

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Black South Africans need actions, not words

Last week President Reagan and the American Chamber of Commerce criticized the racist South Africa Pretoria government for human rights abuses. The President said, "The government of South Africa must abandon the inhuman policy of apartheid and reach out for reconciliation with the country's 24 million Blacks. South Africa's declaration of a state of emergency had given its police essentially unlimited powers to silence critics of the government." The Chamber of Commerce criticized the government's handling of the continuing unrest, and accused the police of contributing to the violence.

These statements of President Reagan and the Chamber of Commerce are hypocrisy at its worst. Reagan's policy of constructive engagement has not only been a complete failure, but has actually strengthened the noose around the necks of Blacks and people of mixed races.

Throughout his term as President, Reagan has been an apologist of the South African government. In fact, he once remarked that racial segregation had been eliminated in South Africa. Reagan made this statement Aug. 24 while recuperating at his California ranch after his July 13 cancer surgery. Later he retracted this statement.

President Reagan's executive order which called for negligible sanctions against South Africa contained many loopholes. The order omits the clause threatening stronger sanctions, such as no new investment in one year if apartheid is not being dismantled.

There are 186 U.S. companies in South Africa which adhere to the Sullivan Code, which guarantees fair labor practices and equal employment opportunities. Companies like General Motors and IBM have recently released public statements reaffirming their commitment to remain in South Africa. Apartheid is beneficial to many Americans and foreign companies by providing a cheap labor market. Profits will be greater for those companies based throughout South Africa.

Only by total divestment will the white minority government of South Africa give Blacks and others the natural rights given to all people: the right to be free.

Past history has shown that the world is capable of letting human atrocities occur for long periods before something is done. In this country, slavery lasted for hundreds of years before it was recognized that it was inhumane. The world knew about Nazi Germany, but did nothing to stop Hitler until he had slaughtered millions of Jews.

The same situation is occurring in South Africa today. The Reagan administration and the American Chamber of Commerce should take positive actions to stop this genocide.

This can only be done through total economic sanctions and total divestment. Until the above occurs, the President and the U.S. companies doing business in South Africa are just as guilty as that oppressive regime. The oppressed living in that country need action from the United States, not modification and relabeling of constructive engagement.

POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

Year-end wrap-up for 1985

Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF) is an umbrella group for several anti-apartheid and peace groups in the Portland area. We support the struggle in Southern Africa for self-determination for peoples of color and an end to apartheid.

POSAF educates Oregonians about conditions in Southern Africa, oppression of the Black majority, links between racism in the United States and in South Africa, and U.S. economic responsibilities. POSAF activates Americans to work in solidarity with movements for liberation in Southern Africa, recognizing the link between the struggle of Southern African Blacks and American Blacks for self-determination. Participation in POSAF is open to anyone committed to POSAF's goals.

POSAF has organized protests forcing the resignation of Calvin Van Pelt, South Africa's honorary consul

in Portland, and has supported divestment legislation. It temporarily prevented unloading of South African cargo in Vancouver. Local kruggerand demonstrations ended with the President's Executive Order and ban on kruggerand imports.

In October, POSAF coordinated local anti-apartheid activities as part of a national protest. A record 500 people marched and rallied downtown. At POSAF's request, the Mayor issued a "Days of Protest Against Apartheid" proclamation and asked "all citizens of Portland to call for an end to all South African apartheid policies and practices, an end to investment in South Africa, and to strongly encourage the freeing of Nelson Mandela and all South African prisoners."

Current POSAF plans include stopping or delaying the unloading of South African cargo in the Pacific Northwest, such as the Dec. 5 picket of Pacific Maritime offices, which

operates West Coast ports. POSAF will continue work on divestment, the cultural boycott, and will assist the Free South Africa movement with the Freedom Letter campaign.

Also, the POSAF sponsored Oregon Petition Campaign, which calls for an end to all apartheid policies and practices, imposition of immediate sanctions and freeing of all political prisoners, has gathered 800 signatures since September. The petitions are addressed to President Reagan, Oregon's U.S. Congressional Representatives, and Oregon's other elected representatives.

POSAF, partially funded by the American Friends Service Committee, has an urgent need of funds and is exploring fundraising possibilities to both continue and expand Oregon anti-apartheid work, including another state divestment campaign. Contact Avel Gordly, Director, or Buff Groff, Associate, at 230-9427 for more information.

