

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Give the Mayor the power to fire public employees

When the city's contract with the Portland Police Union expires in 1987, city leaders (the Mayor and City Council members) should eliminate the clause in the contract that requires binding arbitration when an officer is dismissed from the Bureau.

This clause has resulted in the reinstatement of officers Richard A. Montee and Paul A. Wickersham by arbitrator Paul Hanlon after they were fired by Mayor Bud Clark on the recommendation of Chief Penny Harrington. Montee and Wickersham are the two policemen who sold the "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em" T-shirts.

Mayor Clark and Chief Harrington were correct in firing the two officers. Both Clark and Harrington are trying to control a Bureau that has been running out of control for several years. There are a number of individual officers on the Bureau who are guilty of criminal acts and who are guilty of racist behavior.

Such behavior has resulted in the death and injuries of many Black citizens in Portland. In the process creating racial tension between the police and Portland Black citizens.

A local Black attorney said, "I am afraid to call the police for assistance." The lawyer's attitude

represents the sentiment of many Portlanders, both white and Black. This reluctance by citizens to get involved with the police is one of the reasons for the high crime rate in Portland. Citizens who have information concerning a crime don't report it because they are afraid to have contact with the police. The reason for this is residents living in the Northeast part of the city have been victimized constantly by a group of officers who use their badge as a shield to violate the civil rights of citizens.

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to assure that all citizens are treated equally by public officials. Mayor Clark was doing this when he dismissed the two officers who sold the T-shirts. Removal of the two officers was in the city's best interest; equally important, the Mayor was sending a message that the city will not tolerate racist behavior in the Bureau.

Without this authority, the Police Bureau will continue to be uncontrollable. The result will be deaths and injuries of citizens, continuing bad relations between the police and the community, high crime rates, and a drain of city finances in legal fees and settlements.

Letters to the Editor

Police and truants

To the Editor:

Police Chief Penny Harrington may be doing a great service to education by her newly announced plans to help schools enforce their policy of preventive detention.

The juvenile crime rate clearly indicates that schools are failing to keep students out of trouble. Even in schools with a maximum security operation there always seem to be some teachers who get so carried away with teaching they lose track of truantly inclined students. Then, of course, schools have little control of what students do with their large amount of free time (there are limits to mandatory homework). And even the most rigorous extra detention program for truancy is of little use if no one makes the students come to school to take their punishment for absenteeism.

I know from personal experience in substitute teaching at the Juvenile Delinquent Home that inmates who are allowed out of their cells for the privilege of attending class tend to be better motivated than the many students who consider schools to be prisons and their classroom a cell.

There is probably nothing like a little police intimidation or threatened incarceration to make students respect the law and appreciate good education.

There may be a few minor problems and perhaps even a major one in overtaxing police and detention facilities.

Since no program is perfect, it will be profitable to bring in outside experts to study such things as unnecessary infringement of individual rights, unmanageable overcrowding of facilities, the ratio of monitor personnel to inmate population, and the rate of recidivism.

Since students will still have far too much free time outside of class or jail, it will be necessary to set up special programs to deal with recidivists.

Such programs may seem rather costly, but it must always be remembered that the cost to society of not dealing with educational problems in an enlightened way will ultimately be far greater.

Surely we can come up with some innovative fund raising such as compulsory lottery participation or a super sales tax on everything and everybody.

Gene Lehman

Legal Aid Service

To the Editor,

As a student intern for Multnomah County Legal Aid Service I have come into contact with a service known as the Senior Law Project. The lawyers involved in the project are private attorneys who graciously volunteer their time and services to seniors who need legal assistance but don't know where to turn. The Senior Law Project staff is committed to providing quality legal services to the elderly.

It is fortunate that Multnomah County is able to offer such a service to the elderly who have few apparent alternatives. The project offers free half-hour consultations, by appointment, with a volunteer attorney and continued services are available to those who meet the eligibility guidelines. These attorneys are available at locations throughout Multnomah County and offer seniors an alternative to costly legal assistance while retaining quality legal personnel. I find it unfortunate that more seniors do not know about and take advantage of the free legal services offered by the Senior Law Project.

John Zobel

Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

Back pain: a common complaint these days

Back pain is one of the more common complaints in today's society. There are a number of factors that contribute to this occurrence, which include poor musculature (no exercise), trauma (auto accident), improper lifting techniques, stress, subluxation (mal-position of the spine), sports injury and anatomical anomalies. While there are numerous causes and factors involved in back problems, the symptoms often include stiffness, limited motion, headaches and irritability. Other symptoms such as numbness in fingers, severe shooting pains, digestive disturbances, knee and ankle irritation, are associated with particular regions and/or conditions of the spine.

The spine consists of four regions: the cervical (neck), thoracic (rib cage), lumbar (low back), and sacral (tail bone, hips). There are normally seven cervical vertebrae, 12 thoracic, five lumbar and a single fused sacrum. Each vertebrae is separated by a vertebral disc which functions much like a shock absorber to distribute forces throughout the spine. Surrounding the vertebrae are ligaments which act

like a girdle to hold the vertebrae in proper orientation with one another. Finally, muscles connect each vertebrae and extend throughout the spine to assist movement.

When vertebrae become mal-positioned relative to their adjoining structures, a variety of things may happen. First the girdle (ligaments) stretches, and the muscles are called into a supportive role. When muscles are constantly tense to hold the vertebrae in place, circulation is impaired and they often become sore and stiff. As the mal-position lingers or worsens we may get local inflammation; which may lead to the shooting pains down the leg (sciatica), numbness in fingers and a variety of other problems.

