

Racist Violence Forum



(l-r) Ben Priestly, Bill Kowalczyk-Moderator, Chisao Hata, Gerald Lenoir, Mazen Malik. Photo by Richard J. Brown by Jamie Partridge

Incidents of racist violence have multiplied during the Reagan years, but minority communities are beginning to organize effective resistance.

This was the conclusion of a panel of minority activists speaking at a forum on "The Struggle Against Racist Violence" held Sunday evening, June 28, at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, sponsored by the Frontline newspaper. The keynote address by Gerald Lenoir, co-chair of the Black Liberation Commission of the Line of March, was followed by presentations by Chisao Hata, local president of the Japanese American Citizens League; Ben Priestly, editor of FrontPage, the National Black United Front newspaper; and Mazen Malik, a leader in the General Union of Palestinian Students.

"Racist violence crystallizes the fascist impulse in the U.S.," Lenoir observed. "Whether from the police, the INS, the KKK, Bernard Goetz, or young white toughs, racist brutality has the purpose of keeping a specially oppressed sector in 'its place.' White supremacist violence is built into the capitalist system, yesterday keeping slaves in 'their place,' today keeping angry, low paid and unemployed minorities in 'their place.'"

Blacks have faced racist violence from "day one," agreed Priestly. He then listed numerous local incidents in recent years, from the police chokehold murder of Tony Stevenson to the young whites "breaking in their knife" in the stabbing death of Stanley Reed.

We need a broad, united front including all who oppose this brutality, stated Hata. She urged minorities not to be bitter or accept the attacks as "the way things are", but to turn rage into healthy protest and politics. Hata pointed to the particular case of Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American engineer beaten to death with baseball bats by white autoworkers in Detroit (who thought he was Japanese). This incident brought together and mobilized various Asian communities. It also showed the direct link between the current anti-foreigner fever and racist attacks.

Malik reinforced Hata's comments, pointing out that for the past decade, the U.S. government and press have nurtured an anti-Arab hysteria, preparing the public to go to war in the Middle East. "Arabs are portrayed as 'terrorists' by nature. The U.S. media dehumanizes us and open us to physical attack," contended Malik, citing the recent assassination in L.A. of a leader of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The particular racism of Bernard Goetz shooting four Black youth (who undoubtedly wanted to rob him) is obscured by the fear and outrage we all feel about crime in our communities, said Lenoir. We need to organize against the cause of youth crime which is the racist, "societal crime of unemployment, poverty, and ghettoization," he asserted.

Recent organizing in Chicago has focused on this systemic racism. Lenoir pointed out that the election of Mayor Harold Washington has resulted in tangible changes in housing, jobs, education and city services for minority communities. The coalition which elected Washington was based in the Black community with strong link to Latino neighborhoods and to progressive whites. These working ties have been established over years of coalition-building, through such organizations as the Rainbow Coalition and anti-apartheid groups. Political empowerment of minorities in Chicago has weakened the racist atmosphere which breed anti-minority violence, according to Lenoir.

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Let's Talk Blood Pressure

Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin, will offer an informative presentation on hypertension Wednesday, July 22, 11:30 a.m. - noon at Carman Oaks Residential Center, 3800 S.W. Carman Dr., Lake Oswego.

Lloyd Morita, M.D., will speak on "Blood Pressure - Facts and Fallacies". For more information, call the Healthwise for Seniors program, 692-2193 at the Tualatin hospital.

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Babysitting Class

Red Cross offers girls and boys 11 years and older an opportunity to develop their knowledge and chances for babysitting jobs through a Red Cross Babysitting course scheduled at the Red Cross Building, 3100 N. Vancouver Avenue, on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 7 and 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This 8-hour class is presented as a community service by Red Cross volunteer Babysitting instructors. They will explain the responsibilities of watching small children, elementary first aid, how to deal with emergencies, how to interview for a job, what to expect of parents who hire you and what parents expect from the sitter.

Class size is limited. The charge is \$15 per student. Scholarships are available. Call 284-7090 to register.

TO: The Friends of Ella Smith and Terry Williamson FROM: The Williamson Families

Words cannot express our deep, deep gratitude for all of your kind expressions of love through prayers, calls, visits, money, food, cards, telegrams and the many other gestures of sympathy during the loss of our beloved ELLA M. SMITH, sister and grandmother, who preceded our beloved TERRY E. WILLIAMSON, brother and uncle, in death by two weeks and one day.

Thanks to each one of you individually and collectively.
May God bless and keep you.

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The illustrious Clarence Talbert, Grand Master of M.W. St. Joseph Lodge is shown crowning Alzena De Deleneaux, Queen Ester of the Grand Chapter.

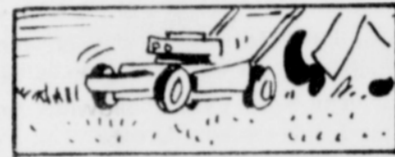
Assisting is Clara Mae Peoples, out-going Queen and King W.K. Crumble.

St. Joseph Lodge Crowns New Queen

The Mt. Olive Grand Chapter, O.E.S. affiliated with the M.W. St. Joseph Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Oregon held its annual banquet on Saturday at the Viscount Hotel in Portland. The event celebrated the crowning of Mrs. Alzena De Deleneaux as Queen Ester of the Grand Chapter.

The illustrious Clarence Talbert is Grand Master of the M.W. St. Joseph Lodge. Elected officials of the

Mt. Olive Grand Chapter, O.E.S. are: Sister T.M. Sylvester, Gr. W. Matron; Brother George Jones, Gr. W. Patron; Sister M.L. Scott, Gr. A. Matron; Ill. J.C. Moore, Gr. A. Patron; Sister Luella Jackmon, Cor. Secretary; Sister T.M. Diggs, Gr. Treasurer; Sister Willie Ranson, Gr. Conductress; Sister Viola Horsly, Worthy Matron.



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