Letters to the Editor

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed or neatly printed and signed with the author's name and address (addresses are not usually published).

We reserve the right to edit for length. Mail to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Prostitution—here to stay

To the Editor:

In considering the question of prostitution, it is essential that we grasp the significance of its origins. To do this, we must dig far deeper than Babylonian orgies or ancient fertility rites. Prostitution (the offering of sexual favors in return for material benefits) exists in the animal world among the Primates. Since man is a Primate, we must therefore recognize that prostitution is a part of our overall inheritance from our furry ancestors. As such, it can never be discarded as long as our species survives, no matter how much wishful thinking we indulge in.

Racism has caused many of our poor Artisans, so-called prostitutes to be found walking the streets of Portland. From the very beginning, the so-called Christian slave masters sought to deny our humanity and from the very beginning capital was their interest. Like Black slaves "fastened together" in the holds of slave ships, Black people today are fastened together in the holds of American racism. We are fastened together by our history, by the myriad of oppressive events and circumstances with which we must constantly contend, and by the extent to which racism makes health a luxury only the rich and the non-poor can afford or obtain. The painful truth which we must face is that those poor women are ignored, mistreated, abused, and brutalized by the current health care delivery system in the United States. Indeed, as Samuel Yetts strongly asserts in the Choice, the tactics of

instincts.

No punishment—not even torture or death—has ever banished the Artisan (Whore) from human society. Most men, some of the time, and some women, most of the time, will find other sexual outlets unavailable or unsatisfactory and will seek prostitutes. And there will always be women, who from need or from greed, will answer the demand.

American laws suppressing prostitution are, indeed, contradictory and, in my opinion, rather ridiculous. Prostitution is a fact in this country (as any clergyman or social worker who has ever worked in any city will attest), but one which officialdom seems to think will "go away" if it is ignored or if it is rigorously suppressed by ill-thought-out legislation.

Until the fact of prostitution is recognized and realistically and positively dealt with as a fact of this society, the present situation will prevail. Until what is criminal about prostitution and which person in this relationship (that is, woman, man, or both) is then guilty of a criminal act are clearly spelled out, the "patently antifemale" prostitution laws will prevail.

Living in the reality of this society, I've accepted the fact that premarital, postmarital and extramarital sexual activities on their own merits and not by standards that bring greater injury to them.

Legalized prostitution indeed has several redeeming qualities. For me, all sexual relationships outside the marriage covenant may be illicit. But I also recognize degrees of immorality. Indulging in the services of the prostitute is far better than an adulterous relationship, because adultery may have disastrous social consequences, such as divorce and maladjusted children. Likewise, countries where prostitution is legal have far lower illegitimacy rates. Furthermore, legalized prostitution provides an outlet for the deviate who might otherwise commit sexual offenses.

It is repulsive for anyone to force their criteria on the Artisans. Morality cannot be legislated, and those who futilely attempt to eliminate "immorality" in this fashion only create a greater evil—tyranny of the majority.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee

No joy from Toy & Joy

An Open Letter

Mr. Don Mayer
Fire Bureau's Toy & Joy

My dear Mr. Mayer:

I am writing per my phone conversation with you and others of this day and to set the record straight. This Johnson family was not a recipient of Toy & Joy this year even though my signature appears on a receipt of Toy & Joy's. It is true that my family is a family that could well use the generosity of others. However, I will not subject myself or my family to the kind of disrespectful treatment I/we were privy to as a result of my/our contact(s) with Toy & Joy.

The represented-to-be gifts designated for my three daughters were taken back to Toy & Joy only after phoning first, explaining the situation and being informed that a mistake was probably made and to return to Toy & Joy with the "gifts" for the exchange. Upon my return to Toy & Joy, I was told—among many other things—that I should be "grateful for anything" and that I had "upset" folks there because I had requested Black dolls and toys for my Black family. The expected-by-me-to-be-exchanged gifts were taken from me and given to another lady that was in Toy & Joy and I was told that my family would not receive any gifts whatsoever—"not even a ball".

