

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Crime money should go to King & Eliot

The City of Portland recently received \$104,000 in federal grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice, Crime Prevention Division. The purpose of this grant is to provide aesthetic improvements and crime prevention measures in communities with a high crime rate.

This federal grant should be allocated to the King and Eliot neighborhoods. Although many neighborhoods throughout the city have felt the impact of the crime wave, none have been hit as hard as these communities. Both communities have experienced a high degree of crime for years.

Residential burglaries, prostitution, drug trafficking, and assaults occur regularly in the King and Eliot neighborhoods. Many run-down buildings and houses in these neighborhoods provide a haven for prostitutes and their customers, along with drug dealers and users. Church parking lots are even being used by prostitutes and drug dealers.

If this federal grant is allocated to the King and Eliot communities, it could be used to purchase lights for areas where crime is likely to occur and to secure vacated dwellings which will help deter acts of assault and robbery. Other ways the grant could be applied is to install locks in homes that are easy targets for burglars; trash and tall weeds in vacant lots could be cleaned up; signs could be placed along Union Ave. warning "Johns" (who usually reside outside the community) that soliciting the services of a prostitute is illegal and they run the risk of being arrested.

Decent citizens living in the King and Eliot neighborhoods have repeatedly demonstrated they are sincere in their efforts to eradicate crime from their communities. The King and Eliot Neighborhood Association, Crime Prevention Committee along with other community groups such as the Christian Women Against Crime have organized to fight crime.

On Oct. 8 last year, more than 130 residents marched in the rain along Alberta St. and Union

Ave. protesting the problem of drug dealing and prostitution. The march was sponsored by the King and Eliot Neighborhood Association, Crime Prevention Committee. The Committee has also held numerous pickets on the corner of N.E. Alberta and Grand Ave., in an effort to stop drug dealing on that corner. Although the Committee's efforts haven't ceased the sale of drugs on this corner, their work has resulted in a decrease in the number of young Black males who openly sell drugs.

Recently, more than 150 residents living in the King and Eliot areas voiced their frustrations at city and county officials during a panel discussion at the King Neighborhood Facility. The panel included Portland's Mayor Bud Clark; Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury; Program Coordinator Council for Prostitution Alternatives Susan Hunter; Community Service Multnomah County Corrections Harley Lieber; and Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrank.

The Crime Prevention Committee of the Eliot and King Neighborhood Association should be congratulated for their efforts. However, the Committee is aware of the fact that their efforts to clean the streets of criminal activities is far from complete. For in order to eradicate crime, the residents living in these communities need the resources and cooperation of city officials. Toni Williams, an Executive Board member on the King Neighborhood Improvement Association, stated, "For years city officials have been ignoring the problem of crime in the King and Eliot communities."

The new administration can demonstrate to residents living in the crime-prone neighborhoods that the city and the Police Bureau are concerned about crime in their communities. This can be done by using the \$104,000 federal crime prevention grant in the King and Eliot neighborhoods.

Escalation in Nicaragua

by John Lamperti

Recent news that U.S.-backed *Contras* shot down a Nicaraguan Army helicopter with a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile was coupled with administration charges of increased Cuban participation in Nicaragua's defense efforts. The events and the charges indicate a new escalation of the ugly war in Nicaragua—and a new round of scare tactics to pressure Congress into stepping up the United States' role.

According to U.S. government sources Nicaragua's Army has about 700 of those missiles, known as SA-7's. In July 1984 a State Department official predicted ominously that SA-7's would soon appear in the hands of rebel forces in El Salvador, presumably transferred from Nicaragua. That has not occurred, despite administration claims of a continuing flow of arms in that direction. Ironically, the missiles have instead been obtained and used by *Contra* forces. A spokesman told the *Los Angeles Times* that private contributors in the United States provided the money to buy them, and that retired U.S. Army General John Singlaub arranged for the *Contras* to receive essential training in their use and maintenance.

The State Department says that two of the 14 people killed in the downed helicopter were Cubans, and calls this evidence of a Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan "caner in the region." Whether or not there actually were Cubans present, condemning foreign involvement in Central American conflicts is a strange line for our government to take. U.S. pilots and ground personnel, working for the CIA or as mercenaries, have made numerous trips over and into Nicaragua to supply and assist *Contra*

groups, and at least two of them have died there. The CIA has mined Nicaragua's harbors and attacked its port facilities. In El Salvador's civil war, U.S. Air Force pilots regularly fly training and reconnaissance missions for the government forces and sometimes find themselves in combat. If "outside" (Cuban) participation in Nicaragua's *Contra* war is so wrong, how can the United States justify its own deep and growing involvement?

In rationalizing its military and economic campaign against Nicaragua, the Reagan administration stands reason and justice on their heads. An impoverished little country of barely three million people is pictured as a threatening military giant. Nicaragua, many times in this century the victim of U.S. aggression, is accused of unprovoked hostility toward us. Nicaragua is constantly denounced for human rights shortcomings, although its record is far superior to that of U.S. allies in the region such as Guatemala and El Salvador. Not least strange, terrorists and murderers become, in President Reagan's words, "freedom fighters" and "the moral equivalent of our founding fathers." It is consistent with this record that the current escalation of the war by the *Contras* is presented by U.S. officials as if it were somehow a provocation on the part of the government they seek to overthrow!

