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Fundraiser for Youth

The Alfred Yaun Youth Care Center is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner. Funds raised will be used for renovating the facility.

The Yaun Youth Care Center has assisted youth their families throughout the state of Oregon for over 20 years. In order to continue quality service, the agency is upgrading the facility by installing a new fire alarm system, recarpeting and painting the dorms.

The "FUNDRAISING FEAST" will be Sat., JUNE 15, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm, located at 5128 NE Rodney Ave. Entertainment and door prizes will be available at Jabelle's Beauty and Barber Supply and at the door.

For more information or a donation, please contact Vickie at:281-7564.



Commission Meeting

Date: June 12, 1991
Place: Portland Building
1120 SW Fifth Ave., 11th Fl.
Portland, OR
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC. Call 823-3200.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.

We're getting into the graduation mode. If you have someone who has "made it" let them know how proud we are of them. Let our young men and women know that we support them in their efforts. At least say Congratulations!

Why do we Need Police Officers that are Committing Criminal Acts

BY I. VAN WATERS

Like the rest of the nation, I recently viewed in anger a video tape of an atrocious act perpetrated against a citizen, Rodney King, by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The video tape vividly captured several officers brutally beating a defenseless man while others watched. We also heard an audio tape of police conversation regarding the beating which indicated that this was not an uncommon occurrence.

Not only did these officers commit an unlawful, brutal and inhumane act against King (who is an African-American), but their behavior seemed to have been condoned by fellow officers and the Chief of Police as well. The observing officers, those that did not participate in the atrocity, took no affirmative actions to prevent or otherwise interrupt the criminal act unfolding before them. Officers of the LAPD, like all law enforcement personnel in the United States, are sworn to obey and uphold the laws for which their Department is statutorily obligated and under duty to enforce. The presumption, in essence, is that the officers' failure to act in accordance with their sworn oath may be appropriately characterized as gross negligence.

Moreover, one may further presume that the relationship of the LAPD and the citizenry of Los Angeles is contractual in nature. In consideration of the LAPD, the Department among other things is contractually obligated to enforce the provisions of law governing the citizenry in Los Angeles. Enforcement includes taking affirmative steps to prevent the commission of crimes by any person or persons, in or out of uniform. Crimes may occur through a person's act or failure to act. Child abuse is one such example. A parent may abuse a child by corporal punish-

ment or by simply failing to provide reasonable care for the child, i.e., the parent neglects to feed the child.

Representatives of the Department under contract to act affirmatively in the circumstance clearly did not do so. They merely witnessed the heinous and criminal event. The officers' omission is deplorable and may be deemed nonfeasance and a breach of duty. Remember, the officers' duty obligated them to act. They did not. The gravity of an officer's failure to act at all contrasted to that of his/her failure to act appropriately may produce the same undesired result. Neither nonfeasance nor malfeasance is acceptable. Arguably, had the observing officers interceded on behalf of King, he may not have been harmed at all, or if so, the injuries he sustained would have been far less serious.

I believe that both the omission and commission of acts by LAPD officers that were present renders them equally responsible and liable for any personal and property damage sustained by King. One might ask, "Why do we need police officers that are committing criminal acts behind the badge; why do we need police officers that allow co-workers to commit criminal acts against the citizenry?" I am sure that you, like I, would conclude that such a police force is unacceptable. Quite frankly, a police force of this kind could not easily be distinguished from those of Tiananmen Square or of South Africa.

The failure to act, coupled with the audio taped evidence of officers related to the brutal act against King, further suggest that police brutality is not unusual. Rather it appears to be an integral part of "law enforcement operations." Moreover, the unlawful behavior was clearly motivated by bigotry as evidenced by the audio tape and governmental statistics on arrests,

injuries, complaints of police abuse, and law suits against the Department. The tape contained casual comment to the effect that again some officers were committing a criminal act as well as a reference to African-Americans as "gorillas in the mist".

These comments were not made in private but in public, with public resources, and by public officials. It is abundantly clear that the individuals making the comments exhibited no inhibitions in boldly doing so. This verbal display of disrespect for the law, in conjunction with the unlawful act against King, strongly imply that the work environment of the LAPD is in dire need of repair. The statements undeniably condoned the criminal act perpetrated against King and further exacerbated the matter by coloring it with a racially derogatory depiction of the victim.

And what about the reaction of the Chief of Police for the LAPD, Mr. Gates? Having been the object of citizen complaints of police abuse and brutality in the past, Gates was ordered by a court of law to personally pay some \$170,000.00 in monetary damages in another case. Gates, in defense of his officers' criminal act, offered King's criminal record. This sanctimonious gesture by the Chief of Police is incredulous and far reaching. It suggests that there may be room in "law enforcement" for common criminals. The badge would provide a shield against unlawful activities, and a sanctuary for ruthless ruffians. In effect, it would grant them a license to a lawless and perpetual pursuit of every conceivable crime against humanity. No one would be the reach of such brute force. In this instance it is an African-American that was victimized. Who will be next? You? Me? A loved one? It cannot be just "their problem" for it may find its way to your doorstep.

