

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Crime plan should be viewed with caution

Last Wednesday about 150 residents from the Eliot and King communities gathered at the King Neighborhood Facility to hear city and county officials unveil the "Street Crime Eradication Plan" for their community. After the crime plan was announced, many citizens in the neighborhood facility were not enthusiastic about the plan.

The residents living in the area entrenched with drug dealers and prostitutes are correct in viewing the Crime Plan with caution. Except for the recommendation by the District Attorney to give prostitution offenders stiffer penalties, the plan didn't offer any new measures to address the area's crime problems. In fact, many of the measures that were mentioned in the Crime Eradication Plan have already been implemented by Neighborhood Crime Association Committees. The plan failed to address the problem of street drug dealing entirely.

Not only should the Eliot and King residents view the crime plan with apprehension, they should listen carefully to what city and county officials are telling them about their commitment to eliminate prostitution and drug dealing in their communities. For example, at last Wednesday's community meeting, Lt. Clark of the Police Bureau and District Attorney Michael Schrunk said the city is concentrating on the problem of prostitution and drug dealing. However, last Tuesday night police Capt. Dan Noelle, East Precinct Commander, told residents in central Northeast Portland the main emphasis for police work in the city is still on burglary and violent crimes. It is interesting to note that although Capt. Noelle was supposed to be on the panel he wasn't present at the neighborhood meeting.

Not only was Capt. Noelle not present at last Wednesday's meeting, not a single judge attended the forum. A judge should have been present on the panel to answer the community questions concerning the lack of penalties for those who are found guilty of prostitution offenses and drug

dealing. The exclusion of those who sentence law-breakers from the panel, led many to question the sincerity of those responsible for enforcing laws in the community. This suspicion is strengthened further when one evaluates what was said during the meeting at King Center.

Throughout the discussion, the Mayor, the police representative and the District Attorney all stated that the reason drug dealers and those guilty of prostitution offenses are released, is due to lack of jail space. District Attorney Schrunk told the audience the reason for drug dealers returning to the street corners after being arrested is that due to the lack of jail space, the penal system is forced to release those individuals who are nonviolent.

Last Thursday's action by Multnomah County Commissioners to start a work release and restitution program will make 60 beds available in the East County Jail in February. However, this will not increase the number of drug pushers being arrested in the Eliot and King neighborhoods since Multnomah County judges have agreed to use the additional jail space to put parole or probation violators in custody.

If a committee called the "Regional Committee on Convention, Trade and Spectator Facilities" can ask the Oregon State Legislature for \$30 million to help build a proposed convention center, then city, state and county officials can ask the State Legislature to help fund money for needed jail space in this community. Mayor Bud Clark serves on this committee.

Until city, county and state officials deal with the problem of jail space to house those who are repeatedly guilty of criminal activities, the problem of drugs and prostitution will remain in Northeast Portland. Strict actions along with planning and constructive ideas is the only way to attack the problem of crime in the community. The crime plan announced last Wednesday at King Neighborhood Facility falls short of this goal.



Toward Black women's empowerment

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

There is a tendency within the media to classify all of Black America into one single socioeconomic and political package, ignoring its internal diversity. Problems related to gender inequality, the absence of pay equity and full political representation for women, are frequently characterized as relevant to white females alone. The burden of racism affects all Black Americans regardless of gender — with the possible exceptions of Clarence Pendleton and ideologue Thomas Sowell. Yet the structural inequalities of sexism are indeed profoundly felt within the national Black community.

Economically, Black America has become increasingly stratified along gender boundaries. For example, in 1981, the average married Black couple earned \$19,600, roughly 77 percent of the median income of white two-parent households. For Black families with both spouses in the labor force, their median 1981 income was \$25,000, or about 84 percent of the median incomes of similar white families. But for Black women with no spouse, their 1981 median income was only \$7,500.

Such disparities can be observed in health care, vocational hiring, and electoral politics. Black women are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white females, a statistic which reveals in part the inadequacies of public health facilities and medical care available to Black women. In middle-to-upper income professions, Black women are still unrepresented. As of 1981, Black women comprised

less than one percent of the legal profession, compared to 2 percent for Black males and 14 percent for all females. Twenty-two percent of all physicians are women, but only seven-tenths of one percent of the total are Black females. Clearly, Black women are burdened with the dual oppression of race and gender, struggling in a society which tends to reward white males at the expense of the majority.

Earlier this year, more than 400 Black women from 29 states caucused in Atlanta to hold the first national assembly of the National Political Congress of Black Women. Founded in 1984, the Congress has attracted 2,000 members to date and was active in elections at the grassroots level. Through its financial support, it helped to elect Alyce Griffen Clark to the Mississippi State Senate last November.

