

UHURU SA SA

The UHURU SA SA organization, a non profit organization within the Oregon State Penitentiary, which represents the black population there, at the Oregon Womens Correctional Center, the Oregon State Correctional Institution and the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, has for the last few years been looking into the discrimination of minorities, especially blacks, within the Oregon judicial system.

The first obvious problem that came to our attention was the fact that there is a lack of minority representation in the decision making capacity. Of the 150 judges within the 36 counties of the State of Oregon, there are only 3 judges from minority ethnic groups. This disproportionate number is indicative and relates to blacks and other minorities.

The other obvious problem stems from that fact that a black man convicted of a crime in Oregon is the ONLY person of color involved in his trial, including the so called "jury of his peers". The process for jury selection calls for prospective jurors to be chosen from voter registration rolls. Unfortunately the lack of minorities who register to vote creates discrimination in the representation in juries.

Some of the other obvious problems are:

- 1) District attorneys interpretation of "black slang" to all white juries.
- 2) The grand jury selection and process.
- 3) Minority witnesses are threatened with criminal charges, and having their children taken by children services division.
- 4) Non minority Court appointed trial and appellate attorneys lack concern for anything other than their pay checks, and the lack of minority court appointed attorneys in Oregon.
- 5) The "deals" that are made with the minorities who are not aware of

their constitutional rights.

6) Minorities juvenile records, which are created primarily do to their suburban environment and backgrounds, are being used against them, even though the law states otherwise.

7) There is no professional representation at parole board hearings.

8) The lack of educational programs that deal with the concerns of minorities in the Oregon penal institutions.

9) The lack of minority staff, to identify with minorities within the Oregon penal system, such as a minority affairs officer (which has been removed)

These are just "some" of the issues that are obvious. There are several other issues which we have investigated as well. Recently Chief Justice Wallace P. Carson, from the Oregon Supreme Court stated that studies in other states had shown that racial and ethnic minorities perceive discrimination and insensitivity in the courts. At the suggestion from the Oregon Supreme Court and the Oregon judicial conference, a task force has been established in April 1992. This task force has been taking public testimony in several counties in the State of Oregon.

This task force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Judicial System is holding these hearings as part of a yearlong study. The 17 member group is examining whether minority people are treated differently in the criminal and civil court because of their race or ethnic background. The task force has held three hearings and plans seven in all.

On November 12, 1992 from 1:pm to 5:pm and again at 6:pm to 9:pm the 5th hearing is scheduled to be held at the Benson High School Auditorium in Portland. The address is 564 N.E. 12th Ave.

On November 19, 1992 the task force will be coming inside of the Oregon State Penitentiary to take testimony and receive evidence.

This will be the 6th hearing. Later that day, November 19, 1992, the panel will re-convene at the State Capitol in Salem to receive comments from the public. The sessions are scheduled to be held from 1:pm to 5:pm and 6:pm to 8:pm in the hearings rooms A and B.

This Salem hearing will be the last of the seven held. The task force, headed by Supreme Court Associate Justice Edwin Peterson, plans to compile a report on the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in Oregon Courts and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Judicial Branch.

It is the contention of our organization that without the community support these hearings will be worthless and nothing will be done, and all that has been done will be useless. We request for all of the black community to attend the November 12, 1992 hearing and November 19, 1992 Salem hearing and speak about need for changes to be made in Oregon Courts as well as Oregon Department of Corrections and the Oregon Board of Parole. On November 19, 1992 we will provide the "evidence" to support our allegations, but again, without the support of the community this will be to no avail.

This may be the one chance for us, as black people, to express ourselves about the discrimination and miscarriages of justice that have effected our black brothers and sisters in the Oregon Judicial system. Statistics show that black men and women comprise 12% of the United States population, yet we account for 48% of the total population in prisons, and this survey was done in 1990. Today 1 of every 4 black men are in prison, on parole or probation.

Written by:
Clayton L. Howard, Uhuru Sa Sa Business Manager

Portland Police, Gang Outreach, Schools To Announce Gang Intervention Program

Please join Portland Police Chief Tom Potter, Youth Gang Outreach Director Stan Peterson and Portland Public Schools Superintendent John Bierwirth as they announce a new gang intervention program at a press conference 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the 14th floor of the Justice Center, 1111 S. W. 2nd Ave.

The program will feature components of intervention, diversion and education.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Lt. Mark Paresi, Portland Police Bureau, 796-3126; Stan Peterson, Youth Gang Outreach Program, 823-4112; or Cathryn Schar, Portland Public Schools, 280-5840.

Meeting Notice Youth Gang Task Force

Wednesday, November 4, 1992 -
King Facility
4815 NE 7th
10:00 A.M.
Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Youth Gang Program Update
3. Police Reports
4. Other
5. Adjournment

The next Youth Gang Task Force Meeting is schedule for December 2, 1992 from 10am to 12-noon, at the King Facility.

Dec. 14 Deadline To Renew Liquor Licenses

Dec. 14 is the renewal date for the 1993 liquor licenses for more than 850 businesses in Portland, north of Burnside, unincorporated Multnomah County and the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village.

