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Nancy Becker

Photo by Richard Brown

Portland Woman Reports on Grenada

by Bob Lothian

A cab driver cried when he remembered former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, but other Grenadians love Ronald Reagan and turned out en masse when Reagan visited the Caribbean island nation.

Some people who supported Bishop also like "uncle Ron," as the American president is known on the island. That's the seemingly contradictory situation in the Grenada of today, reports a Portland woman who visited the island for the second time in March.

"I was amazed at how much everybody loves the Americans," said Nancy Becker. Becker, a registered dietician, spoke to medical students at St. Georges Medical School in St. Georges, Grenada's capital.

Bishop's assassination unleashed a chain of events that resulted in the American invasion and occupation. The occupation brought with it a flood of American wealth and technology that has lured Grenadians into a "love affair" with the United States, according to Becker.

She reported seeing more cars, color televisions, paper, xerox machines, even satellite dishes. Roads have been improved, and the electricity stays on all the time now whereas before it went off every afternoon.

The island has only eight long distance telephone circuits before the president visited in February, according to Becker. "When Reagan came to visit they brought in 14 new lines," she said.

Much of the investment is going into building up tourism, Becker said. A new Ramada Inn has been built, and the famous airport that the Reagan administration charged was being built by Cubans for military purposes is now handling tourist jets.

Tourism is being given priority treatment at the expense of the agricultural economy that Bishop and his New Jewel Movement were developing, according to Becker. The island produces

coffee, bananas, cocoa, pineapples, and most of the world supply of nutmeg. Bishop had encouraged production co-ops aimed at making the island less dependent on foreign capital.

"I don't think the Grenadians realize the full implications of 'big daddy' coming in with all this money," Becker said. "The U.S. is building up the infrastructure tremendously, however at a tremendous price. I'm afraid it will be a nation of bus boys and chambermaids, and that's all non-union."

When the Grenadians' love affair with American wealth ends, it is likely they will find their country once again an impoverished backwater, Becker said.

Becker has visited Barbados three times, and described that Caribbean island nation as "disgusting. Apartheid must be like Barbados," she said.

"If (Grenadians) thought their island was going to be like Barbados, I'm sure they'd be disgusted," she said.

While in St. Georges, she visited the offices of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, the remainder of the New Jewel Movement and brought back copies of its publication, "Indies Times," which continues with a readership of 11,000.

Opposition to the regime of Grenada's new leader, Herbert Blaize, is not much in evidence, Becker said. Only about 50 people protested Reagan's visit, she said.

"They know they're in the minority, and they don't have much hope, but still they keep struggling," she said about the opposition.

Though the opposition paper carried an article about several civilians who had been killed by police, the atmosphere did not seem repressive, Becker said.

"You get the feeling that Grenadians are fed up with politics, and just want to be left alone," she said.

84 Workers Died on Job

A total of 84 workers died from job-related injuries and illnesses in 1985, according to a report from the Workers' Compensation Department (WCD).

The number reflects a slight increase from the 1984 total of 83, according to the agency's Research and Statistics Section. The section issues the work deaths report annually.

The report showed that logging, construction, and transportation-public utilities industries had the highest individual death numbers, while mining and finance-insurance-real estate categories had the lowest.

The greatest number of deaths resulted from workers being struck by an

object, while being caught in or under objects was the second leading death cause. Highway motor vehicle accidents, the leading cause of deaths in 1984, fell to third place in 1985.

Of the 84 fatalities, 15 were listed in the category of claims accepted from prior years, compared to nine in 1984. Lane, Multnomah, and Douglas Counties again had the most work deaths, while 11 counties had none.

Report statistics were compiled from records of deaths reported to the Workers' Compensation Department, and from records of death claim benefits paid by Oregon workers' compensation insurers.

Inmate Stabbed, Suspect Questioned

by Bob Lothian

Arnold Patrick Turner, 29, a black inmate at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, was stabbed to death in the prison activity room Monday morning.

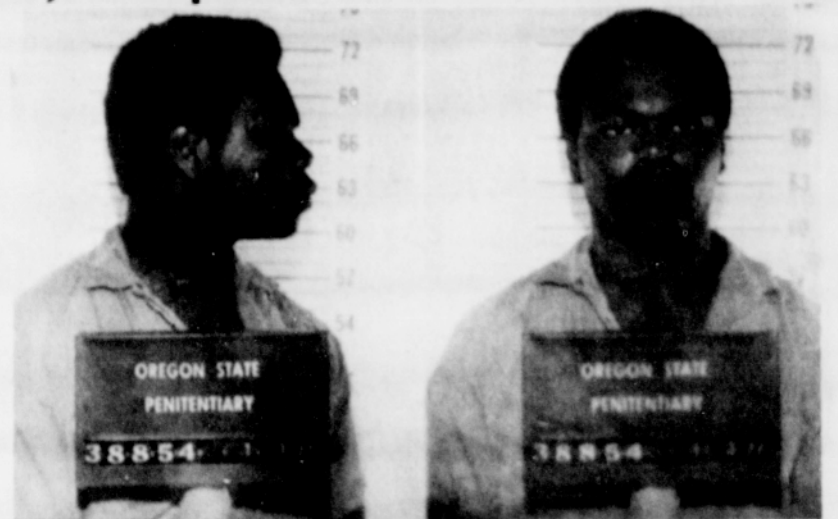
Turner was found lying on the floor of the activity room at about 7:45 a.m., said Al Chandler, executive assistant to the prison superintendent. "He was already gone," Chandler said.

