

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Printing of "johns'" names will not solve problem

Recently, the Portland Police Bureau asked local newspapers to print the names of "johns" (prostitutes' customers) who are found guilty of soliciting prostitutes. Only one newspaper agreed to do this.

The *Observer* believes those who buy sex in Northeast Portland from prostitutes should be dealt with in the same manner as any other criminal, since both the soliciting of prostitution, and prostitution, are crimes.

Printing the names of "johns" in a Northeast Portland weekly newspaper will not do any good since those who are found guilty are mainly from outside communities such as Beaverton, Lake Oswego, Hillsboro and Washington State. It is doubtful that many citizens living in these areas read the *Portland Observer*. Law enforcement officials should work to get names printed in newspapers of communities where convicted "johns" live. It would have more effect than printing the names in a newspaper outside of their community.

Many citizens who live in the Eliot and King neighborhoods feel that City Hall and the Police Bureau are not concerned about what is happening in their neighborhoods. Most residents do not accept the excuse given by city officials and the police that if they had more jail space, they could do more about the problem of prostitution and drug trafficking.

Residents say that if prostitution and drug dealing were in affluent neighborhoods, city officials and police would move quickly to stop it. City officials should not wait until jail space is found to act on the same problems plaguing Northeast residents.

The reason prostitutes stroll along Union Avenue is because they know there are customers willing to pay for their services. This is why the police should focus more of their attention on the "johns." By eliminating the demand for sex, the prostitutes will disappear from the streets of Northeast Portland.

Instead of asking local newspapers to print the

names of those who come to Northeast in search of sex, city officials should start responding to the problem of prostitution by making it costly and embarrassing.

This can be accomplished by the courts ordering those who are guilty of soliciting the services of a prostitute to do community service in the Northeast area or in their own communities. There should be public awareness of the crime to which this service is associated.

If a "john" is found guilty a second time, he should be fined \$1,000, ordered to do more community service and a letter sent to his employer in a red envelope informing him of the activities of his employee. If found guilty a third time, he should be fined \$2,000 and given a mandatory 30-day jail sentence to be served on weekends. By serving the jail term on weekends, the guilty "john" will not lose his job. Equally important, he will be able to pay his fine. The fine should be taken out of the convicted "john's" paycheck and payable to the City of Portland.

The City should give a portion of the money to organizations which work with prostitutes who want to stop selling their bodies for money in order to make a living.

This plan would work if city and law enforcement officials implemented it. Such a plan is better than printing names in the *Portland Observer* of individuals who reside outside the newspaper's circulation area.

Tough new measures by the criminal justice system targeting the "johns" would help eliminate the problem of prostitution. Residents living in the area affected by this problem should urge the Mayor and law enforcement representatives to make a commitment to punish those who are responsible for the prostitutes being in their neighborhoods.

By eliminating the demand (the johns) and the supply (the prostitutes), the display of "sex for sale" on the streets of Northeast Portland will cease.

Dr. Drew deserves better

Recently the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross named the Blood Donor Center Canteen after Dr. Charles Drew. Drew, an Afro-American, died in an automobile accident in 1950. Drew is recognized as one of this nation's foremost physicians and pioneers in blood and plasma processing.

Dr. Drew worked with plasma which is used in the treatment of shock and in occurrences of clotting defects, as in hemophilia or severe liver diseases.

Many Black citizens are upset with the Blood

Donor Center Canteen being named after Dr. Drew by the Red Cross. This is little to honor an Afro-American for his contribution and for helping to develop the world's first blood bank.

We feel that the Red Cross could have honored Dr. Drew in a bigger way. Instead of naming the Blood Center Canteen after Dr. Drew, it would be more appropriate to name the Red Cross Blood Center after Dr. Drew instead. Naming a canteen after him doesn't show the public how great a contribution he made to society.



Politics for the wealthy

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

How democratic is America's political system? We have become too accustomed to the casual and hypocritical behavior of elected and appointed officials who favor special interests above the people's welfare. We have a Justice Department which prosecutes Alabama voting rights activists, and then permits E. F. Hutton and Company to plead guilty to 2,000 counts of fraud in a massive check-kiting scheme — without prosecuting a single person. A branch of the National Security Agency announces that a computer program which tabulated over one-third of all votes cast in the 1984 election is "vulnerable to fraudulent manipulation" — yet both parties are slow to call for a complete investigation. We have a Congress in which about 90 percent of all incumbents are normally reelected, but their willingness or ability to effectively challenge corporate power is virtually null and void.

