

A Special Issue
HOMES WANTED
 COMING SOON
 APRIL 17 & 24

**PRAY FOR
 SAFE RETURN
 OF OUR
 TROOPS**

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

March 13, 1991

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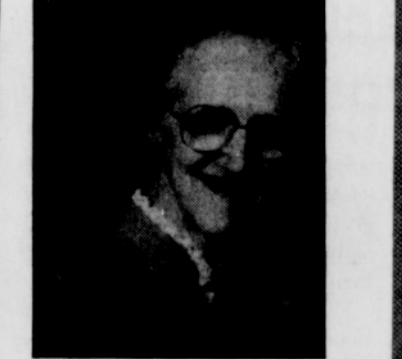
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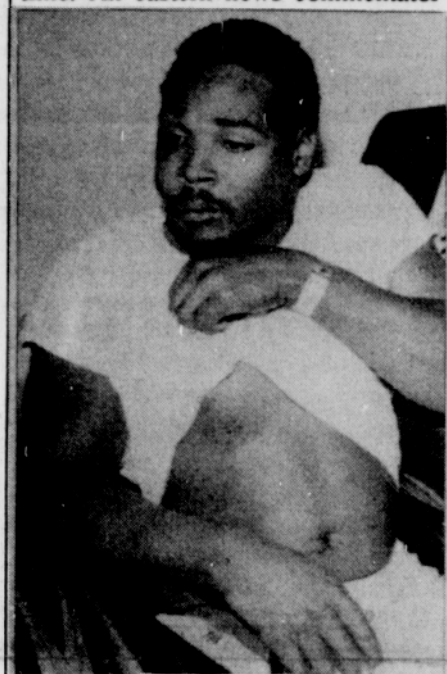
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Shocked World Views Savage Beating Of Black In L.A. Police "Wilding"

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

The Iraqis slipped on the charts as the media's "ULTIMATE BARBARIANS", as a handcuffed African American, Rodney King was beaten, tortured and disfigured on prime time. An eastern news commentator



Rodney King

observed, "I thought that reincarnated Nazi Storm Troopers had siezed a Jew!" Disbelieving viewers around the world gagged in shock and revulsion, but Daryl Gates, the Los Angeles Police chief, quickly moved to downgrade contemplated charges against his racist minions from ATTEMPTED MURDER to "Assault With A Deadly

Weapon". One more backward step and we will have a CLASS III MISDEMEANOR instead of a FELONY. Equally suspect is the tongue-clucking rhetoric of Tom Bradley, the highly-politicized mayor of the huge, violent metropolis of Los Angeles. He was riding high as the black prime mover in a hugely successful Olympics.

The fact of the matter is that both men have long been fully aware of the excesses and brutality of this overzealous police force. Almost daily, they have been confronted by outraged citizen groups, individuals and parents to little avail. This is not the first time that the media has portrayed or documented the ugly crimes committed against African Americans by their video cameras may have resulted in the start of remedial actions that the customary and vaunted avenues of justice and redress could not initiate.

I am sure that there is more to be said-and will be said-about the scope and implications of this heinous act. Include the devastating impact upon our returning military who are forcibly reminded that "THEIR BIGGEST BATTLE IS YET TO BE WON!" Against Racism and Economic Disparity. Welcome home, brothers and sisters. However, there is yet another matter which deserves our close scrutiny, and that is the infiltration of many of our nation's police departments by rabid, Right Wing, racist organizations. This subversive attack did not begin yesterday.

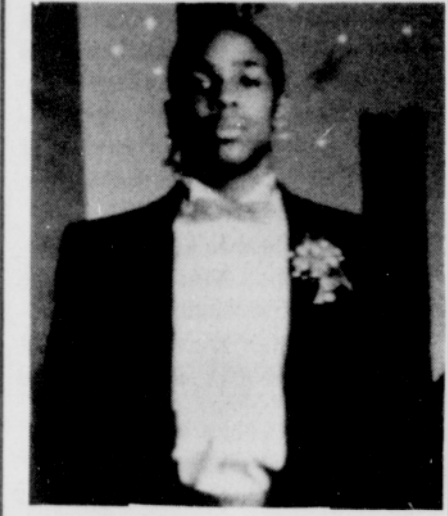
day. A case in point. At the beginning of a ten-year sojourn in Los Angeles (1954-1964), I took a night job in the office of the "ELREY" Hotel on Los Angeles' Olympic Blvd. While the purpose was to secure extra income toward financing an office for resuming my accounting practice, the pay off was far greater. A black maid took me upstairs to show the room of a "recruiter" for one of these fascist groups.