While minor back problems often resolve on their own, many people suffer from chronic or recurrent back problems. Pain medications may diminish the symptoms, but they do not structurally correct a mal-positioned spine. To reposition a minor subluxation, the services of a D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), D.C. (Doctor of Chiropractic), or N.D. (Naturopathic Doctor) may be useful.

Other things, such as heat (not in the first 24 hours of acute injury), massage, rest, stress management, and stretching exercises, may help the irritated back. In acute conditions exercise should be approached slowly and carefully, since stretching may actually worsen the inflammation. I will devote a future article to specific exercises to help back problems.

Not all back pain is associated solely with subluxation, and occasionally may be a sign of a more serious condition. With chronic conditions it is wise to seek a confirmative diagnosis from a qualified physician. Though many doctors suggest pain medications and rest as the primary treatment for back conditions, I have seen many people who do not respond to the above program. Physical therapy, spinal manipulation, nutritional and exercise programs may often shorten the duration of illness and afford a pain-free existence. If you have a long-term complaint or recent back injury and are seeing little improvement, seek a second opinion, especially from a D.C., N.D., or D.O.



Apartheid, fascism, and Reagan's sanctions

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

Part One of a Two-Part Series

President Reagan's decision to impose limited sanctions against South Africa last month was a weak and opportunistic maneuver to undermine the anti-apartheid movement abroad and in the United States.

Reagan's Executive Order prohibited U.S. loans to the apartheid government, the sale of computers to the military, police, and other "apartheid enforcing agencies," and established an advisory committee "to provide recommendations to encourage peaceful change in South Africa." In a rhetorical flourish, Reagan added a few sentences of stern condemnation against the regime which he had staunchly defended previously. "The system of apartheid means deliberate, systematic, institutionalized, racial discrimination denying the Black majority their God-given rights," Reagan asserted. "We believe it's wrong. We condemn it. And we're united in hoping for the day when apartheid will be no more."

Less than two weeks later, a coalition of 10 U.S. corporations with extensive investments in South Africa buttressed the President's hasty sanctions. The newly developed "U.S. Corporate Council on South Africa" is led by W. Michael Blumenthal, the former Treasury Secretary and head of the Burroughs Corporation, and General Motors Chairman Roger B. Smith. The council intends to lobby for gradual change in the apartheid system, working closely with South Africa private sector leaders. Other corporate participants include Mobil, Caltex Petroleum, IBM, and Citicorp.

Neither Reagan's cosmetic sanctions nor the creation of the corporate anti-apartheid group were viewed as credible responses to the crisis inside

South Africa. U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Berry Spoke for millions of Black Americans by observing: "Instead of standing on the side of justice, Reagan has chosen to issue a figleaf, a smokescreen behind which the dirty business of apartheid can continue." The leader of national anti-apartheid protests, TransAfrica Executive Director Randall Robinson, noted, "The South African government will be pleased, no doubt, that President Reagan remains a de facto ally of that vicious regime." And in Response to the new corporate initiatives, Jennifer Davis, executive director of the American Committee on Africa, declared that "there isn't any time left for them to carry out their very carefully paced programs of lobbying for reform. It's time for them to leave, to cut the connections that bolster the system."

Politically, both the Reagan administration and U.S. multinational corporations were pressured to take measures which they found distasteful yet necessary. Hundreds of national protests against apartheid, particularly on college campuses this year, were a contributing factor. In the first six months of 1985, for example, U.S. universities voted to sell \$57 million in South African stocks. Ohio State University alone sold \$3.3 million in corporate stocks, and will divest another \$7.5 million by 1990. The Democrats successfully turned the sanctions issue into a major political weapon against Reagan's Republicans. During the recent Senate debate on South Africa, half of the Black members of the House of Representatives walked onto the Senate floor in protest. The Congressional Black Caucus chairman, Mickey Leland of Texas, declared, "The issue has become so prominent among Black Americans

that it will become a standard to judge candidates" in the 1986 elections. Liberal Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy also warned: "The Republican Party... must decide whether it wants to be the party of Lincoln or the party of apartheid."

What few critics discussed were the underlying assumptions made by Reagan concerning the precise political character of the apartheid regime. Most Americans perceive South Africa as a version of the U.S. South prior to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s — a "Jim Crow," racially segregated society which maintains the basic characteristics of other Western democracies. Reagan himself declared on Sept. 9: "South Africa is not a totalitarian society. There is a vigorous opposition press. And every day we see examples of outspoken protest and access to the international media that would never be possible in many parts of Africa, or in the Soviet Union."

Apartheid cannot be understood as a distorted democracy, or even as an oppressive society in which rigid racial segregation dictates domestic policies. South African anthropologist Bernard Maqubane notes: "Apartheid is more than mere racial discrimination. It is a strict ideology of white supremacy, racial oppression, and exploitation, whose logical extremity — genocide — is tempered by the need for African labor." Apartheid is a type of fascist society, a totalitarian state in which social controls are pervasive — in labor relations, education, health services, the criminal justice system, and in all facets of daily life.

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EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY



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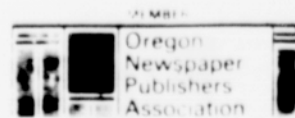
There may be as many as 40,000 asteroids, large chunks of rock, orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter

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