Who does Congress actually represent? The median annual family incomes for Black Americans is roughly \$15,000, and for whites, \$28,000. Members of Congress have little in common with the majority of working Americans in economic terms. According to the *New York Times*, in 1978, the 78 newly-elected members of Congress claimed an average of \$41,400 in assets. Only one millionaire was elected that year. But by 1984, the average wealth of the 43 new members of the

Senate and House of Representatives had soared to \$251,300. Last year, 15 millionaires were elected as "public servants." As Mark Green, head of the Democracy Project, a public policy group, recently observed: "The evolution from a House of Representatives to a House of Lords denies the diversity of our democracy. It establishes a defacto property qualification for office that increasingly says: low and middle income need not apply."

Part of the reason that Congress is inaccessible to most Americans is the high cost of campaigning for public office. Last year, the successful candidates for the House of Representatives spent an average of \$459,300, which included an average of \$50,000 in personal donations from the individual candidates. In the Senate, elected members spent over \$2 million each. The proliferation of conservative and pro-corporate political action committees buttresses the financial base of already well-to-do incumbent and aspirants, giving this elite a tremendous electoral advantage.

The passage of sweeping campaign law reform, which would establish public financing for candidates for federal offices, would be a decisive step toward returning government to the people. But meaningful reforms cannot be achieved unless independent and third-party candidates are able to gain fairer access to the ballot. The Democratic and Republican parties

disagree over tactics, but not fundamentals. Until their domination over public debate is lessened, we certainly cannot expect to broaden national politics to reflect the economic and social concerns of the majority.

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan has recently proposed H.R. 2320, which would reduce the number of signatures needed to place a third-party or independent candidate on the ballot in all states from 750,000 to about 140,000. If passed, the law would permit third parties to use their limited resources for advertising and educational activities, and it could force the national Democratic and Republican candidates to recognize the legitimate demands of Blacks, Hispanics, women, working people, and other constituencies. The need to support the passage of H.R. 2320 cannot be overemphasized: according to polls, 59 percent of all Black voters were prepared to support Jesse Jackson as an independent presidential candidate had he been on the November, 1984 ballot. If politics is to reflect national priorities, and not the prerogatives of the wealthy, we must reform the basis for candidate access and encourage the growth of third parties.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

AIDS — Facts, not fear

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has grown from an unknown disease to one of our country's major health concerns in less than five years. The number of reported cases has climbed from under 400 in 1981 to over 13,000 today. If the disease were to continue to spread at this rate we will exceed a quarter million AIDS patients in the United States alone by 1989. It is hoped that we can lessen its spread by changing current sexual habits, screening blood and plasma donations, and applying other appropriate public health policies as their worth becomes known. The hope for an immunization or curative therapy remains high throughout the research and medical communities, yet these hopes have remained unfulfilled for the past five years.

We have gained tremendous amounts of knowledge about the disease and about the immune system, the thymus gland and viruses in general,

but the keys to unlocking the solution to this problem have yet to be identified. And with no solution, this disease is becoming the source of near-hysterical public reaction. The case of the second-grader in New York stands out as a prime example of the prejudice and fear that are arising.

The fact that casual spread of the disease has never been documented does not seem to sway the resolute opinion of the parents and supporters who wish to quarantine AIDS sufferers from public places. I understand a parent's desire and right to protect and care for their children. And I also can sympathize with the public in their fear, that without complete identification of the spread and incubation of the disease we cannot be 100 percent certain of the limits of spread. We also can never be 100 percent certain that it is safe to take children in our autos to the store.

The vast evidence on spread of the

disease leaves little room to suspect that it can spread in casual manners. Spread has thus far been limited to sexual partners (both heterosexual and homosexual partners), intravenous transmission (both plasma and I.V. drug use), in utero transmission during pregnancy and peri-natal contact.

If casual contact does prove to be a route of transfer for AIDS, the hysteria is uncalled for as we can only conclude that casual contact with AIDS patients has already occurred for a majority of the population. It is only after diagnosis of the condition that most sufferers quit their jobs as waiters, school teachers, taxi-drivers, hairdressers, bank employees, food checkers, etc., etc.

In the next couple of articles I will try to give you more current information regarding spread, current therapies, and most important, habits to prevent contracting the disease.

Letters to the Editor

October 5, 1985
Dear Red Cross,
I do not like what you dedicated to Dr. Charles Drew. A snack bar is not that important to me. I listened to a tape about Dr. Drew and I learned that Dr. Drew was a great man and a good Doctor. He discovered the way to store blood you should name something important after Dr. Charles Drew. Yours truly, Ifang, 161 1/2 Bell ave 7

To the Editor,
I'm looking for parents whose children have Hunters Syndrome. This is a rare disorder that only affects male children.

Would you please help me find these people by asking the parents of Hunters children to write to me? If they would let me have their names and addresses I will get in touch with them. I would like to talk to these people about their children. I have a 10-year-old son with Hunters Syndrome.

I'm contacting newspapers all over the United States, trying to find as many parents with Hunters children as possible to be able to compile information concerning this disease. I would appreciate your assistance in helping me gather as many names and addresses as possible.

Thank you so very much for your time and effort.

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EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY



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