



ROOT CAUSES

California Activist speaks on gang wars

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

America is at war, not against terrorists, but against its own. This war has left 25,000 young people, mostly men of color, dead in America. Thousands of others are shell shocked, roaming the streets of Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit and yes, even Portland, with little hope of reintegrating into society. These are the victims of street wars.

Prominent lefty Tom Hayden talked with Portlanders last week at Powell's Books about the root causes of gangs, and a global perspectives of street wars, worldwide.

Hayden is a former California senator, founder of Students for a Democratic Society, and liberal organizer during the civil rights era. Currently, he works to abolish sweat shops in Los Angeles and abroad, and recently penned "Street Wars: Gangs and the Future of Violence."

Speaking to an audience of about 50 at Powell's Pearl Room, Hayden described the effects of gang warfare, claiming that two-thirds of the prison population in California is gang affiliated.

"They are traumatized veterans from an unofficial, undeclared war," he said.

He paired images of gang members who defy stereotypes and have responded to

rehabilitation, to executives and politicians who have profited from the rotating door of private prisons.

Hayden documents that conservatives have set up a system where it's more profitable to lock up gang members than address the socio-economic conditions that lead disconnected youth to gang life.

"Politics of root causes just evaporated, replaced by politics of law and order," said Hayden.

He drew parallels between the war on drugs and another impossible-to-measure war on a noun: terrorism.

"I'm not denying that gang members or terrorists cause violence. I'm saying it's good politics to have a scapegoat that you can have an abounding war on," Hayden said, claiming the "prison industrial complex" and law enforcement are direct beneficiaries of the war

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on gangs. Hayden's travels through Central America helped uncover a U.S. policy, which he suggests violates immigration law. The United States has been deporting Latino men and women suspected of gang activity to inhumane prison conditions in their native countries.

Hayden's heavily researched book is available at Powell's Books and through www.thenewpress.com.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

California activist and 60s radical Tom Hayden speaks of the prison industrial complex at Powell's Books.

Lupus 'Mad Hatter' Walk Saturday

Fight one of the leading causes of disability in America by helping the Lupus Foundation in its Northwest Chapter's Mad Hatter Walk and Roll. The walk takes place at Portland's Willamette Park on Saturday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. All participants who raise \$50 will earn an official event t-shirt.

The walk concludes with a celebration including food and prizes. Lupus strikes African Americans and other people of color three to four times more than other races, and strikes women 10 to 15 times more than males. For more information, call 503-464-7776.

Marylhurst Earns High Grade

Marylhurst University is rated number one in the Pacific Northwest by U.S. News & World Report for highest proportion of classes with less than 20 students. The college has now been recognized in the magazine's "America's Best Colleges" guide for five straight years. According to a U.S. News & World Report editorial, "research

shows that the more satisfied students are about their contact with professors, the more they will learn and the more likely it is that they will graduate." Marylhurst is located 10 minutes south of Portland on Highway 43. The school offers professional certificates and degrees for undergraduate and graduate studies.

Gambling Obsession

continued ▲ from Front

ties. Six months after gamblers left treatment, 80 percent reported that they either no longer gambled or were gambling much less than before treatment."

In 2003, the Oregon Lottery spent \$600,000 in promoting responsible gambling and effectively advertising the Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline (877-2-STOP-NOW). Additionally, \$3.2 million of Oregon Lottery's net proceeds were transferred to DHS to support 16 regional problem gambling prevention programs, 25 out-

patient programs, two short-term residential programs, one telephone counseling program, and the helpline that received more than 4,400 calls in 2003.

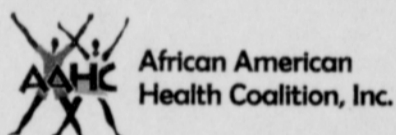
In Oregon, treatment is free.

While gambling's popularity and availability are growing, so are direct costs to individuals, families and communities.

— Jeffrey J. Morotta, problem gambling service manager

confidential and widely available to both gamblers and family members. For more information call the Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline 1-877-2-STOP NOW (877-278-6766).

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For more information contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit www.aahc-portland.org



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