# EDITORIAL / OPINION

## **GUEST EDITORIAL:**

## "Your Vote Counts!"

rage, a national scandal." This is the report found that children are the conclusion recently reached the fastest growing group among by the Committee on Health Care the homeless. The report stated, for Homeless People of the National Academy of Sciences. Con- homeless children is nothing gress had asked the Academy of short of a national disgrace that Sciences to issue a report on the must be treated with the urgency current condition of the homeless such a situation demands. in the United States. At a time when too many people are still 750,000 who are homeless in the unclear about the importance of United States, many of whom are the upcoming presidential elec- from the African-American and tion, the crisis of the homeless as Latino-American communities. a result of Reagan-Bush policies There is also a large percentage should be of paramount concern of white Americans who are of all voters.

the National Academy of Sci- rent government policies do not ences is entitled "Homelessness, change, there will be 1.3 to 2 Health and Human Needs." The million persons in the ranks of the members of the committee that homeless. issued the report are the leading experts in the fields of public tion since 1981 has cut funding health, human services and social drastically for emergency support science. Dr. Bruce C. Vladeck, for the homeless, including president of the United Hospital resources for health care, food Fund of New York, chaired the stamps and emergency shelter. committee. Dr. Vladeck stated This is in addition to cutting new "We felt continuously uneasy housing programs for low and because of our inability to state middle income families. It apthe most basic recommendation: pears that Mr. Reagan and Mr. homelessness in the United Bush not only do not care about States is an inexcusable disgrace the homeless but are also deterand must be eliminated.

On Oct. 1, 1988, 28 women in-

mates at O.W.C.C. staged a dem-

onstration (sit-in) in the prison

yard. Around 6:15 p.m., the

prison's tactic team was called in

to remove us. Upon their arrival,

we were threatened with bodily

harm and was told that if we

didn't lay face down on the

Now, we may have broken a

rule or two, but that was the point

of the peaceful demonstration: to

draw attention to our problems so

that the general public would

have a better understanding of

the crisis that existed inside the

women's prison. Before the dem-

onstration took place, the institu-

tion was heading toward a full

refused to pay attention to our

problems and that is why we are

asking the community to support

our cause. Below is a list of some

So far, prison officials have

ground, we would be shot!

Dear Editor:

scale riot.

ontemporary American 100,000 children throughout the nation who are homeless. In fact "The growing phenomenon of

In 1988 there are approximately homeless. The report predicted The 242-page report issued by that within the next year, if cur-

The Reagan-Bush administramined to increase their suffering.

In this nation of wealth the ex- Dr. Vladeck concluded, "we panding crisis of the homeless is can no longer sit as spectators to indicative of misplaced priorities the elderly homeless dying of by the Reagan-Bush administra- hypothermia, to the children with tion. There was a tone of anger, blighted futures poisoned by the which is uncharacteristic, in the lead in rat-infested dilapidated report on the homeless by the Na- welfare hotels, to women raped, tional Academy of Sciences. The to old men beaten and robbed of reason why the experts on health their few possessions, and to care in some of the leading hos- people dying on the streets with pitals and academic institutions catastrophic illnesses." The time across the nation are angry is has come for us to end this nabecause of the perceived insentional disgrace. We will all have sitivity on the part of the federal an opportunity on November 8, government toward the 1988 to vote for a different administration. The plight of the It is estimated that presently on homeless as well as the future of

of the problems we women pri-

We are requesting: (1) to have a

clean and proper living space; (2) a

have better medical attention (3)

to receive better and adequate

dental attention (4) to have in-

house rehabilitation just to name

In the segregation unit, the

situation is this: women are given

1 toothbrush/toothpaste, 1 small

comb, 1 desk, 1 chair, 1 bottom

bunk, 1 top bunk, 1 pillow, 1

styrofoam cup, a roll of toliet

paper, 1 bottle of shampoo, 1 bra

(1st week), 1 nightgown, 1 pair of

thongs, 1 pair of tennis shoes, 1

bath robe, 1 pair of scrubs or

Please consider helping me

and the 27 other women here. We

need your support. For more in-

formation, please write: Claudett

Hammick #0795, 2605 State

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Thank You, Claudett Hammick

coverall. The cell is 8 ft. by 10 ft.

soners face.

any given night, there are at least the nation is at stake

Prisoner Charges ILL Treatment



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

#### **Bring Black Officer Back To North Precinct**

Dear Editor:

With members of the "White Community" and City Administrators always so perplexed as to where they are going to find qualified Blacks to help the N/NE neighborhoods fulfill its goal of self-determination - I was surprised that Lieutenant Charles Moose was transferred out of our precinct. With his academic background and qualifications I would think that this would be an ideal spot for Lt. Moose.

Like other parents I am afraid of gang activity (I have two teenage sons); but I am equally afraid of 'mistakes' and 'overreactions' of the white officers that serve here. Recently my twelve year old son (he has never been in any kind of trouble) was thrown to the ground and searched for no other reason than the color of his skin. One school in Portland has specifically called in Black students to warn them that they would be suspended for wearing red or blue.

