

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect Or Represent The Views Of The Portland Observer

BY PETER KORNBLUH

CIA," Representative Cynthia McKinley (D-GA) stated on the floor of Congress, has come to mean "Central Intoxication Agency." Around the nation, public fury continues to mount over allegations of U.S. government complicity in the trafficking of drugs.

This controversial issue came back into public view after a series of articles in the San Jose Mercury News by reporter Gary Webb. It came up again in both of Rev. Jesse Jackson's debates with former Reagan White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North, the first in Denver, and the second on the Larry King Show (CNN).

During the Denver debate, Col. North denied that the National Security managers of the contra war ever condoned drug smuggling. "I have never met in my 22 years of government service," he declared, "any government official who would tolerate the delivery of drugs into this country for distribution to anyone."

To the contrary, we know from North's own diaries, memoranda and E-Mail messages (obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by the public interest National Security Archive), that U.S. officials knew about, tolerated, protected--and in some cases, even paid--known narcotics traffickers who had a contribution to make to the covert war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

CIA, Contras & Crack

Consider just some of the evidence:

- Oliver North, who told Congress it was "a neat idea" to use the Ayatollah Khomeini's money to support the contras, also wanted to use drug money for the same purpose. Two DEA agents testified before Congress that North wanted to take \$1.5 million of the Medellin Cartel's money that was on a plane being used in a drug sting and give it to the contras. The DEA just said no.

- On July 12, 1985, North's main weapons supplier reported that "\$14 million to finance" an arms "supermarket" in Honduras, where the contras were buying weapons, "came from drugs." There is no record that North ever passed this information on to the DEA and/or law enforcement officials.

- On August 9, 1985, North's chief liaison with the contras reported to him that a "Honduran DC-6 which is being used for runs out of New Orleans is probably being used for

drug runs into the U.S." Again, there is no record that North ever passed this information on to the DEA and/or law enforcement officials.

- Ten weeks after the New York Times ran a front-page story on General Manuel Noriega, "Panama Strongman Said to Trade in Drugs, Arms and Illicit Money," White House and CIA officials all sought to help Noriega "clean up his image," according to North's diaries and E-mail memo.

- North advocated paying Noriega one million dollars--from diverted funds from the sale of arms to Iran--to finance sabotage operations Noriega agreed to conduct inside Nicaragua. Reagan's National Security Advisor at the time, John Poindexter, authorized North to meet secretly in London with Noriega to work out the details. "I have nothing against him other than his illegal activities," Poindexter stated.

- According to a Sept. 17, 1986 E-mail message, Oliver North,

Duane Clarridge (the CIA agent who ran the contra war between 1981 and 1985), and other high officials all "cabal[ed] quietly" to "look at options: pardon, clemency, deportation, reduced sentence," for a Honduran general named Jose Bueso Rosa. Bueso Rosa had been caught in a conspiracy to traffic 345 kilos of cocaine into the U.S.--street value \$40 million--in part to finance the assassination of the civilian president of Honduras! But since he was a key CIA liaison in the Honduran military who had helped facilitate the covert war against Nicaragua, U.S. officials wanted to save him from a jail sentence to keep him from "spilling the beans." (Eventually he served less than five years in a white collar "Club Fed" in Florida--that same sentence that is now mandatory for 5 bags (\$29) worth of crack.)

These declassified documents cast serious doubts on the integrity of the CIA. Did American officials "nod and wink," in Rev. Jackson's words, at the delivery of drugs across our border, into our central cities, and into the bodies of our young?

This charge must be fully investigated, so that the rumors can be removed, or the culprits captured. The San Jose Mercury News story remains a hot topic on talk radio, and in this nation's ghettos and barrios.

It will remain so until these allegations are fully investigated in a public forum.

Light Rail: Coasting Towards An Ideal

To The Editor:

The dream is alive and thriving. From September 8-10, 1996, 675 believers in the dream descended on Washington, D.C. for Rail-Volution, a national conference on light rail.

We came from six countries and we shared ways in which to make the dream come true. We reaffirmed the necessity of bringing light rail to the Portland Metro area as a means of improving our neighborhoods, city, and regional area.

