

# Observing

## Procedures Followed By The City of Vancouver

### In The Liberty Court Incident

The City of Vancouver's Operating Principles provide that, "We must do the right thing even when it is painful and difficult." This principle was tested when the City decided to discipline two police officers and the Chief of Police for actions which led to the injury of a 13-year-old girl. This decision was made after conducting an investigation and completing an established disciplinary procedure. The disciplinary procedure included an opportunity for the officers to provide written statements and participate in a hearing.

The following information provides a chronology of the events and the investigation of police personnel to date:

1. On Aug. 1, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) training session was conducted at the vacated Liberty Court Apartments.

2. On Aug. 12, an explosive diversionary device left behind in the building caused a serious injury to a child.

3. An internal investigation was initiated as allowed by the process outline in both the Vancouver Officer's Police Guild Agreement and the Vancouver Police Department's Inquiries, Allegations and Commendations Procedures. The investigation included interviews of

witnesses, collection of applicable policies, review of the training site, and review of the officers' training backgrounds. The investigation also provided an opportunity for the two officers, who were subsequently disciplined, to be interviewed by the internal investigator, with both legal and Guild representation present.

4. Following completion of the internal investigation and a review of the investigation reports, as well as job performance information relating to each officer, a letter was sent to the officers notifying them of potential disciplinary action. The officers were also provided copies of the investigative reports, and a list of numerous alleged violations of standards of police conduct. The officers were provided an opportunity to respond to the allegations in writing. Only one of the officers provided a written response.

5. Following the officers' response deadline, a hearing was scheduled and the officers were given a second opportunity to respond orally to the investigation. The officers were allowed to have Guild representation, as well as legal counsel, present at the Dec. 2 hearing.

6. Subsequent to the Dec. 2 hearing, the Police Chief, the City Man-

ager, the Deputy City Manager, the Human Resources and Risk Services Director, and legal counsel consulted and made a decision to impose discipline. This decision was based on factors including, but not limited to, the officers' past job performance information, the internal investigation reports and the severity of the injuries to the victim. A decision to issue a joint disciplinary letter, by both the Chief and the City Manager, was made in light of the disciplinary action imposed upon the chief regarding the incident.

7. On December 8, 1997, a letter imposing discipline was presented to each officer separately. The SWAT officer in charge of the training was terminated from City employment. A second officer, who was assigned to bring the devices to the training site, received a 45-day suspension without pay. Chief Doug Maas received a decrease in salary of 5 percent.

Both officers have appealed this decision through the grievance procedure set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the Guild. Attorneys for the Guild and the City are working together to schedule the matters for arbitration.

## New Vendor Jury Hours

Vendors wishing to sell their hand-crafted items in the Elderberry Corner gift shop at Luepke Center can bring pieces to the selection jury Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. Luepke Center is at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

Elderberry Corner gift shop features quality hand-crafted items by people 50 and older. A wide selection of gifts from linens to bonsai plants and jewelry are available. Gift shop hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday

through Friday. Proceeds benefit senior programs for the community.

The program is sponsored through the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department. Call 696-8202 with questions.

## Youthbuilders Recruitment for Enrollment

Portland YouthBuilders has begun outreach and recruitment for the upcoming enrollment period beginning February 98.

Portland YouthBuilders is a not-for-profit organization providing education, vocational training, and leadership development to low and very low income young men and women from Portland who are 16-24 years old and have dropped out of high school. The Portland YouthBuilders' program is based on a highly successful model that began in New York City in 1979 and was so effective in changing the lives of high risk young people that it was replicated throughout the country. There are now over 100 YouthBuild programs operating in different parts of the country.

Portland YouthBuilders began in 1993 when a 22 member coalition, consisting of community organizations, government agencies, representatives from the private sector, and interested citizens, came together to advocate for a YouthBuild program in Portland. After two years of collaboration and intensive planning, Portland YouthBuilders began its program in 1995 with funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Portland Public Schools, and Meyer Memorial Trust. Young People acquire the education and skills to lead self-sufficient and productive lives while they help to revitalize their community by

building affordable housing.

Portland YouthBuilders is currently preparing to enter its third program year. We are now accepting applications for the upcoming school year which begins February 1998, with limited space available. Anyone applying must be prepared to commit to an intensive program of education, training and service. This is a strict alcohol and drug free program. Applicants must submit the result of a clean urinalysis to be admitted to the program.