Emanuel Supports Northeast Community through Healthcare Scholarships

Emanuel Hospital & Health Center and the Emanuel Medical Foundation have announced the winners of the second annual Emanuel Healthcare Scholarship.

Emanuel developed the \$1,000, four-year renewable scholarship to encourage North/Northeast community students to pursue medical careers. Ideally, they will receive the education they require to return to Emanuel and serve their neighbors.

This year Emanuel awarded scholarships to four high school seniors: Andrea Debnam of St. Mary's Academy, Shurita Thomas-Tate of Benson High School, Tisha Giesbrecht of Grant High School, and Nguyet Nguyen of Roosevelt High School.

Debnam plans to study pediatric medicine at the University of Oregon, Thomas-Tate will major in speech pathology and audiology /special education at Southern University A-M Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Nguyen will major in science at the University of Oregon, and Giesbrecht will pursue physical therapy studies at the University of Puget Sound.

Emanuel hosted a reception for and their families on May 22.

Tri-Met Delivers Summer Fun For Kids

Tri-Met delivers summer fun for kids throughout the metropolitan area with the third edition of the free "summer fun for kids" brochure, presenting places of interest to youngsters and families.

The brochure features a systems-wide map of bus and MAX routes with places noted by the type of activity that's offered: parks and playgrounds, arts and crafts, sports and fitness, hiking, dance, music and theatres and more. Each site is highlighted on the map, and listed with its address and telephone number for information.

Tri-Met's "Summer Fun for Kids" brochure is now available at all Portland Public Schools, the Tri-Met Office in Pioneer Courthouse Square, and all Tri-Met vehicles. "We want kids to have easy access to the wonderful range of events and activities available to young people in Portland, taking pressure off of the family automobile and relieving the family chauffeur from daily driving duty," said Doug Capps executive director of Tri-Met Public Services.

Student discount fares are offered throughout the school year at Portland area high schools—ten tickets for \$5.50, a savings of up to \$6.50. Monthly youth passes are available at any time for \$22.00.

Coordinated Nation-Wide Rallies for Health Care Reform

The Portland rally will feature statements from victims of the health care crisis as well as music, followed by a march to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield building on Market Street for a "Red Tape" demonstration. Across the country, private insurance companies are being targeted for their role in blocking health care reform. The public is encouraged to attend.

The sponsors of the event here in Oregon are the Jobs with Justice Coalition and the Oregon Health Action Campaign. J.W.J. is a nation-wide coalition of union, labor, and religious organizations committed to fight for more just treatment for present, past, and future workers in the United States. O.H.A.C. is a state-wide coalition of senior, community, labor, religious, and advocacy organizations working to reform the health care system to provide both universal access and quality care.



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon

On June 6th, thousands of people across the country will spend the noon hour urging our political leaders to implement health care reform now! In Portland, there will be a rally and march starting at the Portland State Office Building, at 1400 SW 5th St, from noon to 1 pm. At the same time, another rally will occur on the Capitol Steps, in Salem, and many other cities across the country.

U.S. Bank Offers Mortgage Program For Low-Income Buyers

Significance

U.S. Bank's mortgage loan program is designed to meet the specific needs of low-income homebuyers who often have difficulty qualifying for conventional or government mortgage loans. The program confirms U.S. Bank's commitment to help low-income families reach the American dream of home ownership.

Program Designed To Turn Renters Into Homebuyers

If you can afford to pay \$375 a month for housing and can raise just \$1700 in cash for a downpayment, you could qualify to buy a \$30,000 home in Portland.

The program was designed by United States National Bank of Oregon, through its mortgage lending affiliated U.S. Bancorp Mortgage Com-

pany ("U.S. Bank"), to help families who have not been able to qualify for a mortgage loan under conventional programs. The program will assist borrowers whose family income is below the median income for the state. Homepartner\$ features a two percent downpayment and fully-financed closing costs, which reduces the up-front cost of getting into a home by over half.

U.S. Bank is offering the program initially in Portland for houses selling under \$49,000.

In addition to the low up-front costs, the program provides highly flexible lending guidelines. For example, borrowers may qualify even if their house payments would be up to 33 percent of their income. Credit history can be established by landlord references rather than the traditional sources of consumer

credit history.

"We designed the Homepartner\$ program because we are confident that there are many renters who can handle the financial responsibility of home ownership if they can just get their foot in the door," said U.S. Bank of Oregon president, Kevin Kelly. "This program eliminates the major obstacles for the first-time homebuyer."

For more information about the U.S. Bank Homepartner\$ loan program, contact any Portland branch of U.S. Bank.

The Homepartner\$ loan program is being made available through U.S. Bancorp Mortgage Company, a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, the largest financial services company headquartered in the Pacific Northwest.

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