I state here and now that the negative actions and reactions that I received from Toy & Joy were non-Christian, racist and humbuggish. I am a Black mother with three Black daughters and I have every right to request Black dolls and Black toys for my Black family. I will continue to do so even when it means a racist non-response from those conduit agencies claiming to share the giving spirit of Christmas, as was the case with Toy & Joy this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. L. R. Johnson

health brutality parallel the tactics of police brutality. The former tactics are only "more subtle" and harder to perceive. By virtue of its frequency, health brutality has attained the same measure of "respectability" as police brutality.

When a modern girl marries for wealth and/or status, malicious tongues are apt to say that she is prostituting herself, probably unaware how near the truth they are. For, let's not kid ourselves, that is exactly what she is doing and there is nothing unnatural or surprising about it. She is simply obeying a powerful female instinct shared by our cousins the gibbons and monkeys and baboons for many millions of years. We can no more suppress prostitution than we can any of our other inherited

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Take his keys!

by Governor Vic Ativeh

Contrast the images that these sounds create in your mind.

First, the sounds of a crackling fire, of laughing voices, of ice being dropped into glasses, of cheery holiday music.

Second, the sorrowful wail of an ambulance siren, the anxious conversation of friends and relatives, an echoing loudspeaker calling the name of a physician.

The first sounds are those of a holiday party, perhaps at your house. The others are sounds outside a hospital emergency room, possibly after the party.

Drunken drivers kill 300 Oregonians each year, and seriously injure another 10,000. That is about the number of fans who fill Eugene's McArthur Court for a sold-out basketball game.

Buy by knowing how to make your party safer, you can help your guests avoid tragedy on our highways. You also can protect yourself from the possibility of lawsuit by an innocent person whom one of your guests injures.

The Oregon Traffic Safety Commission has published two booklets—both are free—to help you plan a safe party and to advise you on managing guests who have had one too many.

For example, the booklets suggest a number of alternatives for handling the guest who should not drive home:

You can drive him, the guest can stay overnight in your home, you can call a taxi, or if necessary you can call the booklets say, your friend will thank you later.

The booklets also contain tips for identifying guests who should not drive, answers to usual excuses, even recipes and tips for appropriate foods and drinks.

Examples:

Answering Excuses

Excuse: "I only drank beer—not the hard stuff."

Answer: There is no difference between an ounce of alcohol in a beer, a glass of wine or a cocktail. Take his keys.

Excuse: "I don't live far. I can make it."

Answer: That just means the cab fare will be cheaper or the drive shorter for the friend who is driving him home. More important, three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home. Take his keys.

Excuse: "I can't afford a cab."

Answer: Give him a loan or pass the hat among friends who are there. Cab fare isn't that big a deal. Neither is your friend's misplaced pride. Take his keys.

Identifying Intoxication

Among clues that a guest should not drive are lack of coordination, slurred speech, trouble making change or lighting cigarettes, difficulty walking (or an unusual gait),

rambling conversation, acting aggressively, bloodshot eyes, radical changes in behavior, loud, boisterous or crude behavior.

Party Tips

Food: Be sure to serve food. Although food was no power to sober anyone up, it does slow down the rate of alcohol absorption in the bloodstream. High-protein and starchy foods are best; avoid salty snacks.

Beverages: If you serve an alcoholic beverage, make it with a non-carbonated base so it will not be absorbed into the bloodstream so quickly. Have several jiggers at the bar so drinks can be measured.

Better yet, have a bartender—guests drink more responsibly when they know someone is aware of how often they come back for a refill. Cut off the alcohol at least an hour before the party is over, no exceptions. Be certain to have non-alcoholic drinks available (a third of the population does not drink alcoholic beverages).

The booklets from which these tips come are called "Police Aren't the Only People Who Stop Drinking Drivers" and "Keep the Holiday Spirit Alive."

Both are free by calling the 24-hour toll-free number of the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission: 1-800-922-2022. Or you may write the Commission at State Library Building, Salem 97310.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Ms. _____

Ms. _____

Miss _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$15 for one year

\$25 for two years

CLIP IT

TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK

Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Erie Publishing Company, Inc., 1463 N.E. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97211. Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.


The Portland Observer was established in 1970.

Subscriptions: \$15.00 per year in the Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

MEMBER

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION - Founded 1885

Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher
Al Williams, General Manager



288-0033

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York