

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Clark's homeless program needs support

Last week Portland Mayor Bud Clark presented his 12-point plan to help the homeless get off the streets of Old Town without displacing them to new areas in Portland. The comprehensive plan addresses the needs of the estimated 3000 homeless in Portland.

Clark's commitment to solving the problems of the homeless is a humane act; the mayor should be commended for his efforts. In recent years, society had turned its back on the less fortunate in our communities. By some estimates there are three million homeless individuals living in the United States.

Another 33.7 million people are classified as living in poverty, which is 14.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Many of the 14.4 percent will join the homeless, sleeping on top of grates or in doorways and searching for something to eat from trash cans. These conditions have gotten worse since the Reagan administration took office.

Last week it was revealed that the President plans to cancel \$6.2 billion of the \$9.9 billion that

Congress recently appropriated for housing assistance to people with low or moderate incomes during fiscal year 1987. If this plan is implemented, the number of homeless will most certainly increase.

Clark's 12-point plan isn't perfect; there is no such thing as a perfect plan. But his plan can work if local and state governments, social service agencies, along with the private sector, and the business community all coordinate resources to address the problem of human suffering on our city streets. Society's lack of concern for those beneath mainstream America is a sad reminder of how our priorities are changing in the world.

Our nation spends billions of dollars yearly on weapons capable of destroying civilization as we now know it. Instead of allocating our resources to destroy ourselves, funds should be made available in an effort to save human life. This is what Mayor Clark is attempting to accomplish. With active support from the entire community, Clark's plan will succeed.

### EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

## Drinking and driving can kill you

by the Oregon Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders

It has been five years since the first major social outcry was heard across the nation against drunk driving. One woman's outrage against a society willing to forgive and forget the senseless murder of her daughter by a drunken driver was heard from Portland, OR to Portland, ME. Candy Lightner was not willing to let the death of her daughter go unnoticed.

That outrage has echoed and re-echoed in legislative corridors and hearing rooms across the United States as victims and their families demanded action. The intensity of their insistence for "justice for all" has never been more dramatic and never more justified as millions of Americans declare verbally and by their reduced consumption of alcoholic beverages that driving under the influence of intoxicants is no longer acceptable. It is a declaration made in an age when many other

social weaknesses are still tolerated. In the case of drunk driving, though, people are no longer uncomfortable to state publicly that the drinking driver behind the wheel of a car is not funny—he/she is a potential killer.

"The Oregon Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders (OAWHSL) joins Governor Victor Atiyeh in proclaiming December as Drinking and Drugged Driving Awareness Month," states Ellie Bennett, OAWHSL President. During the holidays, you as hosts and hostesses, are encouraged to serve alcohol sensibly and sparingly, provide food to absorb the alcohol, serve non-alcoholic beverages, stop serving any alcoholic beverages an hour before guests are to leave, and make sure no guest gets behind the wheel who you feel is under the influence.

Parents can encourage home parties where alcoholic beverages will not be served to minors, where food, pop, music and friends can be the main at-

traction. Parents should be present but not necessarily attend the party.

"You as individuals should buckle up every time you get in a vehicle. It's your best defense against a drinking driver," says Bennett.

"And remember—call the Oregon State Police REDDI number (Remove Every Drunk Driver Immediately), 1-800-452-7888, if you spot a driver whose driving indicates intoxication. You may save someone's life. One out of every ten vehicles on the road on a weekend night has a drinking driver at the wheel who may cross over the center line, rear-end another vehicle, run a stop sign, strike a pedestrian, or speed down the road out of control," Bennett warns.

Driving under the influence is a crime. That crime can be murder.

The Oregon Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders is a non-profit organization of women volunteers dedicated to saving lives from needless bloodshed on our highways.

## Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.



## Healthful reflections on 1985

As 1985 comes to an end, it is time to reflect on the past and build for the future. So much has happened in 1985 that I can only touch the surface in this article.

1985 was a year of failed attempts at a "cure" for AIDS. While scientists early on, predicted a vaccine or immunization in six to 12 months, they now abstain from predicting any timeline for a cure.

1985 was a year of increased controversy about artificial transplants and high-cost health care. The Food and Drug Administration just last week pledged to tighten the procedures and protocol for artificial heart experimentation.

1985 was a year in which Blacks and other minorities still had a disproportionately high rate of heart disease, cancer and an inability to afford adequate health care.

1985 was a year in which the American Cancer Society finally admitted that nutrition "may be" associated with "some" forms of cancer.

1985 was a year in which the American Medical Association (AMA) came out strongly against boxing, cigarettes and child abuse; almost as strongly as their stance against Chiropractic medicine and alternative health fields.