Based on the data collected during our first two years of operation, we have found that to be successful in this program an applicant needs to fit the following profile:

- \* A stable living situation
- \* Alcohol and drug free
- \* Test at 8th grade academic level or above
- \* Recognize the value of education and vocational training
- \* Capable of making a real commitment; serious and responsible
- \* Not currently engaged in gang activity
- \* Interested in a career in construction; capable and willing to perform demanding physical labor
- \* Has taken initiative to put his/her life in order

Following is a brief program description:

Participants: low and very low-income residents primarily from North/Northeast Portland aged 16-24 years who do not have a high

school diploma.

Project Length: 6-18 months of full-time services, depending upon individual needs and 12 months of follow-up support services.

Program Structure: participants are divided into 4 crews of approximately 7 to 10 members each. Crews alternate between one week in the classroom to one week at one of the construction sites.

Education: Classroom teaching integrates concepts from the construction industry and includes the full range of GED preparatory and high school diploma course work.

## America Is Not A Big Pretty "Coffee Table" Book

By Prof. McKinley Burt

But it is huge, expensive, dynamic and profitable for those properly equipped and/or permitted to sit at the table - native born, immigrant or with an acceptable allocation of genetic material.

One can reach this conclusion through his own observations and experiences or by studying the works of implacable enemies of the racists like the gifted scientist and historian, Stephen Jay Gould. His award-winning little jewel of a book is one of the most rewarding "reads" you'll ever have, "The Mismeasure of Man", Norton pb., 1981.

As I detailed in that three-part series last November - "Space the Hidden Dimension" - the very creation of the great American space was inextricably woven into the bloody cloth of "massive successful slave revolts." The African fathers of Joseph Cinque, leader of the "Amistad Revolt" (1839), had only a generation earlier defeated the best armies Napoleon could muster in the Caribbean - France sold the Louisiana territory to Thomas Jefferson, and "Made In America" was born.

I am afraid that it is still incomprehensible to many blacks, and

whites as well, that there could be such glaring and blatant omissions of critical American history in text and media. The kind of knowledge that a more revolutionary Bill Cosby described in a 1960s film: "Black History, Lost, Strayed or Stolen."

However, this institutionalized mind-set and the rigid socio-economic caste system it deploys can be understood in the frame of reference brought to the matter by an evolutionary biologist like Stephen Gould. The total "game" of "who sits at the table" is the oldest in the world - attaining and holding fast to a "survival niche" in the scheme of things.

"The dinosaurs are gone" as I have often said in allegorical fashion. And many cultures have vanished for various and sundry reasons, but the African American society may be first to lose its way because of a lack of knowledge of self, of its own history. Given this in a "communications age" as it is described, some blacks are asking, "how can that be? how can many of youth not know who they are, what the genius of their fathers and mothers accomplished over the centuries, over millenniums in fact?"

That is far from sufficient reason to explain entirely the fearful homi-

cidal conduct of that generation. Some on both sides of the cultural fence clearly understand that the critical incubator for developing survival traits is the family and the school. But what societal and educational strategies must be brought to bear (and quickly) if there is to be "a place at the table" for these lost ones. Read again, "Death at an Early Age", Jonathan Kozol, 1968.

Black History Month is again at hand, and this February 1, again, have some gems of African genius to present. But I and many others of similar situation across the nation are searching for those "societal and educational strategies" which will ensure an effective delivery of the knowledge to that generation at risk. Ensure a meaningful niche in the scheme.

It is not enough that "we" think our presentations should spark the motivation, ambition and drive that would launch a new "Black Renaissance", if you will. Echoing that old cultural battle cry, "We did it before and we can do it again!" It goes without saying that it is quite apparent that one month out of a year is not nearly enough. Nor is placing the burden of delivering the message on just a few. Awaken.

## Buyer Beware! It's Holiday Scam Time

With the holiday shopping season swinging into full gear, fraudulent telemarketers are gearing up to take advantage of your good will. During the holiday season, requests for charitable contributions increase significantly. While most are legitimate, fraudulent telemarketers take advantage of people's generosity to rip them off.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is taking an active stand against scam artists. "The telephone can be a weapon in the hands of a con artist. Although most of us want to help those less fortunate than ourselves, we need to be careful," said AARP President Margaret Dixon.

