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NAACP concerned about OLCC



Rep. Margaret Carter — "I'm positively outraged... it undermines the essence of what the death of Dr. King means to all people; not just Black people. (L-R) Rev. John

Jackson, Ora Nunley and Carter at press conference called by N.A.A.C.P.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Nathaniel Scott

Chris Lyons, director of retail operations with Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), said, "We are trying to gather information concerning Martin Luther King's birthday," when asked why OLCC was taking a "customer opinion poll" in the North

and Northeast.

The poll is asking potential customers: "Do you prefer to have the liquor stores stay open or closed for Martin Luther King's birthday?"

Lyons maintained the information is needed in order for OLCC to determine whether or not liquor stores should remain open or closed. "If no

action is taken, the stores will remain open," she said.

"We thought our North Portland customers would be interested in this," she said, when it was pointed out that the opinion polls were only being conducted in two areas of the state.

The opinion poll began circulating last week, and Monday the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held a news conference to voice concern over OLCC's action. The press conference included state Rep. Margaret Carter; Rev. John H. Jackson, co-chairman of Portland's chapter of the Black United Front and vice president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance; and Ora Nunley, president of the NAACP.

Rev. Jackson said, "Dr. King's birthday ought to be a holiday like any other holiday. To me it's an insult to say Black people in this district would rather go to a liquor store than observe Martin Luther King's birthday. If the stores are open, we will boycott," he said.

Nunley said, "[OLCC] was sowing seeds of discord by polling the stores." She added that the poll would "fuel bitterness between groups."

Rep. Carter, the chief sponsor of the legislation that made Dr. King's birthday a legal holiday, said, "I'm positively outraged. We must fight this because it is precedent setting."

Rep. Carter said, "It undermines the essence of what the death of Dr. King means to all people; not just Black people."

"Our concern is why single Dr. King out," she said, adding, "to do this without the consent of the Legislature is a disgrace and a mockery."

Rep. Carter said OLCC has no right to override the legislation on whether or not liquor stores should be opened or closed.

The *Observer* interviewed several residents who reside in the North and Northeast community. They strongly resented the OLCC's actions.

Mary Washburn said, "Why not poll Washington's birthday. It's funny they would hold a poll now."

Most of the people were shocked that OLCC would do such a thing.

Palestinian students hold memorial for massacre victims

by Robert Lothian

For three days in September, 1982, Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirts of Beirut, Lebanon, were the scene of one of the worst tragedies of many in a part of the world where men seem to do their worst to each other.

Right wing Christians surrounded the Sabra and Shatila camps and massacred over a thousand defenseless Palestinians. They also destroyed homes, schools, and clinics, wiping out the civilization the Palestinians had built in the camps.

Last week, the General Union of Palestinian Students at PSU held a memorial for those who died. In a room lined with posters, the students played a video of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and siege of Beirut leading to the massacre, and a slide show of the camps after the massacre. Shown were almost incomprehensible images of death and destruction.

"The tragedy is that the same thing is happening again," said Baker, a Palestinian student from Jordan and president of the Palestinian students' union. "It's an ongoing thing from all sides in the Middle East — from the Israelis and their allies in the Arab governments."

Baker said the latest round of attacks against Palestinian camps is coming from the Shiite Amal militia in Lebanon. They want to drive the Palestinians out so they can emerge as one of the dominate groups in Lebanon, he said.

"They are our people, they are being killed unjustly," he said. "We are protesting the silence of the Arab governments. And the American gov-

ernment, which claims to be working for peace, does nothing about this." Baker said that American media tends to hide the truth about the plight of the Palestinians by slanting the news in favor of Israel, under pressure from the "Zionist lobby" in the U.S.

According to Baker, Palestinians have been persecuted throughout this century, and especially since 1948, when they were driven from their homeland when Israel became a state. Massacres punctuate their migrations, similar to that of the Jews, as they are shunted from country to country in the Middle East and forced to live in camps, he said.

There were massacres in 1948, in 1970 in Jordan, and in 1976, 1982, and 1985 in Lebanon, Baker said. Several of his friends were killed, and he hasn't heard from others in years.

A computer science student at PSU, Baker said that he and about 300 other Palestinian students in Portland are learning skill in the U.S. so they can go back and help their people.

"Our goal is a democratic, secular state in Palestine where people of all races and religions, including Jews, could live in peace." However, he said, "No Zionists could live in a democratic society."

"I would like to ask the American people to seek the truth from all sides and not just the side the media and the Zionist lobby presents here. I would like also to ask the American people to recognize our right to have a homeland as much as any other nation has theirs."

Baker declined to comment on the ship hijacking, saying only, "I'm not supportive of terrorism."

Eliot-King residents voice frustrations at city officials

by Jerry Garner

Last Wednesday at the King Neighborhood Facility, residents voiced their frustrations to a panel of city and county officials concerning the problem of drug trafficking and prostitution in their communities. The panel included Portland Mayor Bud Clark; Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury; Susan Hunter, Program Coordinator, Council for Prostitution Alternatives; Harley Lieber, Community Service, Multnomah County Corrections; Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk; and Sherry Sylvester, Program Manager, Crime Prevention Program.

Many in the audience told the panel there is a lack of law enforcement in their neighborhoods. A man in the crowd shouted to the panel that the police aren't doing their job in this area. "There are more than 100 drug dealers and many are armed. How are we to protect ourselves? What about our kids?" The crowd applauded the man.

Lt. Clark of the North Precinct replied, "We are continuing to make cases against drug dealers, but we are restrained by the limit of the system and the criminal justice system itself, just as you are. We are arresting the dealers and serving warrants when we

can. Given the lack of jail space, they are released because of the nature of their offense."

Steve Anderson, a local businessman asked Mayor Clark if he would tolerate a dope house operation in front of his home for nine months. There was no response from the Mayor.

Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk told the crowd that his office has made some cases against drug dealers. Schrunk told the audience to not blame the Correctional Division. About 97 percent are convicted, but they are considered by the penal system as being non-violent types. "Therefore, they are the first ones booted out of the door," Schrunk said, "Since there is not enough jail space, the community must ask this question, do you want us to keep the rapist or the drug dealer in jail? They're doing the best they can."

Mayor Clark said declining revenues of local governments and changes in the distribution of revenues at the federal level are part of the reason for the crime problems. Arresting criminals is not the only solution to the crime problem. Attention must be focused on some of the causes of crime. There needs to be more jobs and quality schools to teach young people skills to be successful in this society,



Mayor Bud Clark at podium addressing residents of the King and Eliot neighborhoods about the city's street crime eradication plan.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

said Clark. Not only were citizens upset about the drug dealing in their neighbor-

hoods; they also angrily voiced complaints to city and county officials for not addressing the problem of prostitu-

tion in the area. Lt. Clark said that in the last three weeks North Precinct arrested 93 individuals on prostitution

charges, 30 customers and 63 prostitutes.