reopened those plants with a new workforce, with wages and benefits far below those paid by other major packinghouse companies.

The issues involving the Coors Boycott remain the same. Coors continues to force all its workers to take lie detector tests, submit to forced search and seizure tactics, forced physical examinations and forfeit rights to seniority.

Recently there has been some confusion over so-called "settlement agreements" between Coors and a few minority organizations, following Coors statements (as reported by the *Rocky Mountain News*) that "Blacks lack the intellectual capacity to succeed," and "The best thing they [slave traders] did for you was to drag your ancestors over here in chains." Nationwide, minority organizations continue to boycott Coors Beer.

Recently 12 major Latino organizations joined together in a press conference in Los Angeles, California to denounce the so-called Coors Latino settlement and to reaffirm their support of the Coors Boycott.

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