What can you do? AARP has some

tips for dealing with telemarketers. Following them should keep you from turning your holidays into "hollowdays" with empty bank accounts!

1. Make a charitable donations list at the beginning of the year and know which charities you want to send your money.

2. Just because a caller claims to be raising money for a local organization doesn't mean the caller or organization is legitimate. Insist on seeing a statement that describes how and where the funds raised will be used.


3. Don't respond to high pressure tactics. Give yourself time to investigate the charity or sweepstakes. Think about your personal charitable donations list and whether or not the

solicitor's charity should be included.


4. If you are unsure about an organization do not send money immediately. Rather check it out. Ask for written information from telephone solicitors. If it is a legal charity, they will have written materials.

5. If the telemarketer sounds suspicious don't hesitate to call the national Fraud Information Center (NFIC) at 1-800-876-7060. You can also call your state Attorney General or the local Better Business Bureau. By reporting suspicious calls, you'll get advice on what to do if you get further telephone calls.

6. Other telemarketing scams include phony investments and deceptive contests and sweepstakes.

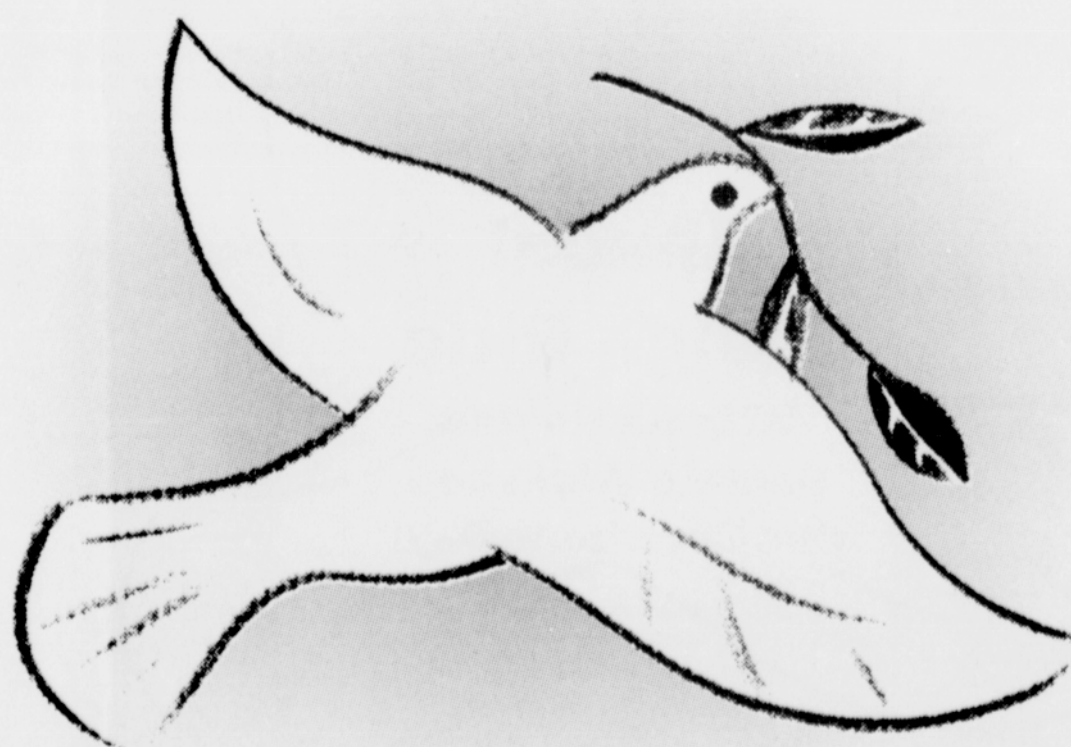


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New York Times Notable Book of the Year and Booker Prize finalist, *The Orchard on Fire* by Shena Mackay "celebrates love and friendship and the resilience of children. . . . Enthralling from the first page to the last," says the *Boston Globe*. Set in an English village, the charm of the local landscape contrasts sharply with the prejudices and vagaries of its adult inhabitants.

## Wishing you a peaceful holiday season



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