Everywhere was literature and posters attacking blacks, Jews and Hispanics, as well as sales literature on human restraints and eavesdropping devices. This person financed his activities by acting as a sales agent for a number of small arms companies and manufacturers of 'jail equipment' ('fail-proof handcuffs, cattle prodders, etc'). Along with the typical violent tirades against minorities, were manuals on how to build membership within police departments. Much material was turned over to the NAACP, and then to the FBI, with little effect.

That "scrutiny" is warranted because many black officers report that these cells of neo-fascists are still quite active around the nation. There is little doubt that a Los Angeles contingent is responsible for the "Rodney King" outrage. But it is worse yet to suppose that this savagery may be endemic to entire forces. What situation do we have locally? It is worth looking into.

In Love and Memory

Robert (Bobby) Janisse, Jr. passed away on March 9, 1991 in Tempe, Arizona. He was a Freshman at Arizona State University at the time



Robert Janisse

with his death. He was attending a party with friends in Arizona when his life ended. He died from self-inflicted wounds. Janisse was due to come home to Portland for spring break next Friday.

Janisse was a Portland, Oregon June 1990 Jefferson High School graduate and three (3) time State wrestling champion. He was on a full scholarship at Arizona State University. He was "red-shirted" for the academic year 1990-91. Janisse graduated from Jefferson High with a 3.76 grade point average,

with a 4.00 his senior year. He was awarded KATU-TV's Athlete of the Month for January 1990 and the KATU Athlete of the Year Award - 1990.

Janisse began his wrestling career at the age of 6 at Peninsula Park and was in love with the sport. In 1989, a Portland Observer interview revealed that Bobby credited "My Mom and Dad (Brenda and Jerome Polk) as well as his wrestling coaches Roy Pittman and Donne McPherson for being positive influences in his life." Bobby also credited the sport of wrestling, his knowing how to be a gentleman, remain dedicated to a task and having self-confidence.

Janisse served as an assistant wrestling coach at Peninsula Park under the tutelage of Roy Pittman. He was "loaded" with school pride for Jefferson High School and had many awards.

His survivors include his mother Brenda Polk (Portland), fathers Jerome Polk (Portland) and Robert Janisse, Sr. (Oakland, California), grandparents Lis and Nathan Jackson (Boamont, Texas), step-brothers Mardus and Anthony Polk, step-sister Lanase Polk (Portland) and a host of other family members and friends (Portland and Tempe, Arizona).

The family has requested that there be no media contact but you are free to talk with Brenda J. Greene at 284-8662 or 254-5828. Funeral services are pending.

NAACP Statement On The Persain Gulf War

The war in the Persian Gulf has caused grave concern among African-Americans both for reasons shared with their fellow citizens, and for reasons special to the black community.

In the first instance, we would have preferred giving more time for sanctions to work. However, once hostilities began, we are in support of the men and women engaged in that conflict. Our overriding hope is that the announced objectives of the war can be achieved quickly and with a minimum loss of life on life on both sides.

Our special concern grows out of the presence of a disproportionate number of black service personnel in the gulf, the factors that led so many of them to enlist, and the nature of the society to which they will return.

The patriotism and loyalty of African-Americans has been demonstrated in so many of America's wars that it needs no further reaffirmation. In this war, as in all others, African-Americans will do their duty, withholding nothing. The NAACP has played a major role in bringing about the integration of our Armed Forces, and will continue to insist on full equality opportunity for all service personnel.

The great numbers of African-Americans in the military, however, reflects a disturbing reality; namely, that many of them volunteered because of the lack of employment and educational opportunities.

The armed services, while not perfect, are the best model of what this society could and should be. This fact

makes it even more difficult to accept anything less in the greater society. It is ironic that to obtain equal opportunity, denied to them in civilian life, so many of our finest men and women have had to join the armed services, where life is always at risk.

This does not cast any doubt on their patriotism. Men and women do not put on the uniform of their country, without loving that country. Rather, that so many African-Americans saw the armed services as their only answer, speaks volumes on the extent of the failure of our nation to provide them options.

There is no fairness in a situation in which men and women willingly place their lives on the line for country, and when their duty is completed, return home to find the opportunities that were not there when they left, are still not there.

We find it unacceptable that the same Commander-in-Chief who ordered them into battle, is the same President who vetoed a civil rights bill in 1990, and has yet to demonstrate to African-Americans what he meant by a "gentler, kinder nation".