This logic doesn't work. The campaign against Nicaragua, which the administration wants to expand, is a mistaken policy that hurts U.S. interests in many ways. For example, the United States is increasingly at odds with its most important allies, none of whom support the U.S. embargo on trade with Nicaragua. Earlier this month a United Nations resolution calling for an end to the

embargo passed by a vote of 84 to 4; only Israel, Gambia and Grenada voted with the United States.

The credibility of the United States as a peaceful and law-abiding nation is eroding badly. Our government's refusal to answer Nicaragua's charges in the World Court looks very much like an admission of guilt. The damage these policies do to the role of law in international affairs may in the long run become one of the greatest costs of the administration's anti-Nicaraguan vendetta.

Secretary of State George Shultz was quoted as being "all for" *Contra* use of the SA-7's against Nicaraguan government forces. "I hope that the United States might itself take 'further steps' against Nicaragua. This is shocking and sad. Escalating the war in Central America is not in the interest of the United States or any of the peoples in the region.

Elsewhere in the world Mr. Shultz sees things with different eyes. On Dec. 11 he said that "A country cannot be expected to make a concession to those who resort to terrorism and who treat negotiations as only a way station on the road to its ultimate destruction." He was speaking at that time of Israel's policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is unfortunate that the Secretary does not see that these words accurately describe the position of Nicaragua in relation to what, elsewhere, he would not hesitate to call external aggression.

John Lamperti is a professor at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. He is currently serving as a consultant with NARMIC, a research and publication project of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, PA.



Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

Shriners Hospital in Portland

Portland is fortunate to have one of North America's 19 Shriners Orthopedic Hospitals. The Shriners have operated specialty orthopedic children's hospitals since 1922, and in Portland, have recently moved to a facility at 3101 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road.

The new 40-bed hospital provides a wide range of services including rehabilitation, education and research as well as treatment for a variety of orthopedic problems. The truly unique aspect of this hospital is that there is no charge for the services rendered.

The Shriners literature states: "All children from infancy to 18 years of age are eligible for treatment if, in the opinion of the hospital's chief of staff, there is a reasonable possibility that treatment will benefit the child and that treatment at another facility

would place a financial burden on the patient's family or guardian." Write to the Shriners Hospital, 3101 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd., Portland, OR 97201 for more information, or call 241-5090.

I was recently given a tour of the new Portland facility by Jill Laurence of the hospital's public relations department. Unlike most general hospitals, this one is geared toward children and the atmosphere does much to remove the sterility and threatening nature of most facilities. children who are about to undergo surgery "play-act" the actual surgery so as to minimize fears.

While the hospital can hold 40 children at a time, there are normally around 20 children at the hospital. The average stay is 10-12 days, although there are specialty out-

patient clinics which serve a broader short term need, including one for cast removal and one for cerebral palsy patients.

Though the "Shrine of North America" funds the Shriners Hospitals, there is no requirement that children served have any relationship to a Shriner. The special fund raising events like the circus and high school sporting events are but a few of the ongoing Shriner activities that help provide free care to needy children. All children are eligible to apply regardless of race or religion. So, if you have or know of a child who has orthopedic problems that could be treated, contact the local Shriners Hospital at (503) 241-5090 or call the national number at 1-800-237-5055.

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.

Dialogue is needed in Northeast Portland

To the Editor:

In the belief that knowledge and awareness are necessary and effective antidotes against the venom of hate, I believe dialogue is needed in Northeast Portland. We cannot afford to be carried away by emotionalism. I would like to share a Quranic verse with Sister Nabeeh Mustafa, "Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves (with their own souls)." (13:11). "The believers are but a single Brotherhood," says Allah (49:10). Is this, then, how one brother/sister helps another? With the term "Bold-headed liar?" There is not an atom of truth in what you said.

Sometimes it's a person's ignorance that allows them to be beguiled. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, more dangerous than ignorance itself. If anyone points out the proper path to an ignorant person, the latter will follow them without putting on the airs of a philosopher. But one possessing a little knowledge; while they are incapable of understanding correctly, refuses to acknowledge their own incapacity. The old adage has it that full lunacy is better than semi-lunacy. Similarly an ignorant person is better than one possessing a little knowledge.

Have you forgotten that natural science, Geometry, Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine, Chemistry, Geology, and all other sciences beneficial to man have a bearing on matters connected with religion, although they have no direct relation with religion itself. God will certainly aid those who aid His (cause) (22:40). The Christian segment of the world's "isms" or ideologies would proclaim Jesus Christ as the greatest historical revolutionary, although other radicals lived before his time. It is interesting that Christ's priority for living was to liberate his people—not God the Father who is analogous to the Christian "religion"—but people: Christ lived in God but for people, because Christ was so much in God.

