



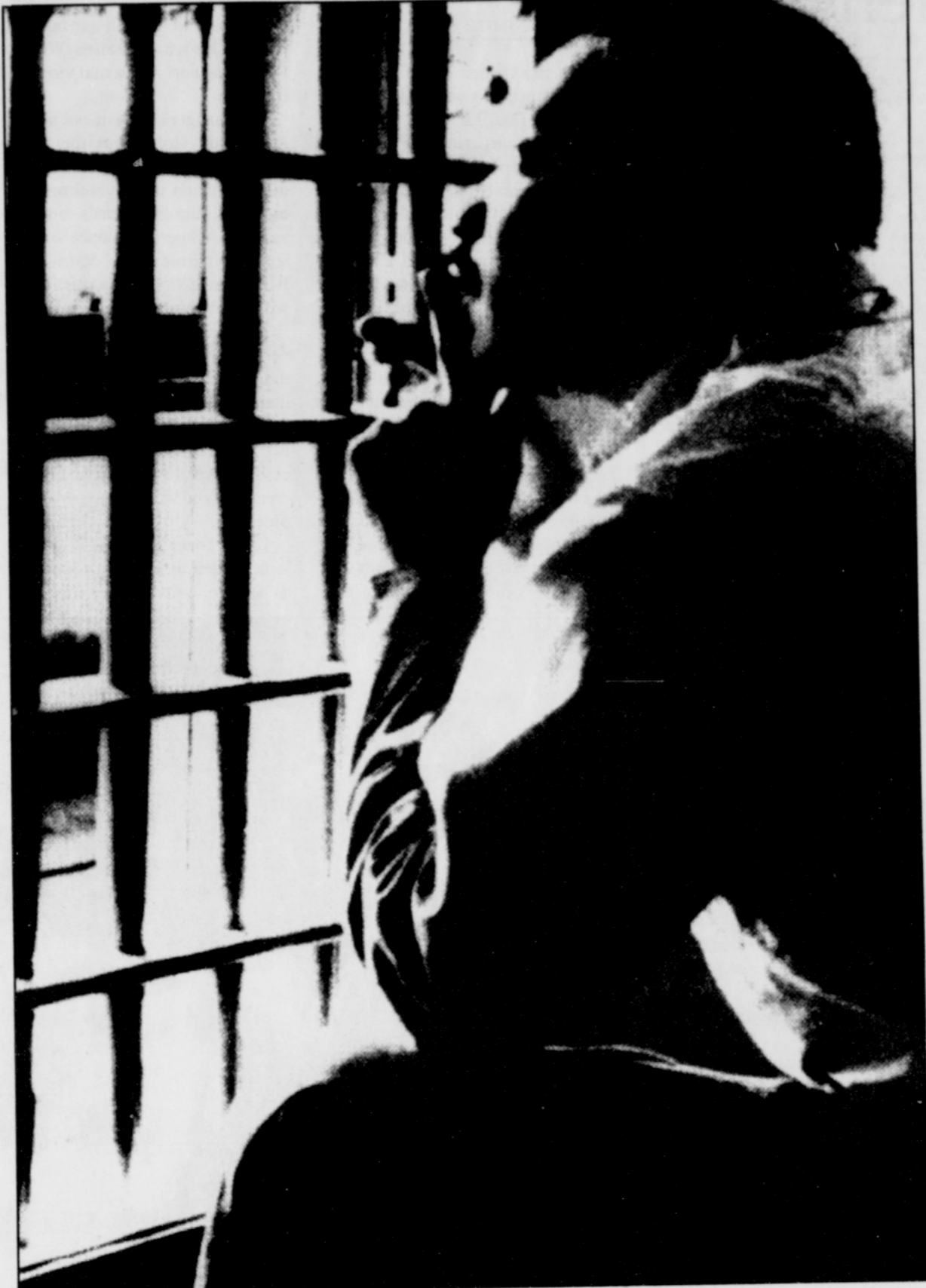
# The Peacemaker And The Machine

By SOPHIA KAT

Historically, there have been the peacemakers, great men with great words and through these words came great deeds. The peacemakers have used something positive, yet potent - a unified force that can be channeled for maximum results and without injury to others. They have pursued nonviolent methods for conflict resolution through compromise, negotiation, organized resistance, non-cooperation, civil disobedience and civil based defense.

Gandhi, simply stated, that he knows no other way. The way clearly being one of Nonviolent Resistance. Nonviolent Resistance as a philosophy is a distinctive way of acting and thinking that typically permeates the entire being, but like all things it is developed by practice. Another aspect of Gandhi's philosophy is *Satyagraha* which means holding on to the truth and therefore, literally is the use of truth as a force. In that it makes people see the truth as opposed to untruths. This is a powerful force in its own right. A force of true peace, goodwill, brotherhood, justice. It is not some negative chaotic, dark force lurking in the shadows, it is one of light not of wrongs, but of right. Critics would argue that the prison system is one that uses fear, force and punishment to maintain order and the oppression is the outcome.