And 1985 was a year in which despite lowering the RDA in vitamins C and A, more Americans were inadequately nourished than ever before.

As 1986 comes around, let us look towards a brighter year. Let us pray that the plateau in the rise in AIDS cases is true, and that it reflects a lessening of the spread of this disease. Let us be educated and informed so

we can diminish our own chances of contracting AIDS, and lessen our prejudices against those who are afflicted.

May we continue new research in medicine, yet spend a little of these billions to treat and prevent manageable diseases in the impoverished sections of our society.

May we begin to recognize the true roots of illness: lack of education, inadequate nutrition, job-related exposure to chemicals and inadequate health care, and attack them head on.

May the American Cancer Society and the AMA remove themselves from the role of special interests and place themselves in the role of public service and safety.

And finally, may 1986 be the healthiest, and happiest year yet.

Until next year, Yours in health, Steven Bailey, N.D.

## 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.

### Disagree with Cherovee

With The Name Allah  
The Gracious, The Compassionate

To the Editor:

Re: letter by Dr. Jamil Cherovee "Prostitution here to stay."

Dr. Cherovee made several assertions that I feel it mandatory to question. First, it is important to disagree with the conclusion and point of the letter: that prostitution shall exist as long as our species survive. If our species were to be completely destroyed in the immediate future, as is possible in a nuclear war, then perhaps such a statement might be valid, but only God knows. Unless we accept this Caucasian dominated culture as the universal standard (as some of us do), there is always the possibility and also the hope that another more moral culture will supersede the culture of indulgence which is currently predominant in the U.S. and most of the world.

It is agreed that racism is a strong factor in this and other of our problems; however, it is not the sole reason for prostitution on Portland's streets, and I personally do not agree (many feel likewise) that there is nothing to be done.

I strongly disagree with Dr. Cherovee's excusing of a strictly cultural phenomena by comparing it with the instinctual activities of the lower primates. We are not cousins to the gibbon or the monkey in that respect—neither do all of us accept Darwin's theory.

We cannot excuse this kind of activity and seek to justify its recognition as a permanent fixture in our community or society because it is "convenient" for the adulterer and the deviate. This profanes the marital union and still would not prevent the disastrous social consequences to

which Dr. Cherovee made reference.

However "near the truth" one comes does not exclude what is put forth from being a "boldfaced lie."

Perhaps we may have to legalize prostitution for a time in order to bring it under control—no argument there, but let's keep the argument on a sound basis. Not to nitpick, but I really believe "courtesan" and not "artisan" is the term the doctor intended to use for "prostitute" because "a Ho" don't produce nothin'!

Sincerely,  
Nabeeh Mustafa

### Abernethy coverage

To the Editor:

Thank you for the many excellent articles that have been written about Abernethy. Your continuing support, and response to our needs, is greatly appreciated.

Rosemary Daniels  
Principal, Abernethy School

### Street crime

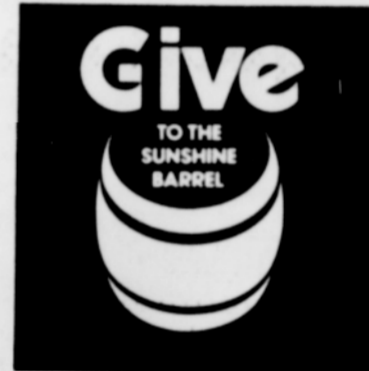
To the Editor:

I believe Street Crime could be Eradicated, if the community mobilized the political, economic, religious and cultural resources of the people in Northeast Portland in a concentrated assault to secure full and equitable employment. The unemployed with decent jobs at decent pay would be able to solve most of their problems, including those of destruction of the family, Black on Black crime, and increasing polarization of the races caused by the need to constantly push for strong affirmative action programs.

We must learn that caring and sharing are becoming practical necessities in today's complex societies. Poor people, in the so-called land of plenty, right under our noses are dying daily of starvation, malnutrition, apathy, homelessness, living on the streets, in the alleys, out of garbage cans. These conditions are more prevalent in the major metropolitan cities than in the South.

I find myself wondering, is the government of Amerika concealing an epidemic of starvation in its own territory? Why would the government of Amerika expose the crisis of Ethiopia to the world at this time? We must realize that poor people here at home are our first responsibility and most important resource, and remember that charity begins at home. If we are incapable of dealing with our internal disease, then what capacity do we have for dealing with the outside world? Absolutely none. Is it because they historically have represented the Good Samaritan? Are they trying to divert our attention from the real issue in this country, unemployment? Is it just one more of their insidious conspiracies against the poor.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee



### EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY



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