The National Political Congress of Black Women has targeted several specific goals for the next decade. Through local and national fundraisers, it hopes to raise \$10 million to finance the legislative races of Black women. Key organizers have plans to give workshops in the technical aspects of media relations, fundraising, and the development of local leaders as potential candidates. The overwhelming majority of Black women in politics are Democrats, but the Congress has attracted bipartisan support. National leaders include liberal Democrat Shirley Chisholm, the national chair of the Congress; vice chair C. Delores Tucker, the leader of the Democratic

Party's Black Caucus; and conservative Republican businesswoman Gloria Toote, second vice chair. As Philadelphia City Councilwoman Augusta Clarke observed: "We're in existence because we are for the political power of Black women — Democrats, Republicans, and independents; our uniqueness is that this group is diverse and independent and we speak for all women."

The rising clout of Black women in the electoral arena is apparent from the 1984 election statistics. Nearly 70 percent of all Black women were registered, compared to only 62.2 percent four years before. Their electoral turnout rate of 59.2 percent was significantly higher than their 52.8 percent figure of 1980.

The election of more Black women can only promote the political and economic interests of the national Black community as a whole. But specific organizing efforts which target the nonelectoral concerns of low income and working class women — from healthcare to public housing — must also be initiated and led by women as well. The battle against racial and gender inequality requires mass mobilization, demonstrations, neighborhood-level formations, as well as electoral reforms.

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

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

The Committee to Save Antelope is continuing at full throttle with its efforts to repeal the Rajneesh City Charter, by way of the state-wide initiative petition.

Even though state and federal authorities may take action at some point, it may take months, if not years, for those actions to gain substantial results. There is no indication that those actions would substantially reduce the commune's population, thereby effecting Mr. Rajneesh's ability to control Rajneesh (Antelope).

Many others apparently also hold these opinions, since completed petitions are coming in at a greater rate now than ever before.

Mr. Rajneesh's reply to our initiative has been to order the Rajneesh City Council to change the city's name back to Antelope. Despite what you may have heard in the press, this action was not requested by the old-time residents of Rajneesh (Antelope).

This smoke screen is only intended to divert attention away from the real issues at hand. Namely, the blatant disregard for the constitutional provisions for the separation of church and state.

The repeal of the Rajneesh City Charter is the only viable solution. The Rajneesh City Council will no longer have the authority to levy taxes or condemn property. The heavily armed Rajneesh city police would also be disbanded, and no longer have the opportunity to harass the non-Rajneesh residents. Nor will they continue to have access to the FBI crime information computer system.

I would like to encourage everyone in the Portland area to write and offer donations and request petitions. Our address is Save Antelope, P.O. Box 66, Antelope, OR 97001.

We also need help in organizing local committees. We're counting on the average citizen in order that we may succeed.

WILLIAM GATCHEL
Executive Director
Save Antelope

To the Editor,

Tuesday evening, Oct. 15, 1985, 7:30 p.m., I was seated inside Buckley Center, University of Portland.

Bobby Seale, former co-chairman of the Black Panther party was about to debate Stuart Pringle, a South African documentary film maker, on the subject of divestiture.

Bobby Seale started the debate with a little personal history about himself and the Panther party. He told the audience that the Panther party was initiated with young people in mind. Mr. Seale then proposed to take a coalition of students, "Peace Corps," to South Africa to aid the South Africans in their plight. This statement was met with applause from Mr. Pringle. I couldn't help thinking, South Africa has brilliant minds already there, going unheard. Tutu, Bozak, Mandella and Winnie. These people have invested dearly in their country.

Mr. Pringle spoke next. His conversation reached the point of voting rights. He stated, "How can someone who cannot read the ballots vote?" Bobby interrupted with, "Urban Blacks should vote first, they can read. Who will vote representing the dead from the Bantustans?"

Bobby Seale preached integration. Stuart Pringle chanted capitalism with courses of "I Got Rhythm" while challenging Seale to a dance contest. What happened to *Seize the Power*?

During the end of the performance a spokeswoman for a "women's group" stated, "Mr. Seale, it sounds good, but you are living an illusion." The old Bobby Seale of the 60s intimidating and verbally abusive, shouted profanities and rhetoric regarding the nature of the young woman's organization. I am not disagreeing with the statement nor did Mr. Pringle. Most Black sisters agree that we have needs particular to our families and we don't separate ourselves from those needs, but instead view ourselves as a unit of one. Bobby's delivery caused some sisters to cringe, others covered their eyes and some smiled feeling relief that these words of denouncement were finally spoken.

After the Seale/Pringle performance, I was reminded of a scene from the movies: it showed a police inquisition. The three characters — heavy, good guy and suspect. The heavy's role was to lean on the suspect. The good guy's role was to win the suspect's confidence, by pretending to be protective. The suspect finally gives up. The movie ended with these words, "All in a day's work."

The speakers did not talk much about divestiture. I came away feeling that the subject, *South Africa Divesti-*

ture, was made to appear less than crucial and that the speakers had no real interest in South Africa or her people.