It is necessary that one's philosophy nourishes and sustains his work. Christ, the living revolution and "church," reached people's philosophies or religion or reason for being through tending to their primary needs—providing them with food, clothing, shelter, and even "community"—a safe environment of persons like themselves. He, the minority, created a movement and in the end his own people contributed to and supported the violent death of their own leader.

Christ was an anarchist pure and simple. Dr. King did not wait on God to start the civil rights movement. We must deal with the science concerned with the principles of valid reasoning and correct inference, either deductive or inductive. Intelligent people today do not believe they will float up to some city with golden streets and milk and honey on a cloud somewhere. They don't want anyone to tell them about "Tomorrow in good Old

Beulah's Land." (Tim:2:25) The preacher must furnish the basis for feeling by producing intelligent conviction. Can the physician practice medicine without study of physiology, or the lawyer practice law without study of jurisprudence? I'm inclined to believe, regardless of *Crede*, everyone should read, Shakespeare, K. Henry VI, 2nd part 4:7—"Ignorance is the curse of God; Knowledge the wing where-with we fly to heaven."

Sister Nabeeh, could a trained or skilled working prostitute (Whore) be called an "Artisan." What do you really know about Darwin's theory? Charles Darwin, *Life*, 1:274—"In my most extreme fluctuation, I have never been an atheist, in the sense of denying the existence of a God."

I may sound harsh and antagonistic, yet I'm the product of America's mis-education. I'm inclined to believe antagonism evokes response, and response evokes individual reaction, which in turn stimulates the ego. I haven't asked anyone to seek truth in the minds of

pre-human apes, or in the blind stirrings of some primitive pulp. The genesis and emergence of an idea are one thing; its validity is quite another. The logical value of chemistry cannot be decided by reciting its beginning in alchemy; and the logical value of astronomy is independent of the fact that it began in astrology. Even if man came from the ape, we need not tremble for the validity of the multiplication-table or of the Golden Rule. If we have moral insight, it is no matter how we got it; and if we have no such insight there is no help in any psychological theory. Are we the victims of a mental or moral astigmatism, which sees a single point of truth as two? Can we see God and man, divine sovereignty and human freedom, Christ's divine nature and Christ's human nature, the natural and the supernatural, respectively, as two disconnected facts, when perhaps deeper insight would see but one? Astronomy has its centripetal and centrifugal forces, yet they are doubtless one force.

Dr. Jamil Cherovee

Integration is Mid-East solution

To the Editor:

No state has a right to exclude people on the basis of their race. People who are driven out of their homeland become angry and violent. If you were driven out of your house, you too might kill the racists who stole your land.

Israel must allow Palestinian people to return, or else Jews will never be safe anywhere in the Mid-East.

Zionism is an ideology based on race. It is causing unnecessary bloodshed to both Jews and Arabs. Zionism claims it is making a safe haven for Jews oppressed by Anti-Semitism. Yet, look what they are really producing: guerrillas kill 17 tourists, Zionists, or Jews. So, the Zionist government of Israel will bomb a Palestine village somewhere, or kill a few more Palestinian people in the concentration camps on the West Bank. The blood gets deeper and stickier. Jews are not safer now in the Mid-East.

During Vietnam, nobody was really surprised when the tiny Viet Cong bombed bars, airports or brothels full of American soldiers drinking to try and forget the women and children with guns they had just killed in some Vietnamese village. America lost in Vietnam because they were trying to force the majority into an unacceptable government. America's pawn state of Israel will lose in the Mid-East, if they try to force Arabs to live by Israel's rules.

The adults who died in Rome and Vienna are not innocent. They know there is a war going on. They also think they benefit from the racist suppression of the Palestinian people. They are wrong. Soon, no Jew will be safe in the Mid-East, because of what

a tiny racist clique of Zionists is doing in the name of Jews. The majority of Jews in the world are anti-Zionist, yet they suffer for what the racists are doing. The people of the world must start speaking out for an end to the racist oppression of the Palestinian people who were driven off their land, with our tax dollars! We want Peace on Earth for Palestinian people too.

One very positive solution to this problem is a *united states of the Mid-East*, where, as here in America, people of all races can travel, buy land, work or intermarry as they want to. It works here and it can work there. Half my relatives live in Israel. They claim there is a large minority in Israel who want an inter-racial society, as in the United States, but the government and the U.S.-controlled media ignore these demands and ideas. (That is probably the reason this letter will end up in the "circular file.")

A few racists will say that Arabs and Jews can't live on the same block, or go to the same schools, or work at the same jobs, but I disagree. Here in America, 200 different cultures live and work together fairly peacefully. *Jews aren't allowed to have their own state here.* Integration works in America, and it can work in the Mid-East, if the United States would just cut off all funds to the racist Zionists in the Israel government who distort the government of Israel and are the main cause of this spreading violence.

The United States must put itself on a higher moral plane by not giving the bullies in Israel any more of our money for bombs. This will force the Zionists to make peace with their neighbors.

Paul Kangas

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