Let us remember that South Africa too has "reasons" for its suspension of civil rights based

on skin color. Although I believe Lt. Moose would take gang activity very seriously, I do not believe he

would permit flagrant violations of individuals' constitutional rights to run rampant through the

precinct. I hope our other African-American officers will understand that even though their boss is white, they are the only hope that our children (and ourselves) have that whatever the incident, the police will not lose sight of our humanity. (Recall, if you will, the elderly Black woman who did not want to leave her house and was shot and killed rather than talked to and reasoned with by "fearful" white officers.) These Black officers are often our only link with the American precept. That we are in-

nocent until proven guilty. We all have seen many of N/NE Portland's 'qualified' Black leaders flocking to major cities around the country where their talents are appreciated. It would seem that City Administrators who claim to be proponents of affirmative action, and who say they support self-determination and Black leaders for Black people, would welcome the opportunity for Lt. Charles Moose to serve in the N/NE Portland area.

Sincerely Yours, Elisa Clay Friends of S.O.S.

#### Reflections of Transition ...

Dear Editor:

As you may recall, I first became acquainted with the African-American community of Portland during a two part interview with the Portland Observer. The interview concerned itself with the illegal and abusive conditions at the Oregon State Penitentiary. Regretably, these conditions still exist. However, I face a much greater obstacle - "Transition" back into the African-American community.

I have been out of prison for six months and much has happened. With the loss of my ever-loving mother Mrs. Nocline Rhone on March 31, 1988 to cancer, coupled with the loss of my stepfather, Mr. Ted R. Rhone Sr., on Sept. 14, 1988, the transition of re-entering the community has been almost impossible. Why?

Last Thursday, a messenger came by to deliver some papers that stated that our home would be auctioned off on Jan. 31, 1989. Since my mother and stepfather isn't here to handle this matter, I must attempt to do it. Also, trying to find a job when you have a criminal record is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Fighting to stay out of illegal drug activity without the support and love of your mother and father is even harder.

The point I wish to share with the community is two-fold. (1) When a Black prisoner is released from prison, he/she truly need the love, support and patience of family, friends, and love ones. Such support will help each and every prisoner, upon release, to make a positive transition back into his/her community. (2) For people like myself who has no one to provide love, support, understanding and patience, the chances of a successful transition is almost impossible.

My message is: if there are mothers and fathers who have sons and daughters in prison, write to them! Ask them what their plans are. Offer your support. Do whatever you can to help them make a successful transition.

I am writing because African-American prisoners must began to take responsibility for their actions and their behavior. They must began to open up lines of communication with the community and make positive contributions whenever and wherever they can. Please pray for my success. Sincerely, John D. Leftridge III

#### **Black Prisoner Apologizes To Community**

Dear Editor:

I am Stanley E. Holmes. We met at the Uhuru Sa Sa meeting on the night of Oct. 8 of this year.

I would first like to thank you for attending our meeting. Secondly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your most needed presentation. Finally, I would like to extend an apology to our African-American community for the injustice caused by the negative consequences of my past behavior.

I have now been incarcerated for 9 years for three counts of robbery and attempted murder. I have grown from this experience. I now totally understand how my irresponsible behavior has affected my community, society and the victims. Recognizing the consequences of my past behavior now and the effects that it may have caused the victims were distressful and painful. I hope deeply

from my African heart that there is no long term fears or mental anguish. Since my incarceration, I have acquired by Bachelor's degree in psychology and social

I now recognize that knowledge is a master of science and no dishonesty or conceit what-soever is permissible. What is required from me as an African-American male is honesty and modesty. My immediate goal is to give back to my African-American community by obtaining employment in the field of youth counseling upon my release. Already I have developed various projects in hopes of detering our high risk youth from becoming involved in criminal activities.

Please share with the community, my apology.

Sincerely, Stanley E. Holmes

### CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL



### **Bishop Barbara Harris Makes History**

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

W e have often explained that the best way to celebrate African-American history is to continue to make history. For the first time in world history, a woman has been elected bishop in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Barbara C. Harris, an African-American Episcopal priest and social activist, was recently elected Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, the nation's largest Episcopal

A native of Philadelphia, Penn., Rev. Harris has been a long time participant and leader in the struggle for justice and freedom in the United States and throughout the world. At her election in Boston, Rev. Harris stated that she will continue to offer her "gifts as a Black woman and as a woman priest" in service to the Church and to the cause of justice. Rev. Harris commented, "Moreover, I would bring a sensitivity to the needs of different kinds of people including racial and ethnic communities, women, the incarcerated, the poor and the oppressed.'