I had the privilege of attending the conference as a scholarship participant from the Citizens Advisory Committee for the South/North Line.

I was inspired by the enthusiasm, dedication, and creativity of the conference attendees and left Washington, D.C. thoroughly convinced of the need to promote the active involvement of my neighbors, coworkers, government officials, and fellow Oregonians in planning communities around light rail stations.

Social justice, crime prevention, consolidation of resources, environmental protection, employment opportunities, and energy conservation would all be positively enhanced

by the development of light rail in our area.

I saw several examples of how light rail has transformed isolated, concrete barriers within cities and towns to welcome, inviting gathering places where people of all ages can work, shop, or just hang out.

I saw and felt the warmth of main streets that have been resurrected from major arterial speeding vehicles through areas with total disregard to pedestrians, cyclists, or the owners of business.

What I saw and learned has encouraged me to actively work for the development of planned communi-

ties focusing around light rail. We cannot continue to build more and more suburbs, resulting in longer and longer driving distances without further destroying the integrity of our beautiful state and negatively impacting the everyday lives of our citizens.

We have a chance to make a very real and important difference in the quality of life we all hope to attain. It is within our power and ability to create the kind of place where children thrive and people can live, work and recreate in a safe, satisfying and comfortable way.

--Irene J. Park

Reconsidering the death penalty

BY DENI STARR J. D.

I was reading about the slaughter in Rwanda on the day that we, the People of the State of Oregon, killed Douglas Franklin Wright.

"How could this happen?" puzzles Fergal Keane of the BBC, witnessing the slaughter in a church. We pass a classroom and inside a mother is lying in the corner surrounded by four children. The chalk marks the last lesson in mathematics are still on the board. But the desks have been upturned by the killers. It looks as if the woman and her children had tried to hide underneath the desks. We pass around a corner and I step over the remains of a small boy. Again, he has been decapitated. To my immediate left is a large room filled with bodies. There is blood, rust colored now with the passing weeks, smeared on the walls. I do not know what else to say about the bodies because I have already seen too much. "This is

--unbelievable." Tony whispers in my ear. We are all whispering, as if we might somehow wake the dead with our voices. "It is just--unbelievable. Can you imagine what these poor--went through?" And I answer that no, I cannot imagine it because my powers of visualization cannot possibly encompass the magnitude of the terror.

A million people were murdered in Rwanda in 1993, most of them hacked to death with machetes by their neighbors. Rwanda is not unique. Such genocide is still going on in Bosnia. Iraqis are still murdering Kurds. Genocide, the murder of Jews by the Nazis, Armenians by the Turks, Tutsis by the Hutus, Kurds by the Iraqis, the indigenous peoples of the Americas by Europeans, is not limited by time, geography, race, or level of technological development.

We in America look at Bosnia, Rwanda, Kurdistan, and say, it cannot happen here. It has already hap-

pened here. Ask the Apaches about Camp Grant. Ask the Cheyenne about Sand Creek. Ask the Dakota about Wounded Knee.

These killings are all done by ordinary people. Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Amin, Obote may all have been evil and insane, but the tens of thousands of ordinary people who helped them were not. Ordinary people like your neighbors, like the guy your sister is married to, will do things like this if two things happen; they are convinced that killings solves problems and they are convinced that a particular minority is responsible for their problems.

Most people believe that killing other people can solve problems. Most of the people who supported the execution of Douglas Franklin Wright believed that killing him solves problems. It certainly keeps him from killing anyone else. But along with that doctrine comes its logical, inevitable, horrifying sequel: if killing people solves problems,

then the more people we kill, the more problems we will solve.

Do Americans really believe this? Consider that recently our Democratic president and Republican congress just changed the law so that instead of three federal crimes being punishable by death, now over 60 federal crimes are punishable by death. The more people we kill, the more problems we'll solve.

With the end of the cold war, we are also seeing an upsurge in scapegoating. The Hutu people were told that the Tutsi were responsible for all their problems. The Germans were told that it was the Jews who caused all the suffering in the world. Killing them was an act of self defense. The populace was told over and over again "these people are a threat to us, we must defend ourselves."

The more people we kill, the more problems we'll solve. Where is this belief taking us? Is that where we want to go?