Completed renewal applications must be returned to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission main office in Portland by Dec. 14 or bear a Dec. 14 or earlier postmark. Completed applications must include the correct fees.

Applications that are incomplete or do not include the correct fee amount will be returned, according to Jo Durkin, OLCC renewal specialist.

Businesses that renew their licenses after Dec. 14, will pay a late fee charge of 25 percent of the license cost. Liquor licenses must be renewed by Dec. 31 or the business must stop selling alcohol at 12 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1993.

The late fee for license renewals increases to 40 percent after Dec. 31. If the business does not renew its license by Jan. 31, the owner must reapply for the liquor license.

Businesses that haven't received their renewal applications may contact Jo Durkin or Linda Page at the OLCC, Portland, 653-3057.

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Safeway's Supermarket Saturday Food Drive Sets Goal Of 275,000 Pounds

Over 90 radio stations and 100 Safeway stores will reach out to their communities on Saturday, November 14, for the state's largest holiday food and fundraising drive. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the 11th Annual Supermarket Saturday, thousands of Oregonians and Washingtonians in Clark County will donate non-perishable foods or cash that goes directly to feeding the region's 400,000 hungry people-nearly half of whom are children.

As a benefit for the Oregon Food Bank network of over 600 agencies, last year's drive generated 243,500 pounds of food and \$17,600. All of the donated food and funds stayed in the local community where it was collected.

Because of a 1.8 million-pound decrease in high-quality USDA commodities to the food bank last year and further economic hardships for thousands of families in our communities, this year's supermarket Saturday goal has been set at 275,000 pounds of food and \$20,000. Food and money totals

will be announced hourly by staff at individual stores and local radio stations.

Since 1982, Safeway's Supermarket Saturday has been one of the cornerstones of holiday relief efforts for the region's hungry throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Food drives remain one of the most reliable sources of high-quality foods for the Oregon Food Bank network.

Oregon Food Bank is a private nonprofit that has assumed a leadership role in securing emergency food supplies for roughly 15 percent of Oregon's population. One in four Oregon children under the age of 13 has received emergency food from OFB each year for the past three years. Through a well established network of regional food banks, OFB provides food for over 600 agencies in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. OFB also plays a strong education and advocacy role in local, state and national hunger-related issues.

King Neighborhood Concerned For Kids

Families from throughout the King School neighborhood of Northeast Portland have shown their concern for children by organizing a new Cub Scout program for boys ages 6-10. Better than fifty families came to information meetings to volunteer for leadership roles and to register their boys in the program.

District Scout Executives Chuck Mills and Charles Hannah stated that the response was a remarkable show of commitment and concerns for neighborhood children. They reported this was a record turnout in the near Northeast Portland area they serve. Similar programs have been established this past year in the school neighborhoods of Applegate, Vernon, Woodland and Sabin schools. Programs in the Humboldt and Boise/Eliot School areas are in progress. These programs are a part of the Big Thunder District, Columbia Pacific Council.

Reverend Rozell Gilmore, pastor for Lutheran Inner City Ministries, the chartered organization for the new pack, expressed his appreciation to King School and the neighborhood for their commitment to offer positive alternatives for boys.

The new program has registered better than 60 boys to date. Programs will be offered weekly for boys in grades 1-5. The emphasis of the program will be character development, citizenship training, developing personal skills, physical fitness, personal responsibility (doing your best) and fostering traditional family values.

New leaders to date for the program include: Den leaders Marcus McCauley, Ted Harris, Kenneth Smith, Sandra Turner, John Hunt, Richard Jackson, Requilla McPhouson, Monique Orr, Eddie Lincoln, Martha Minor, Greg Raines, Marcus Pollard, Carolyn

Lazenby, Ricky McCauley; committee members include: Vernon Ambos, Jason McEnth, Tina Alleyne, Lee Roby, Linda Harris, William Council, Georgia Washigton, Dwan Everette, Carolyn Lazenby, Nettie White, Maxine Shaheed, Madinan Smith, Albert Balckman, William Pollard.

This program is one of a number of new Scout programs in progress to offer a neighborhood opportunity for all boys.

Leadership training will be offered for adults interested in serving as Scout leaders. Organizations and individuals interested in becoming involved in a neighborhood-centered Scouting program should contact Chuck Mills or Charles Hannah at 266-3423, the Columbia Pacific Council service center. Leadership training is scheduled for November 17 at Portland Community College, Cascade Campus. It is open to any adult in the community.

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New Veterans Benefits Handbook Available

Continued from front page

clinics, VET Centers where counseling is available for Vietnam era Veterans, and Treatment Centers for alcohol and drug dependence are listed.

The location of all Veterans Administration national Cemeteries is also provided along with information on burial, burial flags, and Presidential Memorial Certificates.

Other topics of interest to Veterans describe discharge records, medals and awards, and correction of military records. Information on the new U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals is included.

Federal Benefits For Veterans And Dependents is a must for all Veterans and their Dependents. It will be of particular interest to recent DESERT STORM veterans.

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