I remember meeting the Rev. Barbara Harris at a conference sponsored by the Episcopal Publishing Company. What impressed me most about Rev. Harris was her candid sense of moral responsibility combined with her unique agility as a committed social activist. In particular Rev. Harris has acquired many years of experienced in helping to promote prison reform in the state of Pennsylvania and in other regions of the nation. We need more church leaders to follow the ex-

ample of Rev. Harris in the areas of prison reform and criminal justice.

The election of Bishop Harris is a victory for all women. In too many places throughout the world and in the United States women are still victimized by the sin of sexism. We take note that the Episcopal Church, after centuries of struggle and debate, has taken an important step forward in history. It is our hope that all church denominations and religious bodies will become institutions where women will enjoy equal justice, respect, status and support.

Already in the wake of the election of Bishop Harris, the winds of negative reaction are beginning to blow. The Rev. Eddy Stride, who is the chairperson of an organization of conservatives and traditionalists of the Church of England which the Episcopal Church is affiliated, sees Bishop Harris' leadership as "a very serious challenge to many in the Church." Some traditionalists who oppose the ordination of women as bishops attempts to make the argument that because the Christian ministry has primarily been male dominated for nearly 2,000 years then there should not be a change.

We agree that Bishop Harris' leadership will be a "very serious challenge to many in the Church." We believe that this is a necessary and positive challenge to the entire history of the negativity of sexism and racism in the life of the church universal. We congratulate and salute Bishop Barbara C. Harris for her leadership and for her continued commitment.

#### **Proposed EPA Pesticide Rules Reflect** 'Environmental Racism' Charges UCC

n its proposed new rules to protect agricultural workers from pesticides, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has used inadequate information as an excuse to adopt "minimum" standards that put business cost "burdens" ahead of farm workers' health.

This standpoint was taken by the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice in comments filed here today in a rulemaking proceeding of the

Labeling the EPA's posture toward the predominantly Hispanic farm worker population "environmental racism," Commission executive director the Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. charges: "Farm workers would probably get more protection if they were placed on the endangered species list."

In other statutes adopted during the last 18 years, if the risk to people has been uncertain the EPA's approach "has always been to adopt options protective of human health," the national church agency's comments point out. "Here (given an uncertainty where EPA admits that poisonings are underreported, increasing, and do not reflect chronic effects) the Agency consistently takes the approach which is least 'burdensome' to business interests."

Also, while admitting to insufficient data on toxins and their effects on farm workers, the EPA "has proposed almost no substantial research to remedy this deficiency," the Commission noted.

Such attitudes stem from a "lack of commitment ... to issues related to farm worker protection," the comments contend. The EPA perception is that "farm workers ... possess little political influence in this country," the church agency claimed. "If the EPA told a middle-class white community that it would be too 'burdensome' to provide information about how lawn chemicals may affect exposed children, the Agency would be facing Congressional investigations the next day."

Reflecting this stance, asserted the Commission for Racial Justice - which issued the first

comprehensive national study on racial patterns associated with the location of hazardous waste sites - is a lack of minority employees placed by the EPA in decision-making positions. Hispanic-Americans make up only 1% of substantive policymaking positions in the Agency, the comments observe.

The church body criticized the rules additionally for:

· "The notable absence of a comprehensive compliance standard, resulting in virtually no enforcement" in the past and an absence of "additional resources" for enforcement of the new regulations.

· "Inadequate" reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

· Soft rules on warnings and information about pesticides provided to workers and medical practitioners, plus vaguelyworded emergency procedures.

 Narrow rules on who is tested regularly and a lack of

special rules to cover children. Assumptions about washing procedures that are not sensitive

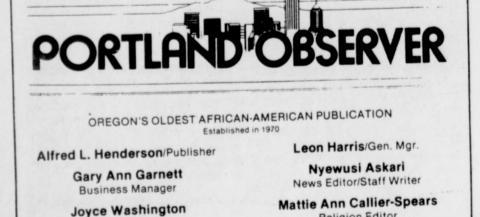
to farm workers' living conditions. The fact that the standards are inadequate to correct uneven protection among states.

 The lack of "meaningful risk" assessment" in EPA decisions.

"EPA appears to be using the concept of 'minimum' standards to adopt standards which are also inadequate," the Commission declared. "This goes beyond the specific issues raised by the rules themselves, as it is clear that the necessary funds, personnel and program support to properly formulte, implement and enforce farm worker pesticide protection rules is neither available nor forthcoming in the foreseeable future.

"If this represents the sum total of farm worker protection after seven years of study and effort, farm workers could not hope to see adequate protection until the middle of the next century," the church agency warned.

The 1.7 million member United Church of Christ is a 1957 union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Commission for Racial Justice is the denomination's national civil rights agency.



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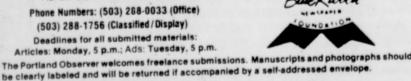
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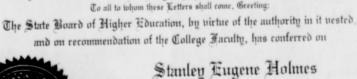
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the degree of Bachelor of Science in Usuchology

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In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names and impressed the seal of the College on this diploma at Monmouth, Oregon, June eleventh, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight Jan Ctelin