Standing against measure 38

To the Editor:

Some misleading statements made by supporters of Initiative measure 38 deserve a response.

In the Oregonian, September 22nd, Denzel Ferguson, an activist, says "In 1920 populations of all species of anadromous fish in the Columbia River were in precipitous decline--13 years before the first dam (Rock Island) was built." He follows this with a sentence, "Livestock graz-

ing is the leading impediment to fish and wildlife production in the West."

It would seem that a voter is supposed to make a connection between these two subjects. What he does not say is that livestock, which came with settlers in the 1870's had nothing to do with the fish decline in 1920.

This decline, I'm told, was the result of over harvesting the fish, particularly using huge "fish wheels" that scooped salmon out of the river in areas where the runs were concentrated. They were so deadly efficient that they were outlawed, and the runs began building up again.

I well remember that when my father took me to see a fish wheel in the early 1920's. It was awesome, for me as a child, to view that stream of big silver fish sliding down its chute.

It should also be noted that the DEQ wrote a letter to Bill Marlett, the activist who started Measure 38, about another misleading statement, which said "the DEQ's assessment

of water pollution found that rangeland livestock grazing is the leading source of water pollution in Oregon." The DEQ said that it felt the statement "is misleading and does not accurately portray our position."

These are only two of the many reasons why I'm against this proposed law. There are many others, and I urge all responsible citizens to study the issues closely and to vote NO on measure 38.

--Linda Bowman

perspectives

Book Of Revelations; according to McKinley

It seems that I made a promise last week that my copyright attorneys pray was "not written in stone."

The African experience of remote ancestors to the contrary, sometimes it may be 'better to conceal than to reveal--particularly when a prudent delay in these much later and highly competitive times can avert theft, trade-mark infringement and litigation. We're talking "bottom line" here--educational curriculum and toys, vide cassettes, instructional games company and product must be named.

Ms Phyliss Gaines, a local African America business woman, put these and similar issues in perspective during an interview in the Sunday Oregonian business section for January, 14, 1996. Her experience-based advice--"The Name Game"--has been cited by many as having been extremely valuable in structuring legal protection from the very beginning of their new enterprise.

In any case I will hold back for now on any vain revelations concerning some more-than-successful applications of finalized learning models in trail runs ranging from the "Saturday Academy" as I've described here several times (Michael Grice, Director), to several selected Washington County Schools to a few trial tutoring engage-with the children or grandchildren of fellow members of the Association of Oregon Industries.

Several models for teaching the very little ones (head start age) have developed over the years since that 1971 Lake Oswego Montessori School experience of designing computer program 'boards' for the five and six year old's; decision trees built around sibling priorities for bathroom, brushing teeth, school day or not, etc.. I was successful but not sure exactly why.

Now, twenty five years later, having plowed through the literature and

suffered accordingly--"Montessori Play And Learn, Young Children Invent Arithmetic, The Life And Growth of Language, the Language

Instinct, Patterns In The Mind, Language, Thought And Reality (Whorf), Language Thought And Action

(Hayakawa), The Alphabet Effect and on and on" - I think I may have the hang of it. Anyway its been fun. There follows two poems that have proved oh so useful in provoking older children and youth to speculation about 'time' and positions (hyperbation) so important in understanding physics. Of course I use my own as well (smiles).

"Time present and time past Are both perhaps present in time future.

And time future contained in time past.

If all time is eternally present All time is unredeemable.

What might have been is an abstraction Remaining a perpetual possibility

Only in a world of speculation. What might have been and what has been

Point to one end which is always present"

T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

"Sometimes I play that I catch up with myself.

I run with what I was and with what I will be, on the race of what I am

And sometimes I play that I pass myself

Then maybe I run in the race of what I'm not.

But there's still another race in which I'll play that I'm overtaken

and that will be the real one."

Roberto Juarroz, Vertical Poetry, p. 75

North Point Press S.F., 1988

(Next week: What works at the barricades and what doesn't - Burt's solutions")

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A note of approval

"To the editor... Just would like to comment on your September 25, 1996 issue... thrilling and newswatching!..."

--Thanks, Anan Shachaq

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