In my opinion, Mr. Seale and Mr. Pringle could best utilize their talents as the Panthers did in the 60s, not taking students to South Africa but educating them in the U.S.A. on the following: 1) U.S.A. vs. South African policy; 2) Capitalism vs. Democracy; 3) U.S.A.'s history of Black voting rights; 4) Integration vs. Segregation and the effect; 5) Antagonistic vs. Protagonistic Approach.

If Mr. Seale and Mr. Pringle can accomplish this task, then perhaps, just maybe, the 50 percent of both Black/White students that Mr. Seale proposes to take to South Africa, can learn to accept and appreciate each other, and take these teachings into their perspective communities and teach their own.

GLORIA JOHNSON

To the Editor,

We would like to thank you for the excellent article in your last issue on the March Against Street Crime.

We would like to emphasize that even though the Mayor's Street Crime Plan is basically an empty package, unless residents of these neighborhoods get involved and participate with on-going strategies that various groups are conducting, our community will never enjoy the fulfillment of a healthy and livable environment for both young and elderly.

Of course, some of these activities do not address the roots of the problems, but do cut off the base of street crime activities from spreading. The King/Eliot Crime Prevention Committee will continue to sponsor pickets at Alberta in Grand to protest drug dealings. For more information on dates and times, please call N.E. Crime Prevention Office at 248-4763. Civil groups, church and youth groups are encouraged to participate.

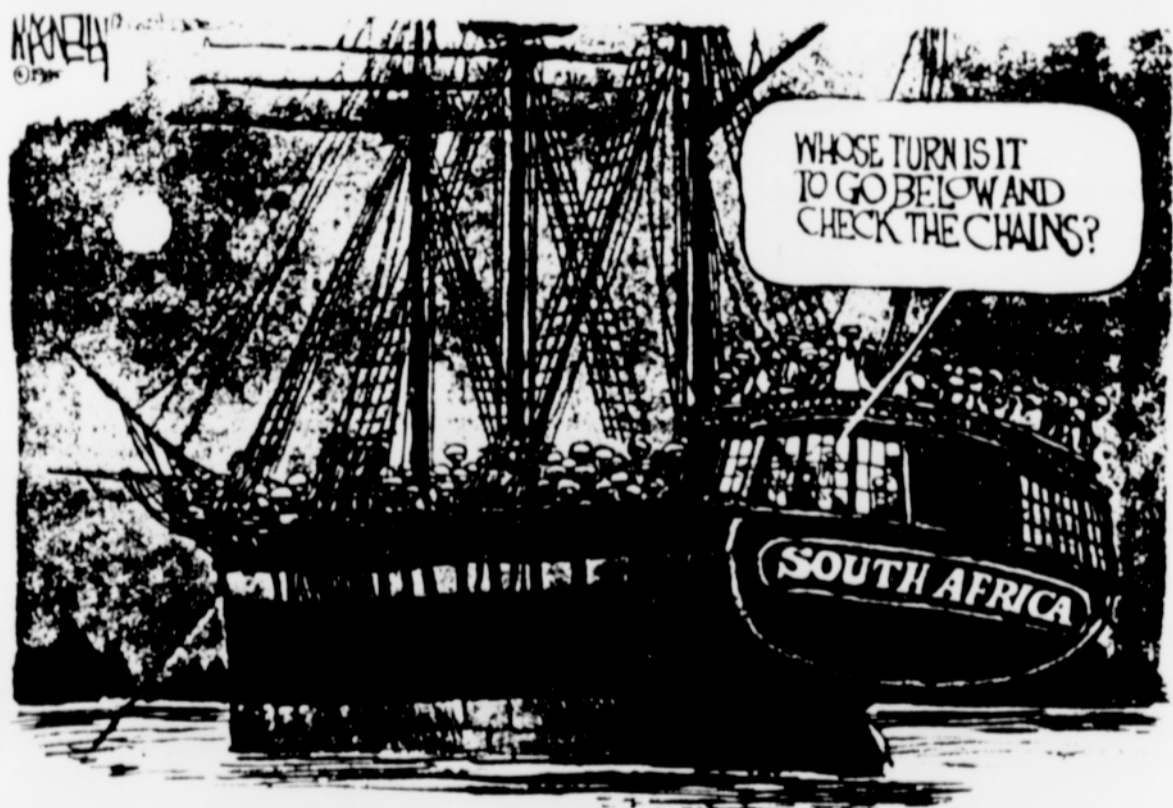
GEORGE MULLER
Eliot Crime Prevention
Co-Chairperson

To the Editor,

You have the best photographer in the Northwest — possibly the nation — in Richard Brown. He takes the best newspaper pictures I have ever seen. He is at the right place, at the right time, and gets the right picture. You paper would be only half as interesting if he were not on your staff. He is very friendly, polite and capable.

HOWARD D. WILLITS

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY



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