The prison system is one that is a politically charged arena and a costly one at the spending staggering billions of tax dollars. If we continue to drain our resources at this rate, there is reason to evaluate. The never ending increasing costs of building more prisons - the key word here is increasing costs created by a system that is an outworn form, that is having its final spasms struggling to maintain itself before it is forced into change. If the prison system was working effectively and to its full potential, then we would clearly see decreased costs in terms of food, housing, court costs, transportation



Martin Luther King was arrested sixteen times.

costs, medical care, supervision, monitoring and a decrease in crimes. Apparently, we know what doesn't work and we know it well. Part of the answer is going to the true source of what are the contributing factors that come into play to create the behaviors. Let's address the ones that we can. Let's go to the schools in the nation and begin to seriously educate the children on the meaning of verbal and physical abuse. What the force of violence means and its impact. A realization needs to take place that humiliation and defeat is not truly winning, it is losing... Martin Luther King said, "It is the evil that we are seeking to defeat, not the person victimized by evil."

Gandhi was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social reform. It was a powerful element in uplifting the thoughts of man. He altered the way man views him-

self, the community, even the world and how he chooses to react within that world. The application of this political method of nonviolence on the part of the Eastern Indians. Today, the British people within the commonwealth and the Eastern Indians have a mutual friendship based on total equality. The great Martin Luther King saw the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression. After his trip to India, he was convinced more than ever before that Gandhi's nonviolence, truth-force and love method for social reform had been what he had been seeking for so many months. Over the centuries, men have sought to discover the highest good. It has been the chief quest of ethical philosophers King believed, "that love is the most durable power in the world." "He who loves is a participant in the being of God and he who hates does not know God."

In 1849, the Oregon Territorial Legislature passed the Exclusion Act (repealed in 1926), which banned "Negroes and Mulattoes" from the Oregon Territory.

This year, one hundred and fifty years later, Oregon Uniting will acknowledge Oregon's discriminatory history, condemn the attitudes that led to that discrimination and acknowledge the people of ALL races and ethnic backgrounds who have worked for positive change.

"Whereas, situated as the people of Oregon are, in the midst of an Indian population, it would be highly dangerous to allow free Negroes and mulattoes to reside in the territory or to intermix with the Indians, instilling into their minds feelings of hostility against the white race, therefore:

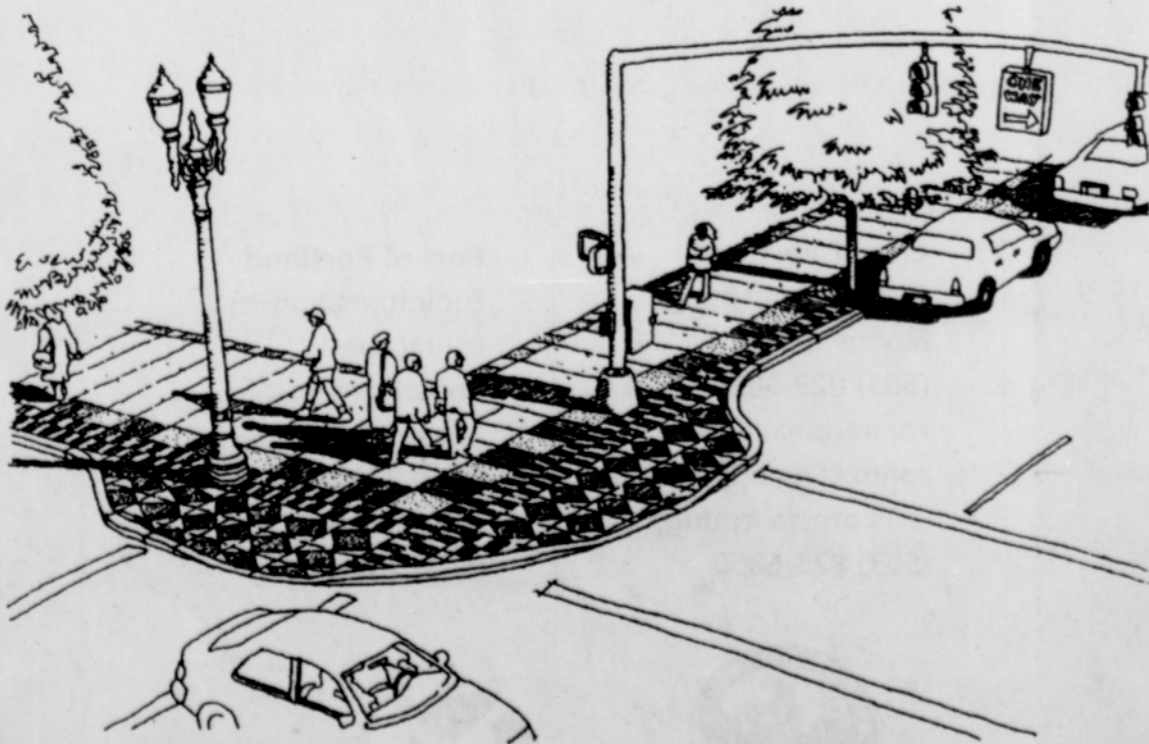
Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the territory of Oregon that it shall not be lawful for any Negro or Mulatto to come into or reside within the limits of this territory..."

Territorial document # 3666

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