We have no intention of muting our voices during this conflict. While we will continue to support the troops, we will also demand that their rights and the rights of their families to protection in the employment place, to decent education and housing, to adequate medical care, to safety in their streets, and an end to racism, be assured.

Matt Dishman Swimming Pool Caught In Traffic Jam

(Charles Jordan Interview)
 by Professor McKinley Burt

Any delays in the proposed upgrade and expansion of facilities at the popular Matt Dishman Community Center would be a matter of great concern to the Northeast community. A recent interview with Charles Jordan, Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation indicates that at least here we have a staunch advocate for the project.

"The contemplated renovations and improvements would be accomplished in two phases. The first phase would include the construction of a new 25 yard long, 6 lane indoor pool. This would accommodate a 30 foot square 'shallow water' section. Also, there would be new lockers and shower facilities, along with related amenities." Constructive receipt of funds for this first phase seems to have progressed quite well. "The 2.2 million Park Levy was passed, and a quarter million from Nike is 'in hand'. An additional quarter million sought from the Feds is in the application stage-a favorable response is anticipated. A second phase of construction would include a new lobby and reception area, but that will require additional funding."

Few in the community will remember the site as the old Elliot Grade School, a 2-story institution of the 1930's.

But, many will remember a "Knott Street Community Center being renamed for black Sheriff Matt Dishman when the swimming pool was installed in 1965. That project went well, honoring the care after an African American who cared about youth. However, "the path ahead for the present project is not nearly so smooth", the Park Director informs us.

The approval of residents of the neighborhood must be secured-specially that of the Elliot Neighborhood Association." Though the city conducted its own Traffic Management Study, the Association is holding out for an "Outside Study", not willing to accept the city's favorable findings." Mr. Jordan encourages all interested parties to be present at City hall on March 20 at 2 p.m. for a hearing on the granting of a conditional use permit.

The Observer encourages not only this effort but also the initiation all possible support of activities this community can bring to bear. Charles Jordan is our advocate for a project which can substantially enhance the social environment for our "at risk" youth. Let's get behind him on this. See you there!

Prayers Of Thanksgiving For Cease-Fire Offered

Prayers of thanksgiving for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf, and hopes that lasting peace can be brought to the Middle East, marked worship by United Methodists across the nation March 3.

An informal survey of a dozen congregations by United Methodist News Service found general accord with United Methodist Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, San Francisco, secretary of the Council of Bishops, that United Methodists should: "praise God, and hope we can seize the opportunity to deal with issues that will make for peace." The Rev. James A. Townley, pastor of the Poultny (Vt.) United Methodist Church, added the hope that the nation "will be as skillful at making peace as in making war."

Several congregations observed a silent Holy communion with prayers for the troops, including St. Andrew's Church in Cherry Hill, N.J., where the parents of Navy Lt. Jeffrey Zaun, a P.O.W. shown on Iraqi television, are members. A few hours later his father was shouting the news his son had been released. In Loveland, Colo., the Rev. Tony Ashworth said joy at the end of the shooting was tempered by questions such as: "Is it true? What does it mean? What will be the action of the church and nation in reconciliation?"

Nominees Sought For Mayor's 1991 Recognition Awards

Nominations are now being sought for recipients of the MAYOR'S 1991 volunteer recognition award, the SPIRIT OF PORTLAND AWARD. This recognition is extended annually to volunteer citizens or groups that have contributed to the quality of life in Portland neighborhoods through projects, programs, special services or other

actions. This year, recognition will be given for two additional categories: neighborhoods and bureaucrats. The Neighborhood of the Year will be selected from Portland neighborhoods that exemplify the Spirit of our community. In addition, citizens have an opportunity to acknowledge their appreciation of a

public employee who deserves recognition for outstanding work. Recipients of the Awards will be acknowledged at the Spirit of Portland Award Ceremony in Council Chambers on May 9, 1991. The 2:00 p.m. ceremony and reception following are open to the public.

Nominations will be accepted

through April 15 from any citizen group. Nomination forms are available from District neighborhood Offices, City Commissioners, or the Office of Neighborhood Associations. Selections for the Volunteer recognition Awards, Neighborhood of the Year, and Bureaucrat of the Year will be made by a committee of citizens and

representatives from the Mayor's Commissioners' offices. The Awards are co-sponsored by ONA and the Mayor's Office as part of Neighborhood Recognition Week.