A suspect, Cornelius Patterson, is being questioned regarding Turner's death, Chandler announced. Patterson, also black, was found with a wound and "blood all over him," according to Chandler.

Turner's death appears to be the result of an altercation between the two men, he said. The murder weapon has not been found, and no motive was apparent, said Chandler.

As is usual in such cases, he said, other inmates aren't talking about Turner's death. Authorities hope to learn more through the prison "rumor mill." Twenty-five inmates were in the activity room at the time when the homicide occurred.

Patterson had been transferred to OSP from a Nevada prison. He is serving a 10 year sentence for larceny and battery with use of a deadly weapon in a correctional institution. "He either assaulted another guard at the Nevada State Prison, or another inmate," Chandler said.



Arnold Patrick Turner

Turner, from Portland, was serving a 20-year sentence for first-degree rape.

Chandler reported no further incidents following Turner's death. "Right now, the inmates are pretty quiet," he said.

He said Turner's death was the first homicide at the prison since 1972. "It's a rarity."

According to Chandler, there had been no pattern of violence or continuing disputes at the prison in recent months that could help explain Turner's death.

But a spokeswoman for a prisoner support group told the *Observer* that the prison atmosphere has become more tense.

Jackie Holmes, Portland contact person for Oregon People for Prison Alternatives, said visitation rules were made more stringent recently, and guards have become "more menacing."

"My husband is an inmate there and he says there's a lot of tension throughout the building," Holmes said. She said her husband blames overcrowding for most of the tension.

Holmes added that her group has believed for some time that violence was likely at OSP. She worried that more violence could happen soon unless something is done about the overcrowding.



South Africa Demo Against I.B.M.

Photo by Richard Brown

Students Close IBM Store in Anti-Apartheid Protest

by Bob Lothian

Twelve Portland area college students occupied and closed the IBM Products Center in downtown Portland Friday.

The students and a large group of supporters outside disrupted business at the computer store and nearby businesses in the lobby of the PacWest Center for four hours.

They were protesting what they alleged was IBM's role in maintaining apartheid.

After a standoff that went on most of the afternoon, the twelve protesters were cited by police with second degree trespassing and dragged from the building.

Among those cited was Velvet L. McKnight, Portland State University student body president. Other students were from Lewis and Clark and Reed Colleges.

The sit-in demonstration followed a National Divestment Day rally at Portland State University and march to the PacWest Center by about 150 protesters.

Statements handed out by the students charged IBM with supplying the South African government with computers used to maintain the apartheid pass laws and race classification system.

Protesters marched in front of the

PacWest entrance, chanting "IBM Divest Now" and "South Africa Will be Free," then moved inside to sit in front of the glass walls of the Products Center.

Private security guards stood inside the locked door and refused admission to press, customers and a representative from the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. Students and IBM employees milled about inside the store. At one point, the students inside unfurled a banner which said, "IBM Out of South Africa."

"We'll stay until they agree to our demands or until we get arrested," said Kurt Cornick, a junior anthropology major at PSU. "This is all non-violent, we don't want violence," Kornick said through a crack in the glass partition.

The protesters pressed their demand that the company withdraw from South Africa, and were given copies of an article by IBM president John F. Akers in response, said one of the students who was inside.

Akers argued in the article that IBM contributes to equality for South African blacks by increasing employment opportunities and sponsoring educational programs.

"We believe the right thing to do is to remain and redouble our efforts to advance social equality," Akers said.

"Pressure on apartheid will be increased by more corporate involvement, not less."

Akers denied that IBM sells its computers to the South African police, prisons, military, national security agencies or the department that administers the passport system.

But the protesters quoted a book published by the American Friends Service Committee, *Automating Apartheid*, which said that IBM 370 and 158 miniframe computers are used by the South African Dept. of the Interior to store information used by the police and military, "contributing to the deaths of black South Africans."

Earlier, Okotho Choto, a Kenyan student representing the Association of African Students, urged the gathering at Portland State to send a strong message to IBM and Portland, "that we don't like to be oppressed."

Avel Gordly, director of the Southern Africa Program for American Friends Service Committee, and representing Portlanders Organized for Southern Africa Freedom and the Black United Front, spoke of her trip to South Africa last summer.

South Africans told her that they were very much aware of the U.S. anti-apartheid movement, and that divestment organizing was the most im-

portant help Americans could contribute to the cause, she said.

Gordly reported that 84 colleges and universities have divested, 41 totally and 43 partially, for a total of \$493 million divested. She quoted statistics supplied by the American Committee on Africa.

Nathan Keene, a junior at Reed College, said a committee of students and trustees is meeting to consider Reed's \$6-\$8 million investment in corporations doing business in South Africa, but so far nothing has been decided. Keene was one of over 100 students who occupied the Reed administration building, demanding that the college divest.

Jana Dean, freshman at Lewis and Clark College, said a committee of students there is working on strategies to confront Lewis and Clark's \$8 million in South Africa-related investments. Students held a five-day protest fast in January, she said.

Gordly said the Portland demonstration Friday was part of a two-week-long nationwide protest sponsored by the American Committee on Africa, from March 21, the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, to April 4, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination.